



City of Cañon City

P.O. Box 1460 – 128 Main St. - Cañon City, CO 81215-1460
(719) 269-9011 Fax: (719) 269-9017



Third and Fourth Quarter 2009 Stormwater Management Program News

The 2009 newsletters have focused on the program elements of our stormwater management permit from the State of Colorado. The 1st quarter newsletter highlighted the public education, information, participation and involvement requirements, while the 2nd addressed illegal discharge detection and elimination. Construction and post-construction stormwater management and municipal operations pollution prevention will be addressed in this combined 3rd and 4th quarter newsletter.

Before I do that, though, I would like to pass along some information concerning the storms we experienced on July 25th and August 5th. According to Larry Walrod, Hydrology Program Manager at the National Weather Service in Pueblo, the July storm ranked very close to a 4% annual chance precipitation event based on the official precipitation amount of 2.33". The August storm, with an official precipitation of 1.92", ranked close to a 10% annual chance event. Local reports actually put the rainfall amount in some areas as 4-6". Quite a few stormwater facilities such as detention basins were looked at during and after these storms and the majority of them functioned as intended for pollution prevention and stormwater runoff control. However, we did receive some calls concerning problems with the runoff from these storms. *We would like ask anyone who experienced any flooding to their structures, such as homes, garages or businesses, etc., to please contact us with information concerning the extent of the flooding. We are particularly interested in details such as the height of the water, costs and insurance claims that were filed. This information will be tracked and will be useful in the future for grant applications, drainage studies and assessing stormwater facilities.*

Construction Stormwater Management

The State of Colorado's goal, through stormwater permits, is to reduce sediment and other construction-related pollutants as much as possible from entering storm sewer systems and, ultimately, our water resources. In order to reach this goal the stormwater permits contain the following requirements, which the City of Cañon City must meet.

- 1) Establish a regulatory mechanism to require best management practices (BMPs) and sanctions to ensure compliance.
- 2) Establish requirements for construction site operators to implement appropriate erosion and sediment control BMPs and material handling BMPs.
- 3) Establish requirements for construction site operators to control waste, including discarded building materials, concrete truck washout, chemicals, litter and sanitary waste.
- 4) Establish procedures for site plan reviews which incorporate consideration of potential water quality impacts.
- 5) Establish procedures for receipt and consideration of information submitted by the public.
- 6) Establish procedures for site inspections and enforcement of control measures.
- 7) Training and education for construction site operators.

First, you may ask "What are best management practices (BMPs)?" BMPs may be either non-structural or structural in nature. Non-structural BMPs are used to prevent or reduce the entry of pollutants into stormwater at their source. "Good Housekeeping", "Preventative Maintenance" and "Spill Prevention" are all considered non-structural BMPs. Others include education, employee training, street sweeping, proper materials handling and storage and preventing and controlling erosion during construction. Structural BMPs are facilities which are used to decrease stormwater runoff and/or remove pollutants, including sediment, from the runoff. These facilities include detention/retention basins, porous

pavement, porous landscape detention, wetlands and the use of vegetated zones.

The above requirements are met through ORDINANCE NO. 20, SERIES OF 2005, AS AMENDED (Effective April 1, 2006) and the City of Cañon City's Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control (GESC) permit plan. Both the ordinance and the GESC plan manual are available on the City's website at www.canoncity.org. The manual provides a detailed look and step-by-step walk through of the construction permitting program and the procedures entailed

Post-Construction Stormwater Management

Through our State stormwater permit, the City of Cañon City is required to implement planning and enforcement procedures to reduce stormwater impacts resulting from areas of new development and significant redevelopment by meeting the following elements.

- 1) Establish a regulatory mechanism that requires any development projects disturbing one or more acres, and those less than one acre but part of a larger common plan of development, incorporate stormwater management BMPs.
- 2) Develop design criteria and standards for the selection and design of appropriate structural and non-structural BMPs.
- 3) Develop review and approval procedures for the BMPs which include plan review and field verification.
- 4) Develop a tracking system of permanent structural BMPs.
- 5) Establish long-term operation and maintenance requirements.
- 6) Monitoring and enforcement of long-term compliance.

The City of Cañon City has met all of these requirements through ORDINANCE NO. 20, SERIES OF 2005, AS AMENDED (Effective April 1, 2006) and the Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control plan. All structural BMPs such as detention basins, porous pavement, drainage channels, vault separators and porous landscape detention are entered into a database. They are inspected, at the very minimum, annually. Inspectors look at various aspects of each, including vegetation, structural integrity, erosion, trash and debris, burrowing animals and vandalism. Letters with the results of those inspections are sent to the custodians of the privately maintained facilities requesting maintenance be done on any areas noted as needing attention. Follow-up inspections are done to ensure these areas have been taken care of. If the required maintenance has not been performed, the City may take corrective action.

Municipal Operations Pollution Prevention

The City of Cañon City is required to meet the following program elements to reduce the amount and type of pollution that is generated by municipal operations or from municipally-owned or operated property.

- 1) Implementation of an operation and maintenance program.
- 2) Employee training.

The City of Cañon City's pollution prevention and good housekeeping procedures include an annual inspection of all City owned or operated facilities. These include all buildings, parks and properties, detention basins, drainage channels and other BMPs. Reports indicating areas that need maintenance are given to the appropriate departments. Follow-up inspections are done to ensure the maintenance has been completed.

Other areas of the program include street sweeping, proper materials storage and handling and spill prevention. An update of written Standard Operating Procedures will be submitted to the State by the end of the year.

Remember: The responsibility for keeping our City's and State's waterways clean for all to enjoy ultimately falls to everyone in the choices they make. Please make wise choices.

Please feel free to direct any concerns or questions to Glenda DeBekker, City of Cañon City Stormwater Program at either grdebekker@canoncity.org or 276-5265. You may also write to The City of Cañon City's Stormwater Program, P.O. Box 1460, Cañon City, CO 81215-1460.