GREATER LANSING
REGIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR STORM WATER MANAGEMENT
www.mywatersheds.org

The Greater Lansing Regional Committee for Stormwater Management (GLRC) is a guiding body comprised of regulated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) communities within the Greater Lansing region. The committee was established in 1999 to guide the implementation of the stormwater program for participating communities within the Grand, Red Cedar, and Looking Glass River watersheds. The GLRC is administered by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.

GLRC Members

- Clinton County
- Delhi Charter Township
- Delta Charter Township
- DeWitt Charter Township
- City of DeWitt
- City of East Lansing
- Eaton County
- City of Grand Ledge
- Ingham County
- Lansing Charter Township
- Lansing School District
- City of Lansing
- City of Mason
- Meridian Charter Township
- Michigan State University
- Waverly Community Schools

Administrative Support:

Tri-County Regional
Planning Commission
3135 Pine Tree Road
Suite 2C
Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 393-0342
Fax (517) 393-4424

TRI-COUNTY
regional planning commission

MS4 Basics

Separate storm sewers capture runoff water in catch basins and pipes that lead directly to rivers, streams, and lakes without being processed at a treatment plant. Oil, pet waste, sediment, or litter that is washed into the system enters and impacts waterbodies. To limit pollution, the EPA's Phase II rule requires operators of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems in urbanized areas to implement programs and practices to control polluted stormwater runoff through the use of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. For permit compliance, MS4 municipalities must meet the "six minimum measures."

Role of the GLRC

The GLRC guides members through the six measures and the NPDES permit application process, helps them maintain compliance during the permit cycle, and assists them during DEQ audits and inspections. GLRC staff perform and facilitate the public education requirements, author ordinance and best management practice guidance documents, maintain permit tracking data, draft permit documentation, and provide municipal staff training. This collaborative approach creates consistent development standards throughout the region, fosters knowledge sharing, and saves municipalities money by pooling resources.

The Six Minimum Measures

Public Participation/Involvement
Providing opportunities for citizens to participate in program development and implementation, including effectively publicizing public hearings and/or encouraging citizen representatives on a stormwater management panel.

Public Education
Distributing educational materials and performing outreach to inform citizens about the impacts polluted stormwater runoff discharges can have on water quality.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Ellimination
Developing and implementing a plan to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to the storm sewer system. Activities include developing a system map and informing communities about hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste.

Construction Site Runoff Control
Developing, implementing, and enforcing an erosion and sediment control program for construction activities that disturb one or more acres of land. Controls could include silt fences and temporary stormwater detention ponds.

Post-Construction Runoff Control
Developing, implementing, and enforcing a program to address discharges of post-construction stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment areas. Applicable controls could include preventative actions such as protecting sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands) or the use of structural best management practices (BMPs) such as grassed swales or porous pavement.

Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping
Developing and implementing a program with the goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations. The program must include municipal staff training on pollution prevention measures and techniques, such as regular street sweeping, reduction in the use of pesticides or street salt, or frequent catch basin cleaning.

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EGLE touts the GLRC as an example for other regions to follow because it allows for open communication between watershed stakeholders and regulators, maintains regional consistency and compliance, and is a cost-effective approach that saves municipalities money.

EGLE Statewide MS4 Program Coordinator Christe Alwin on the success of the GLRC's regional approach:

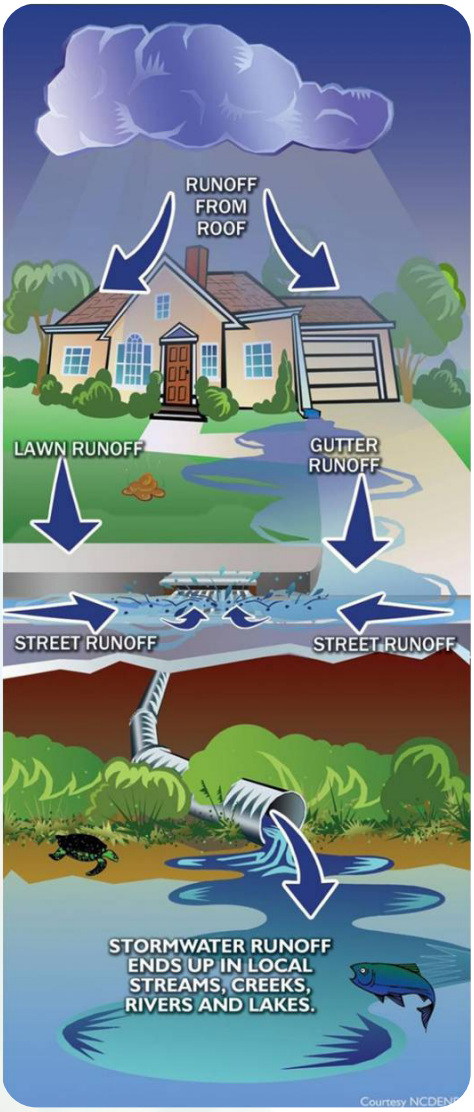
"Most GLRC members are subject to the federal stormwater regulations. There are three types of stormwater discharges regulated under the federal stormwater rules: discharges from construction activities, discharges from industrial activities, and discharges from municipal sources. GLRC members with regulated stormwater discharges from municipal sources are required to obtain MS4 permit coverage. Nationally there are over 6,500 regulated MS4s.

At our request, the GLRC successfully piloted a new MS4 permitting approach. The GLRC framework of engaged membership focused on regional collaboration was used by EGLE to guide development of the new MS4 permitting approach. **The GLRC continues to be an example of a successful model for collaborative stormwater management by maximizing financial resources, delivering consistent messaging across the watershed, and developing regional stormwater control standards.**"

Benefits of Membership:

- Dues pay for materials and professional staff time/technical assistance that would be significantly more costly without membership. For example, permits require municipalities to educate the public and measure the effectiveness of their efforts. Rather than hire a consultant to draft a public education campaign (and pay internal staff to implement it), all GLRC members get credit for the outreach efforts of GLRC staff AND those of the other members. This collaborative approach keeps costs down. Also, every six years the GLRC conducts a community survey to analyze gaps in public knowledge and to determine the success of education initiatives. This survey is the key to permit compliance, but would be cost prohibitive if not for regional collaboration.
- GLRC staff attend conferences and meetings and report back to the group, providing members access to new ideas from other projects and programs.
- Membership connects municipalities to the GLRC's good relationship with EGLE. EGLE staff attend meetings and sub-committee work groups, and work alongside the GLRC to ensure that plans and activities are acceptable and meet permit requirements. This tremendous asset isn't as likely for an individual community.
- GLRC membership enhances eligibility for state and federal infrastructure funds. There is a preference to grant funds to "development ready" communities who are already managing their resources. Participation in the GLRC is proof of this commitment.
- The GLRC also provides members with a place to learn from their peers. Members share expertise and insider problem solving techniques for the infrastructure and land management challenges facing the region. Area drain offices, cities, townships, MSU experts, and EGLE collaborate and solve problems together.

Diagram of an MS4



Check out the GLRC on Facebook, Twitter, and at MyWatersheds.org!