

Stormwater U

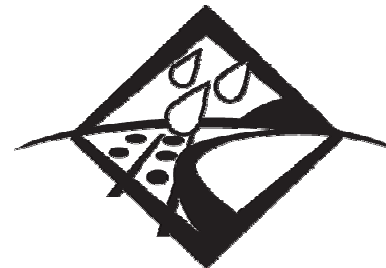
Stormwater Pond Management: Outfalls and Pond Inventories

The first in a series on stormwater pond management

3.b : Panel Discussion: Pond and Outfall Inventories, Creating and Tracking Pond Maintenance Priorities

City of Vadnais Heights

March 18, 2008
Stillwater, MN



Ramsey-Washington Metro *Watershed* District



ST. ANTHONY FALLS LABORATORY

Pond Maintenance: Outfalls and Inventories Workshop, March 18, 2008

RESPONSE: City of Vadnais Heights – Ponds & Outfalls

Outline or Issues

1. Where is the city in the outfall inventory process (complete, 50%, just getting started)?

We complete 8 inspections per year (total number of outfalls to receiving waters) we use the SEH Client Access Program to fill in the outfall inspection form. The completed form is printed out with the annual report.

2. Are ponds included in the city's inventory?

Pond ID is in progress (City owned vs. private). A map has been completed outlining location of all ponds. We are currently seeking direction on pond inspection techniques, requirements, etc.

3. Describe the inventory. For example, we created a manual outfall inventory list; we use a spreadsheet like Excel or Microsoft Access; we purchased or subscribe to a system (e.g. CarteGraph, CityWorks, SEH-WebPortal). Outfall inspection forms part of access program.

An outfall inventory list has been created, however we have not created any inventory lists for ponds.

4. Does the city have a GIS map showing ponds and public infrastructure? Are the two (GIS mapping and the outfall inventory) interfaced electronically?

A map has been created. All the ponds, stormwater structures, piping and outfalls are shown. We now need to determine City owned vs. private owned ponds. This information is also available electronically through our Dataview Program.

5. Has the city begun a pond inspection program, perhaps in conjunction with your outfall inspection effort?

No. We are still unsure of proper procedure for pond inspection.

6. Does the city have a pond inspection survey form?

No.

7. How are maintenance issues dealt with such as work orders (outfall repairs, minor or major dredging or excavation, weed control, etc.)?

Work and maintenance are done on a "as needed" basis at present. Number of staff available is insufficient for aggressive program. Large scale dredging or sediment excavation is contracted out. Minor repairs, outfall cleaning, etc. are done by City staff.

8. Some cities have software packages that track infrastructure maintenance (labor, expenses, etc.) as this is tied into their need to comply with GASB 34 requirements.

We created a spreadsheet for our inventory of pipes, outfalls and infrastructure, so have not purchased an specialized software for this purpose.

9. What problems, if any have you encountered in the outfall and pond inventory process?

The outfall inspection process has gone well. We are researching guidance for pond inspection procedures.

10. Has the city's pond inventory process incorporated issues relating to water quality (algae or weed problems, pollutant removal capability, upland vegetation management, private encroachments – filling, etc.)?

We are not at that point of pond inventory yet.

11. What are one or two recommendations you might have for folks? For example, get started early! Understand the big picture – why are we doing this?

Have a well developed plan, easy to follow and adaptable for different inspectors. Keep inspection forms simple and easy to complete. Keep the public informed about current programs, it will help explain why you're roaming around in their back yard.