

**Greater Lansing Regional Committee
for Stormwater Management**

Public Participation Plan



**GREATER LANSING
REGIONAL COMMITTEE**
FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

www.mywatersheds.org

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1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

This Public Participation Plan (PPP) is being prepared for the communities within the Greater Lansing region of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties to comply with Phase II Stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit requirements and to assist in watershed management planning. A group of permittees within the region work collaboratively on regional education and outreach efforts for stormwater management and pollution prevention.

There are three sections in this document. This section of the PPP provides background information on the participating permittees. The second section identifies community engagement, the third section describes communication and outreach.

1.1 Participating Permittees

Permittees participating in this PPP are as follows:

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

1.2 Coordination of Stormwater Management

The Greater Lansing Regional Committee for Stormwater Management (GLRC) is a guiding body comprised of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) communities within the Greater Lansing region, as listed above in section 1.1. The committee guides the implementation of the Phase II Stormwater Program for the communities identified within the Middle Grand River, the Red Cedar River, and the Looking Glass River watersheds.

Members work together to reduce stormwater pollution and improve watershed health throughout the region. The GLRC receives administrative and staffing support from the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, the metropolitan planning organization for Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties.

2.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As a committee with members from ten major municipalities across three counties that includes school districts and the second largest university in the state, the GLRC has ample opportunities to engage with communities on stormwater management and pollution prevention. Each member works regularly with departments, boards, commissions, and councils within their townships and cities to implement best management practices for stormwater management within the Grand River, Red Cedar River, and Looking Glass River watersheds. These departments and commissions include but are not limited to:

- Board of Trustees
- City Council
- Community Development
- Community Development & Planning
- Downtown Development Authority
- Economic Alliance
- Economic Development
- Engineering
- Environmental Affairs
- Parks
- Parks and Recreation
- Planning
- Planning & Development
- Planning & Neighborhood Development
- Planning & Zoning
- Public Services
- Public Works
- Public Works & Engineering
- Utilities
- Zoning

GLRC members include the Office of the Drain Commissioner in Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties, which provides further opportunities for regional planning and engagement. Many members also nest school districts within their MS4 permit, including DeWitt Public Schools, East Lansing Public Schools, Mason Public Schools, Holt Public Schools, Haslett Public Schools, Grand Ledge Public Schools, and Okemos Public Schools. The network of schools that collaborate with the GLRC allow information on stormwater and pollution prevention to reach a large audience of students and parents,

as each school provides stormwater management plans on their websites, inviting the public to become involved.

In addition, the GLRC works regularly with the Ingham County Health Department, Clinton County Health Department, and Barry-Eaton District Health Department, as well as the Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Conservation Districts and Road Commissions to share information with their constituents. The GLRC also works with the recycling and special collection programs in Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties to promote opportunities for the public to properly dispose of yard and household hazardous waste.

As local government leaders, GLRC members share their valuable insights and views about watershed health at workshops and meetings, as well as at other formal and informal exchanges. The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's Board of Commissioners also receives regular updates from the GLRC at board meetings throughout the year, which includes members from the region's largest population municipalities, area road and transit agencies, and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

2.1 Public Meetings

The members of the GLRC meet twice a year as a full body, with its executive committee meeting five times a year. All full and executive committee meetings are open to the public and accessible via public transit. The public is invited to provide comments at every GLRC meeting, as a continually scheduled agenda item.

Notices of all upcoming public meetings are posted at the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission. A schedule of all meetings is available at the beginning of each year on the meeting materials webpage of the GLRC. All meetings are also listed on the Google Calendar found at the bottom of most pages on the GLRC website, and on the Google Calendar on the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's website.

The agenda and minutes to all full and executive committee meetings can be found on the GLRC's website. Agenda notices and minutes are posted within prompt timelines as established by Michigan's Open Meetings Act. (OMA), 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 et seq.

3.0 COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

All GLRC members maintain a stormwater pollution prevention webpage on their websites which invites the public to become involved and review the implementation of their Stormwater Management Program. On this page, members also provide a copy of the most recent progress report for their stormwater discharge permit for the public to view on their website. Members' webpages encourage residents to report pollution, read GLRC newsletters and annual reports, use resources on ways in which they can help protect our waterways, and learn more about their local watershed. The Stormwater

Management Program details how residents can be involved and consists of six specific initiatives or control measures:

- Public Participation/Involvement Program
- Public Education Plan
- Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination Program
- Construction Site Runoff Control Program
- Post-Construction Runoff Control Program
- Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping Program

The public can also view each member's website and learn more about their individual stormwater management plans and who to contact regarding spills, dumping, or other illicit discharges and connections on the GLRC's "About" webpage. Helpful links to EGLE's stormwater program website and phone and email contacts for the GLRC Coordinator are also included on this webpage.

