

SWMPv3 BMP 2-11 WAVE-Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators
Stormwater Coalition of Albany County Local Monitoring Effort (2015 to 2017)

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The Stormwater Coalition of Albany County consists of 13 regulated entities responsible for implementing Clean Water Act stormwater regulations intended to prevent polluted urban runoff (pet waste, pesticides, fertilizer, sediments, oil and grease, bacteria, litter, and heavy metals) from entering local waterbodies. Working together via an inter-municipal agreement, the regulated entities include Albany County, University at Albany-SUNY, City of Albany, Village of Altamont, Town of Bethlehem, City of Cohoes, Town of Colonie, Village of Colonie, Village of Green Island, Town of Guilderland, Village of Menands, Town of New Scotland, and the City of Watervliet. Permit requirements include developing a public involvement/participation program (MCM2) which encourages access by the public to stormwater program related activities. One activity with multiple benefits is volunteer water quality monitoring.

Recognizing the scientifically grounded method of data collection and analysis associated with all aspects of the WAVE Citizen Stream Monitoring program developed by NYSDEC, the Coalition has committed to fully integrating WAVE into Coalition operations as evident in their Stormwater Management Program Plan. This document includes a dedicated BMP titled, BMP 2-11 WAVE-Water Assessment by Volunteer Evaluators which states measurable goals to be completed by March 9, 2016, with additional goals intended for 2017. The SWMP Plan document (SWMPv3 2015 to 2017) is posted on the Coalition website: <http://www.stormwateralbanycounty.org/programs/>, see Table of Contents for BMP 2-11.

Last summer (2014), three Coalition related staff completed the WAVE training and are now Local WAVE Coordinators. Coalition members also scoped out multiple WAVE monitoring sites, organized 3 monitoring sessions with volunteers, and participated in an in-house training for Coalition members such that municipal staff collected macro invertebrates using nets; identified macro invertebrates; and learned how to fill out the WAVE data sheets. This was the fourth site monitored by the Coalition in 2014 and that experience helped convince Coalition members to commit fully to developing a strong WAVE presence within our regulated communities.

While there is no specific research plan, as a Coalition, the intent of our Local Monitoring Effort is as follows:

- 1) to establish a list of monitoring sites associated with watersheds located in Coalition member communities and urbanized areas, which if monitored overtime could provide base line, long term data about water quality;
- 2) to incorporate this location/water quality data into GIS layers used by Coalition members, such that the location of storm system infrastructure (outfalls, catch basins, drainage pipes/ditches, manholes) can be displayed relative to water quality data;
- 3) to establish a long term partnership with volunteers such that the purpose of their research effort and its relationship to MS4 Permit goals and the Clean Water Act is well understood;
- 4) to actively engage local citizens in re-discovering local streams, such that stream features and the context of these streams within a larger watershed is appreciated more fully; and
- 5) to cooperate with NYSDEC such that sites routinely monitored are of high value to the NYSDEC Biomonitoring Team and repeatedly monitored as directed by NYSDEC.

Monitoring sites will focus on the following watersheds all located wholly or in part in Albany County: Patroon Creek; Normanskill sub-watersheds (Krumkill, Vly Creek, Bozenkill, Black Creek, Delmar, and Slingerlands); Shaker Creek and tribs, Lisha Kill, Salt Kill, Krommakill, Bush-Crescent, and McAffer and others to be delineated by Coalition staff, if possible. Volunteers already monitoring sites in those watersheds, or would like to monitor sites are welcome to join the Coalition effort. The Coalition, as needed will take the lead on selecting which sites to monitor each year, and function as Local WAVE Monitoring Coordinator(s), as described and guided by NYSDEC.