

# General Guidelines for MS4 Collaborative Efforts

September 2016

DEP encourages neighboring MS4 permittees to collaborate in the development and implementation of their Pollutant Reduction Plan / TMDL Plan, and the O&M of any structural BMPs installed as part of such plans. As long as BMPs are implemented in MS4 planning area(s) and address the pollutant(s) of concern, the pollutant reductions afforded by the BMPs may be shared between the collaborating MS4s.\*

It is not necessary for participating permittees to be joint permittees. It is however expected that there will be a written agreement among the collaborating permittees (whether they are joint permittees or not) to ensure implementability. DEP recommends all such agreements include the following topics:

- **Scope of the Agreement**
  - Complete Pollutant Reduction Plan implementation (or individual BMP implementation)
- **Roles and Responsibilities**
  - How projects will be selected
  - Selection of engineering and other contracted services
  - Long-term O&M
  - Adaptive management of the PRP (or the individual BMPs) over the permit period
  - Commitment to using the Plan (or to implementing the individual BMPs)
- **Allocations of cost and pollutant reduction**
  - Methodology for sharing the cost
  - Methodology for distributing the pollutant reductions
- **Timeline for implementation**
  - Schedule of milestones to complete and implement the plan (or the individual BMPs)

\* MS4s that use BMPs to treat stormwater flows which do not pass through the urban area and/or utilize non-urban stormwater BMPs (e.g. agricultural BMPs), and wish to receive credit in a PRP must first obtain an Individual Permit which addresses the concept. Pollutant reductions from non-urban BMPs (e.g. agricultural) can only be credited to urban stormwater responsibilities to the degree that their pollutant load reductions exceed the non-urban stormwater sector baseline.