

Appendix A

Public Notice

City of Warwick
3725 Post Road
Warwick, RI 02886

PUBLIC NOTICE OF DRAFT PHASE II STORMWATER ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RHODE ISLAND POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (RIPDES) PROGRAM GENERAL PERMIT FOR STORM WATER DISCHARGES FROM SMALL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS AND FROM INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY AT ELIGIBLE FACILITIES OPERATED BY REGULATED SMALL MS4S.

DATE OF NOTICE: April 21, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER: 1

RIPDES PERMIT NUMBER: RIR040031

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF SMALL MS4 OPERATOR: City of Warwick
3275 Post Road
Warwick, RI 02886

Pursuant to the requirements established in the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharge from Small MS4s and from Industrial Activity at Eligible Facilities Operated by Regulated Small MS4s (General Permit), the City of Warwick submitted an application package, including a Notice of Intent and Storm Water Management Program Plan (SWMPP) to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) for authorization of the storm water discharges from the City of Warwick MS4. In accordance with Part IV.E of the General Permit the operator must annually evaluate the compliance of the SWMPP with the conditions of the permit, as well as the appropriateness of the selected Best Management Practices and efforts towards achieving the Measurable Goals. An annual report prepared in accordance with Part IV.G of the general permit must be submitted to RIDEM for each year after the permit is issued. Notice is hereby given of the intent to receive public comment and to hold a public hearing, if requested, on the City of Warwick Phase II Storm Water Annual Report.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT:

Copies of the Phase II Storm Water Annual Report may be reviewed at the Department of Public Works – Division of Engineering, 925 Sandy Lane or the Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane from April 21, 2022 through May 6, 2022 by appointment, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

For additional information please contact Eric J. Earls, P.E., City Engineer, at 401.738.2003 or via email at eric.j.earls@warwickri.com.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Phase II Small MS4 General Permit, a public hearing will be held if the City of Warwick receives such requests from twenty-five (25) people, a governmental agency or subdivision, or an association having no less than twenty-five (25) members. If a public hearing is to be held, a public notice will be published announcing the date, time, location, and deadline for submitting written comments.

Public Comment Period: April 21, 2022 through May 6, 2022, 3:00 PM

All comments on the documents should be submitted in writing or via email no later than May 6, 2022 at 3:00 pm. If, during the public comment period, substantive comments are received concerning the draft Annual Report or amendments to the SWMPP, the City of Warwick will provide a written response to comments to all persons that submitted comments and all members of the public that request a copy of the response.

FINAL ANNUAL REPORT AND AMENDMENTS TO THE SWMPP:

Following the close of the comment period, and after a public hearing, if such hearing is held, the City of Warwick will issue a final decision and forward a copy of the final documents to RIDEM.

**City of Warwick
3725 Post Road
Warwick, RI 02886**

PUBLIC NOTICE OF DRAFT PHASE II STORMWATER ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RHODE ISLAND POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (RIPDES) PROGRAM GENERAL PERMIT FOR STORM WATER DISCHARGES FROM SMALL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS AND FROM INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY AT ELIGIBLE FACILITIES OPERATED BY REGULATED SMALL MS4S.

DATE OF NOTICE: April 21, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER: 1

RIPDES PERMIT NUMBER: RIR040031

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF SMALL MS4 OPERATOR:

City of Warwick
3725 Post Road
Warwick, RI 02886

Pursuant to the requirements established in the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharge from Small MS4s and from Industrial Activity at Eligible Facilities Operated by Regulated Small MS4s (General Permit), the City of Warwick submitted an application package, including a Notice of Intent and Storm Water Management Program Plan (SWMPP) to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) for authorization of the storm water discharges from the City of Warwick MS4. In accordance with Part IV.E of the General Permit the operator must annually evaluate the compliance of the SWMPP with the conditions of the permit, as well as the appropriateness of the selected Best Management Practices and efforts towards achieving the Measurable Goals. An annual report prepared in accordance with Part IV.G of the general permit must be submitted to RIDEM for each year after the permit is issued. Notice is hereby given of the intent to receive public comment and to hold a public hearing, if requested, on the City of Warwick Phase II Storm Water Annual Report.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT:

Copies of the Phase II Storm Water Annual Report may be reviewed at the Department of Public Works - Division of Engineering, 925 Sandy Lane or the Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane from April 21, 2022 through May 6, 2022 by appointment, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

For additional information please contact Eric J. Earls, P.E., City Engineer, at 401.738.2003 or via email at eric.j.earls@warwickri.com.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Phase II Small MS4 General Permit, a public hearing will be held if the City of Warwick receives such requests from twenty-five (25) people, a governmental agency or subdivision, or an association having no less than twenty-five (25) members. If a public hearing is to be held, a public notice will be published announcing the date, time, location, and deadline for submitting written comments.

