

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY**  
**MODEL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE**  
**Implementing the Requirements of the Westmoreland County Stormwater Management /**  
**Integrated Water Resources Plan**

The following Model Ordinance is based on the PADEP 2022 MODEL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE (5/2016), and was created as part of the Westmoreland County Integrated Water Resources Plan 2020. Its creation was guided by the Watershed Planning Advisory Committee, the Westmoreland Conservation District, the Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development; approved by the PA DEP February 4, 2020; and formally adopted by the Westmoreland County Commissioners by Resolution June 4, 2020.

The Pennsylvania Storm Water Management Act (Act 167 of 1978) requires municipalities to “adopt or amend, and shall implement such ordinances and regulations, including zoning, subdivision and development, building code, and erosion and sedimentation ordinances, as are necessary to regulate development within the Municipality in a manner consistent with the applicable watershed stormwater plan and the provisions of this act”. **It is expected that by December 31, 2020, each of Westmoreland County's municipalities will adopt a stormwater management ordinance consistent with the principles and standards contained in this Model Stormwater Ordinance.**

Federal regulations at 40 CFR § 122.34 require the use of ordinances by small MS4s to address 1) the prohibition of unauthorized non-stormwater discharges (MCM #3), 2) erosion and sediment controls for construction activities involving earth disturbances of one acre or more (or disturbances less than one acre if the construction activity is part of a larger common plan of development or sale that would disturb one acre or more) (MCM #4), and 3) post-construction stormwater management for new development and redevelopment projects (MCM #5). It is expected that MS4 municipalities will update existing ordinances to comply with the requirements of the MS4 program or, at a minimum, enact the DEP 2022 model ordinance by September 30, 2022.

DEP is directed under Act 167 to develop a model stormwater ordinance. DEP’s intention in publishing the 2022 Model Stormwater Management Ordinance is that its use will satisfy both Act 167 requirements, and MS4 regulatory requirements.

Text highlighted in [gray] is an indicator where municipalities can tailor the ordinance to their communities, provided it is in compliance with all Commonwealth laws and regulations. Note – use of the Stream Restoration, Riparian Buffers and GI/LID requirements may be used toward meeting pollutant load reduction obligations of the NPDES [and MS4] permit if the permittee can demonstrate reductions from the optional practices. It is recommended that the **municipal consulting engineer** review the entire ordinance and make technical adjustments to tailor it to the needs of the municipality.

It is recommended that the **municipal solicitor** review the entire Ordinance, and especially Article VIII – Enforcement Procedures and Remedies, and make any revisions necessary to ensure enforcement is pursued commensurate with applicable municipal codes. Appendix B to the Model Stormwater Management Ordinance is a recommended format for a landowner Operation and Maintenance agreement.

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**MUNICIPALITY OF**

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**WESTMORELAND COUNTY. PENNSYLVANIA**

**Adopted at a Public Meeting Held On**

**\_\_\_\_\_, 2020**

**Westmoreland County**  
**Model Stormwater Management Ordinance**

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## Westmoreland County

### Model Stormwater Management Ordinance

#### ARTICLE I General Provisions

##### §101. *Short Title.*

This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “[Municipal] Stormwater Management Ordinance.”

##### §102. *Findings. The [Governing body] of the [Municipality] finds that:*

- A. Stormwater runoff from lands modified by human activities threatens public health and safety by causing decreased infiltration of rainwater and increased runoff flows and velocities, which overtax the carrying capacity of existing streams and storm sewers, causes property damage and risk to public safety, and greatly increases the cost to the public to manage stormwater.
- B. Inadequate planning and management of accelerated stormwater runoff resulting from land development and redevelopment throughout a watershed can also harm surface water resources by changing the natural hydrologic patterns, accelerating stream flows (which increase scour and erosion of stream-beds and stream-banks thereby elevating sedimentation), destroying aquatic habitat and elevating aquatic pollutant concentrations and loadings such as sediments, nutrients, heavy metals and pathogens. Groundwater resources are also impacted through loss of recharge.
- C. [Municipality] is located in the [watershed] Watershed(s) and as such will endeavor to cooperate with other municipalities located in the watershed(s) to address issues of stormwater management, water quality, pollution and flooding.
- D. Non-stormwater discharges to municipal separate storm sewer systems can contribute to pollution of waters of the Commonwealth in the [Municipality].
- E. Stormwater can be an important water resource by providing groundwater recharge for water supplies and base flow of streams, which also protects and maintains surface water quality.
- F. Public education on the control of pollution of stormwater is an essential component in successfully managing stormwater.
- G. A comprehensive program of stormwater management, including reasonable regulation of land development and redevelopment causing loss of natural infiltration, is fundamental to the public health, safety, welfare, and the protection of the people of the [Municipality] and all the people of the Commonwealth, their resources, and the environment.
- H. The use of open space conservation, green infrastructure, low impact development (LID), and riparian buffers are intended to address the root cause of water quality impairment by using systems and practices which use or mimic natural processes to: 1) infiltrate and recharge, 2) evapotranspire, and/or 3) harvest and use precipitation near where it falls to earth. Green infrastructure practices, LID, and riparian buffers contribute to the restoration or maintenance of pre-development hydrology.
- I. Stormwater structures are considered vital infrastructure and can pose a significant hazard. Outlets and waterways which carry stormwater shall be maintained free of obstructions to allow for non-restricted flow of stormwater to avoid impoundment of water.

- J. Occupancy and modification of floodplains shall be avoided wherever there is a practicable alternative to reduce long and short term adverse impacts in order to reduce the risk of flood loss, minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health and welfare, and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains.
- K. Federal and State regulations require certain municipalities to implement a program of stormwater controls. These municipalities are required to obtain a permit for stormwater discharges from their municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). **[[Municipality]** is subject to MS4 requirements]
- L. The Westmoreland Conservation District (WCD) is a recognized regulatory agency with authority in the county and this municipality to regulate erosion and sediment controls and stormwater management related to land development activities. Because WCD’s authority crosses municipal boundaries they are enabled to oversee environmental issues for the general benefit of all county residents.
- M. The Westmoreland County Integrated Water Resources Plan (2018) addresses all water resources and provides a decision making tool for development and redevelopment with respect to those resources including stormwater and its management. Refer to [www.paiwrp.com](http://www.paiwrp.com) and [www.westmorelandstormwater.org](http://www.westmorelandstormwater.org)

**§103. Purpose.**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to promote health, safety, and welfare within the **[Municipality]** and its watersheds by minimizing the harms and maximizing the benefits described in this Section of this Ordinance, through provisions designed to:

- A. Manage stormwater runoff impacts at their source by regulating activities that cause the problems, reduce runoff volumes and mimic natural hydrology.
- B. Maintain existing flows and quality of streams and watercourses.
- C. Prevent scour and erosion of streambanks and streambeds.
- D. Utilize and preserve the existing natural drainage systems as much as possible.
- E. Restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by streamside and waterbody floodplains.
- F. Focus on infiltration of stormwater, to maintain groundwater recharge, to prevent degradation of surface and groundwater quality and to otherwise protect water resources.
- G. Promote stormwater runoff prevention and emphasize infiltration and evapotranspiration through the protection and conservation of natural resource systems and the use of non-structural BMPs and other creative methods of improving water quality and managing stormwater runoff.
- H. Promote the use of green infrastructure in development and redevelopment where it can also improve stormwater management within the broader watershed in which the project is located.
- I. Meet legal water quality requirements under state law, including regulations at 25 Pa.Code, Chapter 93.4a, to protect and maintain “existing uses” and maintain the level of water quality to support those uses in all streams, and to protect and maintain water quality in “special protection” streams.

- J. Provide review procedures and performance standards for stormwater planning and management.
- K. Provide for proper operations and maintenance of all permanent stormwater management BMPs that are implemented in the [Municipality].
- L. Provide a mechanism to identify controls necessary to meet the NPDES [and MS4] permit requirements, and to encourage infrastructure improvements that lead to separation of storm sewer systems from sanitary sewer systems.
- M. [Assist in detecting and eliminating illicit stormwater discharges into the [Municipality]'s separate storm sewer system.]

**§104. Statutory Authority**

- A. The [Municipality] is empowered to regulate land use activities that affect stormwater runoff by the authority of the Stormwater Management Act of October 4, 1978, P.L. 864 (Act 167), 32 P.S. Section 680.1, et seq., as amended, [and the Act of July 31, 1968, P.L. 805, No. 247, The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, as amended.]
- B. The [Municipality] is also empowered to regulate land use activities that affect stormwater runoff by the authority of [other [municipal code] or empowerment] or [Act of July 31, 1968, P.L. 805, No. 247, The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, as amended]

**§105. Applicability.**

- A. All regulated activities as defined by this ordinance are subject to regulation by this Ordinance.
- B. This Ordinance applies to any land development or regulated earth disturbance activities within the [municipality], and all stormwater runoff entering into the municipality's separate or combined storm sewer system from lands within the boundaries of the municipality.
- C. Earth disturbance activities and associated stormwater management controls are also regulated under existing State law and implementing regulations. This Ordinance shall operate in coordination with those parallel requirements; the requirements of this Ordinance shall be no less restrictive in meeting the purposes of this Ordinance than State law.

**§106. Repealer**

Any other ordinance provision(s) or regulation of the municipality inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of the inconsistency only.

**§107. Severability**

If any word, phrase, section, sentence, clause or part of this Ordinance is for any reason found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such unconstitutionality, invalidity or illegality by a court of competent jurisdiction, shall not affect or impair any of the remaining words, phrases, sections, sentences, clauses or parts of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the [governing body] of the [municipality] that this Ordinance would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid word, phrase, section, sentence, clause or part thereof not been included herein.

**§108.           *Compatibility with Other Requirements.***

- A. Approvals issued and actions taken under this Ordinance do not relieve the applicant of the responsibility to secure required permits or approvals for activities regulated by any other code, law, regulation or ordinance. To the extent that this Ordinance imposes more rigorous or stringent requirements for stormwater management, the specific requirements contained in this Ordinance shall be followed.
- B. Conflicting provisions in other municipality ordinances or regulations shall be construed to retain the requirements of this Ordinance addressing state water quality requirements.

**§109.           *Erroneous Permit***

Any permit or authorization issued or approved based on false, misleading or erroneous information provided by an applicant is void without the necessity of any proceedings for revocation. Any work undertaken or use established pursuant to such permit or other authorization is unlawful. No action may be taken by a board, agency or employee of the Municipality purporting to validate such a violation.

**§110.           *Prohibitions***

Shall be consistent with PAG-13 NPDES General Permit for stormwater discharges [from MS4 communities] and as listed here.

**A. Prohibited discharges**

- 1. No person in the [Municipality] shall introduce, permit or allow, or cause to introduce, permit or allow, stormwater discharges into the municipality separate storm sewer system which are not composed entirely of stormwater, except as permitted by this Ordinance, or
  - a. as provided in paragraph 2. below, or
  - b. discharges as authorized under a State or Federal permit.
- 2. Permissible discharges, based on a finding by the municipality that the discharge(s) do not significantly contribute to pollution to surface waters of the Commonwealth, are recommended to be discharged safely to a vegetated area or infiltration BMP, but can also be discharged to a storm sewer system, include but are not limited to:
  - a. Discharges from firefighting activities.
  - b. Potable water sources including dechlorinated water line and fire hydrant flushings.
  - c. Non-contaminated irrigation drainage from agricultural practices.
  - d. Routine external building washdown (which does not use detergents or other compounds).
  - e. Non-contaminated Air conditioning condensate.
  - f. Water from individual residential car, boat or other residential vehicle washing that does not use detergents or other compounds.
  - g. Springs.
  - h. Non-contaminated Water from basement or crawl space sump pumps.
  - i. Non-contaminated water from foundation or from footing drains.
  - j. Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands.
  - k. Lawn watering.

- l. Pavement washwaters where spills or leaks of toxic or hazardous materials have not occurred (unless all spill material has been removed) and where detergents are not used.
  - m. Splash pad (recreational spray patio with no standing water) discharges.
  - n. Non-contaminated groundwater.
3. In the event that the municipality determines that any of the discharges identified in paragraph 2. above significantly contributes to pollution of waters of the Commonwealth, or is so notified by DEP, the municipality will notify the landowner and/or the responsible person to cease the discharge.
  4. Upon notice provided by the municipality under paragraph 3. above, the discharger will have a [reasonable time] as determined by the municipality, to cease the discharge consistent with the degree of pollution caused by the discharge.
  5. Nothing in this Section shall affect, limit or alleviate a discharger's responsibilities under State or Federal law.

**B. Prohibited connections.**

The following sources, activities or connections are prohibited, except as provided in subsection A. 1. and 2. above:

1. Any drain or conveyance, whether on the surface or subsurface, which allows any non-storm water discharge including but not limited to, sewage, process wastewater and wash water, to enter the separate storm sewer system, and any connections to the storm drain system from indoor drains and sinks.
2. Any drain or conveyance connected from a commercial, industrial or other non-residential land use to the separate storm sewer system which has not been documented in plans, maps, or equivalent records, and approved by the [Municipality].
3. Drains carrying stormwater or groundwater shall not be connected to or discharge to any public or private sanitary sewer system or facility.

**C. Prohibited activities:**

1. A landowner may not alter the natural flow of surface water on his property by concentrating it in an artificial channel and discharging it upon lower land of his neighbor even though no more water is thereby collected than would naturally have flowed upon the neighbor's land in a diffused [shallow broad path or sheet flow] condition.
2. A landowner may not alter any BMPs, facilities or structures that were installed under the ordinance without written approval of the municipality.

