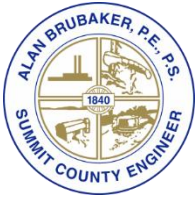


SUMMIT COUNTY SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BATH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER - SUMMER, 2022



Surface Water Update



This is the Sixth Newsletter of the Summit County Surface Water Management District, a quarterly publication to inform Bath Township residents what's up in the SWMD. By David L. Koontz, PE, SI - SWMD Coordinator

ADMINISTRATIVE

Invoices – The SWMD invoices will no longer be sent out by mail, as all SWMD utility bills will be included on the property tax statements starting January 2023. The rates charged will not change.

Yellow Creek Watershed Coordinator –Stephanie Deibel of the Summit Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is devoting approximately half her time to the Yellow Creek Watershed Coordinator duties, working 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 is overseeing a stream monitoring program, which consists of volunteer water quality sampling and inspection of stream channels and riparian corridors. If you have an idea for a workshop or would like to volunteer for her water sampling program, please contact her at sdeibel@summitoh.net.

SWAC

I wish to thank Becky Corbett for her service on the SWAC as the Bath Township trustee representative, and welcome new trustee Sean Gaffney to the SWAC.

PROJECTS

Wye Road Drainage Improvement – The project has been broken into two phases for funding purposes.

Phase One - The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) BRIC grant application for Phase 1 has been approved. We have hired ms consultants to prepare final design for Phase 1, and anticipate plan completion by autumn 2022, with construction starting in early 2023.

Phase Two – ms consultants is moving forward with preliminary engineering and will move to final design this summer. We anticipate plan completion in early 2023, with construction starting by summer 2023.

Idle Brook Bankfull Wetlands – This project will be located on land already owned by Summit County, east of Hametown Road, approximately one mile north of S.R. 18. We have performed property boundary survey with our in-house crew. Sustainable Streams is being hired to perform preliminary engineering to prepare for bidding this as a Design-Build project, with preliminary plan completion by the end of 2022, and construction starting in early 2023.

I-77 Third Lane Widening – ODOT’s plans for adding a third lane through Bath Township include vegetated filter strips to improve water quality of stormwater runoff from the pavement. We’ve reviewed the Stage 1 and Stage 2 plans and are looking for opportunities for stormwater management on lands above and below the culverts under I-77.

Expanded Countywide SWMD

- The county-wide OEPA MS4 Stormwater permit for 2021-22 covers all 9 townships as required by OEPA, plus 4 communities that joined voluntarily: the villages of Boston Heights, Clinton, Lakemore and the city of Reminderville.
- These 13 communities are to be included in an expanded SWMD with a focus on water quality and OEPA MS4 compliance, pending action by Summit County Council anticipated this June.
- To kick-start the expanded SWMD, priority projects have been proposed for each participating community, to be paid for with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.
- The SWMD utility rate is not yet determined and is not included in the legislation, which includes a provision that rates will be established by future legislation to be passed by Summit County Council. The County Executive’s office is working on a rate structure that will be equitable, perhaps based on land value and area, and palatable to all member communities.
- SWMD - Bath Twp. is to be continued as a Special District for now, to keep Bath’s current cash reserves separate.

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 kept free-flowing so that the waterway is not impeded, or they 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.

SWMD grading permit projects may also require approval from other agencies:

- work in the Riparian Corridor requires a Bath Township Zoning Permit.
- work that disturbs over one acre requires approval from the Summit Soil & Water Conservation District, and smaller projects must include compliant erosion control measures.
- work in the FEMA Floodway requires approval from the Summit County Floodplain Administrator/Chief Building Official.

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