

# Meeting Minutes

## Seacoast Stormwater Coalition Meeting

McConnell Center at 61 Locust Street, Dover, NH in room 305, Dover, New Hampshire

**Wednesday, February 28, 2017, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

### Attending:

*Gretchen Young, Dover (Chair)*  
*Jamie Houle, UNH SW Center*  
*Barbara McMillan, NHDES*  
*Sally Soule, NHDES*  
*Cheryl Bondi, NHDES (Presenter)*  
*Tavis Austin, Stratham*  
*Steve Brewer, Raymond*  
*James McCarty, Portsmouth*  
*Mike Bobinsky, Somersworth*  
*Diane Hardy, Newmarket*  
*Owen Friend-Gray, Rochester*  
*Jim Hafey, Hampton*  
*RH Snow, SWA*

*Lyndsay Butler, Wright-Pierce*  
*Dennis McCarthy, Rye*  
*George Guilmeth, Rollinsford*  
*Daniel Lewis, Exeter*  
*Michael Trainque, SWA*  
*Julie LaBranche, RPC*  
*Shanna B. Saunders, Somersworth*  
*Jamie McDonald, Seabrook*  
*Rachael Mack, SRPC*  
*Nancy O'Connor, SRPC*  
*Dave White, Dover*  
*Heidi Marshall, CLD/Fuss & O'Neill*

1. **Approve January 31, 2018 meeting minutes:** Jim Hafey motions to approve the January 31, 2018 minutes. Steve Brewer seconds. Motion passes. Available at: [https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-ms4/?page\\_id=51](https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-ms4/?page_id=51)
  
2. **Presentation: State Stream Crossing Initiative and Interactive Web Mapper** - Cheryl Bondi, NHDES, Geological Survey will introduce this multiagency program tasked with assessing stream crossings across the state. Topics will include infrastructure vulnerability, geomorphic compatibility, and aquatic organism passage, how this information can be used to prioritize culvert replacement projects and for mitigation and ARM funding, and where you can get mapped information on stream crossings in your community.
  - There are approximately 17,000 stream crossings in the state where roads go over rivers and streams.
  - Undersized culverts create road washouts, barriers to aquatic organisms, migratory barriers, etc. The assessments collect data on geomorphic activity, aquatic organism passage including 130 parameters. We have gotten data on 10,000 of the crossings.
  - This initiative has multiple partners (DOT, NHDES, F &G, Homeland Security).
  - In the coast we have completed 826 surveys done mostly by RPC and SRPC.
  - How is it done? Hand-held devices, training, team of two can do a crossing in 45 minutes.
  - DOT has to get infrastructure condition variables through SADES (Statewide Asset Data Exchange System). The next phase of this project is to upload data from SADES and run through a scoring ranked for compatibility, aquatic organism passage, and hydraulic vulnerability. They took Hazard Mitigation plans and drew a circle around where floods were happening, so they have data on what culverts have flooded.
  - For the coastal MS4s: 22% are fully compatible, 7% are mostly incompatible, 80% of the crossings do not have AOP.
  - NHDES has two programs (at least) to fund culvert crossing.
    - NHDES wetland mitigation programs. If project applicants can't mitigate wetland impacts, then they put funds into the ARM fund. The procedure asks the permittee to

check in with the conservation commission first to identify what project would be good mitigation (conservation priority list). The stream crossings on the list are prioritized.

- The ARM 2018 grant round pre-application is due April 30<sup>th</sup>. Will fund culvert replacements or stormwater improvement projects. Contact Lori Sommer [Lori.Sommer@des.nh.gov](mailto:Lori.Sommer@des.nh.gov) or 271-4059 with any questions.
- The project has to have ecological benefit components to it. To know this, look at the data for your town, look for failed geomorphic capacity or flood zone. We have the on-line mapper to ID culvert data with ecological benefits. You can also download this data on your own shape files. The Coastal Viewer has statewide data now.
- The data mapper is a link to DES wetlands mitigation program webpage at: <http://nhdes.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=21173c9556be4c52bc20ea706e1c9f5a> It has tools for querying by town, and data summary tools that give you a snap shot of your town, can look at the scores, and can explore that data, has F & G data, and can turn on other data layers (conservation parcels), dams, wetlands. Then the maps can be printed as pdf and be used as part of an application.
- ? Has the scoring system changed to make these culverts rank higher? Yes.
- ? Does the hydrologic analysis take it to the next step to make recommendations on sizes? No, not yet. But it would be good data to provide to an engineer.
- ? Does it give you the flow at those points? No, it has a GIS analysis that gives you flows. We are piecing it together and will put that layer up there.
- ? If we know of a culvert that hasn't been mapped and we know it needs to be replaced, can we apply? Yes.
- ? How can you partner with DOT projects? The stormwater improvements do qualify for ARM but they wouldn't score very well without the ecological benefit.
- ? Can we use ARM for emergency replacement for failed culverts? You can't use the funds for projects that are already done.
- The pre-app is pretty simple. Then will eliminate the low scores to avoid wasting time. The full applications are not due until August.
- ? Are there limits on what you can apply for? Not sure. I have seen the past ones and they are about \$40,000 to \$400,000. There are no matching funds requirements but if you do have them it helps.
- ? Is monitoring required for culvert replacement projects? Yes, and they can be funded by the grant.
- ? Is the 1.2 million the regular? No, this is more than usual due to large projects by DOT.

