



East Cocalico Township's MS4 Stormwater Program Needs Volunteers for Water Sampling from Streams

Why?

East Cocalico Township's MS4 permit requires us to improve water quality in our streams. To evaluate our success, we are starting a water quality monitoring program.

What is MS4?

MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) refers to a system of storm drains, pipes, swales and basins located within the Township's "Urban Boundary" as determined by the 2010 census. The MS4 program is a State and Federal program that requires municipalities to inspect and maintain stormwater infrastructure, and to reduce sediment entering our streams.

MS4 Objectives & Mandates

In addition to inspection and maintenance of both private and municipal facilities, municipalities are required to reduce the amount of sediment entering their streams. East Cocalico Township must reduce the sediment in our streams by over 150,000 pounds per year. This is being done through upgrading stormwater infrastructure (mostly basins) and stabilizing the eroding stream banks. This is a very expensive undertaking, and while the State requires us to do this, they don't provide funds to carry out these pollution reduction projects.

Estimates vs. Real Data

Our MS4 sediment reductions requirements are based on estimates from computer models. The models were based on data from many places. How well they apply to our streams is unknown. The Township's sediment

reduction requirements and the effectiveness of our proposed pollution reduction projects are based on these computer models. Real data, collected from the streams in the Township, would provide a more accurate assessment of the amount of sediment in our streams, and let us better judge the effectiveness of our reduction efforts.

Our Data Collection Plan

To understand how much sediment comes from outside the Township, and to determine how much sediment is added within the Township, we have developed a sampling plan. We selected 10 locations for water sample collection (all at road crossings on streams). These are on the major streams entering and leaving the Township, and upstream and downstream of our proposed pollution reduction project sites. Samples will be collected monthly, and also during larger storm events.

How volunteers Fit In

Some water sample collection will be done by Township staff, however we would like to find individuals or groups interested in participating in this research project. Volunteers will be trained in water sample collecting methods, and safety procedures. All necessary equipment will be provided by the Township. See our website: ECTMS4.com for further information, or contact Ken McCrea, the Township MS4 technician, at (717) 336-1720 or Ken@ECTMS4.com.

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