Village of Stillwater
Local Law No. 6 of 2016

PROHIBITION OF ILLICIT DISCHARGES, ACTIVITIES AND CONNECTIONS TO SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM

SECTION 1. PURPOSE/INTENT

The purpose of this law is to provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the Village of Stillwater through the regulation of non-stormwater discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) to the maximum extent practicable as required by federal and state law. This law establishes methods for controlling the introduction of pollutants into the MS4 in order to comply with requirements of the SPDES General Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. The objectives of this law are:

1.1 To meet the requirements of the SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from MS4s, Permit no. GP-0-15-003 or as amended or revised;

1.2 To regulate the contribution of pollutants to the MS4 since such systems are not designed to accept, process or discharge non-stormwater wastes;

1.3 To prohibit Illicit Connections, Activities and Discharges to the MS4;

1.4 To establish legal authority to carry out all inspection, surveillance and monitoring procedures necessary to ensure compliance with this law; and

1.5 To promote public awareness of the hazards involved in the improper discharge of trash, yard waste, lawn chemicals, pet waste, wastewater, grease, oil, petroleum products, cleaning products, paint products, hazardous waste, sediment and other pollutants into the MS4.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

Whenever used in this law, unless a different meaning is stated in a definition applicable to only a portion of this law, the following terms will have meanings set forth below:

Best Management Practices (BMPs) - Schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, general good house keeping practices, pollution prevention and educational practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants directly or indirectly to stormwater, receiving waters, or stormwater conveyance systems. BMPs also include treatment practices, operating procedures, and practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or water disposal, or drainage from raw materials storage.

Clean Water Act - The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.), and any subsequent amendments thereto.

Construction Activity - Activities requiring authorization under the SPDES permit for stormwater discharges from construction activity, GP-0-15-002, as amended or revised. These activities include construction projects resulting in land disturbance of one or more acres. Such activities include but are not limited to clearing and grubbing, grading, excavating, and demolition.

Department - The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Design professional - New York State licensed professional engineer or licensed architect.

Hazardous Materials - Any material, including any substance, waste, or combination thereof, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may cause, or significantly contribute to, a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, safety, property, or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed.

Illicit Connections - Any drain or conveyance, whether on the surface or subsurface, that is not composed entirely of stormwater which allows pollutants and/or pathogens or any illegal discharge to enter the MS4, including but not limited to:

1. Any conveyances which allow any non-stormwater discharge including treated or untreated sewage, process wastewater, and wash water to enter the MS4 and any connections to the storm drain system from indoor drains and sinks, regardless of whether said drain or connection had been previously allowed, permitted, or approved by an authorized enforcement agency; or

2. Any drain or conveyance connected from a commercial or industrial land use to the MS4 which has not been documented in plans, maps, or equivalent records and approved by an authorized enforcement agency.

Illicit Discharge - Any direct or indirect non-stormwater discharge to the MS4, except as exempted in Section 6 of this law.

Industrial Activity - Activities requiring the SPDES permit for discharges from industrial activities except construction, GP-98-03, as amended or revised.

MS4 - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System - A conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains):

1. Owned or operated by the Village of Stillwater;

2. Designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater;

3. Which is not a combined sewer; and

4. Which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined at 40CFR

Municipality - The Village of Stillwater.

Non-Stormwater Discharge - Any discharge to the MS4 that is not composed entirely of stormwater.

Person - Any individual, association, organization, partnership, firm, corporation or other entity recognized by law and acting as either the owner or as the owner's agent.

Pollutant - Dredged spoil, filter backwash, solid waste, incinerator residue, treated or untreated sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand and industrial, municipal, agricultural waste and ballast discharged into water; which may cause or might reasonably be expected to cause pollution of the waters of the state in contravention of the standards.

Premises - Any building, lot, parcel of land, or portion of land whether improved or unimproved including adjacent sidewalks and parking strips.

State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Stormwater Discharge Permit - A permit issued by the Department that authorizes the discharge of pollutants to waters of the state.

Stormwater - Rainwater, surface runoff, snowmelt and drainage.

Stormwater Management Officer - an employee or officer designated by the municipality to accept and review stormwater pollution prevention plans, forward the plans to the applicable municipal board and inspect stormwater management practices. A consultant cannot be appointed as Stormwater Management Officer.

303(d) List - A list of all surface waters in the state for which beneficial uses of the water (drinking, recreation, aquatic habitat, and industrial use) are impaired by pollutants, prepared periodically by the Department as required by Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. 303(d) listed waters are estuaries, lakes and streams that fall short of state surface water quality standards and are not expected to improve within the next two years.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) - The maximum amount of a pollutant to be allowed to be released into a waterbody so as not to impair uses of the water, allocated among the sources of that pollutant.

