

# MS4 and Stormwater Management in the Mat-Su Borough

## Stakeholder Meeting #2 Summary

**Date:** June 27, 2022; 11:30am-1pm

**Attendees:** Attendance List Attached

**Reporter:** Michelle Fehribach, Huddle AK

**Location:** Virtual via Microsoft Teams

**Project:** Mat-Su Borough MS4 Coordination

**Subject:** Stakeholder Meeting #2 Summary

### Summary

The Stakeholder Meeting #2 for MS4 and Stormwater Management in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) met virtually on Monday, June 27, 2022, from 11:30am-1pm using Microsoft Teams. The purpose of this meeting was to convene relevant stakeholders from governmental agencies and other partners who will likely be required to obtain an MS4 permit from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) if the MSB is classified as an Urbanized Area by the US Census Bureau, sometime later in 2022.

Stakeholder members met to review the purpose and need of the MS4 permit, to learn about what is required in the permit, and to learn how other communities have structured the permit and the Stormwater Management Program (SWMP).

Please see the attached presentation, agenda, and handouts for details about the information covered.

### Overview of the Meeting Presentation

#### 1. Quick Review of the Project Purpose

- a. Background
  - i. 2020 Census population count triggers an Urbanized Area designation
  - ii. US Census Bureau determines the extent of the Urbanized Area
  - iii. Triggers MS4 permit from ADEC
    1. Approval to discharge stormwater into “waters of the US”
- b. Responsible Parties
  - i. MSB, City of Wasilla, City of Palmer, DOT&PF
- c. Purpose and need
  - i. Learn about MS4 process
  - ii. Prepare for upcoming permit
- d. Role of this stakeholder group
  - i. Discuss how to work together or separately to structure permits and get ready for this process
- e. Updated Stakeholder Meetings Plan
  - i. July 25: Permit Breakdown, Part 2
  - ii. August 29: Existing Building Blocks
  - iii. September 26: Management Details
  - iv. October 31: Wrap Up

## 2. Technical Discussion

### a. Permit Breakdown Part 1

#### i. *Introduction*

1. Discussion used the joint permit for the City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, DOT&PF, and UAF as a baseline
  - a. Permit can be accessed here: <https://ak-fairbanksnorthstarborough.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/795/APDES-Permit-Number-AKS-053406-PDF>
  - b. MSB Permit is expected to be very similar
2. All of the Phase 2 MS4 Permits in Alaska look very similar
3. Anchorage is a Phase 1 community, so their permit is very different

#### ii. *Permit vs. Factsheet*

1. Permit contains regulatory requirements
2. Factsheets contains details and reasoning behind the requirements

#### iii. *Permit Applicability*

1. Coverage Area
  - a. Stormwater discharge into waters of the US within the Urbanized Area
2. Types of Discharges Authorized by the Permit
  - a. Allowable non-stormwater discharges are clearly defined in the permit. These are not illicit discharges.
  - b. Can't discharge snow directly into waters of the US; can allow runoff from snow melt water as long as you have appropriate runoff controls
3. Limitations and Co-permittees Responsibilities
  - a. Permit outlines what each permittee is individually responsible for and what is a joint responsibility
  - b. Co-permittees decide and formalize this via intergovernmental agreements

#### iv. *Stormwater Management Program Requirements*

1. SWMP Document
  - a. Describes how to manage meeting the Minimum Control Measures
  - b. Lays out the actions needed to meet the Minimum Control Measures
    - i. Permittees can tailor the activities to the most relevant issues or opportunities for your specific community
  - c. Fairbanks SWMP example: [https://www.fairbanksalaska.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/engineering/page/911/fairbanks-northpole\\_swmp\\_final\\_021519.pdf](https://www.fairbanksalaska.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/engineering/page/911/fairbanks-northpole_swmp_final_021519.pdf)
  - d. Anchorage SWMP example: <http://anchoragestormwater.com/Documents/2020AnnualReport/AppA1FourthTermStormWaterManagementPlan.pdf>
  - e. Fort Wainwright SWMP example: [https://home.army.mil/alaska/application/files/7416/1712/5330/2021\\_USAG\\_Alaska\\_MS4\\_SWMP\\_reduced.pdf](https://home.army.mil/alaska/application/files/7416/1712/5330/2021_USAG_Alaska_MS4_SWMP_reduced.pdf)

