Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO)

American Society of Civil Engineers
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Presented by:
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WMO Objective
Establish uniform, minimum, and comprehensive countywide stormwater management regulations

Enabling Legislation
Watershed Management Ordinance
“Stormwater management in Cook County shall be under the general supervision of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.”
“The District may prescribe by ordinance reasonable rules and regulations for floodplain and stormwater management . . . in Cook County.”

Public Act 093-1049
## WMO Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Sewer Permit Ordinance detention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Public Act 093-1049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>WMO development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Public review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Public comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Economic Impact Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>WMO redraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 2013</td>
<td>WMO adoption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1, 2014</td>
<td>WMO effective date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sewer Permit Ordinance

- Sanitary Sewers
- Stormwater Detention
  - TP-40 Rainfall Data
  - Modified Rational Method

Watershed Management Ordinance

- Sanitary Sewers
- Stormwater Detention
  - Bulletin-70 Rainfall Data
  - Flat Release Rate
  - Hydrograph Method
- Volume Control
- Erosion & Sediment
- Flood Protection Areas
  - Floodplain
  - Floodway
  - Isolated Wetlands
  - Riparian Areas
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article 2</td>
<td>Applicability and General Provisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 3</td>
<td>Watershed Management Permit Requirements and Submittals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 4</td>
<td>Requirements for Erosion and Sediment Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 5</td>
<td>Requirements for Stormwater Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 6</td>
<td>Requirements for Flood Protection Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 7</td>
<td>Requirements for Sewer Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 9</td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 10</td>
<td>Inspection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 14</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Permit Forms

- **Current Permit Schedules**
  - Schedule A – Project Summary
  - Schedule B – Sewer Summary
  - Schedule C – Sewer Connections
  - Schedule D – Detention
  - Schedule E – Lift Station / Force Main
  - Schedule F – Characteristics of Waste Discharge
  - Schedule G – Treatment / Pretreatment Facilities
  - Schedule K – Affidavit of Disclosure of Property Interests
  - Exhibit A – Current Survey of Property Interests

- **New Permit Schedules**
  - Schedule H – Hazard Areas (Floodplain/Floodway/Riparian)
  - Schedule O – Outfalls, Direct Connections, District Property
  - Schedule P – Erosion Control
  - Schedule R – Recording and Maintenance
  - Schedule W – Wetlands and Buffer Areas
Authorized Municipalities

- Local administration of WMO provisions
  - Authorized (201.1)
  - District (201.2)
- Letter of Intent
  - Legal opinion
  - Verified financial statement
  - Implementation plan
  - Schedule of permit fees
  - Combined sewer exhibit
- Adoption of WMO by reference
- Intergovernmental agreement
Existing Development Plans List

- District compile list before May 1, 2014
- Municipality submits projects
  - Form
  - Preliminary Site plan
  - Documentation of preliminary approval from governing municipality
- Subject to legacy Sewer Permit Ordinance
  - Must apply for permit before May 1, 2015
  - 3 years to complete the project
- List Expires May 1, 2015
Multi-County Municipalities

- May adopt adjacent county stormwater ordinance
- Process
  - Letter of intent
  - Adoption of adjacent county ordinance
  - Intergovernmental Agreement
- Permits
  - Municipality issues permits for activities in Section 201.1
  - District issues permits for activities in Section 201.2
Do I need a WMO Permit... ... Even Here?

Permit Applicability §201, Table 1

- Development
  - > 0.5 Disturbed Area

- Flood Protection Areas
  - Floodplain, Wetlands, Riparian etc.

- Qualified Sewer Construction

- District Impacts
  - TARP / Interceptors
  - Waterway Outfalls
  - Lake Michigan District Property

Color Code:
- Cook County, Chicago
- District Corporate Limits, Chicago
- Cook County including Chicago
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development Type</th>
<th>§502</th>
<th>§503</th>
<th>§504</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(See Appendix A for definitions)</td>
<td>Runoff</td>
<td>Volume Control</td>
<td>Detention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-Family Home</td>
<td>Exempt</td>
<td>Exempt</td>
<td>Exempt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Subdivision</td>
<td>Parcels ≥ 1 acre</td>
<td>Parcels ≥ 1 acre</td>
<td>Parcels ≥ 5 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Family Residential</td>
<td>Parcels ≥ 0.5 acre</td>
<td>Parcels ≥ 0.5 acre</td>
<td>Parcels ≥ 3 acres †</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Residential</td>
<td>Parcels ≥ 0.5 acre</td>
<td>Parcels ≥ 0.5 acre</td>
<td>Parcels ≥ 3 acres †</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right-of-Way</td>
<td>New Impervious Area ≥ 1 acre</td>
<td>New Impervious Area ≥ 1 acre †</td>
<td>New Impervious Area ≥ 1 acre †</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Parcels ≥ 0.5 acre</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Site stormwater** management requirements are not required for maintenance activities as defined in Appendix A.

