**Watershed-Based MS4 Pilot Permit Stakeholder Meeting**

**Bernalillo County Public Works Department Offices ● June 30, 2011 ● 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Summary of Agreements/Actions**

The June 30, 2011 meeting was attended by 33 representatives of local federal, tribal, state, county, municipal, flood control authority, and private consulting agencies. Agenda items included:

1. EPA Region VI Update
2. AllAboutWatersheds.org Website Overview
3. Sandoval County Agencies’ Permit Framework Proposal
4. Stormwater Management Plan Draft Language—Six Minimum Measures

***Discussion Points/Agreements/Actions***

1. **Re: EPA Region VI Update**
   1. Nelly Smith informed the group that she plans to publish a Fact Sheet along with the MS4 Permit in 2012. The Fact Sheet will contain all basic relevant information about the permit, the region affected by the permit and the jurisdictional entities that will be included in the permit.
   2. Nelly will compile all of the pertinent information that will be included in the Fact Sheet. She will submit questions to each entity for information to be included, and requested this information be collected and submitted back to her through one point of contact. Steve Glass from Bernalillo County volunteered to be the point of contact.
2. **Re:** [**www.allaboutwatersheds.org**](http://www.allaboutwatersheds.org) **Website**
   1. Melissa Fetman, a recent NM Tech grad and summer intern at Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, provided an overview of the website, which has been selected as the central data repository for the pilot permit. Melissa reviewed the site’s structure, security measures and capabilities.
   2. All stakeholders are encouraged to sign up; nearly 30 people have signed up already. Melissa will be following up with all stakeholders to sign up and to answer questions about using the site.
3. **Re: Sandoval County Agencies’ Permit Framework Proposal**
   1. David Stoliker from SSCAFCA presented a proposal on behalf of agencies in Sandoval County for a permit framework. The essential outlines of the proposed framework are:
      1. A general permit that includes entities in Sandoval County, separate from a general permit that will include entities in Bernalillo County.
      2. The permit would be similar in concept and language to the permit that will cover the Bernalillo County entities; having a separate permit would allow entities that are similar in size, with similar scope of issues related to the permit, and have similar financial, administrative and technical capacity to focus on cooperating and learning together about the demands and benefits of a joint permit.
      3. The Sandoval County agencies would continue to work cooperatively with the other entities in the watershed, a) working together directly on some activities, e.g., education and outreach, and b) comparing experiences on others, e.g., illegal discharge detection and elimination.
      4. The proposal envisions the possibility of eventually having one general permit issued for all entities in the watershed.
   2. In the discussion that followed, several points were clarified or reinforced, including:
      1. The agencies bringing the proposal forward are very concerned that they will be unable to invest the financial and technical resources required by a single general permit, having seen the investment required by the Phase I permittees; that they will be unable to meet the cost-sharing requirements any single permit will require.
      2. Also, the type and scope of stormwater problems faced by Sandoval County entities are substantially different that those faced by Bernalillo County entities.
      3. Also, EPA’s requirement of a single general permit for all entities in the defined watershed does not take into account the lack of a framework for interaction in the Albuquerque Reach; this is in contrast to the situation faced by the other two pilot permit areas in Wisconsin and Minnesota.
      4. The Sandoval County entities have been frustrated by the lack of guidance, sometimes experienced as conflicting guidance, from EPA to date; this proposal, therefore, may help EPA clarify what it expects from all the entities in the Albuquerque Reach.
      5. The Sandoval County entities strongly adhere to the principle of cooperation across the watershed: They will continue to work closely and cooperatively with other MS4 permittees and stakeholders.
   3. Points made by other participants in the discussion included:
      1. The City of Rio Rancho will not participate in a separate general permit, because it must deal with entities in both Sandoval and Bernalillo Counties; its assessment is that it will be confusing, possibly conflicting, to work under the terms of two permits.
      2. There may be cost-sharing arrangements that would be fair and could increase efficiency in areas such as IDDE and monitoring, and having two permits may inadvertently increase duplication of effort in some areas.
      3. There may be a way to write one general permit that encourages cooperation across the watershed on some items and takes into account local differences on the ground.
      4. Each individual jurisdiction’s authority cannot be usurped by the permit: Each jurisdiction will still have to file a Notice of Intent to apply for a permit, and will have to write a Stormwater Management Plan.
   4. No decision was taken on the proposed framework. Each participant was encouraged to review the proposal in detail and to be able to make comments at future meetings.
4. **Re: SWMP Framework**
   1. Draft language was submitted for stakeholder review on four of the six minimum control measures that must be included in a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). The intent is to find common language for inclusion in each individual SWMP. (Each SWMP must be written and approved by individual entities.) The major point of each submission (author in parentheses) was, respectively:
      1. *Public Involvement/Participation* (Kelly Collins): Public involvement planning and other activities would be overseen by a Steering Committee and a Citizen Advisory Committee.
      2. *Illegal Discharge Detection and Elimination* (Steve Glass): The IDDE minimum measure (and, by extension, all six minimum measures) would be addressed in each agency’s SWMP by (1) a set of mandatory compliance strategies and (2) a “menu” of elective strategies (with a minimum number of electives stipulated by EPA in the general permit); both strategy “menus” would be proposed by local entities and approved by EPA.
      3. *Construction Site Runoff Control* (Trevor Alsop): Construction site runoff would be controlled through a limited set of administrative controls, while minimizing expensive field resources.
      4. *Post-Construction Site Runoff Control* (Xavier Pettes): Post-Construction runoff would be controlled by a set of mandatory strategies and a menu of elective strategies, proposed by local entities and approved by EPA.
   2. All participants were encouraged to review the draft submissions in detail, for discussion at future meetings.
5. **Next Meeting**
   1. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 4, 2011 from 1-4 p.m.
   2. There was a request that a major agenda topic should be the development of a cost-sharing arrangement for implementing the permit(s).
   3. After the meeting, John Avila, Administrator for the Village of Corrales, offered to host the August 4 meeting in Corrales. Details about the venue will be forthcoming.

**Watershed-Based MS4 Permit Stakeholder Meeting ● June 30, 2011**

**Meeting Participants**

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