

***Public Hearing
Stormwater Annual Report
May 10, 2007***

The Public Hearing on the Stormwater Annual Report was called to order by the Chair at 1:45 P.M. Seven Legislative Members were present, Legislators Harrington and Huttleston being absent.

There were 7 people in attendance.

The Clerk read the legal notice as published in the official newspapers.

Elaine Jardine, County Planning Director, spoke. “Thank you. We are required every year to complete an annual report and submit it to DEC as per the phase II stormwater regulations. The stormwater regulations encompass six minimum measures as you can see: Public Education and outreach; public participation and involvement; illicit discharge detection and elimination; construction site runoff; post construction runoff control; and municipal good housekeeping. There are various activities that are required under each of those minimum measures and many others that you can engage in. Our report highlights are located in this document that I passed out, a summary of our accomplishments in year four which is 2006 and 2007, and then planned activities for year five, the final year of the first permit.

“This year we held training sessions again mainly to highway personnel because we had not gotten to them previously on hydroseeding and highway/ditch maintenance pertaining to stormwater issues. We held our annual stream cleanup again in which 100 participants collected over a ton of trash. Tioga County’s household hazardous waste program continues to be very successful collecting over eight tons of trash, five tons of electronics and 11 tons of used motor oil, and 127 tons of used tires. Both these activities are important because they collect that trash that can combine with runoff and pollute our water so the more we clean up the cleaner our water will be.

“All catchment basements on Pennsylvania Avenue were stenciled in yellow with no dumping. You will see that as you drive along Pennsylvania Avenue down to about Beech Road I think is the cutoff of the catchment basin and storm sewer collection system. Tioga County’s GIS Manager helped the Town of Owego out by GPSing all their storm sewer outfalls which is where stormwater discharges into either a water body or another jurisdiction. In our case it is New York State DOT. That is a requirement that had to be done this year. That is complete.

“As you all know 231 Main Estates opened last year and during the development of that project Bruce Nelson installed a rain garden which will filter out stormwater, retain it, clean it, and it will not even reach the street at that point. We gave him an award for that through the Tioga County Water Quality Coordinating Committee. As per usual Tioga County highway personnel visually inspect all the catchment basins on Pennsylvania Avenue for any kind of illicit discharge or contamination. None has been detected.

“This year we are also already starting work on it because you can see the year starts March 10th. We are very close to finalizing our Broome/Tioga stormwater coalition logo which you can see in the upper right corner there. It will be really similar to that and just have some tag lines on top of it when it is finished. Also I have been more active in getting this information on our websites, Develop Tioga.com and Tioga County NY.com. There is a stormwater program manager coordinator listed on there, that is me, and our local stormwater contact, Ken Del Bianco, Commissioner of Public Works, is also designated on those sites. We plan to get rain gauges stamped with our Broome/Tioga stormwater coalition logo. Rain gauges are required on all construction sites over an acre to measure the rain flow and make sure that the rain water is not reaching outside the construction site. We will create all kinds of brochures and outreach material once this logo is finished. We are working on a website just for the Broome/Tioga stormwater coalition. Training will be held in a couple of weeks here regarding site inspection of construction sites that deals mainly with code enforcement officers. That is also required.

“The Department of Public Works just finished mapping all ditches and culverts along Pennsylvania Avenue to Rhodes Road. That starts where the stormwater conveyances stop, again around Beech Road and down to Rhodes Road, the end of the MS4 area. As you know Ellen Pratt has been working with Weitsman on coordinating a formal used tire collection and scrap metal collection program to be started in 2008. Our Public Health Engineer in Environmental Health is updating the County’s sanitary code and we are also required to develop some IDDE regulations which again that is illicit discharge, detection, and elimination. In Tioga County that mainly deals with failing septic systems so she is going to include that language in the updated sanitary code for the County. We are making progress on our stormwater requirements and activities. I know it is pretty dry stuff, but it is something we have to comply with. I am happy to do it.”

Legislator Roberts spoke. “Is Pennsylvania Avenue the only road in the County with storm basins?”

Elaine Jardine spoke. “It is the only road in the County that is included in the MS4 area. The MS4 area is basically the Triple Cities of Broome County and Crestview Heights and Tioga Terrace in Tioga County. It is basically the urbanized area.”

Legislator Roberts spoke. “They have storm basins in Tioga Terrace right?”

Elaine Jardine spoke. “Yes they do and we were not required to map every catchment basin, just the outfalls and that was what was mapped in Tioga Terrace and Crestview Heights, just the outfalls which are discharges directly to water bodies or changes in jurisdiction. Eventually we will be mapping all the catchment basins, it is just when our GIS people have the time because Town of Owego does not have that capability. I am pretty sure that DEC will be requiring that in the future too that all catchment basins be mapped and inventoried, and inspected, but that has not happened yet.”

There being no further comments, Legislator Oberbeck made a motion to adjourn at 1:56 P.M., seconded by Legislator Roberts, and the motion to adjourn was carried.