**D. Roof Drains and Sump Pumps**

1. Roof drains and sump pumps shall discharge to infiltration or vegetative BMPs wherever feasible.

**§111. Liability Disclaimer.**

- A. Neither the granting of any approval under the stormwater management provisions of this Ordinance, nor the compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance, or with any condition imposed by any public body of the [Municipality] or by a [Municipality] official, employee or consultant hereunder, shall relieve any person from any responsibility for damage to

person or property resulting therefrom, or as otherwise imposed by law, nor impose any liability upon the municipality for damages to persons or property.

- B. The granting of a permit which includes any stormwater management does not constitute a representation, guarantee or warranty of any kind by the municipality or WCD, or by an official or employee thereof, of the practicability or safety of any structure, use or other plan proposed and shall create no liability upon or cause of action against such public body, official or employee for any damage that may result pursuant thereto.

## **ARTICLE II            Definitions.**

### **§201.            Interpretations and word usage:**

For the purposes of this Ordinance, the terms and words used herein shall be interpreted as follows:

- A. Words used in the present tense include the future tense; the singular number includes the plural, and the plural number includes the singular; words of masculine gender include feminine gender; and words of feminine gender include masculine gender.
- B. The word “includes” or “including” shall not limit the term to the specific example but is intended to extend its meaning to all other instances of like kind and character.
- C. The words “shall” and “must” are mandatory; the words “may” and “should” are permissive.

### **§202.            Definition of terms:**

**Act 167**– the Stormwater Management Act, Act of October 4, 1978, P. L. 864, No. 167, as amended by the Act of May 24, 1984, No. 63, 32 P.S. §§680.1 *et seq.* The Municipality is empowered to regulate land use activities that affect runoff and surface and groundwater quality and quantity by the authority of the Act, the “Storm Water Management Act.”

**Accelerated erosion** – the removal of the surface of the land through the combined action of human activities and the natural processes at a rate greater than would occur because of the natural process alone.

**Agricultural Activity** – Activities associated with agriculture such as agricultural cultivation, agricultural operation, and animal heavy use areas. This includes the work of producing crops and raising livestock including tillage, land clearing, plowing, disking, harrowing, planting, harvesting crops, or pasturing and raising of livestock and installation of Conservation Practices. Except for high tunnels that are exempt pursuant to the provisions of Act 15 of 2018, construction of new buildings or impervious areas is not considered an agricultural activity.

**Applicant** – a landowner, developer or other person who has filed an application for development or for approval to engage in any regulated earth disturbance activity at a project site in the [Municipality].

**Animal Concentration (heavy use) Areas** – A barnyard, feedlot, loafing area, exercise lots, or other similar animal confinement areas that will not maintain a growing crop, or where deposited manure nitrogen is in excess of crop needs, but excluding areas managed as pastures or other cropland, and pasture access ways, if they do not cause direct flow of nutrients to surface water or groundwater.

**BMP (best management practice)** – activities, facilities, designs, measures or procedures used to manage stormwater impacts from regulated development activities, to meet State water quality requirements, to promote groundwater recharge and to otherwise meet the purposes of this Ordinance. BMPs include, but are not limited to, infiltration, filter strips, low impact design, bioretention, wet ponds, permeable paving, grassed swales, forested buffers, sand filters and detention basins.

**Channel** – a perceptible natural or artificial waterway which periodically or continuously contains moving water or which forms a connecting link between two bodies of water. It has a definite bed and banks which confine the water.

**Chapter 102** – Title 25 Pa Code Chapter 102 Erosion and Sedimentation Control.

**Chapter 105** – Title 25 Pa Code Chapter 105 Dam Safety and Waterway Management.

**Combined sewer system** – A sewer system designed to serve as both sanitary sewer and storm sewer.

**CSO, Combined sewer overflow** – An intermittent flow or other untreated discharge from a municipal combined sewer system (including domestic, industrial and commercial wastewater and stormwater) which results from a flow in excess of the dry weather carrying capacity of the system.

**Conservation District** – the Westmoreland Conservation District (WCD), as defined in Section 3(c) of the Conservation District Law (3 P. S. § 851(c)) that has the authority under a delegation agreement executed with DEP to administer and enforce all or a portion of the regulations promulgated under 25 Pa. Code 102.

**Conservation Plan** – A plan written by an NRCS or SCS certified planner that identifies Conservation Practices and includes site specific BMPs for agricultural plowing or tilling activities and Animal Concentration Areas.

**Conservation Practices** – Practices installed on agricultural lands to improve farmland, soil and/or water quality which have been identified in a current Conservation Plan.

**Conveyance** –

- (a) Any structure that carries a flow.
- (b) The ability of a pipe, culvert, swale or similar facility to carry the peak flow from the design storm.

**Culvert** – a closed conduit for the free passage of surface drainage under a highway, railroad, canal or other embankment.

**DEP** – the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

**Demonstrated equivalency** – A stormwater management project on an alternative site(s) within the same watershed as the proposed development that will provide equal or better achievement of the purpose of the Ordinance and will not substantially or permanently impair the appropriate use or development of adjacent property. Examples include streambank stabilization, creation or enhancement of riparian buffers, removal of existing impervious surfaces and establishment of ‘green’ easements, installation of stormwater management and water quality facilities, etc.

**Design criteria** –

- (a) Engineering guidelines specifying construction details and materials.

(b) Objectives, results or limits which must be met by a facility, structure or process in performance of its intended functions.

**Design storm** – see “storm frequency.”

**Detention** – the slowing, dampening or attenuating of runoff flows entering the natural drainage pattern or storm drainage system by temporarily holding water on a surface area in a detention basin or within the drainage system.

**Detention basin** – a pond, basin, reservoir or underground system constructed to impound or retard surface runoff temporarily.

**Developer** – a person that seeks to undertake or undertakes the activities associated with changes in land use or seeks to undertake or undertakes any regulated earth disturbance activities at a project site in the [Municipality]. The term “developer” includes, but is not limited to, the term subdivider, owner and builder, even though the person involved in successive stages of a project may change or vary.

**Development** – an “earth disturbance activity,” as herein defined and any activity, construction, alteration, change in land use or practice that affects stormwater runoff characteristics. The term also includes redevelopment.

**Development site** – the specific tract of land where any development or earth disturbance activities in the [Municipality] are planned, conducted, undertaken or maintained.

**Discharge** – the flow or rate of flow from a canal, conduit, channel or other hydraulic structure.

**Disturbed Area** – A land area where an earth disturbance activity is occurring or has occurred.

**Drainage** – in general, the removal of surface water from a given area commonly applied to surface water and ground water.

**Drainage area** – any of the following activities:

- (a) The area of a drainage basin or watershed, expressed in acres, square miles or other unit of area (also called “catchment area,” “watershed,” “river basin”).
- (b) The area served by a sewer system receiving storm and surface water, or by a watercourse.

**Earth disturbance activity** – a construction or other human activity which disturbs the surface of the land including, but not limited to, clearing and grubbing, grading, excavations, embankments, road maintenance, land development, building construction, oil and gas activities, well drilling, mineral extraction, and the moving, depositing, stockpiling, or storing of soil, rock or earth materials.

**Encroachment** – any structure or activity which in any manner changes, expands or diminishes, the course, current or cross-section of any watercourse, floodway or body of water.

**Erosion** – the process by which land, including channels, is worn away by water, wind, or chemical action.

**Erosion control** – the application of measures to reduce erosion of land surfaces.

**Erosion and sediment control plan** – a plan for a project site which identifies BMPs to minimize accelerated erosion and sedimentation of land.

**Existing Condition** – The dominant land cover during the 5-year period immediately preceding a proposed regulated activity.

**FEMA** – Federal Emergency Management Agency.

**Floodplain** – Any land area susceptible to inundation by water from any natural source or delineated by applicable FEMA maps and studies as being a special flood hazard area. Also includes areas that comprise Group 13 Soils, as listed in Appendix A of the Pennsylvania DEP Technical Manual for Sewage Enforcement Officers (as amended or replaced from time to time by DEP).

**Floodway** – The channel of the watercourse and those portions of the adjoining floodplains that are reasonably required to carry and discharge the 100-year flood. Unless otherwise specified, the boundary of the floodway is as indicated on maps and flood insurance studies provided by FEMA. In an area where no FEMA maps or studies have defined the boundary of the 100-year floodway, it is assumed--absent evidence to the contrary--that the floodway extends from the stream to 50 feet from the top of the bank of the stream.

**Forest Management/Timber Operations** – Planning and activities necessary for the management of forestland. These include conducting a timber inventory, preparation of forest management plans, silvi-cultural treatment, cutting budgets, logging road design and construction, timber harvesting, site preparation, and reforestation.

**Green Infrastructure** – Systems and practices that use or mimic natural processes to infiltrate, evapotranspire, or reuse stormwater on the site where it is generated.

**Ground cover** – materials and/or vegetation covering the ground surface.

**Ground water** – subsurface water occupying the saturation zone, from which wells and springs are fed.

**Groundwater recharge** – replenishment of existing natural underground water supplies.

**High Tunnel** – A structure which meets the following:

- (1) Is used for the production, processing, keeping, storing, sale or shelter of an agricultural commodity as defined in section 2 of the act of December 19, 1974 (P.L.973, No.319), known as the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forestland Assessment Act of 1974, or for the storage of agricultural equipment and supplies.

(2) Is constructed consistent with all of the following:

- i. Has metal, wood or plastic frame
- ii. When covered, has plastic, woven textile or other flexible covering
- iii. Has a floor made of soil, crushed stone, matting, pavers or a floating concrete slab

**Hot spots** - Areas where land use or activities generate highly contaminated runoff, with concentrations of pollutants that are higher than those typically found in stormwater (e.g., vehicle salvage yards and recycling facilities, vehicle fueling stations, fleet storage areas, vehicle equipment and cleaning facilities, vehicle service and maintenance facilities, and certain industrial/commercial activity areas).

**Hydrologic Soil Group (HSG)** – Infiltration rates of soils vary widely and are affected by subsurface permeability as well as surface intake rates. Soils are classified into four HSGs (A, B, C, and D) according to their minimum infiltration rate, which is obtained for bare soil after prolonged wetting. The NRCS defines the four groups and provides a list of most of the soils in the United States and their group classification. The soils in the area of the development site may be identified from a soil survey report that can be obtained from local NRCS offices or conservation district offices. Soils become less permeable as the HSG varies from A to D (NRCS1,2).

**Impervious surface** – a surface that prevents the infiltration of water into the ground. Impervious surfaces (or areas) shall include, but not be limited to: roofs, additional indoor living spaces, patios, garages, storage sheds, and similar structures; and any new streets or sidewalks. Decks, parking areas, gravel areas, and driveway areas are counted as impervious areas if they directly prevent infiltration.

**Infiltration** – any of the following activities:

- (a) The flow or movement of water through the interstices or pores of a soil or other porous medium.
- (b) The absorption of liquid by the soil.

**Land development** – any of the following activities:

- (a) The improvement of one lot or two or more contiguous lots, tracts or parcels of land for any purpose involving:
  - i A group of two or more residential or nonresidential buildings, whether proposed initially or cumulatively, or a single nonresidential building on a lot or lots regardless of the number of occupants or tenure.
  - ii The division or allocation of land or space, whether initially or cumulatively, between or among two or more existing or prospective occupants by means of, or for the purpose of streets, common areas, leaseholds, condominiums, building groups or other features.
- (b) A subdivision of land.

**Land disturbance** – any activity involving the changing, grading, transportation, fill and any other activity which causes land to be exposed to the danger of erosion.

**Low Impact Development (LID)** – Site design approaches and small-scale stormwater management practices that promote the use of natural systems for infiltration, evapotranspiration, and reuse of rainwater. LID can be applied to new development, urban retrofits, and revitalization projects. LID utilizes design techniques that infiltrate, filter, evaporate, and store runoff close to its source. Rather than rely on costly large-scale conveyance and treatment systems, LID addresses stormwater through a variety of small, cost-effective landscape features located on-site.

**Maintenance** – the upkeep necessary for efficient operation of physical properties.

**MS4** (municipal separate storm sewer system) - A conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains):

- (a) Owned or operated by a State, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State law)...including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under section 208 of the Clean Water Act that discharges into waters of the United States.
- (b) Designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater;
- (c) Which is not a combined sewer; and
- (d) Which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined at 40 CFR 122.2.”

**Municipalities Planning Code** – Act 247 of 1968, as amended by Act 170 of 1988, 53 P.S. §10101 *et seq.*

**Municipality** – [Municipality], Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

**Native Vegetation** – Plant species that have historically grown in Pennsylvania and are not invasive species, controlled plants or noxious weeds as defined by PA DCNR, or PA Department of Agriculture.

**Natural stormwater runoff regime** – a watershed where natural surface configurations, runoff characteristics and defined drainage conveyances have attained the conditions of equilibrium.

**NPDES** – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, the Federal government's system for issuance of permits under the Clean Water Act, which is delegated to DEP in Pennsylvania.

**NRCS** – Natural Resources Conservation Service (previously Soil Conservation Service).

**Outfall** – “point source” as described in 40 CFR §122.2 at the point where the [Municipality] storm sewer system discharges to surface waters of the Commonwealth. Also, the point, location or structure where drainage discharges from a sewer, drain or other conduit as well as the conduit leading to the ultimate discharge point.

**Outlet control structure** – the means of controlling the relationship between the head water elevation and the discharge, placed at the outlet or downstream end of any structure through which water may flow.

**Overland flooding** – flooding that occurs for a variety of reasons all stemming from excessive stormwater runoff including too much rain in too little time, added impervious development, change in land use, malfunction or clogging of existing stormwater systems.

**Peak discharge** – The maximum rate of stormwater runoff from a specific storm event.

**Peak flow** – maximum flow.

**Pervious Area** – Any material or surface that allows water to pass through at a rate equal to or greater than natural ground cover.

**Pennsylvania DEP** – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

**Performance standard** – a standard which establishes an end result or outcome which is to be achieved but does not prescribe specific means for achieving it.

