

Municipality/Organization: Town of Blackstone
EPA NPDES Permit Number: MA041015
MassDEP Transmittal Number: W-040562
Annual Report Number Year 15
& Reporting Period: April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018

**NPDES PII Small MS4 General Permit
Annual Report
(Due: May 1, 2018)**

Part I. General Information

Contact Person: James Sullivan **Title:** Superintendent of Public Works
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Certification:

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Signature: James M Sullivan
Printed Name: James M Sullivan
Title: Superintendent
Date: 4-27-18

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Part II. Self-Assessment

The Town of Blackstone has completed the required self-assessment and has determined that the municipality is in compliance with all permit conditions.

This document constitutes the Town's Annual Report and summarizes the activities conducted to satisfy the permit requirements as well as activities scheduled for the upcoming year. This report covers permit year 15 (April 2017 through March 2018) of the NPDES Phase II MS4 General Permit for the Town of Blackstone, Massachusetts.

The current MS4 General Permit has expired. All MS4s in Massachusetts are now covered under an administratively extended version of the prior general permit (MA041015) until the new permit becomes effective. The effective date of the new permit has been postponed by the EPA until July 1, 2018, pending judicial review.

Blackstone plans to implement requirements of the new permit once it goes into effect, including the development of a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP), in accordance with the timelines and dates required in the new MS4 General Permit.

The Town of Blackstone has successfully allocated \$18,000 of funding to support the revised Small MS4 General Permit requirements for the upcoming permit year.

Part III. Summary of Minimum Control Measures

1. Public Education and Outreach

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 15 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)
1-1	Provide Educational Materials to Residents	DPW	Blackstone will post information annually in the Blackstone Enlightener and through informational pamphlets (see BMP 2-2).	During this reporting period, the Town posted “Tips to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution” information on the Department of Public Works (DPW) webpage. Additional educational material was provided at the annual Town Meeting. The Town also prints notes regarding stormwater pollution prevention on the water and sewer bills, which are mailed to all homeowners. DPW also distributed water and sewer public education materials at “Touch a Truck” day held at the Blackstone Public Library in Permit Year 15. Stormwater related flyers are available at the library.
1-2	Evaluate Potential for Classroom Education	DPW	Meet with Blackstone Millville Regional School District Science Department. Evaluate development of curriculum for high school students.	The Blackstone Millville Regional School District provides numerous environmental educational programs in its curriculum. These programs continue to be an integral part of the science curriculum and foster an appreciation for and a sense of responsibility for the environment. All schools participate in recycling programs. Due to policy changes in the District, the DPW no longer distributes information to the Middle and High School. The Town continued to provide educational materials to students in Blackstone Elementary Schools this reporting period. The DPW prepared gift packets including water savers for children who attended the “Touch a Truck” day held at the Blackstone Public Library in 2017. Stenciling of Town catch basins with a “no dumping” message was undertaken in partnership with a local Boy Scout Troop in Permit Year 15.

2. Public Involvement and Participation

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 15 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)
2-1	Request feedback on the Stormwater Management Plan from Town Officials	DPW	Send letter requesting input on the Stormwater Management Plan to Town boards and officials.	The Superintendent of DPW met with the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board to discuss strategies and funding to meet the requirements of the revised Small MS4 General Permit. As a result, the Town has committed \$18K to new stormwater initiatives at the Town Meeting for the upcoming permit year.
2-2	Informational Questionnaire to Residents	DPW	Public questionnaire in the Blackstone Enlightener requesting information about storm drain systems (e.g. if they are aware of pipes in their yard, foaming).	This questionnaire was published in 2008 and 2009. The Town continues to solicit information from residents regarding stormwater infrastructure issues. As noted above in BMP 1-1, the Town has provided stormwater pollution prevention information on the website, at the Library, at the Town Meeting, and in water and sewer bills. Additionally, the Town's Conservation Commission webpage links to the Town wetlands bylaw, the MassDEP regulations and standards page, the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, and the MassDEP Rivers Protection Act page.
2-3	Status updates to Town Officials	DPW	Present status update to municipal boards on an annual basis.	As noted in BMP 2-1, the superintendent of DPW met with the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board to provide status updates and discuss the revised Small MS4 General permit.
2-4	Public Activities	Board of Health/Conservation Commission	Hold Annual Town Clean Up Day.	The Town held its annual Town Clean-Up Day along with the non-profit Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Inc. in April 2017, where town residents were encouraged to help clean up litter that might otherwise end up in stormwater.