- 3. Work Session on Rockingham Planning Commission NOI grant project** – Julie LaBranche, RPC. Collaborative kick off meeting/work session to develop a more detailed scope of work within the budget and review the EPA NOI template with a focus on all municipalities working to the same approach. Municipal representatives indicated that their wish for the NOI template was to be able to fill out the NOI in a way that meets the MS4 requirements without inadvertently adding more to the permit requirements. Communities would like to be able to use the same language and tools whenever possible. The communities would like to look into the existing practices and resources as much as possible to meet the requirements, rather than focus on developing all new programs. It was acknowledged that all of municipalities go well above and beyond when it comes to stormwater management, however, for permit tracking and compliance purposes, communities want to focus on just what is required. It was also acknowledged that by working together in this strategic way, all communities are more effectively implementing stormwater

practice that will continue to improve the waters in the region. Julie LaBranche suggested that a smaller subcommittee of representative could be more actively involved with the work, with regular updates back to the coalition as a whole. Owen Friend-Gray, Rochester offered to be on the subcommittee. Gretchen Young, Dover, said that she would reach out to others to put together a committee.

**4. Mapping RFP Update and Next Steps** – Julie LaBranche, RPC and Jamie McCarty, Portsmouth: Status and review of contract and next steps.

- Jamie M: Talked to Rachel (RPC) and Rob (SRPC) and they are looking at the delineation part and that needs to be worked out a little more before we write up the contract. We hope to have a draft contract on this by April.

**5. Update from Southeast Watershed Alliance** – report from SWA Board of Directors regarding the SSC administrative fee concerns and next steps.

Michael Trainque SWA Chair and Gretchen spoke yesterday to clarify the SWA board had not taken a vote to collect administrative fees and the money is still there. At this time they don't intend to request any administrative fees in the future and had not actually withdrawn fees yet. They look at it as a partnership and think there are some good long term benefits to be gained by working together. The SWA looks at this as part an effort to implement projects towards improving water quality in the watershed. The SWA is made up of the communities. As a separate effort, the SWA has solicited \$200 from a number of communities to aid in covering administrative fees.

**6. Initial Brainstorm for Next Potential Collaborative Project** – Barbara McMillan, NHDES and James Houle, UNH Stormwater Center. Some priorities were discussed by the group.

- Looking at what we need to do for the testing/monitoring.
- Addressing IDDE program details.
  - Sewer systems – Rochester has SSOs
  - Screening of the outfall program
  - In Rochester, almost all of our new outfalls are going to be high priority
  - Need a protocol that addresses these questions
  - Training
- MCM # 6: SWPPs for that could include a template
- MCM # 1:
  - Look at what might need funding on the collaborative aspects on the outreach tools.
- Mapping
  - Need interns to field check the data that they have so far. (Newmarket)
  - Share a license?
  - DOT offered to host the data and share the data. It is more important to see each other's data. People's GIS is good for Seabrook.
  - Could do GPS so everyone could have maps.
  - Talk to DOT and maybe have an army of interns to do it.
  - Rochester has good GIS.
  - Free tryouts on mapping software.

- Good Housekeeping piece – cooperative purchasing regional contractor that does about five different communities. And maybe street sweeping.

Do we want to budget for another project? We still have some funds but could contribute another \$1,000 per municipality for new efforts. **Everyone agreed to move forward with adding \$1,000 contribution from each municipality.** Will try to keep additional contributions to a minimum and see how the balance goes based on need and effectiveness.

**7. General Announcements:**

- Mike announced that the SWA meeting on March 14, at 6:30. Julie LaBranche will be doing a project on looking at Exeter and will be presenting on the updating of the model stormwater regulations.

**8. Next Meeting Date and Agenda:**

- Next meeting: March 28 at 1:00 – 3:00 at the Dover Community Services Building (DPW). Agenda will include Outreach and Education initiative update and planning.