**Person** – an individual, partnership, public or private association or corporation, firm, trust, estate, municipality, governmental unit, public utility or any other legal entity whatsoever which is recognized by law as the subject of rights and duties. Whenever used in any section prescribing or imposing a penalty, the term “person” shall include the members of a partnership, the officers, members, servants and agents of an association, officers, agents and servants of a corporation, and the officers of a municipality or county, but shall exclude any department, board, bureau or agency of the Commonwealth.

**Point source** – any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance including, but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, or conduit from which stormwater is or may be discharged, as defined in State regulations at 25 Pa.Code §92.1.

**[Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP)** – a plan required by the MS4 permit to calculate existing pollutants of concern and the minimum reduction in loading from stormwater discharges, and to select the best management practices to achieve the minimum reductions.]

**Project site** – the specific area of land where any development or regulated earth disturbance activities in the [Municipality] are planned, conducted, undertaken or maintained.

**Qualified Professional** – Any person licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of State or otherwise qualified under Pennsylvania law to perform the work required by this Ordinance.

**Record drawings** – Drawings showing the stormwater management system of a site as built, created after the completion of construction and intended for use as a permanent record of the stormwater management system.

**Redevelopment** – earth disturbance activities on land which has previously been disturbed or developed.

**Regulated development activity** – Any earth disturbance activities or any activities that involve the change of land cover, alteration or development of land in a manner that may affect stormwater runoff as listed in the Regulated Development Activity table. This includes earth disturbance on any portion of, part, or during any stage of, a larger common plan of development. With regard to road maintenance activities the term only includes activities involving [1 acre] or more of earth disturbance. Refer to the Regulated Development Activity Table in Article III of this ordinance.

**Release Rate** – The percentage of existing conditions peak rate of runoff from a site or subarea to which the proposed conditions peak rate of runoff must be reduced to protect downstream areas.

**Release rate percentage** – the watershed factor determined by comparing the maximum rate of runoff from a subbasin to the contributing rate of runoff to the watershed peak rate at specific points of interest.

**Resource extraction** – any activity that involves withdrawing materials from the natural environment.

**Retention basin** – a pond, basin, usually enclosed by artificial dikes, that is used to retard stormwater runoff by temporarily storing the runoff and releasing it at a predetermined rate.

**Retention Volume/Removed Runoff** – The volume of runoff that is captured and not released directly into the surface waters of this Commonwealth during or immediately after a storm event.

**Return period** – the average interval in years over which an event of a given magnitude can be expected to recur.

**Riparian Buffer** – A permanent area of native vegetation including herbaceous material, shrubs and/or trees located adjacent to streams, lakes, ponds and wetlands.

**Road maintenance** – earth disturbance activities within the existing road cross-section, such as grading and repairing existing unpaved road surfaces, cutting road banks, cleaning or clearing drainage ditches and other similar activities.

**Runoff** – that part of precipitation which flows over the land.

**Runoff characteristics** – the surface components of any watershed which affect the rate, amount and direction of stormwater runoff. These may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, soils, slopes and manmade landscape alterations.

**SALDO** – Subdivision and land development ordinance

***Sediment*** – mineral or organic solid material that is being transported or has been moved from its site of origin by air, water or ice and has come to rest.

***Sedimentation*** – the process by which mineral or organic matter is accumulated or deposited by moving water, wind or gravity.

***Separate storm sewer system*** – a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels or storm drains) primarily used for collecting and conveying stormwater runoff. Refer to MS4.

***Small project*** – Regulated development activities that, measured on a cumulative basis from 5 years prior to the application, create additional impervious areas of more than [1,000] square feet and less than [3,000] square feet or involve earth disturbance activity of an area less than [5,000] square feet and do not involve the alteration of stormwater facilities or water courses.

***State water quality requirements*** – as defined under State regulations– protection of designated and existing uses (See 25 Pa.Code, Chapters 93 and 96)–including:

- (a) Each stream segment in Pennsylvania has a “designated use,” such as “cold water fishery” or “potable water supply,” which are listed in 25 Pa.Code, Chapter 93. These uses must be protected and maintained, under State regulations.
- (b) “Existing uses” are those attained as of November 1975, regardless whether they have been designated in 25 Pa.Code, Chapter 93. Regulated earth disturbance activities must be designed to protect and maintain existing uses and maintain the level of water quality necessary to protect those uses in all streams, and to protect and maintain water quality in special protection streams.
- (c) Water quality involves the chemical, biological and physical characteristics of surface water bodies. After regulated earth disturbance activities are complete, these characteristics can be impacted by addition of pollutants such as sediment, and changes in habitat through increased flow volumes and/or rates as a result of changes in land surface area from those activities. Therefore, permanent discharges to surface waters must be managed to protect the stream bank, streambed and structural integrity of the waterway, to prevent these impacts.

***Storage facility*** – Any surface or sub-surface facility that stores stormwater runoff, see “detention basin” and “retention basin.”

***Storm frequency*** – the average interval in years over which a storm event of a given precipitation volume can be expected to occur. The magnitude and temporal distribution of precipitation from a storm event measured in probability of occurrence (e.g., a 5-year storm) and duration (e.g., 24 hours) used in the design and evaluation of stormwater management systems. Also see Return Period.

***Storm sewer*** – a sewer that carries intercepted surface runoff, street water and other drainage but excludes domestic sewage and industrial waste.

**Stormwater** – drainage runoff from the surface of the land resulting from precipitation or snow or ice melt.

**Stormwater collection systems** – natural or manmade structures that collect and transport stormwater through or from a drainage area to the point of final outlet including, but not limited to, any of the following conduits and appurtenant features, canals, channels, ditches, streams, culverts, streets and pumping stations.

**Stormwater management facility** – a constructed measure for detention, retention, infiltration and water quality treatment of stormwater runoff.

**Stormwater management plan** – the plan for managing stormwater runoff rate, volume and water quality as required by the Stormwater Management Act, 32 P.S. §680.1 *et seq.*

**Stormwater Management Performance District** – an area designated by the Watershed Stormwater Performance District Map which includes standards for stormwater rate, volume and water quality. Refer to Appendix A.

**Subdivision** – As defined in The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act of July 31, 1968, P.L. 805, No. 247, as amended.

**Swale** – a low-lying stretch of land which gathers or carries surface water runoff.

**USDA** – United States Department of Agriculture.

**Watercourse** – a channel or conveyance of surface water, such as a run, stream or creek, having defined bed and banks, whether natural or artificial, with perennial or intermittent flow.

**Waters of the Commonwealth** – any and all rivers, streams, creeks, rivulets, impoundments, ditches, watercourses, storm sewers, lakes, dammed water, wetlands, ponds, springs, and all other bodies or channels of conveyance of surface water, or parts thereof, whether natural or artificial, within or on the boundaries of this Commonwealth.

**Watershed** – the entire region or area drained by a river or other body of water whether natural or artificial. A “designated watershed” is an area delineated by the Pennsylvania DEP and approved by the Environmental Quality Board for which Counties are required to develop watershed stormwater management plans.

**Watershed stormwater management plan** – the plan for managing stormwater runoff throughout a designated watershed as required by the Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act (Act 167), 32 P.S. §680.1 *et seq.*

**Wetland** – Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, including swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

**ARTICLE III Stormwater Management Performance Standards.**

**§301. Stormwater Management Performance Districts.**

For purposes of stormwater management, the [Municipality] is located in the following [ Creek / River ] Watershed(s), which includes the Stormwater Management Performance District(s) shown on the map entitled ' [watershed] Performance District Map', which is hereby adopted as a portion of the Ordinance. For areas not covered by a stormwater performance district, the release rate shall be [80%]\* of the pre-development peak flow as set by the municipality. For more information refer to [www.westmorelandstormwater.org](http://www.westmorelandstormwater.org) .

*\*In areas not covered by a Stormwater Performance District, an 80% release rate or less is recommended as a standard. This is to apply a “Factor of Safety” to stormwater calculations; to account for the many variables in site design and stormwater management; and to avoid a land development project inadvertently increasing runoff and causing harm downstream.*

**§302. General Requirements.**

- A. Preparation and implementation of a stormwater management site plan is required for all regulated activities, unless preparation of a SWM site plan is specifically exempted.
- B. Projects that propose greater than 1 acre of earth disturbance are subject to NPDES Permit requirements and will require a Stormwater Management Plan.**
- C. No regulated activities, unless exempted, shall commence until the municipality issues written approval of an SWM Site Plan, which demonstrates compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance.
- D. Regulated Development Activities shall be as follows:

**[REGULATED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY TABLE]**

<b>SWM Plan Requirement</b>	<b>New Impervious Area for New and Redevelopment</b>	<b>Disturbed Area*</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
Exempt	0	Less than 1 acre	Comply with <b>Exemption</b> section of this ordinance
[No-Harm]	Up to [1,000] sf for urban OR [3,000] square feet for suburban/rural areas	Less than [3,000] sf urban OR [5,000] square feet for suburban/rural areas	Comply with <b>No-Harm</b> section of this ordinance
Waiver / Modification / Demonstrated Equivalency	Less than 1 acre, subject to municipal approval	Less than 1 acre	Comply with <b>Waiver / Modification / Demonstrated Equivalency</b> section of this ordinance
Small Project (per definition), refer to Appendix C	[1,000] [3,000] square feet to [10,000] square feet	[3,000] [5,000] square feet to [20,000] square feet	Submit <b>Small Project Site Plan</b> complete with all attachments

Stormwater Management Plan meeting the Ordinance requirements	Greater than [10,000] square feet if Exempt and Small Project criteria are not met, or if improvements do not meet No-Harm criteria	Greater than [20,000] square feet	Consult a qualified professional
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*Note: Items in [ ] are criteria to be set by the municipality as deemed appropriate and in compliance with all Commonwealth laws and regulations.*

\*The above Table is only applicable for projects with earth disturbance less than 1 acre and that have not had cumulative impacts, within 5 years preceding the permit application date, that are in excess of the square foot limits.

**§303. Exemption from performance standards.**

A. The following regulated activities are specifically **exempt** from the Stormwater Management Plan preparation and submission requirements articulated in this Ordinance:

1. Agricultural activity limited to plowing or tilling activities, for animal concentrated (heavy) use areas provided the activities are performed according to the requirements of Chapter 102, or Conservation Practices being installed as part of the implementation of a Conservation Plan written by an NRCS or SCS-certified planner. This exemption does not include any other type of earth disturbance subject to NPDES permit requirements such as earth disturbance equal to or greater than one (1) acre.
2. A high tunnel, if proof is provided that the high tunnel is exempt pursuant to the provisions of Act 15 of 2018. Such an exemption does not exempt high tunnels from other requirements applicable under Federal, State or municipal laws.
3. Forest management and timber operations, provided the activities are performed according to the requirements of Chapter 102.
4. Resource extraction activities, provided they are done in accordance with applicable PA DEP regulations.
5. Roadway resurfacing and maintenance projects, which do not increase impervious area, and underground infrastructure projects are exempt from the provisions of this ordinance, provided the activities meet the requirements of all other municipal, state and federal requirements,
6. Domestic landscaping and/or vegetable gardening.
7. Voluntary Green Infrastructure (GI) or the retrofit of stormwater management infrastructure as conversion to green infrastructure BMPs to correct existing problems, that are solely intended to better manage runoff from existing development, are not part of new development or redevelopment, and that do not fall under the requirements of this or other development ordinances.

B. The [Municipality] may deny or revoke any exemption pursuant to this Section at any time for any project that the [Municipality] believes may pose a threat to public health, safety, property or the environment.

**[§304. No-Harm Option]**

Applicants may request approval of a ‘no-harm option’ regarding stormwater management for their project. ‘No-harm option’ requests must meet the following criteria deemed appropriate by [Municipality] and in compliance with all Commonwealth laws and regulations:

- A. Project located near or adjacent to [significantly larger body of water]
- B. Project able to discharge directly into [existing flood control feature]
- C. Project of a small size [<1,000] for urban, [<3,000] square feet for suburban and rural] of new impervious surface or [< 3,000] for urban, [<5,000] square feet for suburban and rural] of land use changes. Refer to the Regulated Development Activity Table in Article III this ordinance.
- D. Project will generate less than [0.5 cubic feet] per second for the [ten year storm] peak rate increase as compared to pre-development peak rate
- E. Project is not part of a larger development being ‘piecemealed’ in order to avoid stormwater management regulations
- F. Project is not part of a larger development which has grown ‘piecemeal’ over the past [five] years without SWM
- G. Project is a small percentage [<5%] of a much larger site and is incidental to the much larger site
- H. Project is not located in a neighborhood, watershed, or location where known stormwater problems exist, such as overland flooding like flooding of structures or roadways.
- I. Project does not discharge to a combined sewer
- J. Project will not degrade water quality of the receiving stream. Refer to the Westmoreland County Integrated Water Resources Plan [www.westmorelandstormwater.org](http://www.westmorelandstormwater.org) for maps of impaired streams to determine if the project area is not within an impaired stream corridor or provide documentation that further degradation will not occur.

To qualify for the ‘no-harm’ option, applicant may, at the request of the municipality, submit calculations, drawings, and details showing that the project meets the above criteria. Projects approved for the ‘no-harm’ option may be exempted from constructing all or some of the usual stormwater management practices regularly required for similar projects.

To be approved, no-harm requests must be reviewed and approved by both the [Municipality] engineer [and by the WCD], but final approval rests with [Municipality].

