

Long Island MS4 Planning (NYSG LI-MS4 Planning) Program

Final Report

January 2012

Prepared by the Interstate Environmental Commission
For the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Clean Water Act Section 604(b)



Final Report

Prepared for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Project/Organization Information

Project Information			
Project Name	Long Island MS4 Planning (NYSG LI-MS4 Planning) Program		
Primary Project Type	Phase II Stormwater for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) and Construction Planning		
State Contract Number	C304263		
Project Start Date	Dec 1, 2010	Project End Date	Jan 31, 2012
ARRA Award Amount	\$232,785.00	Total Project Cost	\$233,746.39

Organization Information			
Name	Interstate Environmental Commission		
Address 1	311 West 43rd Street		
Address 2	Suite 201		
City	New York	State	New York
Zip Code + 4	10036-6034		
Telephone	212 582 0380	Fax	212 581 5719
E-mail	cnichols@iec-nynjct.org	Website	www.iec-nynjct.org/

Report Preparer			
Name	Eileen Keenan		
Job Title	Long Island MS4 Phase II Planning Coordinator		
Telephone	(631) 632-3093	E-mail	ek72@cornell.edu

Introduction

Project Introduction & Description

The primary purpose of the project should be described, along with a general overview of major project goals and outcomes. Affected bodies of water and project locations should also be noted.

The Long Island MS4 Phase II Planning (LI-MS4 Planning) Program's activities was designed to meet Priority IV (Water Quality Management Planning Activities) as described in the 2009 NYS DEC Clean Water Act Section 604(b) Request for Applications. It is important to note, however, that each of the NYS DEC's 604(b) priorities relate to one or more elements of the MS4 Phase II requirements. Therefore, LI-MS4 Planning used an integrated MS4 planning framework to support MS4 TMDL planning, water quality management planning, and green infrastructure planning, thereby simultaneously advancing multiple NYS DEC 604(b) priorities. By presenting NYS DEC's 604(b) priorities to municipalities within the context of MS4 requirements, LI-MS4 Planning highlighted their feasibility, their benefits, and their value from an MS4 perspective.

Further, LI-MS4 Planning assisted in planning municipal practices, policies, and programs that strengthen linkages to Long Island's three estuary management programs (LISS, PEP, SSER) and that are consistent with the estuary programs' management priorities. Acting as liaison between MS4s, LI-MS4 Planning increased cooperative efforts and promoted the cost-effectiveness of MS4 initiatives.

With a priority focus on MS4s discharging to Long Island Shellfishing pathogens TMDL waterbodies in Nassau and Suffolk Counties within the Long Island Sound, South Shore Estuary Reserve, and Peconic Estuary drainage areas, LI-MS4 Planning provided comprehensive stormwater management planning support through site visits, in-depth consultations, presentations, workgroups, the Long Island MS4 listserv, written feedback on stormwater program reports, and assistance with development of funding proposals.

LI-MS4 Planning worked with MS4s on such projects as comprehensive MS4 stormwater management program planning, mapping stormsewer systems/eliminating illicit discharges, improving infrastructure maintenance, planning cross-jurisdictional projects, reviewing/revising local land use policies and procedures, targeting geographic areas/audiences for outreach, assessing and improving management of onsite wastewater treatment systems, smart growth watershed planning, reducing animal waste impacts, and development of plans/procedures for green infrastructure retrofit programs. Expected outcomes included for example, new/revised local land use policies and procedures, identification of areas in need of strengthened onsite/septic system MS4 oversight, documented improvements to pollution prevention measures for facilities and operations, animal waste mitigation programs, low impact development policies, inter-municipal projects, storm sewer mapping, targeted MS4 TMDL outreach programs, turf management practices and procedures, and green infrastructure retrofit projects.

Summary of Activity

Objectives, Tasks, & Outcomes

Work plan objectives should be clearly linked to final project outcomes. For each objective listed on the work plan, a brief summary of the tasks and activities should demonstrate how project deliverables and outcomes have accomplished that objective.

Objective

Review MS4 Annual Reports

Task Summary & Project Outcomes

Task Summary: Identify MS4s for priority annual report review. Review selected annual reports. Provide written feedback.