2. General Requirements
    - a. Requires local ordinances to make the SWMP enforceable
    - b. If it is a joint permit with multiple entities, need to determine how to structure those ordinances and what language to use
  3. Annual Review and Updating
    - a. This is a living document; it is updated annually
    - b. Changes follow procedures outlined in the permit
  4. Financing, staff, equipment and other resources must continue to be provided to implement the SWMP.
- v. *Minimum Control Measures 1-3*
1. Public Education and Outreach
    - a. Can tailor the education and outreach activities to your community; the permit allows for flexibility in how you implement public education and outreach
  2. Public Involvement and Participation
    - a. Tailor the education and outreach activities to your community; the permit allows for flexibility in how you implement
  3. Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination
    - a. Takes more effort initially to implement than MCM 1 and 2
    - b. Need to map facilities with coverage under the Multi-Sector General Permit
      - i. Can use the ADEC online mapping tool to see current permits and download associated documents:  
<https://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Water/EDMS/nsite/map/help>
    - c. Need to build an MS4 map
      - i. Map does not need to be survey quality data
      - ii. Anchorage mapping example:  
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/3ddb1b27bf/b14fa9b32d774c165e4b4d/>
      - iii. Fairbanks mapping example:  
<https://fnsb.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=66d32548f99440b1b864d6e47d80b78e>
      - iv. Needs to show where the system is and what contributes to each outfall
      - v. Needs to include publicly operated facilities, including snow disposal sites
    - d. Need to implement a dry weather screening program
      - i. Program will determine dry-weather flows are an illicit discharge.
      - ii. Requires sampling and testing the water
      - iii. You have time to conduct the testing. For example, Fairbanks screened all its outfalls within a three-year period

**Group Questions and Discussion**

Attendees were able to ask questions or provide comments verbally or using the chat function. Below is a table of the questions and comments from attendees during the meeting. Answers provided by attendees are noted with their name and agency in parentheses.

Agency Representative	Question/Comment	Answer
Edna DeVries, MSB Mayor	Can Fairbanks share the cost of implementing the SWMP?	<p>There’s a certain amount of funding – probably less than \$30,000 – for supplies and to run the program. There’s also staff time, and the City of Fairbanks works with the co-permittees to determine the duties and costs among all of the co-permittees. \$50,000 is probably what it costs to run a program. (Andrew Ackerman, City of Fairbanks)</p> <p>The MS4 project management team is planning to discuss costs in detail in a future stakeholder meeting. Generally, the costs are expected to vary significantly depending on which activities the permittees decide to do to meet the required control measures. It will likely cost more to establish the program than what it costs to maintain the program once it’s established.</p>
Kenneth Kleewein, MSB GIS	With inventorying infrastructure and mapping, there is a cost associated. Do you use contractors for that work or use internal staff?	There is a lot of staffing time in addition to running the program. The City of Fairbanks had to develop certain data layers using GIS. There’s staffing both in the Engineering Department and sometimes the city contracts out work, but often we don’t have staff to do a lot of it. The city collaborates to get as much done as we can internally. (Andrew Ackerman, City of Fairbanks)
Joshua James, DOT&PF	We should consider tailoring outreach to the community. For example, this will affect people who run gravel pits and their ability to discharge stormwater. We should focus on engaging	There is a lot of room to determine how to best focus outreach efforts for each community and for the permittees to tailor their public outreach activities based on what

	people who have stormwater permits within the new MS4 permit area.	issues are the most important. (Jackson Fox, FAST Planning)
Renee Goetzel, DOT&PF	When will all the potentially impacted agencies be meeting to determine the responsibilities and efforts of each permittee?	The MSB is expecting to receive the Urbanized Area designation in fall 2022. Once that happens, the permittees will start determining if and how they're going to work together. The ADEC sets an appropriate timeline, so the application process is successful.
Clint Adler, DOT&PF	Do you know how many individual permits there may be in the valley? Stormwater permits or other permits that cover runoff?	ADEC just implemented a new data management system for dealing with 401 and 402 permits. There's a mapping tool with locations of where those permits are and you can download those documents. (Jim Rypkema, ADEC)
	Link referenced in discussion: <a href="https://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Water/EDMS/nsite/map/help">https://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Water/EDMS/nsite/map/help</a>	
Kenneth Kleewein, MSB GIS	Does that exist now then for the Mat-Su? The mapped locations of those current construction permits with ADEC?	Yes, there is active permit mapping. This is more applicable to Minimum Control Measure #4 – Construction Site Control, which the stakeholder group discuss at the next meeting.
Kenneth Kleewein, MSB GIS	Is there an ArcGIS REST Web Service url?	The Environmental Data Management System (EDMS) and ArcGIS systems are separate, but EDMS should be able to generate a REST service. That is from the ADEC GIS Department, so further discussion would be a good idea. (Sam Kito, ADEC)
Kenneth Kleewein, MSB GIS	How is information being shared between agencies for the Fairbanks example? Who is organizing that exchange of information?	The majority of the coordination is between the City of Fairbanks and DOT&PF, because they manage most of the facilities inside the urbanized area. Sharing GIS data is getting easier and it needs to be clear when you set up the permit how to share information and who is doing it, and who is primarily responsible. (Andrew Ackerman, City of Fairbanks)