Wastewater - Water that is not stormwater, is contaminated with pollutants and is or will be discarded.

SECTION 3. APPLICABILITY

This law shall apply to all water entering the MS4 generated on any developed and undeveloped lands unless explicitly exempted by an authorized enforcement agency.

SECTION 4. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTRATION

The Stormwater Management Officer (SMO) shall administer, implement, and enforce the provisions of this law. Such powers granted or duties imposed upon the authorized enforcement official may be delegated in writing by the SMO as may be authorized by the municipality.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this law are hereby declared to be severable. If any provision, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this law or the application thereof to any person, establishment, or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of this law.

SECTION 6. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

6.1 Prohibition of Illegal Discharges.

No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged into the MS4 any materials other than stormwater except as provided in Section 6.1.1. The commencement, conduct or continuance of any illegal discharge to the MS4 is prohibited except as described as follows:

6.1.1 The following discharges are exempt from discharge prohibitions established by this local law, unless the Department or the municipality has determined them to be substantial contributors of pollutants: water line flushing or other potable water sources, landscape irrigation or lawn watering, existing diverted stream flows, rising ground water, uncontaminated ground water infiltration to storm drains, uncontaminated pumped ground water, foundation or footing drains, crawl space or basement sump pumps, air conditioning condensate, irrigation water, springs, water from individual residential car washing, natural riparian habitat or wetland flows, dechlorinated swimming pool discharges, residential street wash water, water from fire fighting activities, and any other water source not containing pollutants. Such exempt discharges shall be made in accordance with an appropriate plan for reducing pollutants.

6.1.2 Discharges approved in writing by the SMO to protect life or property from imminent harm or damage, provided that, such approval shall not be construed to constitute compliance with other applicable laws and requirements, and further provided that such discharges may be permitted for a specified time period and under such conditions as the SMO may deem appropriate to protect such life and property while reasonably maintaining the purpose and intent of this local law.

6.1.3 Dye testing in compliance with applicable state and local laws is an allowable discharge, but requires a verbal notification to the SMO prior to the time of the test.

6.1.4 The prohibition shall not apply to any discharge permitted under a SPDES permit, waiver, or waste discharge order issued to the discharger and administered under the authority of the Department, provided that the discharger is in full compliance with all

requirements of the permit, waiver, or order and other applicable laws and regulations, and provided that written approval has been granted for any discharge to the MS4.

6.2 Prohibition of Illicit Connections.

6.2.1 The construction, use, maintenance or continued existence of illicit connections to the MS4 is prohibited.

6.2.2 This prohibition expressly includes, without limitation, illicit connections made in the past, regardless of whether the connection was permissible under law or practices applicable or prevailing at the time of connection.

6.2.3 A person is considered to be in violation of this local law if the person connects a line conveying sewage to the municipality's MS4, or allows such a connection to continue.

SECTION 7. PROHIBITION AGAINST FAILING INDIVIDUAL SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS

No persons shall operate a failing individual sewage treatment system in areas tributary to the municipality's MS4. A failing individual sewage treatment system is one which has one or more of the following conditions:

7.1 The backup of sewage into a structure.

7.2 Discharges of treated or untreated sewage onto the ground surface.

7.3 A connection or connections to a separate stormwater sewer system.

7.4 Liquid level in the septic tank above the outlet invert.

7.5 Structural failure of any component of the individual sewage treatment system that could lead to any of the other failure conditions as noted in this section.

7.6 Contamination of off-site groundwater.

SECTION 8. PROHIBITION AGAINST ACTIVITIES CONTAMINATING STORMWATER

8.1 Activities that are subject to the requirements of this section are those types of activities that:

8.1.1 Cause or contribute to a violation of the municipality's MS4 SPDES permit.

8.1.2 Cause or contribute to the municipality being subject to the Special Conditions as defined in Section 2 (Definitions) of this local law.

8.2 Upon notification to a person that he or she is engaged in activities that cause or contribute to violations of the municipality's MS4 SPDES permit authorization, that person shall take all

reasonable actions to correct such activities such that he or she no longer causes or contributes to violations of the municipality's MS4 SPDES permit authorization.

SECTION 9. REQUIREMENT TO PREVENT, CONTROL, AND REDUCE STORMWATER POLLUTANTS BY THE USE OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

9.1 Best Management Practices
Where the SMO has identified illicit discharges as defined in Section 2 or activities contaminating stormwater as defined in Section 8 the municipality may require implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control those illicit discharges and activities.

9.1.1 The owner or operator of a commercial or industrial establishment shall provide, at their own expense, reasonable protection from accidental discharge of prohibited materials or other wastes into the MS4 through the use of structural and non-structural BMPs.

