



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 19, 2025

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: Western NY Stormwater Coalition: Intermediate Mapping Project**

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find enclosed a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) authorizing the execution of a contract with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to accept \$400,000 in grant funding for a stormwater mapping project, the creation of a grant budget in the Department of Environment and Planning and two staff positions, as well as the execution of a contract with Buffalo State University for student interns.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Deputy Commissioner Bonnie L. Lawrence. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/nb  
Enclosure

cc: Daniel R. Castle, AICP, Commissioner, Environment and Planning  
Bonnie Lawrence, Deputy Commissioner, Environment and Planning

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Department of Environment and Planning  
**Re:** Western NY Stormwater Coalition: Intermediate Mapping Project  
**Date:** September 19, 2025

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### **SUMMARY**

It is recommended that the Legislature approve the attached resolution prepared by the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning authorizing the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into an agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to accept \$400,000 in grant funding and establish a project budget to commence the WNY Stormwater Coalition (WNYSC): Intermediate Mapping Project.

This new grant effort entails data collection and GIS mapping of storm sewers discharging to impaired waters, and high functioning inspection apps that will interface with WNYSC's Online Mapper. The project will utilize student interns from Buffalo State University's Department of Geography and Planning, which will require a contract for \$8,000. The University has provided student interns with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) expertise since 2012, when DEP secured funding for its first storm sewer system mapping grant, as well as for four subsequent mapping grants.

The preexisting positions that will be transferred into the new grant budget from an expiring grant 162WNYCSMPMP2527 consists of:

1. Information Technology Specialist (JG-8), fully funded.
2. Chief Environmental Compliance Specialist (JG-15), partially funded at 50%; an existing position in DEP. The remaining funds for this position come from the WNY Stormwater Coalition Grant 162WNYSCMS4AP1112.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no fiscal implications associated with the Western NY Stormwater Coalition: Intermediate Mapping Project. The requested staff positions and program expenses will be funded by the grant. No County funds are required. Additionally, both positions are pre-existing and will be transferred from a predecessor grant that is ending.

Fiscal implications of the Information Technology Specialist (JG 8) position in DEP:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b><u>Annualized Salary:</u></b>          | \$57,004   |
| <b><u>Salary for Balance of Year:</u></b> | N/A – Position exists within a current grant expiring at end of 2025 |
| <b><u>Funding Source:</u></b>             | New York State   |

If Grant funded:

Grant Source: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Grant Duration: 1/1/2026 – 12/31 2029

Remaining Grant Funding: \$ 400,000.00  
Alternative Source of Funding if the Grant is not renewed: None

Fiscal implication of the partially funded Chief Environmental Compliance Specialist (JG-15) position in DEP:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b><u>Annualized Salary:</u></b>          | \$133,158  |
| <b><u>Salary for Balance of Year:</u></b> | N/A – Position exists within a current grant expiring at end of 2025 |
| <b><u>Funding Source:</u></b>             | New York State   |

If Grant funded:

Grant Source: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Grant Duration: 1/1/2026 – 12/31/2029  
Remaining Grant Funding: \$ 400,000.00  
Alternative Source of Funding if the Grant is not renewed: None

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Approval of this resolution will enable Erie County to access the \$400,000 in State funding to assist regulated municipal entities with mapping that is required by New York State's General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems.

## **BACKGROUND**

The primary objective of the Western NY Stormwater Coalition: Stormwater Management Practice Mapping Project is to collect field data and process the data to create GIS maps of storm sewers discharging to impaired waters for 43 municipal entities located throughout Erie and Niagara County. The proposed work is imperative for the regulated communities to meet New York State's municipal stormwater permit requirements related to impaired waters.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Without approval of the attached resolution, Erie County will be unable to access the \$400,000 in State grant funding earmarked for storm sewers discharging to impaired waters for the 43 municipal entities in WNYSC.

## **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

An agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will be executed by the County Executive or Deputy County Executive, a project budget and two existing positions will continue in DEP, and a contract will be executed with Buffalo State University.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Western NY Stormwater Coalition: Intermediate Mapping Project

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) provides technical assistance to municipalities to assist them in complying with environmental regulations; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York, through its Department of Environmental Conservation, provides financial aid for stormwater compliance assistance projects; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York, through its Department of Environmental Conservation, granted Erie County \$400,000 to commence the Western NY Stormwater Coalition: Intermediate Mapping Project; and

WHEREAS the project will partially or fully fund two existing positions that will be transferred from a predecessor grant that is ending, with the balance of funding coming from a separate Stormwater Coalition Grant 162WNYSCMS4AP1112; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that a contract by and between the people of the State of New York, herein called the “State”, and Erie County be executed for such State aid; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the County of Erie to enter into an agreement with the Research Foundation of SUNY at Buffalo State University for student interns to assist with the Western NY Stormwater Coalition: Intermediate Mapping Project; and

WHEREAS, the acceptance of this funding necessitates the creation of a grant budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into contract to accept \$400,000 in funding from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for the WNY Stormwater Coalition Intermediate Mapping Project and be made available as a multi-year grant to the Department of Environment and Planning in Fund 281, Funds Center 16200 as follows:

Department of Environment and Planning  
WNY Stormwater Coalition Intermediate Mapping Project Grant  
162WNYCIMP2629  
1/1/2026 - 12/31/2029

**REVENUES**

409000 State Aid Revenue

TOTAL

**BUDGET**\$400,000\$400,000**APPROPRIATIONS**

500000 Full Time - Salaries

502000 Fringe Benefits

516020 Professional Services, Contracts &amp; Fees

530000 Other Expenses

916290 ID Envir &amp; Planning Grant Services

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS:

**BUDGET**

\$388,892

\$194,446

\$ 8,000

\$ 13,542

(\$204,880)

\$400,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to transfer one full-time Information Technology Specialist positions, JG-8 (B100 #15070) from Department of Environment and Planning Grant 162WNYCSMPMP2527 to the newly created 162WNYCIMP2629 effective January 1, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to transfer one full-time Chief Environmental Compliance Specialist JG-15, (B100 #15171) from Department of Environment and Planning Grant 162WNYCSMPMP2527 to the newly created 162WNYCIMP2629 effective January 1, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to execute an agreement with the Research Foundation of SUNY at Buffalo State University for student interns to assist with the Western NY Stormwater Coalition: Intermediate Mapping Project in an amount not to exceed \$8,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the Division of Budget and Management to adjust grant revenues, appropriations and interdepartmental billing amounts allowed by the grantor provided there are no changes to authorized personnel levels; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to amend contracts as necessary to implement any no-cost extensions that may be permitted by the grantor; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Erie County Executive's Office, Comptroller's Office, Division of Budget and Management, Department of Law and Department of Environment and Planning.