Public Comment Period: April 21, 2022 through May 6, 2022, 3:00 PM

All comments on the documents should be submitted in writing or via email no later than May 6, 2022 at 3:00 pm. If, during the public comment period, substantive comments are received concerning the draft Annual Report or amendments to the SWMPP, the City of Warwick will provide a written response to comments to all persons that submitted comments and all members of the public that request a copy of the response.

FINAL ANNUAL REPORT AND AMENDMENTS TO THE SWMPP:

Following the close of the comment period, and after a public hearing, if such hearing is held, the City of Warwick will issue a final decision and forward a copy of the final documents to RIDEM.

Stormwater Annual Report Sign-in Sheet

[illegible]

* If responses to comments are requested

Stormwater Public Meeting Sign-in Sheet - June 1, 2022

Date	Name	Email*
6/1/22	Philip D'Ercole	C.dercole@cox.net
6/1/22	Michelle Komer	mkomer80@CS.com
6/1/22	Jam Kenna Austin	jamkaustin@gmail.com
6/1/22	Jeannine Anderson	1MJEANNINE@yahoo.com
6/1/22	Madeline White	R1990192@Verizon.NET
6/1/22	Bob White	B/W/990192@Verizon.NET
6/1/22	Jammy	JAMMYSLI@gmail.com
6/1/22	Ruth M PAGE	pageruth@gmail
6/1/22	Michelle Gustafson	MichelleRD5@verizon.net
6-1-22	Jim Wishart	Jazzman 02763@yahoo.com
6-1-22	Maureen Wishart	Maureenwish58@gmail.com

* If responses to comments are requested



CITY OF WARWICK
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
925 SANDY LANE • WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02889
TEL (401) 738-2003 • FAX (401) 732-5208
T.D.D. (401) 739-9150

FRANK J. PICOZZI

MAYOR

The following is a summary of the City's response to public comments that have been received by the Department of Public Works in regards to the RIDEM Year 18 (2021) Municipal Separated Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) Permit. Please note that some comments have been edited for clarity and repetition.

1. The web site simplestepswarwick.com I was not aware of. This is an excellent site but the residents of this City need to know it exists. How do you get that message out?

A: The City website has links to simplestepswarwick.com and other online resources under the Engineering Department heading. DPW intends to send an informational flyer through the utility bills to inform the public about these resources.

2. There are some of my neighbors that do not have computers. I hand deliver them information. I believe there are many other residents in Warwick that fall into that category. How do you communicate environmental information to them?

A: The City includes environmental information on the sides of the Big Belly trash cans and at other locations posted throughout municipal buildings. Additionally, the City of Warwick Recycling Calendar includes information regarding the proper disposal of various wastes, and is available at a number of municipal building locations.

3. The paper communication that the City has with its residents like the water sewer bill, the tax bill, or any other communication of that type needs to contain a short environmental message in a location that it will be read.

A: Your concern is noted and this may be incorporated into future mailings.

4. How do you reach out to all the local groups that would value this environmental information? Do you even have their contact information?

A: The Mayor and other City personnel regularly meet with neighborhood groups to address a wide variety of topics.

5. Do you have a detailed written plan for improving this MS4 requirement?

A: The City is currently updating its Public Education and Outreach plan.

6. There needs to be a more focused effort to communicate with the public. The City must have face to face quarterly public meetings that address the environmental issues in our City, with the focus on what each resident's role is. If not with individual residents then with community groups.

A: Your comment is noted.

7. Please see (attached) recommendations made for the viewing of the MS4 Report requested from our last 3 Mayors. The only suggestion implemented was having a copy at the Library which will extend the viewing from 11 days to 13 days. Most public comment periods are for 30 days. There were little to no instructions with the document at the library.

A: We will be reviewing the recommendations for extended viewing of future MS4 Reports. The report for this period was available for review in the four weeks prior to the public meeting.

8. Again, how do you communicate on this issue with the public is not robust enough. There are Warwick Residents that will get involved and participate if the City will be more receptive in their approach. It seems the City does not want public involvement.

A: Your concern is noted.

9. The City Web Site for the Public Works Department under RIDEM Consent Decree has not been updated since July 2020. This document was signed in 2016 and we believe it is 50% completed.

A: The City is currently updating the online document as milestones are completed.

10. Again, more outreach needs to be applied by the City to the public. As a Warwick Residents who has major concerns about our environment we find it lacking.

A: Your concern is noted.