9.1.2 Any person responsible for a property or premise, which is, or may be, the source of an illicit discharge as defined in Section 2 or an activity contaminating stormwater as defined in Section 8, may be required to implement, at said person's expense, additional structural and non-structural BMPs to reduce or eliminate the source of pollutant(s) to the MS4.

9.1.3 Compliance with all terms and conditions of a valid SPDES permit authorizing the discharge of stormwater associated with industrial activity, to the extent practicable, shall be deemed compliance with the provisions of this section.

SECTION 10. SUSPENSION OF ACCESS TO MS4

10.1 Illicit Discharges in Emergency Situations.

The SMO may, without prior notice, suspend MS4 discharge access to a person when such suspension is necessary to stop an actual or threatened discharge which presents or may present imminent and substantial danger to the environment, to the health or welfare of persons, or to the MS4. The SMO shall notify the person of such suspension within a reasonable time thereafter in writing of the reasons for the suspension. If the violator fails to comply with a suspension order issued in an emergency, the SMO may take such steps as deemed necessary to prevent or minimize damage to the MS4 or to minimize danger to persons.

10.2 Suspension due to the detection of illicit discharge. Any person discharging to the municipality's MS4 in violation of this law may have their MS4 access terminated if such termination would abate or reduce an illicit discharge. The SMO will notify a violator in writing of the proposed termination of its MS4 access and the reasons therefor. The violator may petition the SMO for a reconsideration and hearing. Access may be granted by the SMO if he/she finds that the illicit discharge has ceased and the discharger has taken steps to prevent its recurrence. Access may be denied if the SMO determines in writing that the illicit

discharge has not ceased or is likely to recur. A person commits an offense if the person reinstates MS4 access to premises terminated pursuant to this Section, without the prior approval of the SMO.

SECTION 11. INDUSTRIAL OR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY DISCHARGES

Any person subject to an industrial or construction activity SPDES stormwater discharge permit shall comply with all provisions of such permit. Proof of compliance with said permit shall be required in a form acceptable to the municipality prior to the allowing of discharges to the MS4.

SECTION 12. ACCESS AND MONITORING OF DISCHARGES

12.1 Applicability. This section applies to all facilities and construction sites that the SMO must inspect to enforce any provision of this Law, or whenever the authorized enforcement agency has cause to believe that there exists, or potentially exists, in or upon any premises any condition which constitutes a violation of this Law.

12.2 Access to Facilities.

12.2.1 The SMO shall be permitted to enter and inspect any facilities or construction activities subject to regulation under this law as often as may be necessary to determine compliance with this Law. If a discharger has security measures in force which require proper identification and clearance before entry into its premises, the discharger shall make the necessary arrangements to allow access to the SMO.

12.2.2 Facility or construction site operators shall allow the SMO ready access to all parts of the premises for the purposes of inspection, sampling, examination and copying of records as may be required to implement this law.

12.2.3 The municipality shall have the right to set up on any facility or construction sites subject to this law such devices as are necessary in the opinion of the SMO to conduct monitoring and/or sampling of the facility's stormwater discharge.

12.2.4 The municipality has the right to require the facilities/construction sites subject to this law to install monitoring equipment as is reasonably necessary to determine compliance with this law. The facility/construction site's sampling and monitoring equipment shall be maintained at all times in a safe and proper operating condition by the discharger at its own expense. All devices used to measure stormwater flow and quality shall be calibrated to ensure their accuracy.

12.2.5 Unreasonable delays in allowing the municipality access to a facility or construction site subject to this law is a violation of this law. A person who is the operator or owner of a facility or construction site subject to this law commits an offense if the person denies the municipality reasonable access to the facility for the purpose of conducting any activity authorized or required by this law.

12.2.6 If the SMO has been refused access to any part of the premises from which stormwater is discharged, and he/she is able to demonstrate probable cause to believe that there may be a violation of this law, or that there is a need to inspect and/or sample as part of a routine inspection and sampling program designed to verify compliance with this law or any order issued hereunder, then the SMO may seek issuance of a search warrant from any court of competent jurisdiction.

SECTION 13. NOTIFICATION OF SPILLS

Notwithstanding other requirements of law, as soon as any person responsible for a facility or operation, or responsible for emergency response for a facility or operation has information of any known or suspected release of materials which are resulting or may result in illegal discharges or pollutants discharging into the MS4, said person shall take all necessary steps to ensure the discovery, containment, and cleanup of such release. In the event of such a release of hazardous materials said person shall immediately notify emergency response agencies of the occurrence via emergency dispatch services. In the event of a release of non-hazardous materials, said person shall notify the municipality in person or by telephone or facsimile no later than the next business day. Notifications in person or by telephone shall be confirmed by written notice addressed and mailed to the municipality within three business days of the telephone notice. If the discharge of prohibited materials emanates from a commercial or industrial establishment, the owner or operator of such establishment shall also retain an on-site written record of the discharge and the actions taken to prevent its recurrence. Such records shall be retained for at least three years.