**§305. Waivers / Modifications / Demonstrated Equivalency**

- A. If the [Municipality], in conjunction with the municipality engineer, [WCD, or DEP as applicable], determines that any requirement under this Ordinance cannot be achieved for a particular regulated activity, the municipality may, after an evaluation of alternatives, approve measures other than those in this Ordinance, subject to this Section paragraphs B, C and D and in compliance with all Commonwealth laws and regulations. The request for a waiver, modification, or demonstrated equivalency shall originate with the Landowner, shall be in writing, include a study of downstream effects, and accompany the Stormwater Management Plan submission to the municipality. The request shall provide the facts on which the request is based, the provision(s) of the Ordinance involved and the proposed modification or demonstrated equivalency. The municipality

engineer [and WCD] shall review the request to determine if it meets the requirements of the Ordinance including this Section, paragraphs B, C and D. If acceptable to the municipality [and WCD] and the regulated stormwater activity involving earth disturbance is less than one (1) acre, the municipality may grant the waiver or modification. If the regulated stormwater activity involving earth disturbance is equal to or greater than one (1) acre, the plan will be subject to the NPDES requirements of DEP.

- B. Waivers, modifications, or demonstrated equivalency of the requirements of this Ordinance may be approved by the municipality if enforcement will exact undue hardship because of unique physical circumstances or pre-existing site conditions peculiar to the land in question, provided that the modifications or demonstrated equivalency will not be contrary or detrimental to the public interest and shall achieve the intended outcome, and that the purpose of the Ordinance is preserved. Hardship must be due to such unique physical circumstances or pre-existing site conditions and not the circumstances or conditions generally created by the provisions of the Stormwater Management Ordinance; and there is no possibility that the property can be developed in strict conformity with the provisions of the Stormwater Management Ordinance. Cost or financial burden shall not be considered a hardship. Hardship cannot have been created by the landowner or developer. Modification or demonstrated equivalency shall not substantially or permanently impair the appropriate use or development of adjacent property(s) not under the Landowner's control. Modification or demonstrated equivalency may be considered if an alternative standard or approach will provide equal or better achievement of the purpose of the Ordinance.
- C. No waiver, modification or demonstrated equivalency of any regulated stormwater activity involving earth disturbance greater than or equal to one (1) acre may be granted by the Municipality unless that action is approved in advance by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or the Westmoreland Conservation District (WCD).
- D. Applicants may request approval of a demonstrated equivalent stormwater activity for their project in lieu of performing traditional stormwater management. Demonstrated equivalent stormwater activity requests will be evaluated by the municipal engineer [and/or the WCD] on a case-by-case basis. Prior approval of a demonstrated equivalent stormwater activity on a site does not set a precedent for future approval of the same or other alternative activities on any site. The approval of a demonstrated equivalent stormwater activity does not excuse the applicant from following standard E&S and SWM practices as applicable on the original site.
  - 1. Demonstrated equivalent stormwater activities shall only be approved when the following criteria are met:
    - a) Traditional stormwater management activities on the site are precluded by a particular site limitation, such as contaminated soil, steep slopes, existing buildings/infrastructure, combined sewer;
    - b) Construction of traditional stormwater management activities on the site would require extra permits or lead to excessive permitting activities and delays;

- c) The site in question does not already have a stormwater management problem; and
  - d) The site in question is not already contributing to water quality problems in the receiving stream.
2. Approvable demonstrated equivalent stormwater activities may include the following:
- a) Restoration of an existing degraded wetland, stream channel, floodplain, or riparian buffer, including daylighting of a stream.
  - b) Restoration, retrofit or upgrade an existing stormwater management feature (inadequate detention pond, for example).
  - c) Creation of new stormwater management features, especially green infrastructure, for a previously unmanaged site
  - d) Provide a water-based benefit to the public other than stormwater management (for example, extend a public sewer to an area not already served).
  - e) Treatment of abandoned mine drainage.
3. The proposal for demonstrated equivalency shall be accompanied by documentation or methodology quantifying the equivalency of the proposed project to what would have been originally required. Acceptable documentation or methodology may include use of the Worksheets and Checklist found in PA DEP NPDES permit application, Appendix D or approved method showing the proposed equivalency:
- a) Controls approximately the same amount of runoff volume as what would originally have been proposed
  - b) Improves approximately the same amount of runoff quality as would have been originally proposed
  - c) Is located within an impaired watershed or stream segment which will benefit from the proposed project. Impairment may include stream impairment, reduced stream buffer, and pollutant loading. Refer to the Westmoreland County Integrated Water Resources Plan at [www.westmorelandstormwater.org](http://www.westmorelandstormwater.org) .
4. The demonstrated equivalent stormwater activity shall:
- a) Be constructed concurrently with the project for which it is being applied;
  - b) Be constructed according to plans approved by the municipality [and the WCD] including any erosion control and stormwater management practices as applicable;
  - c) Obtain all necessary permits;
  - d) Be located on land owned by or controlled by the applicant or by a cooperating public or private entity(s) (school, church, club, municipality, etc.);
  - e) Be protected by a perpetual easement or deed restriction, or landowner agreement;
  - f) Be located in the same general watershed as the project for which it is being applied; and
  - g) Have an Operation and Maintenance Plan (O&M) specifying who is responsible for what tasks.

**§306. *Small Project***

- A. When a regulated development activity (refer to Table in Section 302 of this ordinance) creates impervious area between [3,000] and [10,000] square feet, or total earth disturbance between [5,000] and [20,000] square feet, the stormwater management requirements are as follows. Refer also to Appendix C.
- B. For new impervious surfaces, the first [1] [2] inch(s) of runoff shall be permanently removed from the runoff flow, and shall not be released to waters of the Commonwealth. Removal options include reuse, evaporation, transpiration and infiltration.
- C. Facilities, to the greatest extent possible and subject to municipality approval, shall be designed to drain the permanently removed runoff volume in a period no greater than 72 hours. Runoff volumes in excess of [1] [2] inch(s) shall be safely conveyed to a stable vegetated area, natural watercourse, the curb or gutter line of roadway or existing storm collection/conveyance/control system as applicable.
- D. This method is exempt from the requirements of Section 402 of this ordinance.
- E. A Small Project Stormwater Management Plan must be submitted to the [Municipality] [and the WCD] and shall consist of the following items and related support material needed to determine compliance with Sections 307 to 311 of this ordinance. The applicant can also use protocols listed in Appendix C.
  - 1. Narrative: General description of proposed stormwater management techniques, including calculations, assumptions and criteria used in the design of the stormwater management facilities and BMPs, and construction specifications of the materials to be used for stormwater management facilities and BMPs.
  - 2. Stormwater Management Plan: Showing locations of all stormwater management facilities and BMPs, especially green infrastructure, limits of disturbance, including the type and amount of proposed impervious area, structures, roads, paved areas and buildings;
  - 3. Small Project Stormwater Management Worksheet;
  - 4. Signed [acknowledgement] [agreement] page for operation and maintenance of stormwater facilities and BMPs (Refer to Appendix B); and
  - 5. Erosion and Sediment Control Plan: including all reviews and letters of adequacy from the Conservation District.

**§307. *General Standards.***

- A. Proposed land development must consider avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating impacts to the site that may increase stormwater runoff from the proposed project. Applied sequentially, these three low impact development strategies should be an overall guide as a project is planned and carried out.
- B. The Westmoreland County Integrated Water Resources Plan provides an online decision making tool to assist developers, designers, property owners in addressing all water resources during development and redevelopment and should be consulted. Refer to [www.paiwrrp.com](http://www.paiwrrp.com) and [www.westmorelandstormwater.org](http://www.westmorelandstormwater.org).
- C. The following provisions shall be considered the overriding performance standards against which all proposed stormwater control measures shall be evaluated and shall apply throughout the [Municipality].



SWMM	EPA	Applicable in urban and suburban areas subject to limits established by EPA
PA DEP BMP Manual 2006	PA DEP	Applicable under standards established by PA DEP
Other Methods	Varies	Other methodologies approved by the municipality

- C. The project plan shall specify permanent stormwater BMPs to be implemented, operated and maintained to meet legal water quality, rate and volume requirements. If methods other than low impact development (LID) and green infrastructure methods are proposed to achieve the volume and rate controls required under this ordinance, the SWM Site Plan must include a detailed justification demonstrating that the use of LID and green infrastructure is not practicable.
- D. In order to protect and maintain water quality, additional stormwater runoff created by the development project must be captured, stored and treated. In addition, post construction stormwater infiltration of runoff must replicate preconstruction infiltration of runoff to the maximum extent possible with the exception of **hot spots**. As a minimum, this shall be a volume of additional runoff generated by a 2-year, 24 hour storm. Preferred BMP's for a **hot spot** include storm inlet filters, proprietary stormwater quality devices, underground detention tanks, detention ponds with forebays, tree planting, green roof. Permeable pavement, infiltration BMP's, and rain gardens are not recommended for hotspots.
- E. In addition to the provisions set forth in paragraphs A. through C., inclusive, as set forth above, all regulated development activities within the [Municipality] shall be designed, implemented, operated and maintained to meet the purposes of this Ordinance, through these two elements:
1. Erosion and sediment control during the earth disturbance activities (e.g., during construction).
  2. Water quality, rate and volume protection measures after completion of earth disturbance activities (e.g., post-construction stormwater management), including operations and maintenance.
- F. No regulated development activities within the [Municipality] shall commence until the requirements of this Ordinance are met.
- G. All best management practices (BMPs) used to meet the requirements of this Ordinance shall conform to the State water quality requirements, and any more stringent requirements as determined by the [Municipality].
- H. LID and green infrastructure techniques described in the PA DEP Stormwater BMP Manual 2006 or most current edition are encouraged.
- I. [Projects proposed in municipalities which are subject to the MS4 regulations must comply with that municipality's approved MS4 permit, including compliance with the six Minimum Control Measures (MCM's) and with the municipality's Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP).]

**§308. Watershed Standards**

- A. The stormwater management performance standards in this Ordinance are intended to implement the provisions, standards and criteria contained in the Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act (Act 167), 32 P.S. §680.1 *et seq.* If there is any discrepancy between the provisions of this Ordinance and the provisions, standards and criteria of the Act, or if a stormwater management plan is subsequently approved and adopted by the appropriate governmental agency or body, then the provisions, standards and criteria of the current watershed plan shall govern.
- B. Management of stormwater runoff is key objective of 25 Pa.Code, Chapter 93, of the DEP Regulations, because runoff can change the physical, chemical and biological integrity of waterbodies thereby impacting rate, volume and water quality.
- C. The project plan shall describe how these rate, volume and water quality protection requirements will be met. Infiltration BMPs shall be evaluated and utilized to the maximum extent possible to manage the net change in stormwater runoff generated so that post construction discharges do not degrade the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of the receiving waters. These BMPs may be used to satisfy all or part of the requirements found within this Ordinance.
- D. Refer to the Stormwater Performance Districts outlined in Appendix A, and the Westmoreland County Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP) at [www.westmorelandstormwater.org](http://www.westmorelandstormwater.org) . The project plan shall describe how the proposed project will address performance standards, impairments, and pollutant loading found in the IWRP. For areas not covered by a stormwater performance district, the release rate shall be [80%] of the pre-development peak flow as set by the municipality.

**§309. Design Criteria for Stormwater Management Facilities and BMPs.**

- A. *General Criteria.*
  - 1. Applicants may select runoff control techniques, or a combination of techniques, which are most suitable to control stormwater runoff from the development site. Refer to the Acceptable Computation Methodologies table of this ordinance. All controls must be subject to approval of the [Municipality] engineer [and the WCD]. The [Municipality] engineer may request specific information on design and/or operating features of the proposed stormwater controls in order to determine their suitability and adequacy in terms of the standards of this Ordinance.
  - 2. If the proposed development site is located in an impaired water shed according to Category 4 of the PA Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, or in a watershed with a TMDL according to Category 5 of the same Report, the applicant shall identify the source and cause of impairment and shall propose, if required or applicable the use of BMPs to mitigate any impacts to the waters.
  - 3. The applicant should consider the effect of the proposed stormwater management techniques on any special soil conditions or geological hazards which may exist on the development site. In the event such conditions are identified on the site, the [Municipality] engineer may require in depth studies by a competent geotechnical engineer. Not all stormwater control methods may be advisable or allowable at a particular development site.

4. The applicant shall consider the effect of the proposed stormwater management techniques on existing stream impairments and pollutant loading. Refer to the Westmoreland County Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP) at [www.westmorelandstormwater.org](http://www.westmorelandstormwater.org).
5. The applicant shall consider existing conditions on the site for the prior [five] years to determine prevailing land use and impervious cover, and shall consider 20% of existing impervious cover as meadow for pre-existing conditions on redevelopment sites.
6. The stormwater management practices to be used in developing a stormwater management plan for a particular site shall be selected according to the following order of preference:
  - a. Site planning for locating proposed buildings, impervious areas and grading which minimizes disruption of the natural site characteristics especially utilizing low impact development techniques.
  - b. Minimization of impervious areas and promotion of retentive grading.
  - c. Implementation of non-structural measures (refer to the PA DEP Stormwater BMP Manual 2006 or current edition).
  - d. Implementation of innovative / green infrastructure structural measures (refer to the PA DEP Stormwater BMP Manual 2006 or current edition).
  - e. Stormwater detention/retention structures.
7. Any BMP which is a dam, culvert, stream obstruction or encroachment or outfall as defined in 25 Pa.Code, Chapter 105, shall be designed according to the requirements in those regulations.
8. Drainage easements shall be provided for all stormwater conveyance and BMPs serving multiple properties and not located within a public right of way. Easements shall include ingress and egress to a public right of way, and shall be recorded at the County with the final plan. Terms of easement shall prohibit excavation or placement of fill or structures and any alteration that may adversely affect the flow of stormwater within any portion of the easement.
9. No person shall install, create, modify, remove, fill, landscape or otherwise alter or place any structure, soil, rock, material or vegetation in or on, or otherwise adversely affect, any stormwater management facility or any area within a stormwater easement without the written approval of the [Municipality] [and/or approval of the WCD].
10. Persons engaged in land development activities shall provide the required [financial security, O&M Agreements] to the [municipality] as outlined in the Appendix B.

