2. Public Participation/Involvement

Requirement:

DelDOT shall include the public in developing, implementing and reviewing the stormwater program. DelDOT shall make opportunities for members of the public to participate in program development and implementation and will comply with all applicable State, Tribal, and local public notice requirements. DelDOT shall determine the appropriate best management practices (BMPs) and measurable goals for this minimum control measure.

Performance/Measurable Goals:

A. Budget Process

As part of the DelDOT budget process the community has the opportunity to suggest projects for the following year.

B. Adopt-a Highway

Adopt-a-Highway is a cooperative program between DelDOT's Division of Public Relations and volunteers to reduce litter along State roadways and subsequent discharge to waters of the State. This program supplements efforts by DelDOT's maintenance forces to control litter. This has a water quality benefit because it reduces floatable debris entering streams. The volunteer groups are required to collect litter a minimum of twice per year and submit activity reports following each cleanup for inclusion in the program. Each group maintains approximately two miles of roadway. DelDOT maintains an Adopt-a-Highway website (www.deldot.gov/information/community_programs_and_services/) and submits press releases to solicit volunteers. There are currently 812 volunteer groups statewide maintaining 1,624 lane miles. In 2009 Adopt-a-Highway crews picked up 6,170 bags of trash from Delaware highways.

C. Litter Control Programs

DelDOT held its fifth annual "Imagine a Litter Free Delaware" cleanup day along roads, highways and community areas in September 2009. Public participation was solicited via newspaper ads and DelDOT's website.

D. Door Hanger Campaign

Since it is often difficult or impossible to catch someone in the act of improperly disposing of yard waste, oil, paint, etc. into the storm drain, DelDOT began a door hanger campaign to residents in subdivisions where an illicit discharge or illegal dumping activity was discovered or reported as part of our outreach program to residents. This effort solicits public participation to anonymously report illegal dumping and serves as a "neighborhood watch."

The front side of the door hanger lists the date and type of pollutant found and what water body affected. On the back, the door hanger describes stormwater pollution and guidelines to reduce pollution at the home or workplace (See Annual Report 2006, Figure 2-1). In

2009, we distributed 50 door hangers statewide, but none were required in Kent and Sussex County Phase II areas.

E. Stream Watch

Delaware Stream Watch is a grassroots volunteer waterway protection program focusing on citizen involvement through monitoring, education, and advocacy. Stream Watch is co-sponsored by the Delaware Nature Society and DNREC, representing a unique partnership of government, environmental interests, and industry.

The Stream Adoption program allows people and groups of all ages to adopt and monitor a local water body of their own choosing. Typical assessments include visual, macroinvertebrate and chemical surveys. Interested participants can download a form from the Delaware Nature Society website.

F. Tributary Action Teams

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control coordinate teams of citizens known as Tributary Action Teams (TAT), who develop strategies for reducing water pollution in impaired watersheds. DelDOT staff participated in TAT meetings of the Christina River and Appoquinimink River in New Castle County, St. Jones River and Murderkill River in Kent County, and the Nanticoke River, Broadkill River, and Inland Bays in Sussex County to assist in the development of Pollution Control Strategies (PCS) for those watersheds and to determine the effect of TMDL implementation on DelDOT projects.

According to DNREC, a new TAT will be organizing for the Leipsic River watershed in early 2011. DelDOT staff will participate in the development of the PCS.

G. Website

DelDOT developed a new stormwater website (www.deldot.gov/stormwater). A “Report a Problem” link allows the public to email or call to report illegal discharges or dumping and stormwater maintenance problems.