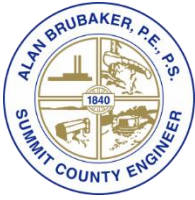


SUMMIT COUNTY SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BATH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN, 2021



Surface Water Update



This is the fifth 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

Invoices - The 2021 invoices were sent out in June, and \$313,004 has been paid through November 2021, with the remaining \$34,160 sent to the fiscal office for certification on the property taxes.

Yellow Creek Watershed Coordinator – SWMD is pleased to announce that Stephanie Deibel of the Summit Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be able to devote approximately half her time to the Yellow Creek Watershed Coordinator duties, thanks to a three-party agreement between SWCD, SWMD, and Bath Township. Stephanie will work with stakeholders to identify and implement watershed goals, initiatives, and projects in the Yellow Creek Watershed. These projects may include habitat restoration and preservation, watershed tours and field days, and homeowner workshops. In addition, Stephanie will oversee a stream monitoring program, which consists of volunteer water quality sampling and inspection of stream channels and riparian corridors.

Yellow Creek Conservancy District - On December 8, 2021 the petitioners' attorneys filed a Notice of Voluntary Dismissal, dropping their efforts before they had to post a bond required for the Conservancy Court to proceed.

PROJECTS

Wye Road Drainage Improvement – Our planning engineer *ms consultants* has been working on an Emergency Management Agency (EMA) BRIC grant application for the project. We have worked with them to modify the project in order to address specific flooding problems and they have calculated a positive Benefit Cost Analysis. The initial response from EMA has been favorable, and *ms* is in continued communication with them to assure that the application is strong as can be. We are optimistic that the Final Application that we'll submit in January 2022 will be approved for the current round of funding.

Idle Brook Bankfull Wetlands – This project is to be constructed on land already owned by Summit County, located between Hametown Road and Crystal Lake Road, north of the Hunter Hill allotment. This project will increase storage of stormwater and reduce erosive flows along much of the length of Yellow Creek in Bath Township. The project will also improve water quality downstream by reducing erosive flows and therefore decreasing the resulting sedimentation. We estimate that four bankfull wetlands will be designed and constructed to provide a total of approximately 25 acre-feet in storage along Idle Brook just upstream of its juncture with Yellow Creek. The project will include removal of phragmites and other invasive vegetation, planting of high-quality natural wetland vegetation and constructing improved hydrologic connections to the streams. These steps will improve the habitat



environment and water quality on the site. Our work will not clear-cut the site but will focus on improving specific wetland cells. Trees within the proposed grading zones would be cut down, but they would be reused as habitat elements within the wetlands (which also expands habitat for wildlife observers). Most of the trees along the existing stream banks and any trees outside of the grading limits would not be cut down. After the site becomes revegetated after construction, it should attract a lot more birds, amphibians, etc. than the current condition which is overrun by a lot of invasive phragmites (that doesn't provide much wildlife value or habitat). Deer, fox, and owls also like the native wetland habitats.

I-77 Third Lane Widening – 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've reviewed the Stage 1 plans and offered several comments to ODOT, which they have responded to favorably.

Ohio EPA Small MS4 Stormwater General Permit Update -

- The county-wide OEPA MS4 Stormwater permit for 2021-22 covers all 9 townships as required, plus 4 villages voluntarily: Boston Heights, Clinton, Lakemore and Reminderville.
- These 13 communities will be included in an expanded SWMD with a focus on water quality and OEPA MS4 compliance, pending action by Summit County Council.
- It has been proposed that SWM projects be advanced in each participating community.
- Bath Twp. may be continued as a Special District, to keep Bath's current cash reserves separate and to enable continuation of a Bath flood control SWMD.

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.

We have found that many SWMD permits have also involved work in the Riparian Corridor, therefore requiring a Bath Township Zoning Permit with approval from the SWCD, so the permit review is a cooperative effort.

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