11. What do you classify as an Illicit Discharge? Would you consider this (see attached) an illicit discharge? There are at least 3 of these roof drains around Warwick Pond. This one drain from 2017 to 2020 there was 63,361 K gallons of runoff from this outfall 1 block uphill of Warwick Pond. This water is not tested for contaminants. We have requested a section of the ordinance that made this illegal that was removed be added back (see attached) or this outfall must be tested. Just take a look at our roofs and understand unfiltered through the soil this goes into the water.

A: An illicit discharge is defined by the USEPA as a storm drain that has measurable flow during dry weather containing pollutants and/or pathogens. A storm drain with measurable flow but containing no pollutants is simply considered a discharge. As such, roof drains are not considered to be illicit discharges.

12. How do you determine an illegal discharge?

A: If the Illicit discharge can be traced to a point source, the City will take appropriate actions per the City Ordinances and RIDEM/EPA permit requirements.

13. There is a Catch Basin located in the last retention basin at Winslow Park. It was installed as a fix for the retention system breach. When the water level reaches the overflow point the water is sent from the catch basin to the Warwick Storm Water system that discharges into Warwick Pond. Is this an illegal discharge? If not why not.

A: This comment is not accurate. The referenced catch basin was part of the original plans. It was a "doghouse" catch basin tied into the existing drainage system as an overflow for the detention basin. The system was not complete at the time of the referenced "breach". If this emergency overflow catch basin had been in place at the time of the incident the damages would have been averted.

14. This system is located on Airport Property. Should the catch basin (Doghouse #2) be an outfall that must be sampled as other outfalls from the Airport are?

A: The referenced catch basin flows into the City storm drain system as designed. It is not considered an outfall.

15. Where in this report is the Cities lack of executing the O&M Plan for Winslow Park not once since it opened (RIDEM Complaint # 11469)?

A: This information can be inferred from Section IV.B.6.b.1.ii.

16. How many illicit discharges do you typically find in a given year?

A: If any, typically only one or two, illicit discharges are identified in a given year.

17. Is this the section in the report where you comment on the Cities lack of executing the O&M Plan for Winslow Park (RIDEM Complaint # 11469)? The O&M Plan has not been documented (once) since the park opened.

A: This information can be inferred from Section IV.B.6.b.1.ii.

18. The 2010 RISDISM was used for the construction of Winslow Park Storm Water Runoff System. We believe this manual needs updating due to the system failure?

A: Your concern is noted. However, the Rhode Island Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual is still maintained as the primary guidance document from the RIDEM.

19. How many other projects that the City was involved in where this issue exists?

A: None.

20. Please indicate if I am correct in my assumption that this MS4 Report is being filed to fill the requirement in the year 2018?

A: You are incorrect. This report is the Year 18 Reporting Period (Jan 2021-Dec 2021).

21. The data reported of the total # of CB (Catch Basins) was 5,583. # of CB (Catch Basins) inspected in 2021: 113. % total Inspected 2. # of CB (Catch Basins) cleaned in 2021: 113. % total cleaned 2. This is a disappointing performance result. What is your written contingency plan to mitigate the cause for these results?

A: The City does not have a "written contingency plan", but is currently working with a contractor to resume catch basin cleaning on a pro-active vs. reactive program. Once the City obtains the necessary equipment, this program will be brought in-house. We will continue to track the catch basin cleaning and adjust the frequency as needed.

22. The street sweeper data is also a very disappointing result at %50. What is your written contingency plan to mitigate the cause for these results?

A: The City does not have a "written contingency plan". Last year the DPW only had one sweeper operator. The City now has both of those positions budgeted and filled. As such, the street sweeping program has been able to accommodate the required schedules. All City streets are to be swept at least one time per year and some environmentally sensitive areas have been identified to be swept twice per year.

23. Why was there no Storm Water Management trainings provided to municipal employees during this reporting period?

A: A list of stormwater trainings can be found in Section IV.B.1.b.2 of the report.

24. The TMDL for these impaired water bodies was completed in 2007 and 2008. Why has there not been completion of all the recommendations from the TMDL by the City over the past 14 years?

A: The City is hoping to increase production toward compliance of the TMDLs by bringing in consultants and assigning additional in-house staff to meet these goals.

25. Do you have a written schedule for when these actions will be completed?

A: At the present, there is no written schedule for these actions.

26. Again, what is your plan for education and outreach to target each pollutant of concern?

A: See the response to item #5.

27. This report is for 2018. Will we be receiving a 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, report until we are compliant with the RIPDES requirement? If so what is the schedule for these reports?

A: This is the Year 18 reporting period, not the report for 2018.

28. Is the City of Warwick in compliance with the MS4 permit/program? If no, what are the deficiencies and requirements not met and specific reasons why not met?

A: The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management is the regulatory body that would determine whether or not the City is in compliance with the current MS4 permit.

