



## GVMC/LGROW Storm Water Program Successfully Assisting Local Governments

One of the most successful but little known collaborative efforts in our region is our GVMC/LGROW Storm Water Permit Group. The collaboration is a key component of GVMC's Lower Grand River Organizations of Watersheds or LGROW. This group of 22 municipal governments is working together to meet the requirements of their storm-water discharge permits (NPDES) required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

By combining their efforts on issues like public education, water quality monitoring, storm water

management strategies, training, best practices, sharing ideas and of course the very technical nature of completing the applications and support materials for the permit. Members of the group benefit by sharing information, knowledge and cost.

GVMC/LGROW manages a single contract with the consortium's consultants and provides other assistance as well. Technical assistance is provided by FTC&H.

Members of the Storm Water Permit Group include, Kent County and the Drain Commission, the Kent County Road Commission, Ottawa County and the Drain Commission, Allendale Charter Township, Cascade

Charter Township, East Grand Rapids, Georgetown Charter Township, Grand Rapids, Grandville, Grand Rapids Charter Township, Hudsonville, Kentwood, Plainfield Charter Township, Rockford, Walker and Wyoming.

Also, lakeshore area communities are participants including Grand Haven, Ferrysburg and our newest member is the Village of Spring Lake.

In discussing the LGROW Storm Water Program and its value to his community, Grandville City Manager Ken Krombeen stated, *"By participation in the GVMC NPDES group, the City of Grandville significantly reduces the time, effort and expense necessary to comply with federal storm water regulations. Great efficiency and savings have been achieved by working together, rather than as 22 separate units."*

Grand Rapids Deputy City Manager Eric DeLong added, *"Our watershed partnership with LGROW has produced excellent outcomes. The benefits of shared information, common permits, joint education and sharing of costs have been and will continue to be a significant benefit to the watershed and its residents"*.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact us.



Wendy Ogilvie leads the discussion of the LGROW Storm-water Discharge Program to local government and DNR officials.