

# Seacoast Stormwater Coalition Meeting Minutes

Dover Community Services Building, 271 Mast Road  
Dover, New Hampshire

Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

## Present:

*Bruce Cailloult, Danville*  
*Bill Boulanger, Dover*  
*John Storer, Dover*  
*Gretchen Young, Dover- Chair*  
*Suzanne Warner, EPA*  
*Paul Vlasich, Exeter*  
*James Hafey, Hampton*  
*Heidi Marshall, Hoyle-Tanner*  
*Megan Dalton, Kingston (Geoinsight)*  
*Barb McMillan, NHDES*  
*Ben Sweeney, NHDES*  
*Katie Zink, NHDES*  
*Jamie McCarty, Portsmouth*  
*Phoebe Rafferty, Portsmouth*

*Paul Cazeault, Rollinsford*  
*Caroline Kendall, Rollinsford*  
*Dennis McCarthy, Rye*  
*Gary Lemay, Somersworth*  
*Jackson Rand, SRPC*  
*Phelps Fullerton, Strafford*  
*Tavis Austin, Stratham*  
*Chris Raymond, TEC/ Seabrook*  
*Jamie Houle, UNH SC*  
*Glen Tuttle, UNH*  
*Britt Eckstrom, Wright-Pierce*

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1. **Introductions:** All in attendance are listed above.
  2. **December 18, 2019 meeting minutes:** Tabled until next meeting.
  3. **EPA news release on the negotiated settlements regarding the MS4 General Permit for New Hampshire and Massachusetts:**
    - Suzanne Warner (EPA) presented.
    - Settlement agreement regarding MS4. EPA has been in mediation with the Center for regulatory reasonableness, The Home builder's association and the center for law.
    - The public notice on the settlement is on the Federal Register Website. There is a 30-day public comment period that started on December 27, 2019.
    - The settlement agreement will signed after the public comment period.
    - There will be another public notice with comment period for changes to the permit at a later date.
    - Comments are made through regulations.gov
    - Impaired waters, Phosphorus TMDL Lincoln Park, Post Construction language.
    - There is a timeline change- extended a year in the proposed permit modifications.
    - Q- Newmarket had an extension because they are new to the permit – will that time be extended?
      - A- That would be a good comment.
    - There is a news release on the EPA website which links to the page to make comments.
    - Q- Several NH communities were part of the initial lawsuit. I didn't see them in the materials that were put together.
      - The Center for Regulatory Reasonableness represented several communities.
    - Dover is happy with how the settlement is resolved.
    - General feeling of the group is that this doesn't change anything as far as implementation is concerned. This is more about legal language changes.

- Newmarket has made changes to their ordinances and now they need to go back.
    - If you're going above and beyond they don't need to make changes.
  - Q- Is a town supposed to work under their NOI as is or make changes?
    - A- They should work under their NOI until changes to the permit become final and they can make changes at that point.
  - Contact Suzanne for questions on this or Michal Cobb for Great Bay permit questions.
  - Q- Did Dover make changes to their ordinance?
    - A- Dover had already made changes that were above and beyond what was in the permit.
4. Barb passed around a Save the Date for **Landscaping for Water Quality**, a workshop that will be held March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> in Derry. Contact Barb with questions.
- Q- This should be sent to Green SnowPro folks as well- a lot of them are landscapers in the summer.
5. **Draft Great Bay Total Nitrogen General Permit for Wastewater Treatment Facilities in NH:**
- John from Dover gave an update.
  - These are his comments and do not reflect on the Dover City Council.
  - When the numeric nitrogen limit (0.3) was put out in 2009 communities were concerned about the science behind that number.
  - Dover, Exeter, Portsmouth WWTF have made improvements recently.
  - Nitrogen numbers are down and that is encouraging.
  - If Dover needs to upgrade their plant to get to .3 it will cost 25 million dollars.
  - They thought they would see more improvement from BMPs for the money.
  - Clark Fries from NHDES called and asked what Dover thinks about an integrated permit.
  - They came up with goal of 100 kg/hectare/year.
  - The current amount is about 170 kg/ha/yr.
  - Dover is very proud of their Berry Brook project. They reduced impervious cover by 20%.
  - They would have to find 40 Berry Brooks to meet the permit. There is a significant gap.
  - DES says that the 100kg/ha/yr comes from research. This would be like getting to a total nitrogen amount in the estuary of 2.4mg/l – background in the ocean is 2.1mg/l.
  - They are hoping to have a meeting with municipalities on Jan 28 or 29, Feb 3, 4 or 6.
  - We hope to get a peer review on the science.
  - There are concerns over data collection. Who is going to do the work and who is going to pay for it?
  - Q-In the draft permit, table 2, effluent limitation is in pounds per day. How do you get down to the numbers for individual communities?
    - A- That is in the fact sheet. They take your average flow to get pounds per day.
  - Q- If there is growth, this limit will stay the same.
    - A- Yes.
  - Dover is looking at zoning to encourage growth of industry meaning their WWTF is going to have to do a better job at removal.
  - Dover and Rochester are funding Dr. Howe to look into what an appropriate number of nitrogen reduction would be.
  - The state could be a partner if they could ban nitrogen in fertilizer or work with reducing air deposition.
  - Email John, Gretchen, or Bill with questions.
  - Q- For pollutant removal curves, who would approve that, and host it?
    - A- EPA region 1 would have to do that.
  - John would like to see EPA, DES, PREP and the communities all work together to pay for this.
  - PTAPP data collection and updating performance curves will be important to this effort.