3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 15 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)
3-1	Stormwater System-Existing Conditions	DPW	The Town of Blackstone will develop base maps.	The Town of Blackstone has GPS data and maps of outfalls within the system. All the information including baseline photos and locations of each outfall, are organized into a book. A consultant maintains a GIS database of this information.
3-2	Request information from Town residents regarding illicit discharges	DPW	See BMP 2-2.	See BMP 2-2.
3-3	Storm Sewer Inspections	DPW	Develop inspection checklist. Prioritize inspections. Create database for existing conditions. Identify source(s) of illicit discharge(s).	An inspection checklist, list of high priority outfalls for annual inspection, and a database of baseline conditions have all been developed in previous reporting years. No illicit discharges were found in Permit Year 15.
3-4	Develop Improvement Program	DPW	Prepare improvement plan Evaluate repair costs Prioritize upgrades based on needs and costs.	No illicit discharges requiring elimination have been found through the Town's IDDE efforts during the previous year. The Town continues to improve its stormwater and sewer systems; see also BMPs 3-5, 3-6, 6-3, and 6-4. During 2017, DPW contracted with a consultant to conduct field investigations aimed at identifying sewer catchment areas within the Town's system with excessive infiltration and inflow.
3-5	Capital Improvement Plan	DPW	Prepare multi-year capital improvement plan Present plan to Capital Outlay Committee.	The Town has approved \$18,000 to be used to fund the requirements of the revised Small MS4 General Permit. This funding was voted on during Permit Year 15. Requirements of the Permit will be acted on in order of priority. Currently the Town is using its annual stormwater budget allocation to meet on-going permit requirements.

3-6	Implement Capital Improvement Plan	DPW	Implement improvement program to the extent allowable within capital and operational means.	At this time, drainage capital improvements are being made on an as needed basis. Permit Year 15 included the rebuilding of twelve catch basins. Additionally, country drainage improvements were made as part of roadway improvement projects.
3-7	Enforcement Procedures Addressing Discharges	Planning Board	Blackstone will review whether local authority is appropriate and able to respond to potential illicit discharges. New bylaws, if necessary will be proposed to Town Meeting.	A new stormwater bylaw was passed at Town Meeting in 2011. No illicit discharges were discovered during this reporting period. Consequently, there has been no illicit discharge related enforcement during this reporting period.

4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 15 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)
4-1	Site Plan Review	DPW/Planning Board	Meet with Planning Board to discuss stormwater requirements.	Requirements have been determined and a bylaw has been enacted. The Town retains a consultant to review proposed site plans for compliance with stormwater requirements. The DPW advises the Planning Board at their request.
4-2	Construction Stormwater Ordinance	Planning Board	Evaluate opportunities to modify planning bylaws to include stormwater ordinance.	A new stormwater bylaw that addressed this BMP was passed at Town Meeting in 2011.
4-3	Enforcement	Planning Board/DPW	Evaluate inspection and enforcement opportunities.	The Town retains a consultant to inspect construction projects and recommend enforcement actions when needed. The DPW Superintendent also provides input to ensure compliance with the Town's stormwater protection requirements.

5. Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 15 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)
5-1	Ordinance-Post Construction	Planning Board / DPW	Evaluate opportunities to modify planning regulations requiring contractors to guarantee work.	A new stormwater bylaw that addressed this BMP was passed at Town Meeting in 2011.

6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping in Municipal Operations

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 15 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)
6-1	Employee Training	DPW	Establish training needs and program for employees.	Prior to catch basin cleaning, DPW staff review a list of items that crews should look for during the cleaning operation including illegal connections, structural deficiencies and high levels of sediment.
6-2	Street Sweeping Program	DPW	Develop program and schedule for sweeping streets.	The DPW has a program for street sweeping. Streets and school and municipal parking lots are swept annually in the spring after road sanding is over for the winter.
6-3	Catch Basin Cleaning Program	DPW	Develop program and schedule for cleaning storm drain systems.	Catch basin cleaning is performed in the summer (after street sweeping) on a rotating basis. The Town monitors catch basin cleaning each year and adjusts the cleaning frequency as required. Some catch basins on trunk lines (where debris has a tendency to accumulate) may be cleaned twice per year if necessary. A catch basin inspection form is used for documentation. In addition, the DPW sends out a staff member after every major storm event to ensure that catch basin grates are clear of obstructions, such as leaves or snow/ice.
6-4	Outfall Cleaning Program	DPW	Develop program and schedule for clearing outfalls.	The Town coordinates with the Department of Corrections to clean up around outfalls and perform roadside maintenance.

6-5	Other Programs and Policies	DPW	Evaluate the need for other programs and policies that can improve stormwater quality.	In 2017, Blackstone received \$15,000 in funding through the Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program (MVP). As part of the MVP process, Blackstone contracted with Fuss & O'Neill as its MVP provider to bring together Town officials and other community stakeholders in a multi-step planning process designed to address climate change preparedness. The Town hosted its MVP Core Team meeting on February 14, 2018. The Town's Community Resilience Building workshop is scheduled for May 2, 2018. A report on the MVP planning process and all identified priorities will be available in late June 2018. Once these stages of the MVP process are complete, Blackstone will be eligible for additional state funding sources that have been earmarked specifically for MVP communities. During 2017, DPW contracted with a consultant to perform an Infiltration/Inflow Analyses of the sewer system. Household hazardous wastes continue to be accepted at the Blackstone Recycling Center. The DPW also has a plan in place and materials on hand for response to hydraulic oil spills (in case of burst of leaking construction equipment hydraulic lines) on construction sites or in the Town yards.
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7. BMPs for Meeting Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Waste Load Allocations (WLA)

Not used

Part IV. Summary of Information Collected and Analyzed

Not used