Project Outcomes: In 2010, 20 MS4 annual reports were reviewed. In 2011, 36 annual reports were reviewed. Oral and/or written feedback was provided on each. Comments addressed, for example, illicit discharge detection and elimination procedures, stormwater program and BMP effectiveness evaluation, construction oversight, Watershed Improvement Strategy pathogen control, septic system discharges, and pollution prevention at municipal facilities such as maintenance facilities, parks, roads, and highway yards. As a result, several in-depth consultations were requested.

Objective

Select MS4s for Targeted Support

Task Summary & Project Outcomes

Task Summary: Identify MS4s within pathogens TMDL waterbody drainage areas most in need of support.

Project Outcomes: In 2010 and 2011, municipalities whose stormsewer systems discharge to pathogens TMDL waterbodies were identified and received priority attention with respect to annual report reviews, consultations, and site visits.

Objective

Conduct In-Depth Consultations

Task Summary & Project Outcomes

Task Summary: Initiate contact with selected MS4s. Schedule appointments for consultations. Identify support materials/information relevant to areas of weakness. Prepare support materials: burn CDs, print guidance documents, etc. Develop written consultation outline. Conduct consultation. Deliver support materials. Provide follow-up as needed.

Project Outcomes: In 2010, 7 in-depth municipal consultations were conducted and in 2011, 18 in-depth consultations were conducted. Comprehensive MS4 stormwater program planning assistance and facilitation of inter-municipal initiatives was provided to elected and appointed officials, planners, stormwater program managers, highway department personnel, building and site inspectors, other local representatives, and to consultants. Information delivered included, for example: technical resources and guidance manuals, sources of funding, case studies, contacts, sources of training, and model laws.

In addition, ongoing telephone and email MS4 stormwater planning assistance was provided to Long Island's 100+ municipalities on a daily basis.

The assistance provided addressed a broad range of topics such as: inter-municipal agreements, stormsewer system mapping, illicit discharge field investigations, achieving reductions in MS4 TMDL pollutant discharges, procedures for municipal facility and operations pollution prevention, effectiveness evaluation techniques, goose management,

local laws (pertaining to pet waste control, goose feeding, septic system inspections, construction and development runoff control), development of grant applications, erosion and sediment control and post-construction design standards, stormwater program budgeting, water quality monitoring, low impact development and green infrastructure, ensuring no net increase in discharges of stormwater pollutants to impaired waterbodies, development of Stormwater Program Plans, delineation of storm sewersheds and watersheds, modeling stormwater program effectiveness, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and modeling MS4 TMDL pollutant loads, and application of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.

Objective

Conduct Site Visits

Task Summary & Project Outcomes

Task Summary: Identify MS4s for site visits. Prepare scope and procedures for site visit. Initiate contact with selected MS4s. Schedule appointments for site visits. Conduct approx 10 site visits per year. Identify areas of strength and weakness. Prepare written site visit feedback. Provide follow-up as needed.

Project Outcomes: Participated with NYS DEC and/or US EPA on 4 site visits of municipal facilities in 2010 and on 5 site visits in 2011. Municipalities included: V Roslyn Harbor, V Roslyn, Nassau County, T Riverhead (4 days), T Brookhaven (3 days), V Nissequogue, V Mill Neck, V Asharoken, and V Huntington Bay.

During the visits, stormwater program facilities, equipment, procedures, and documents were reviewed and discussed with elected and appointed officials, stormwater program managers, highway, parks and public works department personnel, and other staff responsible for stormwater program fulfillment. Transportation and vehicle maintenance facilities and storage yards, outfalls, stormsewer system components (outfalls, storm drains, inter-connections), landscaping and parks department facilities, solid waste transfer stations, and active construction projects were visited. Discussed areas in need of improvement and acknowledged areas of strength. Provided various technical manuals and guidance documents as well as follow-up as requested.

Objective

Develop/Deliver Presentations

Task Summary & Project Outcomes

Task Summary: Canvas MS4s as to topic for 1 “focus” presentation per year. Research “focus” presentation topic, Prepare presentation outline. Identify/prepare presentation graphics. Develop PowerPoint presentation. Draft presentation notes. Identify/prepare hand-out materials. Travel to venue; deliver presentation and hand-outs. Provide follow-up as needed. Conduct 1 joint seminar/conference per year with NYS DEC and/or estuary program partners.

Project Outcomes: Five presentations were developed and delivered over the course of the project and one joint seminar was conducted with NYS DEC. Presentations covered topics such as watershed-based pathogen control, NYS construction and post construction design standards, green infrastructure, inter-municipal initiatives, and sustainable stormwater program funding mechanisms.

