

2011 City Council Stormwater Update

(Prepared by Gene Haskins-Whitley County Soil and Water Conservation District)

1-25-2011

1. The Blue River in Morsches Park was subject to several studies to determine if something could be done to stabilize the eastern bank and prevent further erosion parallel to the Park's drive. Representatives from the Federal Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the GeoWeb Corporation reviewed current conditions and made recommendations. Due to cost considerations no decisions have been made at this point. The Whitley County Drainage Board was also involved as they have the jurisdictional obligation to maintain unobstructed flow of the Blue River.
2. Gene Haskins attended and represented the City at the annual Stormwater Conference in Indianapolis in January 2010.
3. In March, all 476 1st Graders in the county attended Ag Day at the 4-H Fairgrounds. Our Stormwater Displays were set up for an educational stop.
4. In April, The City and County worked with 4-H Club officials to resolve a persistent drainage problem at the fairgrounds. The City assisted in locating drainage tile and participated in providing a considerable improvement in rectifying future flooding issues.
5. Jeff Walker, Gene Haskins, and Dick Kyler attended the annual MS4 Meeting in Anderson. Several ideas were bought back for implementation in the Columbia City MS4.
6. In May, the annual wet/dry water tests were completed as dictated by MS4 policy. No major discrepancies were noted. Also, the City participated again in Arbor Day activities at Mary Raber which is part of SQMP plan. Trees were distributed to all attendees.
7. In June, the SWCD trained with Austin Babb to perform the FOG (Fat, Oil, and Grease) inspections for the City's FOG Ordinance. The Fat Trapper Program continues with over a third of Utility customers participating. An article was authored and forwarded to IMPA for publication in their newsletter to all City Utility customers concerning Illicit Discharges and the correct methods for disposal. This article outlined the City Ordinance and provided a number for reporting violations. This number was also included in the Columbia City website Stormwater section. A new two year contract between the City of Columbia City and the Whitley SWCD was signed in July with a third year extension if agreed to by both parties. The contract was basically the same as the previous three year agreement with a few minor changes.
8. The MS4 Stormwater Display's were placed as part of the SWCD's Clean Water exhibit at the Whitley County 4-H Fair. This exhibit generates a high visibility potential for our Stormwater message. A letter was sent to 17 area carpet cleaners detailing the recent IDEM directive on proper disposal of carpet cleaning solutions. The letter also explained Columbia City's intent on enforcing this rule.
9. In July, Mike Dear, Gene Haskins, Scott Wagner, and Mike Cook presented two informational sessions at the Peabody Public Library where the public was given the opportunity to learn more about the functions of the City Water Department, Waste Water Treatment Plant, SWCD, and County Health Department. Attendees were also given the opportunity to ask questions on the

respective topics. The Library has since asked this group to provide the same format of presentation on an annual basis.

10. The Fifth Grade Field Day's were held at the 4-H Fairgrounds in September. Over 450 students were rotated thru 7 stops. Gene Haskins provided a clean water demonstration as one stop that also utilized the MS4 Stormwater Displays. Also in September, Jeff Walker and Gene Haskins participated in a walk-thru with IDEM at the City Maintenance Garage with James Weingart, Senior Environmental Manager from IDEM. This was an inspection done thru Mr. Walker's request to help prepare for the upcoming MS4 audit.
11. In the fall of 2010, all sections/chapters of the MS4 SQMP Part C were reviewed and updated by Jeff Walker and Gene Haskins. The updates were sent to IDEM in preparation for the IDEM audit. The actual audit was cancelled and rescheduled twice this fall. The new tentative date is April 8th, 2011.
12. Jeff Walker and Gene Haskins attended the Indiana Association for Floodwater and Stormwater Management meeting in Muncie. A sub-group of this organization deals with IDDE (Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination) and provides an excellent forum to exchange ideas and common problem areas. Our MS4 has since become part of this organization. Effective January 1st Dick Kyler has announced his retirement from the SWCD. The erosion control inspections on new construction will be handled by Gene Haskins going forward. Gene will also perform a similar role in the County as Rule 5 Inspector.