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PRESS RELEASE

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<u>Chair</u> Daria Golazeski Town of Union

Counties Broome County Tioga County

Municipalities

Town of Binghamton
Town of Chenango
Town of Conklin
Town of Dickinson
Town of Fenton
Town of Kirkwood
Town of Owego
Town of Union
Town of Vestal
City of Binghamton
Village of Endicott
Village of Port
Dickinson

Partners Broome County SWCD Tioga County SWCD NYS DOT Region 9

BROOME-TIOGA STORMWATER COALITION TO REPORT ON STORMWATER ACTIVITIES FOR 2010-2011

Where does rainwater end up that flows down into storm drains lining our roads? How is this stormwater runoff connected to the quality of our drinking water? Educating the public on this important issue is one goal of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program. On Wednesday May 25th, the Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition invites all those interested to come hear and comment on the Coalition's progress on meeting requirements designed to identify, control and reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff from rain events. This is important because stormwater runoff from rain events and water from snow melt drains into the Susquehanna River and the aquifer (ground water) that lies underneath, which is the drinking water source for all municipally operated water systems as well as private wells in Broome and Tioga counties. In most of the Greater Binghamton area, storm sewer infrastructure (storm drains connected by underground pipes), separate from sanitary sewer, conveys stormwater from our roads and discharges water eventually into the Susquehanna River untreated. In other words, contaminated rainwater runoff could likely lead to contaminated drinking water in our homes.

The Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition's MS4 Stormwater Annual Report illustrates the progress made on reducing pollution and contamination in stormwater by conducting various activities categorized in 6 major components, or Minimum Control Measures that are required in the program: Public Education and Outreach, Public Involvement and Participation, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control, Post-Construction Site Runoff Management, and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations. Driving down local streets you will see examples of activities that count towards satisfying these requirements –the storm drains have been embossed with steel markers saying No Dumping – goes to river and some neighborhood storm drains are stenciled with paint by volunteer groups with this same message.

Other stormwater-related activities that the Coalition takes part in are stream clean ups and household hazardous waste collections held in both Broome and Tioga counties, which annually result in the cleanup of tons and tons of waste that might otherwise contaminate our streams and the Susquehanna River. Tioga County also holds a separate tire collection, taking in over 50 tons of tires.

The Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition's Annual Report can be found on the BTSC's website, www.BroomeTiogaStormwater.com. The Broome-Tioga MS4 Annual Report public meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 25th at 1:00 PM in the Boardroom at the Town of Union of Town Hall 2nd floor, 3111 E. Main Street, Endwell. Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition officials will be taking your comments. For more information on the Broome-Tioga MS4 Stormwater Annual Report or program, contact Dee Golazeski, Town of Union Code Enforcement at 786-2921 or dgolazeski@townofunion.com.

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