



Blount County Government

TO: Blount County Commissioners

FROM: Highway Department

RE: Stormwater Resolutions

DATE: July 29, 2024

Blount County first adopted stormwater resolutions in the early 2000s. They consist of four (4) resolutions: (1) Illicit Discharge (2) Water Quality Buffer (3) Stormwater Quality Management and (4) Water Quality Protection. These resolutions are for the urbanized area only (current term is MS4 area).

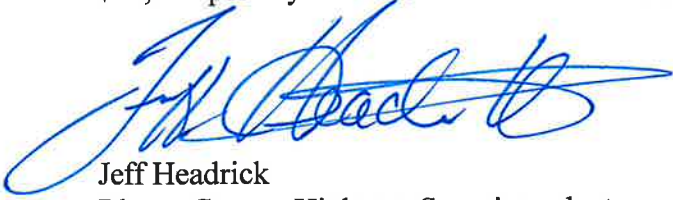
An MS4 System plays a vital role in protecting the environment and ensuring the health and safety of the community. It is part of a federally mandated plan designed to protect, preserve, and prevent pollution from entering clean waters of the state.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) amended the original Federal Water Pollution Control Act to the Clean Water Act (CWA). Tennessee then adopted their own set of rules and regulation associated with the CWA. This was the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act and all municipalities/counties over 50,000 in population must have an MS4 permit in place to deal directly with stormwater pollution due to land disturbing activities. Under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can authorize states to implement the federal requirements and issue stormwater permits.

The U.S. EPA introduced the new MS4 Stormwater Permit under the NPDES effective September 1, 2022, hence, the MS4 Stormwater Permit is a legal requirement for municipalities (cities, towns, counties, and other jurisdictions operating an MS4). This caused every jurisdiction to evaluate their current stormwater program and amend to be compliant with the new MS4 permit. The Blount County Stormwater Resolutions have been amended to be in compliance with the essential components of the MS4 Stormwater Permit.

Due to the changes to the CWA, all four resolutions had to be revised to meet the current TDEC permit. There could be penalties assessed if Blount County does not have resolutions in place to

address the MS4 Stormwater Permit by September 1, 2024. The penalties would be \$5,000 to \$10,000 per day until the correction is made.



Jeff Headrick
Blount County Highway Superintendent