

*Public Hearing*  
*Stormwater Annual Report*  
May 8, 2007

The Public Hearing on the Stormwater Annual Report was called to order by the Chair at 1:30 P.M. All Legislative Members were present.

There were 11 people in attendance.

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

Elaine Jardine, Planning Director spoke. “As a requirement of the stormwater regulations I do have to present the report at a meeting every year of our accomplishments during the past reporting year. Again as an overview for those of you who might not be familiar with the regulations, the nationwide stormwater program is a two pronged approach. There is the general SPDES permit which entails the minimum measures one through six that each designated urban area has to comply with. In Tioga County that includes only the Town of Owego, not even the Village, just the Town of Owego, and I am the Stormwater Management Program Coordinator who insures our compliance with that part of the program.

“The second part of the program involves construction sites 1-acre in size and greater. Every construction site has to comply with the phase two stormwater regulations and in our County Wendy Walsh is the one that goes out. First she reviews the stormwater prevention plans that have to be developed, preconstruction, and then she does site inspections, and right on through to the end of the construction makes sure that every construction site is in compliance. It is very complicated, but necessary by the regulations.

“The report I am going to give you is on the general permit only, our County stormwater management plan. We held two trainings during the year, one specifically for site inspection for Code Enforcement Officers, and one for Highway personnel on environmentally sensitive stream maintenance. The Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition, which also was formed in conjunction with these regulations, developed its own logo. We also produced rain gauges for contractors and developers to use at their construction sites because part of that compliance is to measure the rain levels that fall on the construction sites, and right now it is very specific as to a timeframe after a certain storm event, but the next permit it is going to be pretty much continual and consistent rain level measuring.

**“The Tioga County Soil & Water District Manager attained her certified professional in erosion and sediment control status and this is going to be very important for the implementation of the new permit, and a CPESC as they are known as has to be monitoring the construction sites and inspecting so Wendy will be performing that on behalf of the Department of Environmental Conservation, and she is the only one to my knowledge to have this professional status in Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition area.**

**“We held the annual events that we hold every year. The household hazardous waste program through Ellen Pratt, the Tioga County stream cleanup through Soil & Water Conservation District, which cleans up just tons and tons of garbage along our streams and private properties that obviously helps reduce contamination in our streams and river. All the ditches and culverts on Pennsylvania Avenue basically between Beach Road and Rhodes Road were mapped by our Highway Department that they are nonsystem sewer infrastructure, and that is also regulated by this program. It is not just catchment basins and storm sewer pipes, it is the nonsystem that are regulated too within the MS4 area. For Tioga County we just had a little tiny part, Pennsylvania Avenue from Route 434 down to Rhodes Road is what our operational area is within the MS4 area. It is very minimal, but it is there.**

**“DPW reports that they routinely inspect the catchment basins on Pennsylvania Avenue and have identified no contaminants during this last reporting period. DEC has assigned our pollutant of concern for our whole Broome-Tioga MS4 area as silt and sedimentation. That is something that is new this year on the report.**

**“Planned activities, Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District has purchased something called an Enviroscape, it is a plastic watershed model and we have actually already used it in our new reporting year at Farm Days at the Mall that demonstrates rain water and how pollutants can enter our streams and rivers, and we will be demonstrating that at various events and in classrooms. We have purchased some water educational materials from Water as Life. We have distributed placemats to the Blue Dolphin on multiple occasions and have some teaching materials and other things that educate the public on the role of drinking water and keeping it clean.**

**“Tioga County Solid Waste has embarked on its scrap metal and tire collection program. The Town of Owego is doing theirs this week and that has been a great success in the Town of Owego. The Coalition and our little group will continue to support Ellen on whatever she needs to continue that program. Tioga County’s Public Health Engineer before she left and hopefully the new one will be working on updating our sanitary codes with illicit discharge detection and elimination enforcement which in our County is basically failed septic systems.**

“The only other thing to report is that the first five year permit has expired. We are now in our sixth year and that permit DEC renewed on May 1<sup>st</sup>, and while there is really no change in the minimum control measure activities, the general permit, there will be some impact on construction site activity. Prior to start of construction the stormwater pollution prevention plan that is required by DEC now has to be approved by the MS4 jurisdiction before the notice of intent can be submitted to the Department of Environmental Conservation. That is a change and that means that the Town of Owego must approve an applicant’s stormwater pollution prevention plan before things can move on ahead to DEC. Contractors must be certified in the stormwater training or at least one contractor on site from what I understand must have four hours of stormwater training a year in order for a construction site to move forward. As I said monitoring of stormwater levels is going to be every seven days instead of 24 hours after a half inch event. Stormwater is gearing up and we are trying to keep up with it and keep in compliance with the program.”

Legislator Burns spoke. “The DEC permit that you said had been renewed, is that renewed for another five years?”

Elaine Jardine spoke. “Another five years yes.”

Legislator Roberts spoke. “If there are other catch basins in Tioga County, how come they are not in this?”

Elaine Jardine spoke. “Because this only has to comply in the designated area, which is just Crestview Heights, Tioga Terrace, and down to Pennsylvania Avenue. It is considered the urban area, part of the Binghamton urban area. The MS4 designated areas follow urban areas.”

Legislator Penney spoke. “So your report does not include any of the other construction sites over one acre?”

Elaine Jardine spoke. “Oh yes. The construction program applies nationwide no matter what, no matter where it is. That is why it is a two prong program. There is the general permit that has the outreach and education activities, and then the construction.”

Legislator Penney spoke. “Does your report mention any of those sites?”

Elaine Jardine spoke. “The construction sites that have applied?”

Legislator Penney spoke. “Yes.”

Elaine Jardine spoke. "Wendy inspects them so she can tell us what she has reviewed in the past year."

Wendy Walsh, District Manager Soil & Water, spoke. "I think we reported in there we made 11 site visits."

Legislator Penney spoke. "I have not seen that in this report."

Elaine Jardine spoke. "It says in here that 11 were received and 11 were reviewed and approved, but it does not say where they are because we did not have to report that."

Legislator Penney spoke. "Is the one off Taylor Road one of those 11?"

Wendy Walsh spoke. "The proposed Barnes Creek apartments? I am not sure which one on Taylor Road."

Legislator Penney spoke. "I see construction going along Taylor Road at the area of the Brick Pond. Is that one of the 11?"

Wendy Walsh spoke. "No. That one is actually being handled by DEC. It is a Central New York Oil & Gas drilling facility."

There being no further comments, Legislator Sauerbrey made a motion to adjourn at 1:41 P.M., seconded by Legislator Burns and the motion to adjourn was carried.