

AGENDA

1. Introduction (5 mins)
 - a. Brief Overview of Agenda
2. SWMD Projects (20 mins)
 - a. Summary of Current Projects
 - b. New Projects for Consideration
 - c. Questions or Feedback
3. Community Partnership Funds (20 mins)
 - a. Application Tips and Reminders
 - b. Eligible Projects and Examples
4. MS4 Permit Update (15 mins)
 - a. Insight Survey Results
 - b. New Permit = New opportunities
5. Open Discussion (15 mins)

PROJECT SUMMARIES AND UPDATES

Regional Stormwater Studies (Cuyahoga and Tuscarawas Watershed Basins)

The purpose of these studies is to prepare drainage basin improvement general plans for the watersheds within the Surface Water Management District. The plans will be comprehensive in nature, identifying and prioritizing specific flooding and erosion areas and providing proposed solutions and estimated costs of improvements with emphasis on defining areas of erosion mitigation and enhancement of water quality. These studies will be used to help establish future capital project priorities and budgets. The studies have been approved and posted on our website. Projects will be prioritized and advanced in accordance with budget availability.

Wye Road | Bath Township (Cuyahoga)

This project addresses flooding and severe stream erosion, which is a high priority for the Bath Township community. This project was completed in two phases. Phase 1 was initiated by SWMD and Bath and was completed in 2024. Phase 1 included the installation of improved storm sewers and swales at two locations in the Sanctuary of Bath Estates. Phase 2 modified an existing stormwater management basin and add best management practices such as step-pools, cascades, and riffles at three locations along the stream in the ravine at the northern edge of the Sanctuary of Bath Estates. It also included cleaning out an existing storm sewer along Wye Road and perform minor clean up and erosion repairs along the stream. Construction for Phase 2 was completed in June 2025.

Copley Ditch (Ditch #38) | Copley Township (Tuscarawas)

Improvements Plans and Easement Plat for Copley Ditch, from 1,000 feet west of Jacoby Road to the Norton Corporation limits, are complete. This project will consist of channel improvements and bank full wetland and other features to improve water quality and reduce flooding. The final public hearing and hearing on compensation was held 6/15/26. Legislation to accept the plans, plat and compensation and authorize construction bidding will be considered by Council on 6/22/26 and 6/29/26.

Hinman Ditch (Ditch #52) | Coventry Township (Tuscarawas)

The Penguin Apartments have experienced significant flooding to the extent that one of the buildings had to be razed. A study to understand the flooding and potential solutions has been completed. Final design will be completed later this year. Improvements will consist of channel regrading and a partial reconstruction of the Coventry Crossing detention basin to reduce flooding. Coventry Township submitted a ditch petition, the public viewing was held 7/28/25, and the first public hearing was held 10/6/25.

Springfield Lake Outlet (Ditch #45) | Springfield Township, Village of Lakemore (Cuyahoga)

This project will improve the flow through the Springfield Lake Outlet Channel. Final plans and easement plat are complete. The final public hearing was held 6/8/26. Legislation to accept the plans, plat and compensation and authorize construction bidding will be considered by Council on 6/22/26 and 6/29/26.

Springfield Lake Watershed Study & Upland Improvements | Springfield Township, Village of Lakemore (Cuyahoga)

The Springfield Lake Watershed study is now complete. The study evaluated key issues including flooding, erosion, and water quality impairments across the watershed. Based on the findings, several upland improvement projects have been recommended to help protect and improve water quality in Springfield Lake. Next steps will involve prioritizing these projects based on expected impact and available budget. Implementation will proceed as funding allows, with an emphasis on addressing the most critical needs first.

Dorwick Ditch | Northfield Center Township (Cuyahoga)

The Dorwick Ditch study is complete and recommends several improvements to reduce flooding in the area. Final design plans are underway and expected to be completed later this year. Northfield Center Township has submitted a ditch petition, the public viewing was held 8/13/25 and the first public hearing was held 9/22/25.

Idle Brook | Bath Township (Cuyahoga)

This project will construct bankfull wetlands along Idle Brook, Yellow Creek, and West Fork, providing up to 46 acre-feet of floodplain storage. These wetlands are designed to reduce downstream flooding, slow high-flow velocities, limit streambank erosion, and enhance habitat for native plant and animal species. Final design is complete, with construction anticipated to begin this fall.

Marwell Blvd & Darrow Road Area Study | Twinsburg Township (Cuyahoga)

A preliminary study recommended improvements to reduce flooding and improve drainage in the project area. The preliminary design study will be completed this summer and final design completed late this year.