*B. Criteria for Stormwater Management Facilities and BMPs.*

1. If stormwater management facilities and BMPs are utilized for the development site, the facility(s) shall be designed such that post-development peak runoff rates from the developed site are controlled to those rates defined by a Stormwater Management Performance District for the [2-, 10-, 50-, 100-] year storm frequencies. Rainfall data shall be obtained from NOAA Atlas 14 or other source as approved by the municipality.
2. All stormwater management facilities and BMPs shall be equipped with

outlet/overflow structures to provide rate discharge control for the designated storm frequencies. Provision shall also be made to safely pass the entire post-development 100-year storm without breaching or otherwise damaging the facilities, downstream or neighboring properties.

3. Release of stormwater flow from a development site must be to an existing stormwater conveyance or easement whether natural or man-made. Calculations and information shall be presented as to the ownership, responsible party, capacity, and stability of such conveyance. Release of 'sheet flow' as from a level spreader, will be permitted on a case-by-case basis as approved by the municipality [and WCD].
4. All stormwater management facilities and BMPs shall be designed to control volume and water quality as defined by the Stormwater Management Performance District. Refer to Appendix A.
5. Shared stormwater management facilities and BMPs, which provide control of runoff for more than one development site within a single subarea may be considered and are encouraged. Such facilities shall meet the criteria contained in this Section. In addition, runoff from the development sites involved shall be conveyed to the facility in a manner that avoids adverse impacts (such as flooding or erosion) to channels and properties located between the development site and the shared storage facilities.
6. Where stormwater management facilities and BMPs will be utilized, multiple use facilities, such as wetlands, lakes, ballfields or similar recreational/open space uses are encouraged wherever feasible, subject to the approval of the [Municipality].
7. Other considerations which shall be incorporated into the design of the stormwater management facilities and BMPs include:
  - a. Inflow and outflow structures shall be designed and installed to prevent erosion and embankments, cuts, fills and bottoms of impoundment type structures should be protected from soil erosion.
  - b. Control and removal of debris both in the storage structure and in inlet or outlet devices shall be a design consideration.
  - c. Inflow and outflow structures, pumping stations and other structures shall be designed and protected, using safety benches, trash racks, energy dissipaters and other means to minimize safety hazards.
  - d. Access may be restricted as specified by [the provisions for fencing swimming pools] as found in the municipality Zoning Ordinance, and in appropriate instances such restriction of access may include [fencing in a minimum height of [6 feet]].
  - e. Interior slopes of storage ponds shall not exceed a ratio of three to one horizontal to vertical dimension with a combination of interior and exterior slopes not exceeding five. Steeper slopes may be approved by the municipality engineer if documented to be stable by a geotechnical analysis.
  - f. Landscaping shall be provided for the facility which stabilizes disturbed areas and preserves the natural and beneficial values of the surrounding area.
  - g. Facility shall be located to facilitate maintenance, considering the frequency and type of equipment that will be required.

- h. Underground detention / retention / infiltration facilities shall be equipped with open grate inlet or manhole access to facilitate visual inspections.

C. *Criteria for Collection/Conveyance Facilities.*

1. All stormwater runoff collection or conveyance facilities, whether storm sewers or other open or closed channels, shall be designed in accordance with the following basic standards:
  - a. All building sites shall use measures to provide drainage away from and around the structure in order to prevent any potential flooding damage as much as practical. Such measures shall include grading the surrounding lawn or pavement area so that it slopes away from the structure by a minimum of [5% slope] over a minimum distance of [10 feet]; raising the floor of the structure so that it is a minimum of [6 inches] above the predominate surrounding land elevation and above the designated floodplain elevation for those located within a floodplain; eliminating or waterproofing penetrations thru the structure's walls or foundation; constructing berms, curbs, or swales to divert surface water around the structure; arranging roof and area drains to carry water away from the structure.
  - b. Developers proposing a land development or subdivision shall arrange internal drainage within the subdivision so that surface water is safely directed and channeled away from all structures within and adjacent to the development site.
  - c. Developers shall provide to all persons constructing a structure within a land development site, standards including drawings and specifications to ensure that those persons adhere to the general site plans and stormwater management plans for the development. Persons constructing a structure within a land development site shall submit to the municipal engineer [and WCD] drawings, calculations, and other information to show how they will meet the stormwater management requirements of the development site.
  - d. Lots located on the high side or low side of streets shall extend roof, trench and area drains to a stable vegetated area, natural watercourse, the curb or gutter line of roadway or storm collection/conveyance/control system (if applicable) in accordance with the approved stormwater management plan for the development site.
  - e. For all building sites and lots, the inclusion of rain barrels, rain gardens, drywells and other strategies for infiltration of roof runoff close to its source is encouraged.
  - f. Collection/conveyance facilities should not be installed parallel and less than [10 feet] from the top or bottom of an embankment, greater than or equal to [15 feet] height to avoid the possibility of failing or causing the embankment to fail, unless documented to be stable by a geotechnical analysis.
  - g. All collection/conveyance facilities shall be designed to convey the [25year

- storm] peak flow rate from the contributing drainage area and to carry it to the nearest suitable outlet such as a stormwater control facility, curbed street, storm sewer or natural watercourse.
- h. Where drainage swales or open channels are used, they shall be suitably lined to prevent erosion and designed to avoid erosive velocities.
2. Wherever storm sewers are proposed to be utilized, they shall comply with the following additional criteria:
- a. Where practical, designed to traverse under seeded and planted areas. If constructed within [10 feet] of road paving, walks or other surfaced areas, drains shall have a narrow trench and maximum compaction of backfill to prevent settlement of the superimposed surface or development.
  - b. Preferably installed after excavating and filling in the area to be traversed is completed, unless the drain is installed in the original ground with a minimum of [3 feet] cover and/or adequate protection during the fill construction.
  - c. *Designed.*
    - i. With cradle when traversing fill areas of indeterminate stability.
    - ii. With anchors when gradient exceeds 20 percent.
    - iii. With encasement or special backfill requirements when traversing under a paved area.
  - d. Designed to adequately handle the anticipated stormwater flow and be economical to construct and maintain. The minimum pipe size shall be [15 inches] in diameter, with the exception of roof drains, foundation drains or similar conveyance.
  - e. Drain pipe, trenching, bedding and backfilling requirements and appropriate grates, catch basins, stormwater inlets, manholes and other appurtenances shall conform to the requirements of the municipality and/or applicable PennDOT specifications, Publication 408.
  - f. All corrugated metal pipe shall be polymer coated, and with paved inverts where prone to erode. Pipe within a municipality right-of-way shall be reinforced concrete pipe or high performance polypropylene pipe with a minimum diameter of [15 inches].
  - g. Storm inlets and structures shall be designed to be adequate, safe, self-cleaning and unobtrusive and consistent with municipality standards with sufficient capture and conveyance capacity and spacing of inlets and cleanouts for maintenance.
  - h. Where a proposed sewer or conveyance connects with an existing storm sewer or conveyance system, the applicant shall demonstrate that sufficient capacity exists in the downstream system to handle the additional flow.
  - i. Storm sewer outfalls shall be equipped with energy dissipation devices to prevent erosion and conform with applicable requirements of the Pennsylvania DEP for stream encroachments (Section 7 of the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act, 32 P.S. §693.1, et seq., and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder at 25 Pennsylvania Code §105.441-105.449).

D. *[Criteria for Riparian Buffers]*

1. If a riparian buffer is required by PA DEP as part of an NPDES permit, then DEP regulations will govern.
2. If a Riparian Buffer is used to meet stormwater management requirements *[and/or MS4 pollutant load reduction credits]* it shall meet the following requirements:
  - a. In order to protect and improve water quality, a Riparian Buffer Easement may be created and recorded as part of any subdivision or land development that encompasses a Riparian Buffer.
  - b. Except as required by PA Code Title 25 Chapter 102, the Riparian Buffer Easement shall may be measured to a minimum of 35 feet measured from the top of the nearest bank (on each side), or an average of 35 feet with no distance from top of bank less than 25 feet.
  - c. Minimum Management Requirements for Riparian Buffers:
    - i. Existing native vegetation shall be protected and maintained within the Riparian Buffer Easement.
    - ii. Whenever practicable, invasive vegetation shall be actively removed and the Riparian Buffer Easement shall be planted with native trees, shrubs and other vegetation to create a diverse native plant community appropriate to the intended ecological context of the site.
    - iii. There shall be no earth disturbance beyond which is necessary to establish or maintain a planted buffer.
3. The Riparian Buffer Easement shall be enforceable by the municipality and shall be recorded in the appropriate County Recorder of Deeds Office, so that it shall run with the land and shall limit the use of the property located therein. The easement shall allow for the continued private ownership and shall count toward the minimum lot area a required by Zoning, unless otherwise specified in the municipal Zoning Ordinance.
4. Any permitted use within the Riparian Buffer Easement shall be conducted in a manner that will maintain the extent of the existing 100-year floodplain, improve or maintain the stream stability, and preserve and protect the ecological function of the floodplain.
5. Stormwater drainage pipes and all other linear utility lines as approved by the municipality shall be permitted within the Riparian Buffer Easement, but they shall cross the Easement in the shortest practical distance. Other stormwater management facilities and BMPs are not permitted within the Riparian Buffer Easement.
6. The following conditions shall apply when public and/or private recreation trails are permitted within Riparian Buffers:
  - a. Trails shall be for non-motorized use only.
  - b. Trails shall be designed to have the least impact on native plant species and other sensitive environmental features.
7. Septic drainfields and sewage disposal systems shall not be permitted within the Riparian Buffer Easement and shall comply with setback requirements established under 25 Pa. Code Chapter 73.

E. *[Criteria for Stream Restoration Project]*

1. A stream restoration project may eligible for stormwater management [and/or MS4 load reduction credits] if it meets qualifying criteria set by the municipality and as follows:
  - a. Existing conditions, such as channel or streambank erosion and an actively enlarging or incising urban stream condition, shall be documented prior to restoration.
  - b. Projects should be located on 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> order (small) streams to be effective.
  - c. Project should address a minimum of 100 linear feet of stream channel and both sides where need to do so is evident.
  - d. Upstream impervious area should be sufficiently treated to address peak flows that may exceed engineering design thresholds or compromise channel form and function.
  - e. Utilize a comprehensive approach employing a mix of techniques appropriate to the site, creating long-term stability of the streambed, streambanks and floodplain.
  - f. Armored length of streams (ie using riprap or gabions) may be used to maintain channel stability, but the same length shall not be included in the load reduction calculation.
  - g. Project shall maximize floodplain reconnection, with minimal channel invert elevation increase (ie bank height ratio = 1.0 or less) to achieve the objective.
  - h. Project shall include a minimum 35 ft permanent riparian buffer.
  - i. Project shall include an O&M plan identifying O&M activities, frequencies and responsible parties.

**§310. *Erosion and Sedimentation Controls.***

- A. No regulated development activities within the [Municipality] shall commence until approval by the [Municipality] and the WCD of an erosion and sediment control plan for construction activities.
- B. Any earth disturbance activity of 5,000 square feet or more requires an erosion and sedimentation control plan under 25 Pa.Code §102.4(b). Refer to the PA DEP Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Manual 2012 or most recent version.
- C. In addition, under Title 25 Pa.Code, Chapter 92, a DEP NPDES construction activities permit is required for regulated development activities.
- D. Evidence of any necessary permit(s) for regulated development activities from the appropriate DEP regional office or Westmoreland Conservation District must be provided to the municipality. The issuance of an NPDES construction permit (or permit coverage under the Statewide General Permit (PAG-2) may satisfy the requirements under subsection 1. upon review and approval by the municipality.
- E. A copy of the erosion and sediment control plan and any permit required by DEP or the [Municipality] shall be available at the project site at all times.

**§311. *Water Obstructions and Encroachments***

- A. No regulated development activities which require Chapter 105 (Water Obstructions and Encroachment) permit from either PA DEP or Westmoreland Conservation District shall commence until all permits have received PA DEP or WCD approval, and municipal approval.
- B. Evidence of any necessary Chapter 105 permit from PA DEP / WCD shall be provided to the municipality.

- C. Proposed development shall avoid the long and short term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains as designated by FEMA, to the extent possible wherever there is a practicable alternative in order to reduce the risk of flood loss, minimize the impacts of floods on human safety, health and welfare, and restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by flood plains.
- D. Any proposed development found to be within the base floodplain of a waterway shall include the identification of impacts, an evaluation of practicable alternatives outside the floodplain, and when impacts cannot be avoided, the development of measures to minimize the impacts and restore and preserve the floodplain as appropriate. Findings shall be presented at a public meeting and a determination made by the [governing body] of the [municipality].
- E. Any proposed stormwater management plan should be consistent with the provisions of the PA Floodplain Management Act 166 of 1978 and applicable municipal floodplain ordinances.

## ARTICLE IV Stormwater Management Plan Requirements.

### §401. General Requirements.

No development plan, subdivision plat or land development plan shall be approved; no permit authorizing construction or development issued; nor any earth disturbance activity subject to this Ordinance shall be initiated or undertaken unless and until a stormwater management plan for such activity is reviewed and approved in accord with the provisions of this Ordinance.