2. Requirements are applicable when a Watershed Management Permit is required under §201 of this Ordinance.

† Where practicable.

‡ Starting the effective date of this Ordinance, any new development on the parcel that totals either individually or in the aggregate to more than one-half (0.5) of an acre.
FLOW CHARTS

ARTICLE 3: SWM REQUIREMENTS FOR SITES SUBJECT TO LEGACY SEWER PERMIT DEVELOPMENT & REDEVELOPMENT
Under the Current SPO
MWRD Involvement in Project

- Design Project
- Apply for MWRD Permit
- Mobilize
- Obtain Permit
- Substantial Completion
- MWRD Inspect
- Occupancy

[Visual diagram showing the process with arrows and icons representing each step]
Under the Current SPO
MWRD Involvement in Project (expedited)

Design Project  Mobilize  Substantial Completion  Apply for MWRD Permit  MWRD Inspect  Obtain Permit  Occupancy

$\$
Under the Coming WMO
MWRD Involvement in Project

- Design Project
- Apply for MWRD Permit
- Obtain Permit
- Mobilize
  - MWRD Erosion Inspection
- Sewer Work
  - MWRD Inspect
- Substantial Completion
  - MWRD Inspect
- Occupancy

Money symbol ($$)
Frequently Asked ‘Key’ Questions

✧ Is the WMO really effective May 1, 2014?
  Yes

✧ How do I get on the existing development plans list, aka the ‘grandfather’ list? When is it due?
  Contact your municipality or township, List due by 5/1/14

✧ When will WMO training be provided?
  Third and fourth week of April

✧ How long will it take to obtain a WMO permit?
  That depends on what is submitted…
  Initial submittal response : 15 working days / 30 for complicated
  10 working days for resubmittal
Frequently Asked ‘Key’ Questions

✧ Is there a deadline to submit a letter of intent to become an authorized municipality?
   There is no deadline

✧ Will the District’s inundation maps be used to establish the FPE?
   No, refer to FEMA regulatory floodplain maps (FPE = BFE + 2’)

✧ How do I provide detention according to the new WMO standards in a high density downtown area?
   Detention trading is a final option, but lots of flexibility

✧ When will the snow melt and this record breaking winter end?
   May 1, 2014
WMO Compliance Flexibility

- Full credit for volume control
- Trading
- Phased release rates
- Existing development plans list
- Legacy development / redevelopment allowance
- Authorized municipalities
- Multi-county municipalities
- Non-qualified development
- Marginal increase in required volume
- Streamlined, practical permit review
Final Adopted WMO - October 3, 2013

Please click here to view the adopted WMO document dated October 3, 2013.

After hosting four public meetings and a recent study session, on October 3, 2013 the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the Cook County Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO). The WMO was adopted with an effective date of May 1st, 2014.

The meetings held this summer offered the public the opportunity to voice their opinion regarding the proposed ordinance. The purpose of the WMO is to establish uniform stormwater management regulations for Cook County in order to prevent future commercial, municipal, and residential development and redevelopment projects from exacerbating flooding.

Paved roads, parking lots, walkways, and buildings make cities livable, but they also reduce the amount of land on which water can be absorbed and can lead to increased flooding without sufficient regulation.

2014 Draft Technical Guidance Manual (TGM)

Other Resources

Watershed Management Ordinance: Short Summary

Authorized Municipalities

Existing Development Plans List

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

WMO Advisory Committee Resource Page

If you have any questions about the WMO or EIS, contact Mr. John Murray at (312) 751-7918 or john.murray@mwrdd.org.
WMO Prospective Schedule

Early 2014  Technical Guidance Manual Development
April 2014  Training
May 1, 2014  WMO effective date
Acknowledgments

- MWRD Board of Commissioners
- WMO Advisory Committee
- Stakeholders
- MWRD Law Department
- Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.
Thank you
Questions & Discussion

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