## **6. MCM #5 Post Construction Stormwater Management**

- Jamie is looking to see if anyone needs help with this.
- This is due at the end of the year.
- Rollinsford is still working on an internal process for who is going to what when in regards to inspections.
- Gretchen will review their ordinances to see if they are ok. That offer is for the group if anyone is struggling with this.
- This is only for disturbances of one acre or more.
- Q- What are the changes?
  - A- The changes will be regarding percent removal.

## **7. MCM #6 Good Housekeeping and Pollution Prevention for Municipal Operations**

- Jamie presented.
- One of the things they are working on with PTAPP is schemes for metrics that people are reporting. For instance, Exeter is using lane miles.
- This is not something we will work out today, but in the future we should work out common metrics. UNH does yards because they have so many parking lots.
- The plan is to develop load reduction curves.
- In some cases, they have to sweep the same street twice, yardage is a better way to manage this.
- Jamie will work with some of you on this.
- The idea is to get a “standard reduction” like with taxes so that you won’t have to delineate every catch basin.
- Bill Boulanger talked about sewer grit.
- What do they do with leaves and street sweeping? The treatment plant is no longer doing composting.
- They put in an SRF to put in a new compost facility. They will still have cans that will get hauled off by a recycling facility.
- They will dry the material and screen it to get the waste down.
- This will cost a little over three million dollars to build and they are hoping to have it working by next spring.
- They might be able to regionalize this eventually.
- Jamie did a study this summer with a high efficiency street sweeper. What they found was that most of the phosphorus was left in the sediment but most of the nitrogen stayed in the water.
- There is potential to get credit for your snow dump because the sediment and pollutants are not going into your receiving water.
- UNH can provide templates for O&M requirements. You aren’t required to have BMPs but if you do you need to have O&M for them. For Portsmouth- the guy who cleans them wrote the procedures. UNH and Portsmouth will compare notes and put together a template.

## **8. Hot Spot Mapping Project**

- Update from UNH
- Hot spot maps are done. For all communities in Great Bay with the exception of those that didn’t have parcel data.
- These are maps for Sediment, Phosphorus and Nitrogen. You can sort by any of these.
- This is the heart of a nutrient control plan.
- The next step will be to separate out manageable load from unmanageable load (like forests).
- They are still working out where to park these and how to roll them out.
- Q- Where did the data come from?

- A- Region one export coefficients.
- We aren't dealing with disconnected impervious cover – this is basically the foundation to develop a nutrient control plan.
- Q- What's the output?
  - A- we are creating maps but the data is in the attribute tables.
- Q- Can it be housed on the blog?
  - A- It is parcel data, but it has been cleansed.
- Q- Is this due year four?
  - A- Yes you need to have municipally owned lands ranked by year four.
- Q- Should we do a demo at a coalition meeting or something separate?
  - A- Are people going to do this before year four?
  - We want to role this out before people start calculating in different ways and coming up with different numbers. This way everyone calculates the same way.
- This is surface load; it doesn't include septic systems.

#### 9. Updates and Other Business:

- Templates available on the MS4 Blog made available by Deb Loiselle on December 31, 2019:
  - [Draft Written Catchment Investigation Procedures template](#) and [Draft Manhole Inspection Log](#)
  - MCM #6 [Final template](#)
  - MCM #6 permittee-owned or operated (as outlined in the permit) [Draft SWPPP template](#)

#### 10. Upcoming Meeting Dates and Agenda Focus for 2020 – *Mark your calendars!*

Meetings will occur on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. We will start work on elements necessary for year 2 requirements of the permit and update the SWMP template as needed. Following are the topics that are planned for the monthly meetings. Please note that topics may change dependent on priorities identified during the year.

Please email potential agenda items and/or presentations to Gretchen Young at [G.Young@dover.nh.gov](mailto:G.Young@dover.nh.gov) or Deb Loiselle at [deborah.loiselle@des.nh.gov](mailto:deborah.loiselle@des.nh.gov). These will be considered for upcoming meetings and very helpful in the development of the monthly agendas.