3.1 Email Distribution List

The public is regularly invited to receive GLRC's newsletter from the website and during numerous in-person outreach events throughout Greater Lansing communities via a sign-up sheet. All GLRC members and stakeholders mentioned in Section 2.0 receive a digital copy of the GLRC's quarterly newsletter and annual report. The newsletter provides information on upcoming workshops, grant opportunities, general watershed information, and the progress of the GLRC. Digital newsletters provide links in articles for the public to receive additional information on GLRC's accessible website.

3.2 Website Engagement

The website for the GLRC, MyWatersheds.org, provides relevant and accessible information on stormwater pollution prevention. The website is mobile friendly and updated on a regular, on-going basis. The website provides public meeting notices, copies of the GLRC newsletters and annual reports, news stories, educational information on stormwater, sewers, and the six minimum measures, and helpful tools like how to find your watershed, a run-off calculator, stormwater smart tips, and a link to the EPA's How's My Waterway.

The website also educates the public on how they can get involved, by providing information on how to properly dispose of pet and household hazardous waste, local green infrastructure projects, how to be septic smart, how to build a rain garden, and how to report pollution. Additionally, there are resources for residents, members, educators, and businesses, with opportunities to subscribe to the quarterly newsletter to stay informed. Many webpages also directly list the GLRC Coordinator's name and email address, so residents feel comfortable reaching out with any questions on stormwater management or pollution prevention.

3.3. Social Media Engagement

The GLRC uses social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and X, formerly known as Twitter, to reach the region's diverse population with its educational messages. The GLRC posts weekly and regularly adjusts its strategies and content to continue to appeal to residents who rely on social media for information. The public is allowed to comment on all GLRC social media posts and GLRC responds regularly to comments or questions received.

GLRC Members regularly share GLRC content on their social media platforms and GLRC regularly shares content on watershed projects and funding and educational opportunities. GLRC's educational materials, including articles, brochures, fact sheets, and videos, are often featured on social media platforms and provide the website address so the public can easily access additional resources.

3.4 Meeting with Local Boards, Councils, and Other Interested Groups

Individual GLRC members are responsible for presenting relevant information to their jurisdiction's local boards, councils, and other interested groups on an annual basis. The GLRC Coordinator assists in presentations as needed and presents to groups interested in watershed protection as requested. It is vital to keep local elected officials involved in the community's watershed planning and implementation efforts. The GLRC works to brief newly elected officials on existing and planned watershed activities and the importance of pollution prevention and land use planning for water quality. Additional boards, councils, and commissions should also be aware of the community's efforts related to improving and protecting water quality.

3.5 Workshops, Seminars, and Educational Opportunities

Workshops, seminars, and educational opportunities will be advertised and promoted to the public using social media platforms, the events page on the GLRC website, GLRC's quarterly newsletters, and GLRC member's community websites. The public will be encouraged to attend and engage with GLRC at existing events such as the Quiet Adventures Symposium, Adopt A River, Michigan State University Science Festival, and Meridian Township's Green Fairs. The GLRC also hosts one educational stormwater seminar on how to meet initiatives of the Stormwater Management Plan during each permit cycle. As more events, workshops, seminars, and educational opportunities are available for the public, the GLRC will continue to promote them through the described avenues.

A general watershed display developed by the PEP Committee is used at outreach events as a tool to promote the GLRC website, pollution prevention strategies, public comment and participation, and to provide print materials and additional information to the public. Participation and public input are stressed throughout these events.

3.6 Watershed Surveys

The GLRC first conducted a water quality survey of residents during the fall of 2006. The purpose of the survey was to provide a benchmark to gauge the effectiveness of regional and local public outreach campaigns on water quality issues in the Greater Lansing region. The survey results provided a baseline for evaluating the effectiveness of regional and local water quality initiatives over time. These results have been used by the GLRC and other organizations in the region to prioritize and implement public education programs through the most effective and efficient methods possible.

Surveys were conducted again in 2012, 2018, and 2024. Participants were given a point of contact to ask any questions on stormwater management and invited to join the newsletter distribution list. The surveys provide a method to engage with the public without relying on them to reach out to the GLRC and allow the committee to prioritize educational topics and consider the most cost-effective outreach methods and potential outreach collaborations with other programs and agencies. A copy of all survey findings reports can be found at mywatersheds.org/water-quality-surveys.

3.7 Public Displays

Each member hosts the GLRC educational display for about a month each year at a public building within their jurisdiction. The display provides general watershed education and promotes personal actions the public can take to reduce pollution. Printed educational brochures accompany the display for those who wish to take more information home with them.