Kenneth Kleewein, MSB GIS	I want to comment that it's important for us to figure out how to create and share data early, because each responsible entity has its own capabilities and limitations. It will likely be quite an effort to inventory and update the data to create the MS4 system map. We need to have a standardized data schema.	Thank you for providing that feedback.
Rick Antonio, MSB Planning	Are all of the ditches going to be considered part of our MS4 system? For example, an industrial facility may say they're not discharging into waters of the US. But if we include ditches in our MS4 system, then that may trigger the need for them to seek a Multi-Sector General Permit. It may impact who may need to seek a Construction General Permit as well.	The waters of the US rule currently has a provision regarding ditches being excluded from the waters of the US definition. The connectivity of ditches via a conveyance channel to waters of the US will need to be verified. If there is connectivity, ditches don't necessarily become waters of the US, however the permittee will need to include ditches in treatment plans to ensure they don't add pollutants to waters of the US.(Jim Rypkema, ADEC)

**Next Meeting**

The next Stakeholder Meeting will be held virtually on Monday, July 25, 2022, from 11:30am-1pm using Microsoft Teams. A meeting invite will be distributed to attendees by MSB staff.

**Attachments**

1. Attendance List
2. Presentation

**MS4 and Stormwater Management in the Mat-Su Borough  
Stakeholder Meeting #2 Attendance List**

<b>Name, Organization/Agency</b>	<b>Role</b>
Maija DiSalvo, MSB Planning	Project Management Team
Rick Antonio, MSB Planning	Project Management Team
Kim Sollien, MSB Planning	Project Management Team
Kenneth Kleewein, MSB GIS	Stakeholder Group Member
Anne Dollard, MSB GIS	Stakeholder Group Member
Mike Brown, MSB Administration	Stakeholder Group Member
Brad Sworts, MSB Public Works	Stakeholder Group Member
Tony Weese, MSB School District	Stakeholder Group Member
Michelle Olsen, MSB Planning	Stakeholder Group Member
Adam Bradway, MSB Planning	Stakeholder Group Member
Kelsey Anderson, MSB Planning	Stakeholder Group Member
Edna Devries, MSB Mayor	Stakeholder Group Member
Peggy Horton, MSB Planning	Stakeholder Group Member
Alex Strawn, MSB Planning	Stakeholder Group Member
Shannon Bodolay, MSB Attorney	Stakeholder Group Member
Fred Wagner, MSB Planning	Stakeholder Group Member
Glenda Ledford, Mayor of Wasilla	Stakeholder Group Member
Robert Walden, City of Wasilla Public Works	Stakeholder Group Member
Tina Crawford, City of Wasilla Planning	Stakeholder Group Member
Kirk Warren, DOT&PF	Stakeholder Group Member
Erik Norberg, DOT&PF	Stakeholder Group Member
Burrell Nickeson, DOT&PF	Stakeholder Group Member
Kyler Hylton, DOT&PF	Stakeholder Group Member
Joshua James, DOT&PF	Stakeholder Group Member
Ronald Searcy, DOT&PF	Stakeholder Group Member
Renee Goentzel, DOT&PF	Stakeholder Group Member
Clint Adler, DOT&PF	Stakeholder Group Member
James Rypkema, ADEC	Stakeholder Group Member
Sam Kito, ADEC	Stakeholder Group Member
Jackson Fox, FAST Planning	Guest
Andrew Ackerman, City of Fairbanks	Guest
Janie Dusel, AWR Engineering	Consultant
Holly Spoth-Torres, Huddle AK	Consultant
Michelle Fehribach, Huddle AK	Consultant

# **MS<sub>4</sub> & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN THE MAT-SU BOROUGH**

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**Stakeholder Meeting #2 – Permit Breakdown Part 1**