- A. No regulated development activities within the municipality shall commence until approval by the municipality of a stormwater management plan which demonstrates compliance with State water quality requirements after construction is complete. Refer to the Regulated Development Activity Table located in Article III of this ordinance.
- B. The stormwater management plan must be designed, implemented and maintained to meet State water quality requirements, and any other more stringent requirements as determined by the municipality.
- C. To control post-construction stormwater impacts from regulated development activities, State water quality requirements can be met by BMPs, including site design and green infrastructure, which provide for replication of pre-construction stormwater infiltration and runoff conditions, so that post-construction stormwater discharges do not degrade the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of the receiving waters. As described in the DEP Comprehensive Stormwater Management Policy (#392-0300-002, September 28, 2002), this may be achieved by the following:
  1. *Infiltration*. Replication of pre-construction stormwater infiltration conditions.
  2. *Treatment*. Use of water quality treatment BMPs to ensure filtering out of the chemical and physical pollutants from the stormwater runoff.
  3. *Streambank and Streambed Protection*. Management of volume and rate of post-construction stormwater discharges, using detention / retention and other means, to prevent physical degradation of receiving waters (e.g., from scouring).
- D. In the absence of an existing stormwater conveyance or easement whether natural or man-made for release of stormwater flow from a development site, an easement must be provided. Information shall be presented as to the ownership, responsible party, and agreement for said easement.
- E. The stormwater management plan must meet DEP regulations that require municipalities to ensure design, implementation and maintenance of best management practices (“BMPs”) that control runoff from new development and redevelopment after regulated development activities are complete. These requirements include the need to implement post-construction stormwater facilities and BMPs with assurance of long-term operations and maintenance of those BMPs.
- F. Evidence of any necessary permit(s), such as Chapter 102 erosion and sedimentation control or Chapter 105 stream encroachment, for regulated development activities from WCD or the appropriate DEP regional office must be provided to the municipality. The issuance of an NPDES construction permit (or permit coverage under the Statewide General Permit (PAG-2) may satisfy the requirements of paragraph (A) above, after review and approval by the municipality.
- G. Appropriate sections from the municipality’s Subdivision and Land Development

Ordinance (SALDO), and other applicable local ordinances, shall be followed in preparing the SWM Plans. [In instances where the Municipality lacks subdivision and land development regulations, SWM Plans shall be reviewed and approved pursuant to the county's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). If the county's SALDO does not have provisions for review and approval of SWM plans, the SWM plans must be reviewed and approved pursuant to the municipal SWM ordinance]

- H. The Municipality shall not approve any SWM Plan that is deficient in meeting the requirements of this Ordinance. At its sole discretion and in accordance with this Article, when a SWM Plan is found to be deficient, the municipality may either disapprove the submission and require a resubmission, or in the case of minor deficiencies, the Municipality may accept submission of modifications.
- I. *Professional Certification.* The stormwater management plan (including all calculations) must be prepared and sealed by a qualified professional with training and expertise in hydrology and hydraulics. Documentation of qualifications may be required by the [Municipality].

**§402. Stormwater Management Plan Contents.**

*General Format.* The stormwater management plan shall include a narrative and a set of plan drawings. Refer to checklist Appendix D.

- A. A narrative describing the overall stormwater management concept for the project.
  - 1. A determination of site conditions in accordance with the PA DEP Stormwater BMP Manual. A detailed site evaluation shall be completed for projects proposed environmentally sensitive areas, such as brownfields.
  - 2. *Runoff Calculations.* Stormwater runoff design calculations for determining pre- and post-development discharge rates, for designing proposed stormwater control facilities and to demonstrate that the maximum practicable measures have been taken to meet the requirements of this Ordinance, must be submitted with the stormwater management plan. All calculations shall be prepared using the methods and data prescribed by general requirements in Section [302]. Refer to the Acceptable Computation Methodologies table in Article III Section 307 of this ordinance.
    - a. Runoff volume and rate shall be calculated according to generally accepted methods such as those listed under Stormwater Management Performance Standards, General Standards.
    - b. Detention/retention requirements, including volume, routing, etc. for BMPs shall be calculated using commonly acceptable standard method(s).
    - c. Water quality calculations shall be determined by using the PA DEP Stormwater BMP Manual 2006 or current edition Worksheets 12 and 13 [or acceptable alternative method by the municipality].
  - 3. Expected project time schedule for the installation of all temporary and permanent stormwater control measures and devices. If the development is to be constructed in stages, the applicant must describe how stormwater facilities and BMPs will be

sequentially installed to manage stormwater runoff safely during each stage of development.

4. The effect of the project (in terms of runoff rate, volumes, and water quality) on surrounding properties and aquatic features and on any existing stormwater conveyance system that may be affected by the project.
  5. If appropriate, the narrative should provide justification as to why any preferred stormwater management techniques, such as LID and green infrastructure, as listed in this Ordinance, are not proposed for use. Refer to the PA DEP Stormwater BMP Manual 2006 or most recent edition for list of acceptable management techniques.
  6. Operation and maintenance program and responsible party(s) for permanent stormwater facilities and BMPs. Refer to Section VI of this ordinance.
- B. The stormwater management plan drawings shall be drawn to a scale of not less than 1 inch equals 100 feet. All sheets shall contain a title block with name and address of applicant and designer, scale, north arrow, legend and date of preparation.
1. *Existing and Proposed Features.* The plan shall show the following:
    - a. *Watershed Location.* Provide a key map (using USGS Topo maps) showing the location of the development site within the watershed(s) and watershed subarea(s). On all site drawings, show the boundaries of the watershed(s) and subarea(s) as they are located on the development site and identify watershed name(s) and subarea number(s). Refer to Appendix A Watershed Performance District Maps.
    - b. *Floodplain Boundaries.* Identify 100-year floodplains on the development site (as appropriate) based on the municipality Flood Insurance Study maps.
    - c. *Natural Features.* Show all bodies of water (natural or artificial), watercourses (permanent and intermittent), swales, wetlands and other natural drainage courses on the development site, or which will be affected by runoff from the development.
    - d. *Soils.* Provide an overlay showing soil types and boundaries within the development site (consult WCD, SCS and U.S. Geological Survey for information).
    - e. *Contours.* Show existing and final contours at intervals of 2 feet; in areas with slopes greater than 15 percent, 5-foot contour intervals may be used.
    - f. *Land Cover.* Show existing and final land cover classifications, including existing and proposed improvements, as necessary to support and illustrate the runoff calculations performed.
    - g. *Drainage Area Delineations.* Show the boundaries of the drainage areas and points of interest employed in the runoff calculations performed.
    - h. *Utilities and easements.* Show any existing utilities, stormwater management or drainage controls and/or structures, such as sanitary sewers, water, gas, electric, telecommunications, storm sewers, swales, culverts, and any easements, which are located on the development site, or which are off site but may be affected by runoff from the development.
  2. *Proposed Stormwater Facilities and BMPs.* All proposed stormwater runoff control

measures must be shown on the plan including methods for collecting, conveying and storing stormwater runoff onsite, which are to be used both during and after construction. Erosion and sedimentation controls shall be shown in accordance with applicable [Municipality] [and WCD] requirements. The plan shall provide information on the exact type, location, sizing, design and construction of all proposed facilities and relationship to the existing watershed drainage system.

- a. If the development is to be constructed in stages, the applicant must demonstrate that stormwater facilities will be installed to manage stormwater runoff safely during each stage of development.
  - b. A schedule for the installation of all temporary and permanent stormwater control measures and devices shall be included in the narrative and shown on the site plan.
  - c. Operation and maintenance program and responsible party(s) for permanent stormwater BMPs. Refer to Section VI of this ordinance.
3. *Easements, Rights of Way, Deed Restrictions.* BMPS and stormwater management facilities that provide control for more than one lot shall be located on a separate dedicated lot or in an easement. All existing and proposed easements for any BMPs and stormwater management facilities and controls for access, inspections, maintenance, repair, preservation and use shall be shown on the plan and, if required, dedicated to the entity, association or person required. The easement and the purpose for the same shall be set forth on the plan and in the agreement required by the Ordinance.

**§403. *Other Permits/Approvals.***

A list of any approvals/permits relative to stormwater management that will be required from other governmental agencies (e.g., Chapter 102 Erosion and Sedimentation Control, PennDOT HOP, Chapter 105 Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit from PA DEP) and anticipated dates of submission/receipt should be included with the stormwater plan submission. Copies of permit applications may be requested by the [Municipality] where they may be helpful for the plan review.

**§404. *Operation and Maintenance Plan.***

The application shall contain a proposed operation and maintenance plan (O&M) for all stormwater control facilities in accordance with the following and as described in Article VI of this ordinance:

- A. Identify the responsible party and their responsibilities as described in Article VI Section 601 (e.g., municipality, property owner, private corporation, homeowner's association or other entity).
- B. Include an operation and maintenance plan for all stormwater facilities, outlining the routine maintenance actions and schedules necessary to ensure proper operation of the stormwater control facilities as described in Article VI Section 602.
- C. [Submit any legal agreements required to implement the maintenance program and copies of the maintenance agreement as required by this Ordinance. Refer to Article VI Section 603.]

D. [Identify method of financing continuing operation and maintenance if the facility is to be owned by other than the [Municipality] or governmental agency. Refer to Article VI Section 604.]

**§405. [Financial Guarantees]**

[Submit financial guarantees in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance. Refer to the Appendix.]

**ARTICLE V Stormwater Management Plan Submission and Review Procedures.**

**§501. Preapplication Phase.**

- A. The Westmoreland County Integrated Water Resources Plan provides an online decision making tool to assist developers, designers, property owners in addressing all water resources during development and redevelopment and should be consulted. Refer to [www.paiwrp.com](http://www.paiwrp.com) for the decision-making tool and [www.westmorelandstormwater.org](http://www.westmorelandstormwater.org).
- B. Applicants should refer to the Westmoreland County Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP) located at [www.westmorelandstormwater.org](http://www.westmorelandstormwater.org), for mapping of impaired streams, riparian buffers and pollutant loading to determine appropriate BMPs to address sources of impairments.
- C. Before submitting the stormwater management plan, and any other plan required by a reviewing agency, applicants are urged to consult with the municipality, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development and Westmoreland Conservation District, and PennDOT where applicable, on the requirements for safely managing the development site in a manner consistent with the municipality ordinances, applicable watershed stormwater management plan and Federal and State requirements. These agencies may also be helpful in providing necessary data for the stormwater management plan.
- D. Applicants are encouraged to submit a sketch plan with a narrative description of the proposed stormwater management controls for general guidance and discussion with the municipality and other agencies.
- E. The pre-application phase is not mandatory; any review comments provided by the municipality or other agencies are advisory only and do not constitute any legally binding action on the part of the municipality or any County agency.

**§502. Stormwater Management Plan Submission and Review.**

- A. *Submission of Plans.* Stormwater management plan application shall be submitted with the preliminary and final subdivision/land development applications or if no subdivision or land development is involved, then with the application for development.

Copies of the SWM Site Plan shall be submitted to the following agencies as determined by [Municipality]:

- 1. [Two] copies to the municipality(ies).
  - 2. One copy to the municipal engineer (when applicable).
  - 3. One copy to the Westmoreland Conservation District (when applicable).
  - 4. One copy to the local Sanitary Authority (when applicable).
  - 5. One copy to the Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development. (if applicable)
  - 6. One copy to the Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety / local emergency management coordinator (when applicable)
  - 7. One copy to DEP (when applicable)
- B. *Notification of Affected Municipalities.* The municipality shall notify municipalities upstream and downstream of the development site which may be affected by the stormwater runoff and proposed controls for the site. Copies of the plans will be made available to the affected municipalities upon request. Comments received from any

affected municipalities will be considered by the [Municipality] engineer and County agencies in their reviews.

- C. *Review by [Municipality] Engineer [and Westmoreland Conservation District (WCD)].* Stormwater management plans shall be reviewed by the municipality engineer [and WCD]. BMPs shall be shown on all stormwater management plans and erosion and sedimentation control plans, as applicable. At its discretion, the municipality [and/or WCD] may also engage other specialists in hydrology or hydraulics to assist with the stormwater management plan review. [The WCD will review the plan for general compliance with the watershed plan standards and criteria and watershed-wide impacts and, where appropriate, may consult with adjacent municipalities and counties for their comments. If the WCD review identifies the improper application of the watershed standards and criteria or the possibility of harmful impacts downstream from the development site's proposed stormwater management system, the applicant and municipality engineer will be notified so that the necessary modifications can be made to promote safe stormwater management.]

The municipality [and the WCD] shall notify the applicant in writing within 45 days whether the SWM site plan is approved or disapproved. If the SWM site plan involves a subdivision and land development plan, the notification shall occur within 90 days, unless the applicant is notified that a longer notification period is provided by other statute regulation or ordinance. If modifications are required, the review period may be extended by the municipality [and the WCD], in order for the applicant to address inadequacies.

- D. A disapproved stormwater management plan may be resubmitted, with the revisions addressing the Municipality's [and/or WCD's] concerns, to the Municipality [and the WCD] in accordance with this article.
- E. *[Municipality] Engineer Review.* The municipality engineer shall approve or disapprove the stormwater management plan based on the requirements of the [Municipality] ordinances, the standards and criteria of the watershed plan, applicable State and Federal requirements and good engineering practice. The [Municipality] Engineer shall submit a written report, along with supporting documentation, stating the reasons for approval or disapproval.
- F. *Status of the Engineer's Determination.* The approval/disapproval of the site's stormwater management plan by the municipality engineer shall be submitted to the [municipality] [governing body] for final action. Final approval of the plan rests with the municipality.
- G. *Permits Required From Other Governmental Agencies.* Where the proposed development requires a permit from the Pennsylvania DEP, PennDOT, or an erosion/sedimentation permit or Chapter 105 permit from the Westmoreland Conservation District, then final stormwater management plan approval shall be conditional upon receipt of such permits. However, no building permit shall be issued, nor construction or development started, until the permits are received and copies filed with the municipality.
- H. Reviews by the Municipality [and WCD] may be subject to fees as outlined in Article VII section 706 of this Ordinance.

**§503.           *Status of Stormwater Management Plan after Approval.***

- A. Upon final stormwater management plan approval and receipt of all necessary permits, [financial guarantees and agreements,] the applicant may commence to install or implement the approved stormwater management plan, BMPs plan or erosion and sedimentation plan controls.
- B. If site development or building construction does not begin within [2] years of the date of final approval of the stormwater management plan, then before doing so, the applicant shall re-submit the stormwater management plan, BMPs plan or erosion or sedimentation plan to verify that no condition has changed on the property, adjacent to the site or within the watershed that would affect the feasibility or effectiveness of the previously approved stormwater management controls. Further, if for any reason development activities are suspended for [2] years or more, then the same requirement for re-submission of the stormwater management plan shall apply.

