

**MINUTES -
NH Lower Merrimack Valley Stormwater Coalition Meeting
Zoom**

Thursday, December 10, 2020, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Present:

<i>Dawn Tuomala, Chair</i>	<i>Merrimack</i>	<i>Sara Siskavich</i>	<i>NashuaRPC</i>
<i>Jeanne Walker, Chair</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Mason Twombly</i>	<i>NashuaRPC</i>
<i>Brandon Boisvert</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Deb Loiselle</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Craig Durrett</i>	<i>Derry</i>	<i>Lisa Loosigian</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Lorilee Mather</i>	<i>Geolnsight</i>	<i>Tom Swenson</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Sarah Whearty</i>	<i>Goffstown</i>	<i>Katie Zink</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Joan Cudworth</i>	<i>Hollis</i>	<i>Jeff Gowan</i>	<i>Pelham</i>
<i>Thomas Bartula</i>	<i>Hooksett</i>	<i>Dena Hoffman</i>	<i>Pelham</i>
<i>Earl Labonte</i>	<i>Hooksett</i>	<i>Adam Mendoza</i>	<i>Pembroke</i>
<i>Heidi Marshall</i>	<i>Hoyle-Tanner</i>	<i>VJ Ranfos</i>	<i>Pembroke</i>
<i>Michael Trainque</i>	<i>Hoyle-Tanner</i>	<i>Lyndsay Butler</i>	<i>Salem</i>
<i>Ben Lundsted</i>	<i>Manchester</i>	<i>Micheal Leach</i>	<i>Stantec</i>
<i>Kellie Walsh</i>	<i>Milford</i>	<i>Jamie Houle</i>	<i>UNHSC</i>
<i>Amy Prouty-Gill</i>	<i>Nashua</i>	<i>Bill Arcieri</i>	<i>VHB</i>
<i>Doug Starr</i>	<i>Nashua</i>	<i>Michele Decoteau</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
<i>Colin Sullivan</i>	<i>Nashua-DPW</i>	<i>Peter Howd</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
<i>Andrew Smeltz</i>	<i>NashuaRPC</i>	<i>Dick Gregory</i>	<i>Windham</i>

1. Introductions: Those in attendance are listed above.

2. Meeting Minutes:

- November 12th, 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

3. Overview of the Holiday Meeting and Events:

- Dawn, Michele and Jeanne Presented.
- There will be Stormwater Bingo, jokes, *Wait, Wait Don't Tell Me*, and an escape room along with the ugly sweater contest.
- Jokes will be scattered throughout the meeting.
- Joke #1- Ted Diers- You know what you get when the salt spreader runs over a duck? A saltine quacker!

4. EPA NH MS4 Audit Overview:

- Dawn Tuomala (Merrimack) and Lyndsay Butler (Salem) presented.
- Salem was audited in July and Merrimack about three weeks later in August.
- They compared notes and created a [spreadsheet](#) that they shared with the group.
- Kevin Stockton (PG Environmental) was contracted by EPA to conduct the audits and was on both audit teams. The EPA representatives varied.
- Dawn cautioned that she almost deleted the email from Kevin Stockton because it was an unknown individual and entity. If you receive an email from Kevin, it is legitimate and make sure you do not delete it. PG Environmental has been hired from EPA Region 1 to conduct the NH MS4 audits.
- Deb Loiselle (NHDES) was invited by both towns to participate in both audits.

- The reports were 250 pages total, but, only 14-20 pages included findings and comment. Appendices included the permit, town documents, etc.
- The observations and finding for both towns were very similar.
- They were told that typically the audits are completed in person and are conducted over four days to go through files and spend time in the field.
- Due to Covid it was four days on Zoom with no field inspections.
- On the last day of the audit, they provided preliminary verbal findings and additional requests for data which they had a week to respond to.
- Dawn (Merrimack) and Lyndsay (Salem) did not agree with everything in the audit. Lyndsay has written a formal response, and Dawn plans to do so as well in the near future.
- For items one (General Information) and two (MCM #1) in the written audit report, neither received criticism during the audit, but, there was a discussion about the effectiveness of outreach (MCM #1). Dawn noted that the written audit results do not match the MCM #1. For example, item #2 on the written audit report is MCM #1.
- Lyndsay discussed how they planned to shift their program to a more digital format due to Covid. They talked about how they plan to track. The auditors seemed satisfied with that.
- Use the public participation list- you are probably also doing most of these things. There are things you are likely doing but are not taking credit for, and that fall under MCM #2. Examples from Merrimack and Salem include: Roadside clean-ups, rain barrel program, Touch-A-Truck, EnviroScape Demonstration, presentations at BOS meetings, household hazardous waste collection days, hotlines
- Make sure your web links work- some issues came to light during the audit.
- Comments made by the auditor on requirements that were not addressed are in green on the spreadsheet.
- Salem didn't have IDDE training but had a plan in place that couldn't be done due to Covid and they didn't get called out on that.
- Q- Was the coalition procedure deficient?
 - A- For Merrimack- she hadn't used that, Salem didn't use it word for word they haven't got into investigations yet. It was not required to be complete at the time of their audit.
- Q- What is an outfall as opposed to an outlet is a tricky one.
 - A- That is one of the things that made our (Salem's) legal authority insufficient. The town disagrees with this and responded to that. They are working to make the wording stronger and the rules are there but it is in bits and pieces.
- The ordinance for site stormwater runoff control was not strong enough for the auditor. Dawn and Lyndsay both feel like what they have in place is working and meets the requirements. Dawn is looking to tighten up their language. In both cases the auditor wanted to see more follow-up, but both towns feel that contractors are responsive and follow-up is not usually needed because both towns are in constant contact with the contractors and make sure any issues are corrected.
- Neither town had procedures to ensure the adequate long term operation and maintenance of privately owned stormwater control measures.
- Merrimack will have their first post construction meeting next week.
- Salem keeps construction documents linked to GIS but they don't have staff to follow up.
- Q- Goffstown requires a "drainage maintenance agreement" and its recorded. It makes sure the owner is aware they are responsible for maintenance but that if they don't do it, the town may step in to do the maintenance and will send them a bill. Sarah would be happy to share it.
- For Good Housekeeping the auditor didn't agree with the classes that Merrimack employees were taking and were told SWPPPs were not developed. Dawn said she has them but some are out of date and they know they have to bring them up to date.

