



Public Works Department

TO: Boulder County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

FROM: Jennifer Keyes, Stormwater Quality Coordinator, Public Works

DATE: February 16, 2023

RE: Executive Summary for the Boulder County MS4 Annual Report Permit Certification No. COR-090020

Annual Report Background

Boulder County is obligated to meet the requirements of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit and provide an Annual Report for the year due no later than March 10th of the subsequent year. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is the legally responsible entity for the MS4 Permit and as such is the signatory of the Annual Report. This executive summary provides a high-level synopsis of the information in the 2022 Annual Report. Any additional information or follow up may be done by contacting the Stormwater Quality Coordinator, Jennifer Keyes, jkeyes@bouldercounty.org, 720-225-7228.

Key Points

- The County implemented a Stormwater Quality Permit (SWQP) process in 2017 to better implement the MS4 construction and post-construction for new development and redevelopment program requirements. Public Works Stormwater Quality staff issued over 100 SWQPs since the program started.
- In 2022, staff completed over 86 routine stormwater construction inspections, 13 reduced inspections and 50 compliance inspections within the urbanized area (See Report). Only the urbanized area is included in the Annual Report since that is within the MS4 permit boundary. Boulder County implements their SWQP program county-wide to improve water quality. As such, the total number of inspections performed by County staff are much higher than those illustrated in the Annual Report.
- Inspections allow Stormwater Quality staff to interact with developers, private landowners, and contractors operating in the County. Staff may increase oversight for projects that pose a high risk to water quality such as Gross Reservoir Expansion Project.
- Boulder County is a member of the Keep it Clean Partnership (KICP) and Colorado Stormwater Council (CSC). These entities developed most of the materials and programs needed to meet the MS4 Public Outreach and Education requirements.
- Boulder Creek Segment 2b is an impaired stream segment for *E. coli* and has a state-approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The county is required to meet the

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requirements outlined in the MS4 permit for this segment which include descriptions of control measures and applicable illicit discharges as well as providing planned activities to meet the TMDL requirements. In previous years, Boulder County implemented projects to assess the drainage in this area and determined that the County does not own, operate, or maintain any stormwater outfalls to this segment of Boulder Creek. This segment of Boulder Creek is near 55th and Valmont and includes the San Lazaro Mobile Home Park, a fish hatchery, portions of the railroad, and City of Boulder Open Space.

- Since Boulder County does not own, operate, or maintain any stormwater outfalls to Boulder Creek Segment 2b, resources have been shifted to other initiatives aimed at improving water quality in areas where the County has more direct control.
- County staff are developing strategies targeted at improving water quality in impaired stream segments including public outreach approaches.

Conclusions

- Staff review of construction documents and oversight inspections meet the MS4 permit requirements. By implementing the construction program County-wide, the SWQP supports its goal of protecting water quality throughout the community.
- The County participation in the Keep It Clean Partnership (KICP) improves communications between members (City of Boulder, Longmont, Superior, Louisville, and Lafayette), provides a platform for watershed outreach and monitoring, and supports watershed collaboration.
- The illicit discharge program collaboration between Public Works and Public Health has been successful. The Public Works Stormwater Quality Coordinator meets weekly with the Public Health Water Quality Coordinator. Additionally, the Stormwater Quality Coordinator works with the Public Health Environmental Health Specialist on illicit discharge complaints.
- Limited trainings occurred for municipal facility and operation staff due to staff changes; however, the MS4 permit has been administratively extended and all requirements were met.

Recommendations

- Continue to support additional tasks to improve water quality in unincorporated Boulder County particularly for stream segments that are not meeting their designated water quality standards (identified as “impaired” on the division’s 303 (d) list).
- Address drainage concerns from privately owned/managed stormwater quality facilities (ponds) built prior to the current regulations. Many of these ponds and drainageways are not being actively maintained and do not drain or function properly.

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- Assess the ability for the County to initiate retrofit projects within properties belonging to homeowner associations (HOAs) or public rights of way (ROWS) to provide water quality features to older neighborhoods built prior to the current regulations. Water quality features require identifying an entity responsible for long-term maintenance.
- Support funding sources for municipal facilities and operations that promote water quality. Several areas of improvement have been identified for handling County fleet vehicle wash water and sediment as well as ongoing roadside drainage maintenance.
- Continue to identify and research alternative funding resources to support the county's stormwater management efforts.
- Support programs to install rain gardens in the community. Public Works is working with Parks and Open Space to determine if there are any opportunities to install rain gardens with educational signage in existing parks or in a proposed park currently in the planning stage. Public Works is also collaborating with KICP to determine if residential workshops for rain gardens may align with community and water quality goals.

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