**§504.           *Modification of Stormwater Management Plan.***

If the request for a plan modification is initiated before construction begins, the stormwater management plan must be resubmitted and reviewed according to the procedures, contained in this ordinance.

A. If the request for a plan modification is initiated after construction is underway, the [Municipality] Engineer [and / or the WCD] shall have the authority to approve or disapprove the modification based on field conditions; provided:

- 1. The requested changes in stormwater controls do not result in any modifications to other approved municipality land use/development requirements (e.g., building setbacks, yards, etc.).
- 2. The performance standards in this Ordinance are met. Notification of the Engineer's [and / or WCD's] action shall be sent to the [municipality] [governing body] which may issue a stay of the plan modification within 5 days and require the permittee to re-submit the plan modification for full stormwater management plan review in accordance with this ordinance.

B. It shall be unlawful to, and no person shall, alter, replace, modify, landscape or remove, or otherwise adversely affect, any permanent stormwater management facilities, BMP controls, or any area within a stormwater easement or dedicated or designated area for stormwater facilities and BMPs required by an approved stormwater management plan, BMP operations and maintenance plan, or to allow the property to remain in a condition which does not conform to an approved stormwater management plan, BMP operations and maintenance plan, unless an exception is granted in writing by the municipality and/or approval is secured from all relevant agencies of the Commonwealth.

**§505.           *Inspection of Stormwater Management Facilities and BMPs.***

- A. The municipality engineer or a designated representative shall inspect the implementation, construction, condition, operation and maintenance of the temporary and permanent stormwater management system and controls for the development site. The municipality or a designated representative shall have the right to temporarily

- locate on any BMP in the municipality such devices as are necessary to conduct monitoring and/or sampling the discharge from such BMP.
- B. The permittee shall notify the [municipal] engineer [and the WCD] 48 hours in advance of the completion of the following key development phases:
    - 1. At the completion of preliminary site preparation including stripping of vegetation, stockpiling of topsoil and construction of temporary stormwater management control facilities.
    - 2. At the completion of rough grading but prior to placing topsoil, permanent drainage or other site development improvements and ground covers.
    - 3. During construction of the permanent stormwater facilities and BMPs at such times as specified by the municipality engineer.
    - 4. Completion of permanent stormwater management facilities and BMPs including established ground covers and plantings.
    - 5. Completion of final grading, vegetative control measures or other site restoration work done in accordance with the approved plan and permit.
  - C. The Municipality [and/or WCD] may conduct inspections during construction as it deems appropriate.
  - D. No work shall commence on any subsequent phase until the preceding one has been inspected and approved. If there are deficiencies in any phase, the municipality engineer [and/or WCD] shall issue a written description of the required corrections and stipulate the time by which they must be made.
  - E. If, during construction, the contractor or permittee identifies any site condition, such as subsurface soil conditions, alterations in surface or subsurface drainage, which could affect the feasibility of the approved stormwater facilities, or erosion and sedimentation controls he/she shall notify the municipality engineer [and/or WCD] within 24 hours of the discovery of such condition and request a field inspection. The municipality engineer [and/or WCD] shall determine if the condition requires a modification of the stormwater management plan, BMPs plan or erosion and sedimentation control plan.
  - F. In cases where stormwater facilities or erosion and sedimentation controls are to be installed in areas of landslide-prone soils or other special site conditions exist, the [Municipality] may require special precautions such as a geotechnical study, soil tests and core borings, full-time inspectors and/or similar measures. All costs of any such measures shall be borne by the permittee.

**§506. *Record Drawings, Completion Certificate, and Final Inspection***

- A. The developer shall be responsible for providing record drawings of all stormwater management facilities and BMPs as built and included in the approved Stormwater Management Plan. The record drawings and an explanation of any discrepancies with the construction plans shall be submitted to the Municipality [and/or WCD].
- B. The record drawing submission shall include a certification of completion signed by a qualified professional verifying that all permanent stormwater management facilities and BMPs have been constructed according to the approved plans and specifications. The latitude and longitude coordinates for all permanent stormwater management facilities and BMPs must also be submitted, at the central location of the BMPs. If any licensed qualified professionals contributed to the construction plans, then a licensed qualified professional must sign the completion certificate.

- C. After receipt of the completion certification by the Municipality, the Municipality [and/or WCD] may conduct a final inspection.

**ARTICLE VI                    Operation and Maintenance of Stormwater Facilities and BMPs**

**§601.                    *Operation and Maintenance Responsibilities.***

- A. The stormwater management plan for the development site shall contain an operation and maintenance plan prepared by the developer and approved by the [Municipality] [and/or WCD]. The operation and maintenance plan shall outline the responsible party(ies) and required routine maintenance actions and schedules necessary to insure proper operation of the stormwater control facility(s).
- B. The stormwater management plan for the development site shall establish responsibilities for the continuing operation and maintenance (O&M) of all stormwater facilities and BMPs, consistent with the following:
  - 1. If a development consists of structures or lots which are to be separately owned and in which streets, sewers and other public improvements are to be dedicated to the municipality, stormwater facilities and BMPs should also be dedicated to and maintained by the municipality, except for those individual on-lot facilities and BMPs for privately owned structures.
  - 2. If a development site is to be held in single ownership or if sewers and other public improvements are to be privately owned, operated and maintained, then the operation and maintenance of stormwater facilities and BMPs should be the responsibility of the owner or private management entity.
  - 3. Person(s) responsible for operation and maintenance of stormwater facilities and BMPs shall be named with contact information provided.
- C. The [municipality] [governing body], upon recommendation of the municipality Engineer, shall make the final determination on the continuing maintenance responsibilities prior to final approval of the stormwater management plan. The [municipality] [governing body] reserves the right to accept the ownership and operating responsibility for any or all of the stormwater management facilities and BMPs.
- D. If the development site involves land located in more than one municipality, then the plan shall be reviewed by the municipality [and/or Conservation District] to determine if all activities both within and without the municipality meets the requirements of this Ordinance.
- E. Stormwater facilities and BMPs shall be inspected by the owner/responsible party named in the O&M plan on a [regular] basis as determined by the municipality or as approved in the O&M plan. Inspections may include photographs, written reports, measured drawings as necessary to document conditions of the facility(s) and the report shall be provided to the municipality [as requested.]

**§602.                    *Stormwater Facility and BMP Operations and Maintenance Plan Requirements.***

- A. No regulated development activities within the municipality will be considered complete until approval by the municipality of BMP operations and maintenance plan

which describes how the permanent (i.e., post-construction) stormwater facilities and BMPs will be properly operated and maintained.

- B. The following items shall be included in the BMP operations and maintenance plan:
1. Map(s) of the project area, in a form that meets the requirements for recording at the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Westmoreland County, refer to the <http://www.wcdeeds.us/dts/> . The contents of the maps(s) shall include, but not be limited to:
    - a. Ownership and operation and maintenance responsibilities of stormwater facilities and BMPs.
    - b. Clear identification of the location and nature of permanent stormwater facilities and BMPs.
    - c. The location of the project site relative to highways, municipality boundaries or other identifiable landmarks.
    - d. Existing and final contours at intervals of 2 feet are required if the general slope of the site is less than 15 percent, and at vertical intervals of 5 feet if the general slope is equal to or greater than 15 percent.
    - e. Existing streams, lakes, ponds, or other bodies of water within the project site area.
    - f. Other physical features including flood hazard boundaries, sinkholes, streams, existing drainage courses, and areas of natural vegetation to be preserved.
    - g. The locations of all existing and proposed utilities, sanitary sewers, and water lines within 50 feet of property lines of the project site.
    - h. Proposed final changes to the land surface and vegetative cover, including the type and amount of impervious area that would be added.
    - i. Proposed final structures, roads, paved areas, and buildings.
    - j. A 15-foot wide access easement around all stormwater facilities and BMPs that would provide ingress to and egress from a public right-of-way.
  2. A description of how each permanent stormwater facilities and BMPs will be operated and maintained, and the identity of the person(s) responsible for operations and maintenance.
  3. The name of the project site, the name and address of the owner of the property, and the name of the individual or firm preparing the plan.
  4. A statement, signed by the landowner, acknowledging that the stormwater facilities and BMPs are fixtures that can be altered or removed only after approval by the municipality.
- C. Each stormwater facility and BMP shall be recorded with the County as permanent real estate appurtenances, and as deed restrictions or conservation easements that run with the land. Prior to final approval of the stormwater plan the property owner shall sign and record an O&M agreement for those facilities and BMPs. Refer to Appendix B of this ordinance.
- D. If the owner fails, refuses or neglects to maintain any stormwater facility and/or BMP, the municipality reserves the right to conduct maintenance work and charge and assess the owner [any and all costs, expenses incurred and fees] set by the municipality. The

municipality reserves the right to take enforcement actions for failure to perform required O&M. Refer to article VII of this ordinance.

- E. [A financial guarantee for timely installation and proper construction of stormwater facilities and BMPs shall be as specified in Article VII of this ordinance.]

**§603. [Operations and Maintenance Agreement for Privately Owned Stormwater Facilities and BMPs.]**

- A. Prior to final approval of the site's stormwater management plan the property owner shall sign and record a maintenance agreement covering all stormwater facilities and BMPs which are to be privately owned. The agreement (refer to Appendix B) shall stipulate that:
1. The owner, successors and assigns shall maintain all facilities in accordance with the approved maintenance schedule and shall keep all facilities in a safe and functional manner and consistent with the surrounding natural area.
  2. The owner, successors and assigns shall convey to the municipality easements and/or rights-of-way to assure access for periodic inspections by the municipality and maintenance, if required.
  3. The owner, successors and assigns shall keep on file with the municipality the name, address and telephone number of the person or company responsible for maintenance activities; and in the event of a change, new information will be submitted to the municipality within 10 days of the change.
  4. If the owner, successors and assigns fails to maintain the stormwater facilities and BMPs following due notice by the municipality to correct the problem(s), the municipality may perform the necessary maintenance work or corrective work and the owner shall reimburse the municipality for all costs.
- B. Other items may be included in the agreement where determined necessary to guarantee the satisfactory inspection and maintenance of all stormwater facilities and BMPs for a [10] year period. The maintenance agreement shall be subject to the review and approval of the municipality Solicitor and the [municipality] [governing body] and shall be in a form such as may be recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds in the County in which the facility is located.
- C. The property owner shall sign an operations and maintenance agreement with the municipality covering all stormwater facilities and BMPs that are to be privately owned. The agreement shall be substantially the same as the agreement in the Appendix of this Ordinance.

**§604. [ [Municipality] Stormwater Facility and BMP Operation and Maintenance Fund. ]**

- A. Persons installing stormwater facilities or BMPs shall be required to pay a specified amount to the municipality stormwater facilities and BMPs fund to help defray costs of periodic inspections and maintenance expenses. The amount of the deposit shall be determined as follows:

1. If the stormwater facilities and/or BMPs are to be privately owned and maintained, the deposit shall cover the cost of periodic inspections performed by the municipality for a period of 10 years, as estimated by the municipality Engineer. After that period of time, inspections will be performed at the expense of the municipality.

2. If the stormwater facilities and/or BMPs are to be accepted, owned and maintained by the municipality, the deposit shall cover the estimated costs for maintenance and inspections for 10 years. The municipality Engineer will establish the estimated costs utilizing information submitted by the applicant.

3. The amount of the deposit to the fund shall be converted to present worth of the annual series values. The municipality engineer shall determine the present worth equivalents which shall be subject to the approval of the [governing body] of the [municipality].

- B. If stormwater facilities and BMPs are proposed that also serves as a recreation facility (e.g., ball field, lake), the municipality may reduce or waive the amount of the maintenance fund deposit based upon the value of the land for public recreation purposes, or the municipality may accept the maintenance fund deposit on behalf of the agency managing the recreation resource and make said fees available to the agency's maintenance department.
- C. If at some future time stormwater facilities and BMPs (whether publicly or privately owned) are eliminated due to the installation of storm sewers or other stormwater facilities and BMPs, the unused portion of the maintenance fund deposit will be applied to the cost of abandoning the facility and connecting to the storm sewer system or other facility. Any amount of the deposit remaining after costs of abandonment are paid will be returned to the depositor.

**ARTICLE VII**      **[Fees, Financial Guarantees and Dedication of Public Improvements]**

**§701.**            *Guarantee of Completion.*

A. A completion guarantee or financial security in the form of a bond, cash deposit, cashier's check or other negotiable securities acceptable to the municipality shall provide for, and secure to the municipality, the completion of any improvements which may be required on or before the date fixed in the formal action of approval or accompanying agreement for completion of the improvements. The guarantee or security shall cover any and all stormwater management facilities, BMPs, erosion and sedimentation controls and other required improvements (collectively, "improvements") and shall be equal to 110% of the cost of completion estimated as of 90 days following the date scheduled for completion by the developer. Annually the municipality may adjust the amount of financial security by comparing the actual cost of the improvements which have been completed and the estimated cost for the completion of the remaining improvements as of the expiration of the 90<sup>th</sup> day after either the original date scheduled for completion or a rescheduled date of completion. Subsequent to said adjustment, the municipality may require the developer to post additional security in order to assure that the financial security equals said 110%. Any additional security shall be posted by the developer in accordance with this subsection.

B. The amount of the guarantee or financial security required shall be determined utilizing the provisions of [§509 (g) of the Municipalities Planning Code].

