

SUMMIT COUNTY SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BATH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER - SPRING, 2021



Surface Water Update



This is the third Newsletter of the Summit County Surface Water Management District, a quarterly publication to inform Bath Township residents about what's up in the SWMD.

by David L. Koontz, PE, SI - SWMD Coordinator

ADMINISTRATIVE

The 2020 Invoices were sent out, and 3,536 full and 109 partial (89.9% of 4,056) have been paid through December 2020. 228 calls and 85 emails have come in so far, with 29 drainage concerns sent to me for engineering follow-up. I have researched all, visited 14 (2 with Bath's Caine Collins) and spoken to 20. So far 3 are township roadside ditch issues that have been referred to Bath, 2 are assessed subdivision SWMFs that the new or potential owner wants to improve, 3 are in the Wye Rd. Drainage Project area, and 4 are erosion issues that I have asked Summit Soil & Water Conservation District to review.

SWAC

We requested volunteers for a citizens Storm Water Advisory Committee, and on 6/19/19, we selected 7 committee members and 5 alternates. The first meeting was held August 1, 2019 at 7:00 PM in Bath Twp. Hall; all 7 members and 3 alternates attended, along with Al Brubaker and me. The group is very interested in learning about the water quality and flooding issues, so they were anxious to review the Sustainable Streams report, which I provided on 10-15-19. They had a number of questions and comments and met again on 1/16/2020 at 6:30 PM. I have provided updates to them and copies of the funding applications, and we had a Zoom meeting on 2/24/2021 when they had a few more insightful comments and questions.

Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategy NPS-IS

Stephanie Deibel of Summit Soil & Water Conservation District was promoted to watershed coordinator and set about to prepare a NPS-IS for Yellow Creek, referring to our Yellow Creek Watershed study. She refined it until OEPA approved the NPS-IS on January 25, 2021. This document provides a list of projects that are verified to improve the water quality in the watershed, and the projects listed are eligible for OEPA funding and more attractive for other funding. Congratulations to Stephanie Deibel and all of those who assisted on the NPS-IS!

DAMS

We have determined that there are 46 dams in the Yellow Creek watershed, derived from the walk-through by Sustainable Streams and our review of ODNR dam records. Of the 32 that are in Bath Twp., none are Class I, 1 is Class II, 3 are Class III, 3 are Class IV, 17 are Exempt, 2 are Unclassified, 1 is Abandoned, and 5 are not on the ODNR list. We will notify all dam owners of their responsibility to maintain these dams and their liability in case of failure, and of their requirements for permits from ODNR, Bath Twp., and SWMD.

PROJECTS

Wye Road – Our planning engineer ms consultants has been working on an Emergency Management Agency (EMA) BRIC grant application for the project. They need to demonstrate how the project will address specific flooding problems, and need to show a favorable Benefit Cost Analysis. They are exploring ways to repackage this project and/or others for the 2021 round of funding when \$3.2B may be available. The trustees advised that the Bake Shop building has taken in floodwater several times, and the sandstone foundation has been threatened. We have contacted the owner and will look into filing reports for these past events with EMA.

Idle Brook - Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and the Department of Sanitary Sewer Services have agreed to the concept of excavating bankfull wetlands along Idle Brook on their land east of N. Hametown in Bath. They acquired the land in the 80s for a potential drinking water wellfield but no longer need the land, so we have prepared legislation for council to authorize the land to be used by SWMD.

- I prepared and submitted on 9/11/2020 an EMA BRIC grant application for the project, for \$587,400 (75%) of the \$783,200 estimated project cost for Phase 1. Ohio EMA's Steve Ferryman called me and said this looks pretty good, but they need the projects to address specific flooding problems. Tom Smoot at Summit County EMA provided a list of flood damage claims in Bath from the 2014 flood, but none were directly downstream of the project.
- I prepared and submitted on 12/3/2020 a draft 319 Application for a revised first phase of this project (to fit better within the 319 traditional funding cap) at \$154,000 for construction, with SWMD paying for the preliminary and final engineering, surveys and permitting.
- I attended a webinar on March 12, 2021 about the funding priorities and the application process for a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant through their sediment and nutrient reduction program. It seems that the Idle Brook project may be a good candidate for this, with application due April 16, 2021. I am working up a preliminary application and will discuss it with our Great Lakes Commission representative.

I-77 SB Rest Area – We are still in discussion on where and how to implement a project to improve water quality and reduce flooding at this location.

I-77 Corridor – ODOT has advised us that the project is a redevelopment project that will not divert or appreciably increase discharge. Therefore, they are only required to treat water quality, which they'll address with vegetated filter strips. We'll review the Stage 1 plans and calcs in May and then will ask ODOT to discuss it further.

Ohio EPA Small MS4 Stormwater General Permit

Ohio EPA has verbally expressed to us their opinion that our current county-wide joint stormwater management program (SWMP) and local ordinances do not give Summit County the enforcement authority necessary to properly address the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) regulations in the townships, villages and cities. Further, OEPA has found that the storm system mapping is inadequate for use in IDDE efforts. The current OEPA Small MS4 general permit expired September 2019 and we anticipate the new general permit will be issued this year, with more details forthcoming soon. A Task Force of officials from the Engineer, Executive, Council and Prosecutor offices has been formed to address this issue. More information will become available as our State and County officials continue to discuss the corrective actions that may be required.

SWMD GRADING PERMIT SUMMARY

(The full code is found in Chapter 942 Appendix A and on the SWMD webpage)

THE BASICS:

- Streams, waterways, wetlands and ditches shall remain open and free-flowing, shall not be altered without a permit, and shall not be polluted.
- Filling and grading operations and construction of ponds, bridges, culverts, and storm sewers must meet standards, and are subject to plan review and permit requirements.
- Existing bridges, culverts, and storm sewers must be properly sized and properly maintained, or may be ordered removed.
- Enforcement, appeal, and penalty provisions are in place.
- Permit Fee is \$25.00 base fee plus \$2.00 per each 100 Cu. Yd. of earthwork.
- Permit Bond is required for work involving pond or wetland or over 500 Cu. Yd. of earthwork.

These newsletters are available online at <http://www.summitengineer.net/services/surface-water-management>.