Chaffee Culvert | Sagamore Hills Township (Cuyahoga)

A drainage study was completed for the watershed draining to the culvert near 7570 Chaffee Road and recommends replacing the existing culvert with a larger structure to improve capacity and reduce flooding risk. We did the design in-house and the project will be bid soon for construction this fall.

Stubbins-Farnham | Richfield Township (Cuyahoga)

This project proposed the reconstruction of outlet ditches to ensure adequate drainage. The township has decided the proposed project was not needed and was able to secure OPWC funding for roadside drainage improvements.

ODOT I-77 South Bound Rest Area | Bath Township (Cuyahoga)

As part of ODOT's upcoming highway reconstruction, this project includes the construction of a streamside stormwater detention area adjacent to the rest area. The detention feature is being completed right now during the rest area reconstruction, providing additional stormwater management and supporting broader watershed goals.

Norwood Lake Outlet | Northfield Center Township (Cuyahoga)

The project will involve the construction of a new outlet system for Norwood Lake. Northfield Center Township submitted a ditch petition, with a public viewing held 2/8/24 and first hearing held 8/3/24. The consultant prepared a preliminary study and cost estimate. This study was approved and preliminary design was submitted 6/9/26.

[SWMD Priority Project Status and Updates](#)

In June 2022, Summit County expanded the SWMD to comply with Ohio Environmental Protection Agency regulations and utilize American Rescue Plan Act funding for large stormwater projects. Priority Projects were selected for each SWMD community. Below is a summary of those priority projects.

Project Name	Status	Communities	Information on Website
Everett/Oak Hill Restoration	Project Complete	Boston Twp	Available here
Wye Road Drainage Improvements Ph. 1	Project Complete	Bath Twp	Available here
Wye Road Drainage Improvements Ph. 2	Project Complete	Bath Twp	Available here
Idle Brook Bankfull Wetlands	Design Complete Start Construction Fall 2026	Bath Twp	Available here
Copley Ditch #38, Copley Meadows	Final public hearing. Start Construction Fall 2026	Copley Twp	Available here
Springfield Lake Outlet	Final public hearing. Start Construction Fall 2026	Springfield Twp, Village of Lakemore	Available here
Springfield Lake No.2 Watershed Study	Study Complete	Springfield Twp, Village of Lakemore	Available here
Dorwick Ditch Improvements	Final Design Underway	Northfield Center Twp	Available here
Hinman Ditch, Ditch #52 (Penguin Area)	Final Design Underway	Coventry Twp	Available here
Stubbins & Farnham	Cancelled	Richfield Twp	Available here
Chaffee	Ready to Bid Construction	Sagamore Hills Twp	Available here
Marwell Blvd & Darrow Road Area Study	Preliminary Design Underway	Twinsburg Twp	Available here
I-77 (replaces Bonnebrook)	Under Construction	Bath Twp	Available here

SWMD Watershed Studies

To guide our next projects, we've hired two consultants to conduct regional watershed studies. These studies resulted in general improvement plans for two HUC 8 drainage basins within the Surface Water Management District; Cuyahoga River Basin and the Tuscarawas River Basin. The studies identify and prioritize areas affected by flooding and erosion and propose solutions with estimated costs focusing especially on erosion control and improving water quality. Projects will be prioritized and advanced in accordance with budget availability.

Project Name	Status	Communities	Information on Website
Cuyahoga River Watershed Study	COMPLETE. Pond Brook Preliminary Design Complete.	Bath Twp, Boston Twp, Copley Twp, Village of Lakemore, Northfield Center Twp, City of Reminderville, Richfield Twp, Sagamore Hills Twp, Springfield Twp, Twinsburg Twp	Available here
Tuscarawas River Watershed Study	COMPLETE. 6 Projects Selected for Preliminary Design.	Bath Twp, Copley Twp, Coventry Twp, Village of Lakemore, Springfield Twp	Available here

SWMD Ditch Petition Projects

Ditch petition project can be filed by any landowner (including a private or public corporation, board of township trustees, board of education, mayor or legislative authority, director of any department, office or institution of the state, and the trustees of any state, county, or municipal public institution) with the clerk of the county council to construct an “improvement.” Improvement refers to any work or modification related to water management infrastructure, including altering or constructing ditches, drains, watercourses, or floodways; building structures like levees, dams, or reservoirs for flood protection or water control; clearing obstructions; or vacating a ditch or drain. More information on the ditch petition process can be found on our website, or under Ohio Revised Code Section 6131.