Hosted by: The Mat-Su Borough Planning Department

With Assistance From: AWR Engineering, LLC

June 27, 2022



# Welcome and Introductions

- **MSB Project Management Team**

- Kim Sollien, Planning Services Manager
- Rick Antonio, Stormwater Program Coordinator
- Maija DiSalvo, Planning Administrator

- **Consultant Team**

- Janie Dusel, PE, MS<sub>4</sub> Specialist | AWR Engineering
- Holly Spoth-Torres, PLA, Public Engagement Specialist | Huddle AK

- **Stakeholder Introductions**

# Quick Review of Project Purpose

- **Background**

- MSB 2020 Census
- “Urbanized Area” Classification is expected for the Core Area (Palmer & Wasilla)
- Urbanized Area is based on pollution density or number of people in a given area
- US Census Bureau will determine the extents of the Urbanized Area



*Neighborhood in Palmer*

# Quick Review of Project Purpose

- **Background**

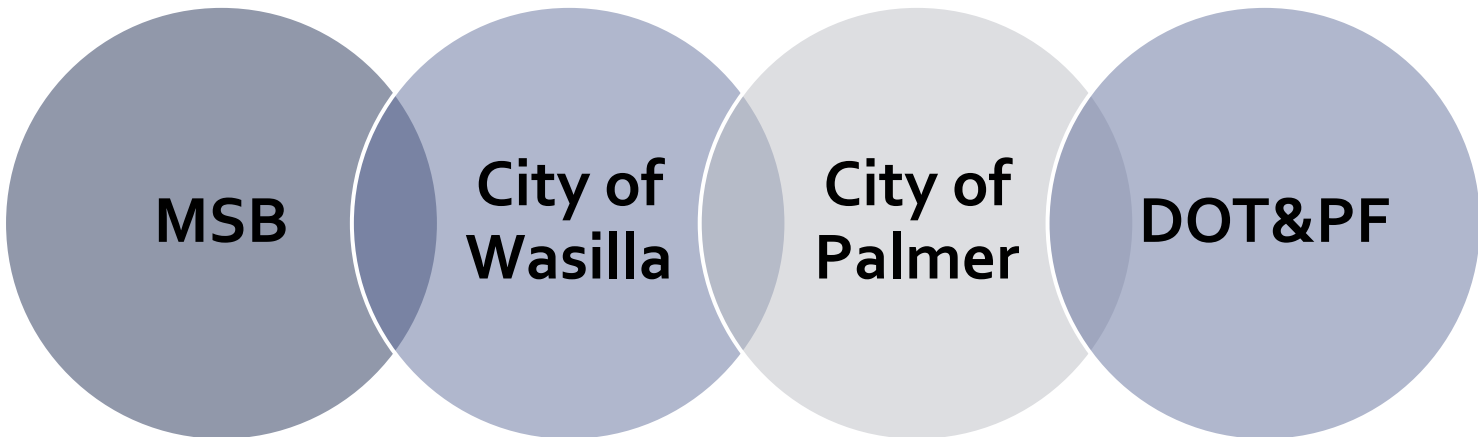
- Urbanized Area triggers the need for a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS<sub>4</sub>) Permit
- Issued by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC).
- ADEC Approval needed to discharge stormwater water into “Waters of the US”
  - E.g. Creeks, rivers, lakes etc.
- Will apply to operators of stormwater collection systems (MS<sub>4</sub>s) throughout the Urbanized Area.



*Lake Lucile in Wasilla*

# Quick Review of Project Purpose

- **Who are the Responsible Parties?**
  - Any entity that operates an MS<sub>4</sub> system inside the Urbanized Area
  - Expected to include:



# Quick Review of Project Purpose

- **Purpose and Need**
  - Learn about the MS4 process and permit requirements
  - Prepare for the upcoming MS4 permit
- **Role of this Stakeholder Group**
  - Provide input for how impacted agencies want to work together to structure the permit



