

Water Policy Questions

Thank you to Terry Gibb for her answers.

Question: Do any of today's speakers have recommendations for communities with stormwater problems that local governments do not have expertise in?

Answer: Communities should talk with their county Drain /Water Resources /Public Works Commissioner for advice. If the community is located in SE Michigan and in the SEMCOG area, they have resources on stormwater management that could help. Both of these entities also know about any grants that might be available to assist with stormwater issues. The community might also contact EGLE directly. They have a water division. EGKE also has an office in Warren as well as main office in Lansing. Last do some research to find other communities that may have similar issues and contact them to see how they have resolved them. If they have not fixed them, they may be a good partner to share resources to get more done with less cost. In addition, multi-jurisdictional grant applications may get more consideration

Question: What is the most effective way for municipalities to approach/partner with County Drain Commissioners/Watershed Councils regarding partnerships?

Answer: The community needs to contact these groups with a list of water issues that they are trying to fix. Not every group can do everything so it may take talking to several groups to get all the pieces in place. Another option is to schedule a meeting with all potential partners to discuss the issues and what resources each has available. This will probably lead to the addition of other groups/organizations that were not originally thought of.

Question: How can small communities prioritize their water quality/policy initiatives? There is so much to do how can we tackle these issues in a useful and thoughtful way?

Answer: Again, talking with other groups, organizations, county and state departments is a good start. There are also private companies that can be hired as consultants to develop water quality plans.

Question: Management plan for septic system to educate local community?

Answer: MSUE has a number of educational resources available on our web page. There is also a link to EPA's Septic Smart Week, which also has resources and promotional materials to highlight septic education. Communities can contact their county health department to see if they have staff available to do educational presentations which would give participants specific local information since as was mentioned during the unit, each county has own rules and requirements.

Question: How do you square farm runoff issues with MI Right to farm?

Answer: Should contact local Drain Commissioner or MDARD