

Monthly Progress Report
Bear Creek Inter-County Drain Clean Water Initiative
November 1 – 30, 2001

Progress Made:

Wet Weather –

11/2/01 (Friday) – The rain gauge read 0.40 inches at 8:30 am. Sampling supplies, confined space entry equipment and traffic control devices were gathered to extract the sampler from the Centerline Relief Drain (023-0). The rain gauge read 0.50 inches at 1:00 pm, so a qualifying rain event had taken place. The sampler and flow meter were removed. During extraction it was discovered that the base plate for the flow meter was missing. It had apparently become dislodged from the drain wall and was carried downstream. The flow meter was still in place and in an upright position, so it appeared that flow data was collected. The flow data will be scrutinized when it is downloaded for accuracy. The sample rack was full, but bottles 1-17 had been collected on October 31st during a non-qualifying rain event. Therefore, only bottles 18-24 were prescreened and sent to the lab for analysis.

The sampler was also checked in the Cramer Drain (423-A). No more samples were collected, so the sampler and flow meter were removed.

11/16/01 (Friday) – At the direction of the Oakland County Drain Commissioner's Office, a sampler was installed at the outlet of the Campbell No.2 Drain (OC-3).

11/25/01 – (Sunday) – The rain gauge read 0.20 inches at 9:00 am from a Saturday night rain. Only light rain was forecasted for that night and it seemed unlikely a qualifying event would occur, so field operations were postponed for the day.

11/26/01 (Monday) – Due to expected rainfall for Monday night, the sampler in the Campbell No.2 Drain was iced down. The sampler had collected 17 samples from two prior non-qualifying events on November 21st and November 25th. The samples were discarded and a clean empty sample bottle rack was replaced. The rain gauge read 0.00 inches at 6:00 pm.

11/27/01 (Tuesday) – The rain gauge read 0.10 inches at 2:00 pm and more rain was forecasted. The sampler in Campbell No.2 was extracted and checked for samples. None had been collected. The sampler was reinstalled.

11/29/01 (Thursday) – It had rained substantially overnight. At 8:30 am the rain gauge read 0.50 inches, so a qualifying rain event had already taken place. The sampler and flow meter were extracted from the Campbell No.2 Drain. The sample rack was full (24 samples collected). The samples were prescreened and sent to the lab for analysis. The Oakland County Drain Commission also collected samples from the Dunleavy Drain for this rain event. The rain gauge read 0.75 inches at 4:00 pm.

In summary, wet weather sampling was completed on 3 drains (Centerline Relief, Dunleavy and the Campbell No.2 Drains). This completes the wet weather sampling for the work plan and for the season. The *E. coli* results indicated that one (Dunleavy Drain) of the three drains was above the criteria of 3,000 colonies/100ml. A total of 21 of 32 drains sampled have exceeded the criteria.

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Follow-up –

- Macomb County Public Works Office reviewed the storm drain plans for the Meckler, Lorraine Storm Branch No. 1, Kutchey Inter-County, Hartsig Relief and the Bear Creek Inter-County Drains.
- The City of Warren conducted dye testing on a complex of four buildings connected to a “hot” outfall discovered during the open drain outfall inventory of Bear Creek (619-S), but the source could not be identified. Since the discharge is just a trickle, other investigations will take precedence.
- Further discussions occurred with a contractor on televising the Lorraine Drain.

Corrective Actions -

Kaczmar Drain:

- After three weeks of investigations (sampling & sewer televising), the City of Madison Heights discovered a 12’ – 14’ break in a sanitary line that ran above a storm drain, which was tributary to the Kaczmar Drain. The City also found two catch basins that were connected to this sanitary line. They surmised that when it rains, the stormwater/sewage rises in the sanitary line and overflows through the break in the line into the storm drain. The sanitary sewer was fixed and the drain was resampled downstream. The sample results verified that the problem had been corrected.

Sharkey Inter-County Drain:

- The MDOT Illicit Elimination Discharge team discovered a storm drain manhole with high *E. coli* counts, which was tributary to the Sharkey Inter-County Drain. They subsequently notified the City of Madison Heights. After some investigation (document review, dye testing & sewer televising), the City discovered that the sanitary line from a commercial building was improperly connected to the storm drain. A sanitary sewer was not immediately available for the building to tap into, so the City made arrangements to extend an existing sanitary sewer 75’.

Website –

- The site was updated to include additional wet weather results obtained during the month.
- The website received a total of 197 visitors for the month.

Problems Encountered & Recommended Solutions:

- None

Activities for Next Reporting Period:

- Update website
- Continue laboratory selection process for the final verification samples.
- Follow-up on the Dunleavy Drain.