



CITY OF RAPID CITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Hanks and City Council

FROM: Robert Ellis, City Engineer, in Association with the Storm Water Steering Committee

THROUGH: Dirk Jablonski, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Storm Water Quality Ordinances

DATE: December 5, 2007

In 1990, due to requirements from the Clean Water Act, the US Environmental Protection Agency developed Phase I of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The Phase I program addressed sources of storm water runoff that had the greatest potential to negatively impact water quality. In their mind that included storm water discharge from medium to large urbanized areas and constructions sites greater than 5 acres. The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is responsible for administering this program in our state. Under Phase I, communities with populations greater than 100,000 were required to develop a plan to reduce the amount of pollutants being discharged into their neighboring bodies of water. Sioux Falls was the only Phase I community in South Dakota.

In 1999 the EPA expanded the storm water permit program to include smaller communities with populations between 50,000 and 100,000, of which Rapid City is defined, and construction sites greater than 1 acre. This has come to be known as the Phase II Final Rule. The result of Phase II is a mandate for Rapid City to develop plans and procedures to reduce the amount of pollution reaching Rapid Creek and other waters of the State. From previous analysis we know the primary source of pollution is generated from storm water discharge.

Through the Storm Water Steering Committee three separate ordinances were drafted to reduce the types of pollutants which most affect Rapid Creek. Those



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pollutants are sediments transported off construction sites and a multitude of chemicals used by humans in urbanized areas (hydrocarbons, automotive fluids, fertilizers, pesticides, deicing salts, sand, garbage, etc). The three proposed ordinances work to address reducing these types of pollutants from reaching the storm drainage system and ultimately Rapid Creek. These ordinances will be the foundation for which most of our Storm Water Management Program will be based.