*Cottonwood Creek near Wasilla*

# Updated Stakeholder Meetings Plan

Meeting #	Date	Topic
1	May 31 (past)	Introduction to the Project
2	Today	<b>Permit Breakdown, Part 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Applicability</li><li>✓ SWMP Requirements</li><li>✓ Minimum Control Measures 1, 2, and 3</li></ul>
3	July 25	<b>Permit Breakdown, Part 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Minimum Control Measures 4, 5, and 6</li><li>✓ Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, and Record Keeping</li></ul>
4	Aug 29	<b>Existing Building Blocks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Current resources, data, plans, etc.</li><li>✓ Required ordinances</li><li>✓ Data gaps and how to fill them</li></ul>
5	Sept 26	<b>Management Details</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Intergovernmental agreement types/structures</li><li>✓ Program costs and staffing</li><li>✓ Funding source options</li></ul>
6	Oct 31	<b>Wrap Up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Summarize, review, and debrief</li><li>✓ Discuss permittee thoughts/preferences</li></ul>

# Technical Discussion

## Permit Background and Authority

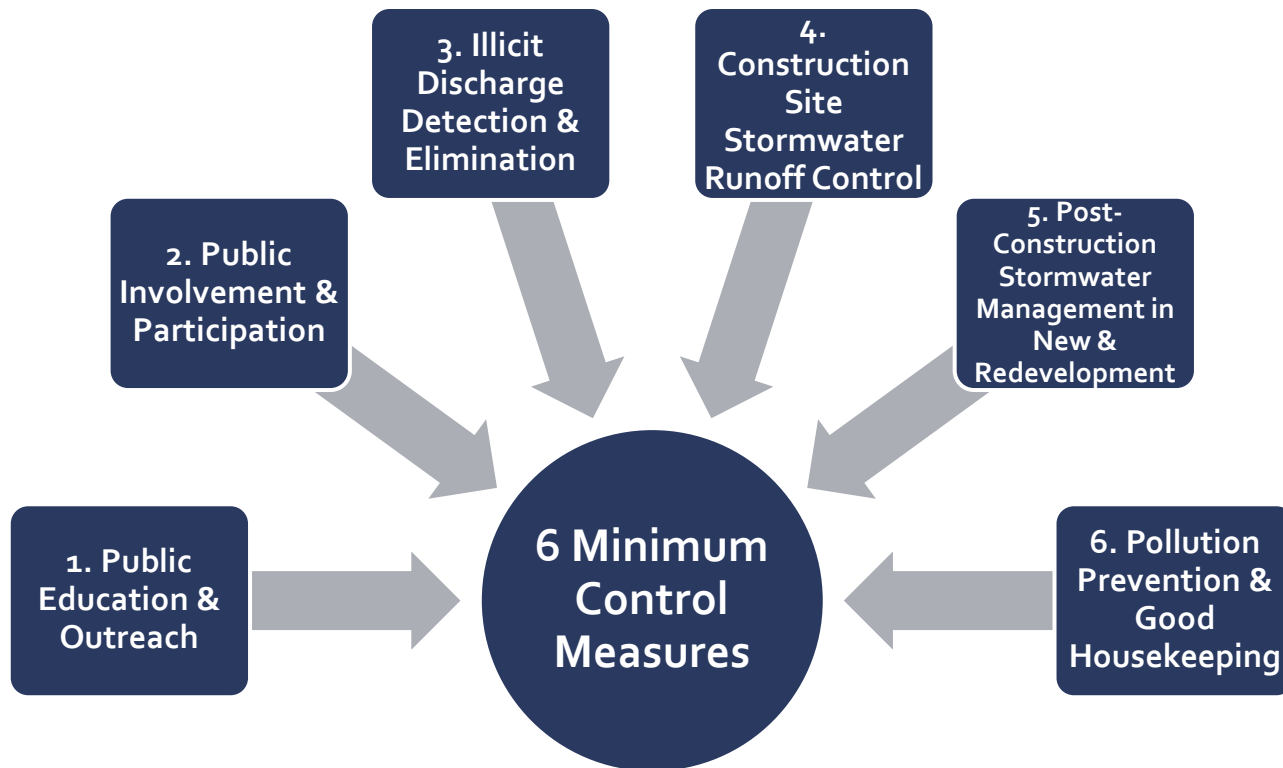
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (**NPDES**) program is authorized by the EPA under the *Clean Water Act*.
- The program in Alaska was originally managed by the EPA.
- In 2009, ADEC took over program management.
- The program is now called the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (**APDES**) program.
- The APDES program issues *several types* of permits – an MS<sub>4</sub> permit is ONE kind.



# Technical Discussion

- Permit Details

- Up-front set up details
- Stormwater Management Program
- Minimum Control Measures 1, 2, 3





# Group Questions and Discussion



# Next Meeting/Closing

- Next Meeting is July 25<sup>th</sup> via Teams
- MSB will send invitations