**§702.**            *Release of Completion Guarantee.*

The completion guarantee or financial security shall be returned or released upon written certification by the municipality Engineer or a designated agent that improvements and facilities have been installed and completed in accordance with the approved plan and specifications. The procedures for requesting and obtaining a release of the completion guarantee shall be [in a manner prescribed by the §510 of the Municipalities Planning Code].

**§703.**            *Default of Completion Guarantee.*

If improvements are not installed in accordance with the approved final plans, the [governing body] of the [municipality] may enforce any corporate bond or any security by appropriate legal and equitable remedies. If proceeds of such bond or other security are insufficient to pay the cost of installing or making repairs or corrections to all the improvements covered by said security, the [municipality] [governing body] may at its option install part of such improvements in all or part of the development and may institute appropriate legal or equitable action to recover the monies necessary to complete the remainder of the improvements. All proceeds, whether resulting from the security or from any legal or equitable action brought against the developer, or both, shall be used solely for the installation of the improvements covered by such security and not for any other municipality purpose.

**§704.**            *Dedication of Public Improvements.*

A. When streets, sanitary sewers, stormwater management facilities, BMPs, erosion and sedimentation controls or other required improvements in the development have

been completed in accordance with the final plans, such improvements shall be deemed private until such time as they have been offered for dedication to the [Municipality] and accepted by separate ordinance or resolution or until they have been condemned for use as a public facility. The municipality shall be under no obligation to accept such facilities or controls unless and until the municipality so determines that it is in the best interest of the municipality to do so.

- B. Prior to acceptance of any improvements or facilities, the municipality engineer shall inspect the same to ensure that the same are constructed in accordance with the approved plans and are functioning properly.
- C. The owner shall submit as-built plans for all facilities proposed for dedication.

**§705.           *Maintenance Guarantee.***

Prior to acceptance of any improvements or facilities, the applicant shall provide financial security to secure the structural integrity and functioning of the improvements. The security shall:

- A. Be in the form of a bond, cash, cashier's check or other negotiable securities acceptable to the municipality.
- B. Be for a term of 18 months.
- C. Be in an amount equal to 15 percent of the actual cost of the improvements and facilities so dedicated.

**§706.           *Fee Schedule.***

The [municipality] [governing body] may adopt by resolution, from time to time, a reasonable schedule of fees to cover the cost of pre-submitted and pre-construction meetings, plan reviews, inspections and other activities necessary to administer, monitor and enforce the provisions of this Ordinance. All fees shall be set in accordance with the applicable provisions of [the Municipalities Planning Code, 53 P.S. §10101 *et seq.*,] and any dispute over the fee amount shall be resolved in the manner prescribed by [the Municipalities Planning Code.]

## ARTICLE VIII Enforcement Procedures and Remedies.

### §801. *Right of Entry.*

Upon presentation of proper credentials, duly authorized representatives of the [Municipality] may enter at reasonable times upon any property to inspect, investigate or ascertain the condition of the subject property in regard to an aspect related to stormwater management regulated by this Ordinance. Prohibitions and unreasonable delays in allowing the municipality access to a stormwater management facility pursuant to this Ordinance is a violation of this Ordinance. The failure of any person or entity to grant entry or to undertake any action which impedes or prevents entry is prohibited and constitutes a violation of this Ordinance. Unless in the event of an emergency, the municipality shall notify the property owner and/or developer within twenty-four hours prior to entry.

### §802. *Enforcement Generally.* [requires municipal solicitor review]

- A. It shall be unlawful for a person to undertake any regulated activity except as provided in an approved SWM Site Plan, unless specifically exempted in Article III Section 303 of this Ordinance.
- B. It shall be unlawful to alter any BMPs, facilities or structures that were installed under the Ordinance without written approval of the municipality.
- C. In the event that the applicant, developer, owner or his/her agent fails to comply with the requirements of this Ordinance or fails to conform to the requirements of any permit a written notice of violation shall be issued. Such notification shall set forth the nature of the violation(s) and establish a time limit for correction of the violation(s). Upon failure to comply within the time specified, unless otherwise extended by the municipality, the applicant, developer, owner or his/her agent shall be subject to the enforcement remedies of this Ordinance. Such notice may require without limitation:
  1. Whenever the municipality finds that a person has violated a prohibition or failed to meet a requirement of this Ordinance, the municipality may order compliance by written notice to the responsible person. Such notice may require without limitation, any or all of the following:
    - a. The performance of monitoring, analyses, and reporting.
    - b. The elimination of prohibited connections or discharges.
    - c. Cessation of any violating discharges, practices, or operations.
    - d. The abatement or remediation of stormwater pollution or contamination hazards and the restoration of any affected property.
    - e. Payment of a fine to cover administrative and remediation costs.
    - f. The implementation of stormwater management measures or facilities.
    - g. Operation and maintenance of stormwater management measures and/or facilities
    - h. Assessment and payment of any and all costs and expenses relative to corrective measures taken or to be taken and reasonable costs, expenses and attorney fees incurred by the municipality in and related to enforcement and collection proceedings.

2. Such notification shall set forth the nature of the violation(s) and establish a time limit for correction of these violations(s). Said notice may further advise that, if applicable, should the violator fail to take the required action within the established deadline, the work will be done by the municipality or designee and the expense thereof shall be charged to the violator.

3. Failure to comply within the time specified shall also subject such person to the penalty provisions of this Ordinance. All such penalties shall be deemed cumulative and shall not prevent the municipality from pursuing any and all other remedies available in law or equity.

**§803. *Suspension and Revocation***

- A. Any approval or permit issued by the Municipality pursuant to this Ordinance may be suspended or revoked for:
  - 1. Non-compliance with or failure to implement any provision of the approved SWM Site Plan or O&M Agreement.
  - 2. A violation of any provision of this Ordinance or any other applicable law, ordinance, rule, or regulation related to the Regulated Activity.
  - 3. The creation of any condition or the commission of any act during the Regulated Activity which constitutes or creates a hazard, nuisance, pollution, or endangers the life or property of others.
- B. A suspended approval may be reinstated by the Municipality when:
  - 1. The Municipality has inspected and approved the corrections to the violations that caused the suspension.
  - 2. The Municipality is satisfied that the violation has been corrected.
- C. An approval that has been revoked by the municipality cannot be reinstated. The applicant may apply for a new approval under the provisions of this Ordinance.
- D. If a violation causes no immediate danger to life, public health, or property, at its sole discretion, the Municipality may provide a limited time period for the owner to correct the violation. In these cases, the Municipality may provide the owner, or the owner's designee, with a written notice of the violation and the time period allowed for the owner to correct the violation. If the owner does not correct the violation within the allowed time period, the municipality may revoke or suspend any, or all, applicable approvals and permits pertaining to any provision of this Ordinance.

**§804. *Preventative Remedies.* [requires municipal solicitor review]**

- A. In addition to other remedies, the municipality may institute and maintain appropriate actions by law or in equity to restrain, correct or abate a violation, to prevent unlawful construction, to recover damages and to prevent illegal occupancy of a building or premises.
- B. In accordance with the Municipalities Planning Code, 53 P.S. §10101 *et seq.*, the municipality may refuse to issue any permit or grant approval to further improve or develop any property which has been developed in violation of this Ordinance.

**§805.           *Violations and Penalties.*** [requires municipal solicitor review]

- A. Any person who has violated or knowingly permitted the violation of the provisions of this Ordinance or has refused, neglected or failed to perform any of the actions required pursuant to the Notice set forth in 2.A. above, upon conviction thereof in an action brought before a magisterial district judge in the manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be guilty of a summary offense, and shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 for each violation, plus costs, together with reasonable attorney fees; and, in default or failure of full and timely payment of such fine, costs and fees, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed ninety (90) days or to a term of imprisonment to the extent permitted by law for the punishment of violations of summary offenses, whichever is less. Each day that a violation of this Ordinance continues or each Section of this Ordinance which shall be found to have been violated shall constitute a separate offense. No judgment shall commence or be imposed, levied or be payable until the date of the determination of a violation by the magisterial district judge. Each day that a violation of this Ordinance continues or each Section of this Ordinance which shall be found to have been violated shall constitute a separate offense.
- B. If the defendant neither pays nor timely appeals the judgment, the [Municipality] may enforce the judgment pursuant to applicable rules of civil procedure.
- C. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation unless the magisterial district judge further determines that there was a good faith basis for the person violating this Ordinance to have believed that there was no such violation. In such case there shall be deemed to have been only one such violation until the fifth day following the date of the district justice's determination of the violation; thereafter each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation.
- D. All judgments, costs and reasonable attorney fees collected for the violation of this Ordinance shall be paid over to the municipality.
- E. The court of common pleas, upon petition, may grant an order of stay, upon cause shown, tolling the per diem fine pending a final adjudication of the violation and judgment.
- F. Nothing contained in this Section shall be construed or interpreted to grant to any person or entity other than the municipality, the right to commence any action for enforcement pursuant to this Section.
- G. Each day that a violation of any provision of this Ordinance shall constitute a separate violation and be deemed a public nuisance.

**§806.           *Additional Remedies.*** [requires municipal solicitor review]

In addition to the above remedies, the municipality may also seek the remedies and penalties under applicable Pennsylvania statutes, or regulations adopted pursuant thereto including, but not limited to, the Stormwater Management Act, 32 P.S. §§693.1 *et seq.*, and the erosion and sedimentation regulations, 25 Pa.Code, Chapter 102. Any activity conducted in violation of this

Ordinance or any Pennsylvania approved watershed stormwater management plan may be declared a public nuisance by the municipality and abatable as such.

**§807. Appeals.** [requires municipal solicitor review<sup>1</sup>]

A. Appeals.

1. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Municipality or any of its authorized persons or agencies, may appeal in writing said decision to the [governing body] within thirty (30) days of any decision. Any appeal must be filed with the [governing body] If a decision appealed is from an authorized person or agency of the Municipality, a copy of the written appeal must be filed with such person or agency by such appellant within thirty (30) days of such decision.
2. The appellant shall pay to the Municipality at the time of filing the appeal, any and all fees and charges as set forth in a Resolution of the Municipality.

B. Procedure. Any Appeal filed pursuant to this section shall be governed by the Local Agency Law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (2 Pa. C.S.A. §105, specifically 2 Pa. C.S.A. §551-§555).

C. Hearing. The [governing body] shall schedule a hearing within sixty (60) days of receipt of said Appeal. Written notice of the hearing shall be given to the party filing the Appeal and any authorized person or agency of the Municipality involved, not less than fifteen (15) days prior to said hearing.

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<sup>1</sup> As a comment to the municipality and municipal solicitor, please review the following: A Municipality without a Zoning Ordinance may use the language in the model ordinance concerning appeals. A Municipality with a Zoning Ordinance would be required to comply with the following sections of the MCP. Section 909.1. of the MPC, entitled "Jurisdiction", provides that

(a) The zoning hearing board shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and render final adjudications in the following matters:

(9) Appeals from the determination of the zoning officer or municipal engineer in the administration of any land use ordinance or provision thereof with reference to sedimentation and erosion control and storm water management insofar as the same relate to development not involving Article V or VII applications.

(Meaning that the Zoning Hearing Board's jurisdiction on E&S and SWM matters must relate to the Official Map of the municipality (found in Article IV of the MPC) or its Zoning Ordinance (found in Article VI of the MPC).)

Section 901.1(b).6 of the MPC specifies that the governing body or the planning commission, where designated, shall have exclusive jurisdiction to render final adjudications from the determination of the zoning officer or the municipal engineer in the administration of any land use ordinance or provisions thereof with reference to sedimentation and erosion control and stormwater management with respect to MPC Articles V (Subdivision and Land Development) and VII (Planned Residential Development).

D. Hearing Procedure.

1. All testimony may be stenographically recorded and a full and complete record be kept of the proceedings. In the event all testimony is not stenographically recorded and a full and complete record of the proceedings is not provided by the local agency, such testimony shall be stenographically recorded and a full and complete record of the proceedings and shall be kept at the request of any party agreeing to pay the costs thereof.
2. The [governing body] shall not be bound by technical rules of the evidence at the aforesaid hearing, and all relevant evidence of reasonably probative value may be received. Reasonable examination and cross-examination shall be permitted.

E. Adjudication.

The adjudication of the [governing body] shall be in writing, shall contain findings and the reasons for the adjudication, and shall be served upon all parties to the Appeal or their counsel personally, or by mail.

F. Appeal from Adverse Adjudication.

Pursuant to 2 Pa. C.S.A. Section 751 et seq. any person aggrieved by the adjudication of [governing body] who has a direct interest in such adjudication shall have the right to appeal therefrom to the Court vested with jurisdiction of such appeals by or pursuant to Title 42 (Relating to Judiciary and Judicial Procedure).

## REFERENCES

1. U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). *National Engineering Handbook*. Part 630: Hydrology, 1969-2001. Originally published as the *National Engineering Handbook*, Section 4: Hydrology. Available from the NRCS online at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>.
2. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. 1986. *Technical Release 55: Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds*, 2nd Edition. Washington, D.C.
3. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. No. 363-0300-002 (December 2006), as amended and updated. *Pennsylvania Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual*. Harrisburg, PA.
4. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. No. 363-2134-008 (March 31, 2012), as amended and updated. *Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Program Manual*. Harrisburg, PA.
5. U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, Hydrometeorological Design Studies Center. 2004-2006. *Precipitation-Frequency Atlas of the United States, Atlas 14*, Volume 2, Version 3.0, Silver Spring, Maryland. Internet address: <http://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds/>.
6. PennDOT **Publication 408 – Construction Specifications, Publication 584 - Drainage Manual** current editions.

**Appendix A** Stormwater Management Performance Districts (TBD)

**Appendix B** Example: Operation and Maintenance Agreement [requires municipal solicitor review]

**Appendix C** Small Project Stormwater Management Site Plan

**Appendix D** Stormwater Management Plan Checklist

[**Appendix E** Fees, Financial Guarantees - TBD by municipality]