



WATER RESOURCE CENTER

FACT SHEET 3 of 7

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

WATER RESOURCE CENTER

Mission

To promote regional collaboration on water topics; be a leader in facilitating coordination and education; and provide technical assistance to its member governments.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION / INVOLVEMENT

Small MS4 Program: Minimum Control Measure #2

Public Participation/Involvement is one of the six (6) Minimum Control Measures (MCMs) required under the MS4 program*. The goal of the Public Participation/Involvement MCM is to facilitate successful implementation of your Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) through a number of means, including: garnering broad public support; utilizing expertise and local knowledge; shortening implementation schedules; and building partnerships with other community and government programs.

There are three (3) Best Management Practices (BMPs) required under this MCM.

BMP #1 - Develop, implement, and maintain a Public Involvement and Participation Program (PIPP) which describes various types of possible participation activities and describes methods of encouraging the public's involvement and soliciting of public's input. The PIPP should be developed the first year of permit coverage and re-evaluated annually. PIPP should include, but not be limited to: 1) opportunities for the public to participate in your SWMP; 2) regular communication methods to organizations such as watershed groups, environmental advisory committees, etc.; and 3) making MS4 reports available to the public.

BMP #2 - Prior to the adoption of any ordinance required by the permit, provide adequate public notice and opportunities for public review, input, and feedback. Public comments that are received should be documented and responded to.



Getting the public involved through river and stream cleanups (above and below) is a great way to achieve multiple water quality goals, including: educating and engaging the public, removing trash from local waterways, and meeting some requirements of the Public Participation/Involvement MCM.

Photos: popcitymedia.com & vwwa.org



BMP #3 - Regularly solicit public involvement and participation from the target audience groups. This should include an effort to solicit public reporting of suspected illicit discharges. Assist the public in their efforts to help implement your SWMP. Conduct public meetings to discuss the ongoing implementation of your SWMP.

*Please note that this information is not intended to replace regulatory requirements. Actual individual and/or general permits issued by PADEP should be followed to ensure that MS4 regulatory requirements are met. This information was adapted from Appendix A of PADEP's Stormwater Management Program & EPA's Stormwater Fact Sheet Series).