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West Virginia Stormwater Program Assessment

Project No. WV – 126

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\$ Cost-Share
\$ Total Value

Project Duration: 5/25/2006 – 10/24/2008

Recipient: West Virginia University

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Project Description: West Virginia's 33 municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) are located across the entire state. Most MS4s are small cities and towns; others include the state Division of Highways and a federal penitentiary. Storm water discharges from these MS4s often contain high levels of sediment, bacteria, nutrients, and metals. MS4 permits are designed to reduce these pollutants.

The goal of this project is to help MS4s better implement their permits, thereby reducing storm water pollution in a more cost-effective manner. To accomplish this goal, project objectives included: (1) Collecting information through file research, interviews, and surveys to identify obstacles, best practices, and opportunities related to MS4 permit implementation across West Virginia; and (2) Disseminating lessons learned to MS4 communities and their consultants, WVDEP, and other interested parties.

Based on the background research and survey results, project partners analyzed the data and compiled a final report which included an analysis of the information collected, a statistical analysis of the survey results, and other information collected through the entire project period. The report provided recommendations on how MS4s can better implement their permits and provided quantitative conclusions about which measurable goals are being met, using which methods, and partnering with which organizations. Successful case studies were highlighted, obstacles and challenges noted including suggestions for overcoming them.

Project findings were disseminated in a number of ways including reports distributed to key staff at WVDEP and USEPA, to all MS4s in the state and a PDF version has been posted online. A PowerPoint presentation was created and used to present findings at strategic opportunities such as the state Municipal Water Quality Association and WVDEP storm water workshops. In addition, project partners presented results at regional conferences to provide information to out-of-state regulators and MS4s, particularly those from small rural states that may face many similar obstacles and opportunities.

Project Significance: This systematic assessment will help small communities learn from others to more cost-effectively reduce storm water pollution, and will help WVDEP meet its goal of efficiently managing its MS4 program.