



# **City of Cañon City**

*P.O. Box 1460 – 128 Main St. - Cañon City, CO 81215-1460*

*(719) 269-9011 Fax: (719) 269-9017*

**Fourth Quarter 2017**

## **Stormwater Management Program News**



### **Announcements**

The City of Cañon City, the City of Pueblo, Pueblo County, Pueblo West and the Pueblo City-County Health Department sponsor a regional Stormwater seminar every February. Our next seminar will be February 7, 2018 at the Colorado State University Campus in Pueblo. This year's theme is Erosion Control, particularly on capital improvement projects and linear utility projects. Confirmed speakers as of October 16<sup>th</sup> include Jennifer Keyes from Wright Water Engineers on Erosion Control on Linear/Utility/CIP Projects and Laura Campbell from Triton Environmental on Seeding, Amendments and Erosion Control. The seminar flyer with registration details will be posted on the Cañon City website at [www.canoncity.org](http://www.canoncity.org). Join us for an informative and enjoyable day!

### **Stormwater Task Force**

In March, 2017, a task force was established to look at issues with stormwater. The task force's mission is to create a road map to address stormwater issues, in particular funding stormwater infrastructure improvements, recruit a grant writer to pursue Federal and State stormwater grants and also participate in the evaluation and upgrade of the existing stormwater fees and projected revenue requirements to fund needed stormwater system improvements. The task force is comprised of representatives from Cañon City staff, City Council, Fremont County, UAACOG and irrigation ditch companies.

On October 5, task force members from the City, County and UAACOG provided an update to the City Council during a special General Government meeting. The update included identified issues, particularly those concerning the overtopping of the Hydraulic Irrigation ditch during storm events, and identified potential short-term projects and studies which will help identify projects for long-term solutions. The update also included a synopsis of existing studies which have identified approximately \$55 million in priority capital projects needed to help alleviate stormwater runoff issues. The City's revenue from the Stormwater Utility Fund fees was also discussed. The current revenue barely covers standard operating and maintenance requirements with little, if any, left to put toward capital improvements. The Stormwater Utility Fund is projected to have a \$600,000 deficit this year and potentially a \$300,000 deficit next year. The City of Cañon City is currently performing a utility rate analysis for the Stormwater Utility Fund to help determine what changes are necessary. Grant opportunities were also discussed – grants are available but many have stringent requirements and do not fit all local situations or require matching funds (which are not currently available) from the entities applying for the grant. The task force is also exploring other options to increase funding through the creation of a special stormwater district or authority which would encompass the entire urban area of Cañon City (including areas in the County outside of the official city limits). The task force members all agree that the issues are not just a Cañon City issue, but also a Fremont County issue and that all need to play a role in solving the issues.

### **Stormwater Permit Update**

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) issued the final revised General Permit COR090000 Stormwater Discharges Associated With Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s), generally referred to as the Phase II General Stormwater Permit, effective July 1, 2016. The permit has been revised to clarify many requirements contained in the previous permit and has added some new requirements, along with a timeline to meet the new requirements.

The Fourth Quarter 2016 Newsletter discussed the new Control Measures requirement in the permit and the revised Program Description Document requirement. The Third Quarter 2017 newsletter highlighted the changes in the permit requirements for Public Education and Outreach. This issue will discuss revised permit requirements for Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE).

An illicit discharge is defined as “any discharge to an MS4 that is not composed entirely of stormwater except discharges specifically authorized by a CDPS or NPDES permit and discharges resulting from emergency firefighting activities.”

The revised permit expands upon the requirements contained in the previous permit, clarifying what the CDPHE expects from local MS4s. Clarifications in the permit include more detailed requirements for local regulatory mechanisms, tracing and removing an illicit discharge, enforcement against illicit discharges, training and recordkeeping.

The regulatory mechanism (e.g. Municipal Code) must allow the City of Cañon City to implement and enforce the requirements of the permit. It must prohibit illicit discharges into the MS4, include a procedure to request access to properties as necessary to implement procedures against illicit discharges and provide the City with the legal ability to require cessation and removal of illicit discharges and to impose penalties for illicit discharges.

The permit details the requirements needed for tracing an illicit discharge and the removal of the discharge. Written procedures are required for cleanup of an illicit discharge either by the party causing the discharge or by the City.

Written enforcement procedures and actions to eliminate the source of an illicit discharge must address mechanisms for enforcement of all illicit discharges from the moment one is identified until it is eliminated. The City of Cañon City must have the ability to escalate enforcement as necessary based on the severity of the violation and/or the lack of compliance of the responsible party to ensure that violations of a similar nature are enforced against consistently. The written procedures must include informal, formal and judicial enforcement procedures.

The previous permit contained a list of non-stormwater discharges that did not have to be enforced against by local MS4s. The revised permit contains those discharges listed previously and adds new discharges which can be excluded from being enforced against. All the discharges are listed below:

- Landscape irrigation
- Lawn watering
- Diverted stream flows
- Irrigation return flows
- Rising ground waters
- Uncontaminated groundwater infiltration
- Uncontaminated pumped groundwater – as long as it has not come into contact with construction activity
- Springs
- Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands
- Water line flushing
- Discharges from potable water sources – as long as it has not be used in any additional processes
- Foundation drains
- Air conditioning condensation
- Water from crawl space pumps – cannot be directly linked to the storm sewer system
- Footing drains
- Individual residential car washing
- Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges
- Water from street sweeping
- Dye testing
- Stormwater runoff with incidental pollutants
- Discharges from emergency firefighting activities
- Discharges authorized by a state or federal permit
- Agricultural stormwater runoff
- Discharges which are in accordance with the CDPHE’s Low Risk Policy guidance documents



*“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.” – John Muir*

Please feel free to direct any concerns or questions to Glenda DeBekker, City of Cañon City Stormwater Program at either 276-5265 or [gdebekker@canoncity.org](mailto:gdebekker@canoncity.org).