Project Name	Status	Communities	Information on Website
Norwood Lake Ditch	Preliminary Design Completed 6/9/26	Northfield Center Township	Available here

MS4 PROGRAM AND SERVICES

Regional MS4 Stormwater Mapping: Field work for the regional MS4 mapping project is now nearing completion. Woolpert’s field verification is expected to wrap up around August. Once this data is delivered, we anticipate having a nearly complete map of the County’s MS4 system. The resulting map will significantly strengthen our ability to track, trace, and management stormwater infrastructure across the SWMD Service Area.

With this phase nearly finished, we are beginning to plan next step program improvements, including streamlining post construction maintenance operations and enhancing our IDDE program using new mapping tools.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program: Outfall screening by Summit County Public Health (SCPH) is underway for the 2026 season. As dry-weather flows are identified, SCPH takes an initial sample to determine whether E.coli is present. Depending on the results, a second sample may be required. Communities and sewer authorities are notified of findings as they occur, and all results are logged into our tracking system.

Permit and Compliance Updates: As part of our MS4 audit compliance work, we have completed several key updates to Chapter 941, which governs erosion and sediment control and post construction stormwater quality management. These updates clarify definitions, align the ordinance with current MS4 permit requirements, and support consistent implementation across the SWMD Service Area.

A major update includes new inspection requirements mandated by Ohio EPA, which calls for more frequent construction-site inspections when certain non-compliance conditions are present. Chapter 941 has been updated to reflect these requirements and to ensure our enforcement procedures remain consistent with the permit.

We also refined how Chapter 941 applies to smaller sites disturbing less than one acre. While these sites are typically outside of scope of local erosion and sediment control ordinances, the revision allows the Engineer’s office to require erosion and sediment control plants when appropriate. This aligns Chapter 941 with the existing grading permit program and provides flexibility to ensure smaller disturbances are managed effectively when needed.

Finally, Chapter 941 includes applicability language covering all cities, villages, and townships that are co-permittees on the County’s MS4 permit. This mirrors the language already adopted in Chapter 944 and ensures consistent program implementation across the entire SWMD Service Area while eliminating the need for individual municipalities to adopt parallel updates.

These updates will not take effect until adopted by Council; however, because we are actively developing and implementing the required changes, we remain in compliance with our MS4 permit obligations.

Preparing for the New MS4 Permit: With the new MS4 permit on the horizon, we’re beginning to plan for the next phase of our stormwater program. The draft permit is currently under review and out for public comment. If you’re interested, you can review it online [here](#). While we’re not anticipating significant new mandates from Ohio EPA, a new permit cycle presents opportunities to refine existing programs, introduce new initiatives, and better support community needs.

At our in-person meeting, we encourage you to come prepared to share issues you’re experiencing, program elements you’d like to strengthen, or services that would better support your community.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND

The Community Partnership Fund (CPF) remains a valuable opportunity for communities within the SWMD Service Area to advance stormwater-related projects that address local flooding, erosion, and water quality needs. Each community receives an annual allocation that can be saved over multiple years to support larger initiatives.

Estimated 2025 Allocation by Community*					
Bath Township	\$115,000	Northfield Ctr. Township	\$58,000	Village of Lakemore	\$19,000
Boston Township	\$92,000	Sagamore Hills Township	\$103,000	Twinsburg Township	\$46,000
Copley Township	\$142,000	Richfield Township	\$47,000	City of Reminderville	\$30,000
Coventry Township	\$88,000	Springfield Township	\$119,000		

**The amounts listed in the table are estimates and are provided for informational purposes only.
They do not represent the actual or final Community Partnership Fund allocations.*

To help communities better understand what a strong project looks like, we are developing a series of project guidance sheets. These will outline what we typically expect when reviewing CPF submissions and will provide clearer direction on eligible activities, maintenance considerations, and reporting needs. We’ll share these guides as they’re completed

As always, SWMD staff are here to support you from concept through project finish. If you have an idea, local need, or even an upcoming community project and aren’t sure how stormwater goals might fit into it, we encourage you to reach out. This program is designed to help you address your local stormwater needs!

SWMD DASHBOARD

Our SWMD Dashboard continues to grow as a central hub for stormwater information, project updates, and program resources. It’s a great tool for communities to share with residents, offering a way to learn about ongoing work, explore available services, and stay informed about SWMD initiatives.

We are actively expanding the dashboard to include additional features, including event listings and opportunities for residents to get involved. Our newsletters and other outreach materials are already linked there, making it a convenient one-stop location for SWMD-related information.

We encourage each community to include a link to the dashboard on your website and anywhere else you provide SWMD information. This helps ensure residents have easy access to resources and strengthens our collective outreach efforts.