29. Does the submission of this MS4 Annual Report 2021 to RIDEM put the City into compliance with the municipal stormwater or MS4 permit/program? If not, what specifically is lacking and reasons so as not to be in compliance? What is the City's plan (in terms of work tasks, securing needed funds, City budget requests, in-house and consultant work, and time frame for completion) to get into compliance with the municipal stormwater permit/program?

A: The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management is the regulatory body that would determine whether or not the City is in compliance with the current MS4 permit. The Engineering Department within the DPW is currently adjusting resources to address many of the most pressing issues associated with this program including Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, catch basin cleaning, and public outreach.

30. Does the City of Warwick's MS4 Annual Report 2021 in itself fully meet the RIDEM requirements for an annual report? If no, what specifically is lacking and reasons why each deficiency exists and why work was not performed or completed?

A: The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management is the regulatory body that would determine whether or not the City is in compliance with the current MS4 permit.

31. What funding sources and how much money of each were allocated towards the City of Warwick's municipal stormwater permit/program for 2021 and for what tasks; how much money of each funding source was expended?

A: The City issued a purchase order for catch basin and pipe cleaning services in the amount of \$75,000 to supplement the City's own catch basin cleaning team. Additionally, there is \$80,000 budgeted for stormwater in the City's FY23 budget. As referenced above, the City anticipates bringing consultants on board to assist with IDDE, catch basin cleaning, and public outreach, among other areas of concern.

32. For the City of Warwick's MS4 Annual Report 2021, what specific work tasks were performed in 2021 by consultants? How much money was budgeted and expended for work performed by consultants?

A: No monies were explicitly dedicated to be expended on consultants in 2021.

33. Have all City outfalls been located and mapped and identified as to size? Have subdrainage areas for outfalls been delineated? Has the required "outfall work task" been completed, including sampling? What is the City's plan and time frame to complete any unfinished tasks, and specify if in-house or consultant work in the future?

A: The City's outfalls were located and classified by an outside consultant in 2016 and a first round of testing was completed in 2018. The Department is currently working with a consultant to resume the outfall sampling and IDDE program.

34. Why does the City of Warwick's MS4 Annual Report 2021 include tasks, reports, sampling and surveys, etc. from other years? If other years' work and information were not considered, what tasks in each appendix of the MS4 Annual Report 2021 would be absent of work or information, and provide specific reasons why each is absent. What are specific reasons why no work results and information are shown in certain appendices?

A: The report is a culmination of activities. Work performed in prior years, i.e. mapping, IDDE investigations, etc. have relevance in future years. All appendices contain the referenced information.

35. Suggest including map index of City streets and indicate which streets had street sweeping--this would be helpful to reviewers and the public. Was street sweeping in 2021 performed on all City streets? If not, provide percentage of total City streets (miles?) had street sweeping and reasons why not all City streets. How many times a year and when does street sweeping produce most effective benefits?

A: The City manages the street sweeping program using the plow route maps. The plow routes around the sensitive areas are swept first. Then the other areas are selected depending on weather, trash collection schedule, and equipment and personnel availability. The information request here is included in the corresponding appendices.

36. In 2021 what problems or deficiencies that affected stormwater quality were discovered and remedies sought or completed? What 2021 sampling were performed? In 2021 what inspections were performed?

A: None.

37. What work was performed relative to TMDLs identified by RIDEM for waterbodies and streams/rivers in Warwick?

A: Due to a lack of resources, the City was unable to meet the goals of the TMDLs. The City is hoping to increase production toward compliance of the TMDLs by bringing in consultants and assigning additional in-house staff to meet these goals.

38. What are required tasks and information and associated progress towards completion? Can a milestone table or graph be provided to illustrate progress of tasks and future completion of tasks? Would be beneficial to the public, Warwick elected officials, maybe RIDEM, to see list of required tasks and track progress.

A: The Department will take this into consideration as it is updating the public outreach program.

39. Why has the City not held workshops, informational meetings, webinars, etc. for public outreach and education? A public workshop was suggested to include City presentation and Q&A with the public. See Attachment 1 Email to follow and be included in my comments.

A: The City will take this suggestion into consideration and may schedule public workshops/meetings in the future.

40. What if any, are amendments to the SWMPP? As required, what is the City's evaluation re: compliance of the SWMPP with the conditions of the permit as well as the appropriateness of the selected BMPs and efforts towards achieving measurable goals? If possible, please answer in terms understandable to the general public.

A: There have been no amendments to the SWMPP in this reporting period. The City has recently hired a new employee that will be working on updating the SWMPP as necessary, taking an active role in enforcing the conditions of various facets of the permit (by both the City and at active private construction sites), and conducting BMP selection and inspections as necessary.