

York County Update to Our Bacteria TMDL Action Plan

April 29, 2020

In accordance with our MS4 Permit, our Bacteria TMDL Action Plan is required to be updated in to meet conditions of Part II B 4 of our MS4 Permit.

Part II B 4 of our MS4 Permit requires York County to adopt three strategies from a selection of strategies listed in Table 5 located in Part II B 4 of our permit. We have selected the following strategies:

Domestic Pets: York County provides pet waste stations to subdivisions and apartment complexes to help control pet waste. We protect our riparian buffers as well as buffers on all water supply reservoirs. York County currently has no dog parks; however, if we do acquire any in the future, we will endeavor to keep them out of environmentally sensitive areas.

The Beautification Committee (YCBC) participates in Yorktown Market Days at least one weekend per month from April – October. “Scoop the Poop” is one of the primary educational messages at these events. We distribute hundreds of bone-shaped pet waste bag dispensers and refills and travel-size hand sanitizer, discuss the dangers of nitrogen and bacteria making their way into our stormwater and local waterways, and provide promotional materials such as rack cards and brochures. We participate at local home shows in the askHRgreen.org trailer, where we promote the same message with these promotional items as well.

YCBC purchased 150 pet waste bag dispensers which were distributed at events such as Safety Town and the markets. York County Tourism also holds an annual “Paws at the River” market. The YCBC also provides them the pet waste dispensers and refills and educational materials to Village Events to be distributed to pet owners at that event.

Illicit Connections and Discharges: York County has implemented an enhanced dry weather screening and illicit discharge detection and elimination program. We currently inspect at least 60 outfalls. We have acquired a software program called “Survey123 and Collector” which enables our stormwater maintenance crew leaders to record and report any issue they discover in their day to day operations. They can also utilize the program to conduct outfall inspections and fill out our outfall inspection form electronically.

York County has a septic tank pump out program where every septic system is required to be pumped out at least every 5 years which helps to identify any failing systems and insures it is looked at least every 5 years. However, the most important thing we doing is eliminate septic systems altogether. Since 2009, York County has eliminated over 1,100 septic systems by installing sanitary sewer systems throughout the County.

York County also has an enhanced educational program. We have a dedicated public outreach coordinator who attends numerous outreach programs and travels to the local elementary schools where she reads environmental sensitive stories such as “Bernstein Bears Go Green” and distributes environmental comic books such as PW Paw (an environmental super hero tiger) vs a litter/illicit discharge monster.

Bird/Canada Geese Control: York County is starting a Canada geese control program. As part of the program, York County encourages buffers on HOA owned ponds and we maintain buffers on all county owned ponds. We also provide information to HOAs on Humane Society approved

goose control methods. York County has personnel licensed by the Dept of Fish and Wildlife to addle goose eggs as needed. Currently, we only intend to addle eggs on York County property, we will use 100% corn oil as our method; only oil eggs that have been incubating for less than 14 days using the Float test; and only addle from March 1st-June 30th.

Public Comment Period: York County has provided 15 days for public comment from April 13, 2020 to April 28, 2020. The action plan and this update was available for review on the County website. We received two comments. One was thanking us for making it so easy to find and another was requesting that we addle eggs on HOA property. We have determined that adding eggs on private property would not be part of our plan.