Link to the SWMD Dashboard: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/0bab5c0dfd0f4b00a062c0e810a7d3b5>

In Attendance			Absent		
	Name	Community/Position		Name	Community/Position
M	Amy Anderson	Boston Township	M	Bill Funk	Bath Township
A	Mike Stillman	Copley Township	M	Jeremy Caudill	Springfield Township
A	Megan Sutherland	Copley Township	A	Ted Weinsheimer	Springfield Township
M	Tracy Sayers	Village of Lakemore	M	Jeff Houck	Coventry Township
M	Don Laubacher	Richfield Township	M	Gene Lim	Northfield Center Township
M	Paul Schweikert	Sagamore Hills Township	M	Becki Kovach	City of Reminderville
M	Robert Kagler	Twinsburg Township			
M	Mike Vinay	Director of Sanitary Sewer Services			
M	Rita Darrow	Council President			
	Dave Koontz	Summit County Engineers Office			
	Stephanie Deibel	Summit County Engineers Office			

M: Member

A: Alternate

MEETING SUMMARY

1. SWMD Projects

- Provided overview of project process from start to finish. Showed which projects are in what phase; concept, design, construction, completed. Focused on the original "Priority Projects" the SWMD focused on.
- With the initial Priority Projects completed, discussion shifted to identifying what comes next. Three watershed studies (Cuyahoga, Tuscarawas, Springfield Lake) have been completed, identifying 30 potential projects totaling approximately \$27M-\$30M. To date, 12 projects, about 40%, have been selected to move forward.
- SWMD has begun developing a watershed master plan with a consultant to evaluate the three studies using a consistent framework and help prioritize the remaining work and projects. Roughly 18 projects remain, with estimate costs of about \$19.4M. The consultant will review the studies, other existing planning documents, completed improvements by communities, OEPA water-quality data, flood-risk information, and more to create a unified matrix for prioritizing projects.

Questions or Feedback

- Q: Are there projects within the existing studies that a community could take on, like smaller in scale or lower cost options?
A: The studies were developed to address documented complaints and known problems areas, so most recommended solutions are larger scale. SCE staff will review the studies to identify whether any elements align with projects a community could undertake.
- Discussion: Discussed the need to clearly communicate maintenance and inspection expectations to homeowners. Residents living near improvements or stormwater facilities may assume inspections occur frequently (like twice a year) while our planned cycle is closer to ever 5+ years or as needed. Since they contribute financially, it's important to set and communicate accurate expectations.

2. Community Partnership Funds (CPF)

- County Fiscal Office collects the SWMD fee and holds it until disbursement. CPF dollars are deposited twice a year and require approval prior to expenditure.
- Eligible activities include localized studies, engineering/design costs, construction costs, and more (see guidance document for additional activities). If the desired activity isn't listed, contact SCE staff (Stephanie) to discuss project. SCE staff are available to provide assistance throughout any phase of the process.

Questions and Feedback

- Q: How do communities check their balance?
A: We can provide your community's current CPF account balance upon request. Updated revenue and allocation data from the County Executive's office is still pending, so the balances we have are not yet fully up to date. If you would like your current balance, feel free to reach out and we will coordinate the information for you.
- Q: Could CPF dollars be used to purchase equipment, like street sweeper or leaf collection machine?
A: Yes, CPF dollars can be used to purchase equipment, but the equipment must be used exclusively for stormwater program activities or other eligible uses. An alternative approach is to contract the services and use CPF funds to cover the contract, which can help stretch the program budget.
- Discussion: Possibility of SWMD establishing regional contracts (like pavement program) for street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, leaf collection.

3. MS4 Permit

Updates

- Discussed the upcoming MS4 permit cycle and the need to begin planning for the next phase of the stormwater program. The draft permit is currently out for public comment and was provided to committee members prior to the meeting. While no new mandates are anticipated, the new cycle presents opportunity to refine existing program elements, introduce new initiatives, and better support community needs.

Questions & Feedback

- Communities are encouraged to provide feedback and identify issues they are experiencing, areas of the stormwater program they would like to strengthen, and services or support that would better meet local needs. Anticipating an in-person MS4 meeting later this year.

4. Open Discussion

- Ditch enclosure: Discussed roadside ditches, as elderly residents often find them difficult to maintain. The county does not allow ditch enclosures. As an alternative to mowing, native plants can be incorporated. SCE is piloting a native seed mix for drainage swales and can coordinate with communities interested in testing the mix themselves.
- SWMD fee payment by park districts: Park districts are not exempt from the SWMD fee. Our office is coordinating with the districts to address any questions or concerns regarding the fee and to support timely payment.