In addition, LI MS4 Planning obtained New York Sea Grant funding that provided for a group screening of the Center for Watershed Protection's "Constructed Wetlands and Regenerative Stormwater Practice" webinar.

Objective

Conduct Workgroup Meetings

Task Summary & Project Outcomes

Task Summary: Work with Estuary Program coordinators in identifying the need for workgroup meetings. Canvas municipal workgroup members as to topics of interest. Assist in scheduling meetings, preparing agendas. Identify and prepare support materials. Prepare presentation as/if needed. Participate in meeting. Provide follow-up as needed.

Project Outcomes: Served as Co-chair of the Peconic Estuary Program Stormwater Workgroup. Acted as catalyst in obtaining \$129,000 from Suffolk County and the Peconic Estuary Program to fund consultants to develop a Peconic Inter-municipal Agreement and Strategic Implementation Work Plan/Action Plan to address regional water quality impairments and to promote inter-municipal stormwater management planning. Conducted Workgroup meetings at which inter-municipal stormwater management planning was discussed. Assisted in the development and dissemination of a Peconic MS4 Needs Assessment Survey, the results of which will be used to inform the Peconic Inter-Municipal Agreement and Strategic Implementation Work Plan/Action Plan.

Having previously been instrumental in establishing the inter-municipal Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor Protection Committee (OB/CSHPC) and in helping to obtain funding for its Coordinator, continued to provide support to that Committee by participating in its meetings, providing input into watershed action planning, and in supporting development of a successful grant application which will enable the OB/CSHPC, in concert with the Hempstead Harbor and Manhasset Bay Protection Committees, to deliver a program that will raise awareness of the importance of inspecting, maintaining, and repairing residential on-site wastewater treatment systems. Comprised of a 42-member inter-municipal partnership, this unprecedented project will achieve cost-effective, far-reaching mitigation of Long Island's increasing concerns with nitrogen and pathogen impairment of groundwater and surface water quality.

In November 2011, began serving on a 2012 Long Island Regional Green Infrastructure Conference workgroup/planning committee. It is anticipated that the 2012 conference will include successful case studies, vendors, and presentations by national experts, and state and national agency officials.

Objective

Administer the Phase II L.I. Listserve

Task
Summary
& Project
Outcomes

Task Summary: Solicit subscribers at presentations, workgroup meetings, consultations, etc. Add/remove members as requested. Add guidance documents, reports, permits, manuals to listserv web page files. Manage listserv web page and files. Disseminate emails to the list concerning funding, training, case study, research and regulatory announcements.

Project Outcomes: Increased the number of subscribers to 225. Posted documents to the listserv web page. Emails were disseminated by list members and by LI MS4 Planning on such topics as: funding programs, training opportunities and conferences, webcasts, changes to MS4 and construction regulations, pathogen control, goose management, stormwater program reporting and budgeting, construction pollution prevention plans, low impact development, guidance documents, stormwater research, bacterial testing methods, construction and post-construction local laws, local pesticide and fertilizer laws, retrofit project planning, effectiveness evaluation, shellfish bed closures, position announcements, water quality monitoring, storm sewer system dye testing, and public outreach events.

Objective

Quarterly Reports

Task
Summary
& Project
Outcomes

Task Summary: Prepare and submit required information and documentation.

Project Outcomes: Monthly and/or Quarterly Reports submitted.

Objective

Prepare Reimbursement Requests

Task Summary & Project Outcomes	<p>Task Summary: Prepare and submit required information and documentation.</p> <p>Project Outcomes: Reimbursement Requests submitted</p>
---------------------------------	---

Objective

Final Report

Task Summary & Project Outcomes	<p>Task Summary: Prepare and submit required information and documentation.</p> <p>Project Outcome: Final Report hereby submitted.</p>
---------------------------------	--

Problems Encountered/How Solved

A comprehensive summary of any problems encountered during the life of the project and how those problems were resolved should be listed. The list should include any information reported in the "Problems Encountered/How Solved" box on the Quarterly Report Cover Pages throughout the project.

No problems encountered.

Changes to Project Work Plan

Any changes that were made to the project work plan during the life of the project should be noted, including a brief description of why the changes were necessary.

No changes were necessary.