

# Ephrata Township MS4 Information Sheet

April 7, 2015 Ephrata Township Board of Supervisors Meeting

## Ephrata Township's Storm Water Management Program (SWMP)

- Federal and state legislation requires Ephrata Township to obtain a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit (PAG-13) for Storm Water Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4).
- What this means is that municipalities, including Ephrata Township, are required to properly plan for and manage storm water within their federally designated urbanized area. Doing so will help to improve the water quality of local creeks and streams as well as downstream water bodies, such as the Chesapeake Bay.
- Ephrata Township will be reviewing and updating our storm water management program, as required. In order to comply with the General Permit, Ephrata Township must comply with six (6) identified Minimum Control Measures (MCMs), in addition to other required actions. These MCMs include, but are not limited to, items that focus on:
  - Public Education and Outreach on Storm Water Impacts
    - Ephrata Township has developed and will implement, and maintain a Public Education and Outreach Program and distribute storm water educational materials.
  - Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
    - Ephrata Township is taking measures to identify the source of any illicit discharges to the storm sewer system. If residents observe pollution in the storm sewer system, they are asked to call the Township office or print, fill out, and return the citizen complaint form for illicit discharges that is available on the Township website. The Township will respond to and address all complaints.

## Storm Water Management Tips for Ephrata Township Residents

There are several things that residents can do to improve the quality of water that is entering the storm sewer system:

- Pick up after pets and properly dispose of their waste. Storm water runoff can carry pet waste from the land to the storm sewer system, and to a stream.
- Pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides, when used improperly, can run off into storm drains when it rains or when lawns and gardens are watered. Always follow directions.
- Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as used oil, cleaning supplies, and paint – NEVER pour them into any part of the storm sewer system.
- Store materials that could pollute storm water indoors and use containers for outdoor storage that do not rust or leak to eliminate exposure of materials to storm water.
- Consider installing innovative storm water practices on residential property, such as rain barrels or cisterns that capture storm water and keep it on site instead of letting it drain away into the storm sewer system.

**PLEASE NOTE: Ephrata Township has an ordinance that prohibits residents from dumping grass clippings and other materials into the storm sewer system. Residents that witness dumping should contact the Township office.**