

Measure 2: Public Involvement and Participation

The MPCA General Permit requires municipalities to involve stakeholder groups, including local governments, businesses, and citizens, in making decisions about storm water management priorities and programs.

For the purpose of the SWPPP, the UMD “public” is defined as employees, students, and contractors that make up the campus community. An involved community will be more likely to understand the need for, and thus support the success of a storm water program, and so we will encourage involvement in its creation, implementation and evaluation. All input will be documented and responded to as appropriate.

In recognition that we are but a small part of the Lake Superior watershed area, and that we are also part of the larger Duluth/Superior area, we have also initiated and are working with the surrounding MS4's to promote storm water education and to address shared storm water problems.

Public Involvement and Participation Best Management Practice Summaries

Public involvement will be sought in three primary ways:

UMD 201– Seek Public Input on Program

The UMD Storm Water Steering Committee will seek public input by holding public meetings, beginning with an initial draft review in February 2003. Beginning in 2004, an annual public meeting will be held to review the program and evaluate our progress. The public meeting may be scheduled to coincide with other regional storm water meetings, to take advantage of opportunities for joint publicity efforts.

A Storm Water web site is being developed which includes response forms to submit comments, concerns, or questions relating to the program.

UMD 202 – Establish a UMD Storm Water Steering Committee

The UMD Storm Water Steering Committee will provide oversight of UMD's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, and will ensure submittal of the annual report. Broad representation will be sought from across campus and will include stakeholders representing Environmental Health and Safety, academic departments and research facilities, Auxiliary Services and Facilities Management employees, construction management, student groups and administration. The committee will be appointed by the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Operations, and will be represented on the Physical Facilities Committee.

The steering committee will meet quarterly, or as needed, and will be responsible for creating sub-committees as required by specific BMP's. A representative from the steering committee will chair each sub-committee and report on the sub-committees' actions. At least one representative from the steering committee will represent UMD on the Regional Storm Water Protection Team.

UMD 203 – Participate in the Regional Storm Water Protection Team

The Regional Storm Water Protection Team is comprised of representatives from the Cities of Duluth, Hermantown, Proctor and Cloquet in Minnesota, Duluth Township, St. Louis County, Rice Lake Township, South St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District, University of Minnesota Duluth, Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota Sea Grant, Minnesota Department of Transportation and the City of Superior, Wisconsin.

Representatives from UMD, City of Duluth and University of Minnesota Sea Grant initially met in September 2002 to plan a workshop for regional MS4's. The purpose of the workshop was to share information regarding Phase II requirements and to identify potential for cooperative efforts. The workshop was held October 29, 2002 at Natural Resources Research Institute and was attended by over thirty participants. The Regional Storm Water Protection Team was formed as a result of this workshop.

An email list has been created at UMD for communication among the participants in the regional team. Sample formats and other helpful information is being shared via this email list.

The team of MS4's has filed joint grant applications to secure funds for a regional educational program related to storm water issues and creation of a Contractor Training and Certification Program. Member communities will cooperatively participate in regional fairs, home shows, and other public venue for storm water education.

These entities have formed a working team to identify a regionally effective message and delivery format to efficiently reach the broadest audience, including members of the UMD campus community. Specific initiatives will include development of a recognizable logo for surface water protection in the Lake Superior South watershed; development and airing of a series of public service announcements for television and radio; and production of a brochure and mailing flyer to promote positive community and individual activities to protect the waters of the region. Program response will be tracked to measure effectiveness.

A (minimum of one) representative from the steering committee will represent UMD on the Regional Storm Water Protection Team. Other working groups will be established when funding is secured, and is expected to be in place by fall of 2004.