SECTION 14. ENFORCEMENT

14.1 Notice of Violation.

When the municipality's SMO finds that a person has violated a prohibition or failed to meet a requirement of this law, he/she may order compliance by written notice of violation to the responsible person. Such notice may require without limitation:

14.1.1 The elimination of illicit connections or discharges;

14.1.2 That violating discharges, practices, or operations shall cease and desist;

14.1.3 The abatement or remediation of stormwater pollution or contamination hazards and the restoration of any affected property;

14.1.4 The performance of monitoring, analyses, and reporting;

14.1.5 Payment of a fine; and

14.1.6 The implementation of source control or treatment BMPs. If abatement of a violation and/or restoration of affected property is required, the notice shall set forth a deadline within which such remediation or restoration must be completed. Said notice shall further advise that, should the violator fail to remediate or restore within the

established deadline, the work will be done by a designated governmental agency or a contractor and the expense thereof shall be charged to the violator.

14.2 Penalties.

In addition to or as an alternative to any penalty provided herein or by law, any person who violates the provisions of this local law shall be guilty of a violation punishable by a fine not exceeding three hundred fifty dollars ($350) or imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months, or both for conviction of a first offense; for conviction of a second offense both of which were committed within a period of five years, punishable by a fine not less than three hundred fifty dollars nor more than seven hundred dollars ($700) or imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months, or both; and upon conviction for a third or subsequent offense all of which were committed within a period of five years, punishable by a fine not less than seven hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars ($1000) or imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months, or both. However, for the purposes of conferring jurisdiction upon courts and judicial officers generally, violations of this local law shall be deemed misdemeanors and for such purpose only all provisions of law relating to misdemeanors shall apply to such violations. Each week's continued violation shall constitute a separate additional violation.

SECTION 15. APPEAL OF NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Any person receiving a Notice of Violation may appeal the determination of the SMO to the Board of Trustees of the Village of Stillwater within 15 days of its issuance, which shall hear the appeal within 30 days after the filing of the appeal, and within five days of making its decision, file its decision in the office of the municipal clerk and mail a copy of its decision by certified mail to the discharger.

SECTION 16. CORRECTIVE MEASURES AFTER APPEAL

16.1 If the violation has not been corrected pursuant to the requirements set forth in the Notice of Violation, or, in the event of an appeal, within 5 business days of the decision of the municipal authority upholding the decision of the SMO, then the SMO shall request the owner's permission for access to the subject private property to take any and all measures reasonably necessary to abate the violation and/or restore the property.

16.2 If refused access to the subject private property, the SMO may seek a warrant in a court of competent jurisdiction to be authorized to enter upon the property to determine whether a violation has occurred. Upon determination that a violation has occurred, the SMO may seek a court order to take any and all measures reasonably necessary to abate the violation and/or restore the property. The cost of implementing and maintaining such measures shall be the sole responsibility of the discharger.

SECTION 17. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.

It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provision or fail to comply with any of the requirements of this law. If a person has violated or continues to violate the provisions of this law, the SMO may petition for a preliminary or permanent injunction restraining the person from activities

which would create further violations or compelling the person to perform abatement or remediation of the violation.

SECTION 18. ALTERNATIVE REMEDIES

18.1 Where a person has violated a provision of this Law, he/she may be eligible for alternative remedies in lieu of a civil penalty, upon recommendation of the Municipal Attorney and concurrence of the Stormwater Management Officer or Municipal Code Enforcement Officer, where:

18.1.1 The violation was unintentional

18.1.2 The violator has no history of pervious violations of this Law.

18.1.3 Environmental damage was minimal.

18.1.4 Violator acted quickly to remedy violation.

18.1.5 Violator cooperated in investigation and resolution.

18.2 Alternative remedies may consist of one or more of the following:

18.2.1 Attendance at compliance workshops.

18.2.2 Storm drain stenciling or storm drain marking.

18.2.3 River, stream or creek cleanup activities.

SECTION 19. VIOLATIONS DEEMED A PUBLIC NUISANCE

In addition to the enforcement processes and penalties provided, any condition caused or permitted to exist in violation of any of the provisions of this law is a threat to public health, safety, and welfare, and is declared and deemed a nuisance, and may be summarily abated or restored at the violator's expense, and/or a civil action to abate, enjoin, or otherwise compel the cessation of such nuisance may be taken.

SECTION 20. REMEDIES NOT EXCLUSIVE

The remedies listed in this law are not exclusive of any other remedies available under any applicable federal, state or local law and it is within the discretion of the authorized enforcement agency to seek cumulative remedies.

SECTION 21. ADOPTION OF LAW

This law shall be effective upon filing with the office of the Secretary of State. All prior laws and parts of law in conflict with this law are hereby repealed.