- Q- Did the EPA explain why they choose your towns first, was it random, did they say if there would be more?
 - A- Yes it was random, no idea why they were first and Lyndsay thinks they intend to audit all MS4's in NH.
- Q- The permit requires SWPPPs for maintenance garages, public works yards, transfer stations, and other waste handling facilities where pollutants are exposed to stormwater. There are also templates for these on the MS4 Blog that can be cut and pasted into the SWMP. Are these inadequate or is this a time issue?
 - A- Dawn doesn't know the answer.
- Q-Does this only apply if the facility is within the MS4 area?
 - Yes, but in Merrimack it's all in the MS4.
- Q-In the NH MS4 permit there is a lot of room for interpretation, how versed do you feel the contractor was on our local permit, one of only two like it in the country?
 - A- It seems like there were a few things that they were unaware of like the permit modifications. They didn't have a clear idea of topography, lifestyle (rural) etc. they seemed to follow the permit verbatim. They didn't even know that EPA was the permitting authority, they thought it was NHDES.
- Joke #2- Ben Lundsted- Why did the raindrop cross the road? To get out of the MS4 area!
- Joke #3- Sarah Whearty- What's a weatherman's favorite reptile? A Blizzard!

5. Pollutant Load Mapping (aka Hotspot maps) and Voting:

- Jeanne presented an overview of the pooled funds.
- Funds have been collected from 10 communities (Amherst, Bedford, Hollis, Litchfield, Manchester, Merrimack, Milford, Pelham, Nashua and Wilton) and held by NRPC for future use. These towns will vote on whether to spend funds and will need a majority approval.
- Overview by Jamie Houle of the presentation of the Pollutant Loading Mapping (aka Hot Spot Maps) project that was presented at the November 12th meeting:
 - UNH is working with GRANIT to create tools and maps to account for pollutant load reductions. This was done on the Seacoast because of the Great Bay requirements and it has been useful for some of the MS4 requirements. They are working on making the maps useful for pollutant loading requirements (phosphorus and nitrogen) and parking lots for the 10 parking spaces or more as it pertains to chloride.
 - The data is not as good here as it is on the coast but the Seacap data can be used and is good quality for the intended use. The intent of the proposed project is to create maps for the NHLMV communities using Seacap so that they can be used to meet some of the MS4 requirements.
 - The maps have an excel worksheet with load data that can be sorted.
- NRPC is the fiscal agent. They will allow a "not to exceed" as they don't have an exact dollar amount to complete the work that Jamie noted above.
- Jeff Gowan from Pelham made the motion for NRPC to act as fiscal agent and to authorize the NHLMV to expend money in an amount not to exceed \$6,500 to UNH and GRANIT to create the Pollutant Loading maps. Amy Gill from Nashua seconded the motion.
- Voting was done and results are as follows:
 - Amherst- not present, Bedford (Jeanne Walker)- approved, Hollis (Joan Cudworth)- approved, Litchfield- not present, Manchester (Ben Lunsted) - approved, Merrimack (Dawn Tuomala) - approved, Milford (Kellie Walsh) - approved, Pelham (Jeff Gowan)- approved, Nashua (Amy Gill) - approved and Wilton (Michele Decoteau)- approved.
- The motion passed with a majority vote.

- A document will be prepared and meeting minutes attached, and provided to NRPC for disbursement requests and payments.

6. Wait Wait Don't Tell Me game of poll questions on Snow was played.

7. NH Stormwater Coalition Chairpersons & NHDES meeting with EPA:

- Dawn, Jeanne, Gretchen (Dover), Jamie (UNHSC), Deb, Katie, Tom, Martine Wong (EPA) and Josh Secunda (EPA) were in attendance.
- Questions were sent to EPA in advance.
- EPA started by saying that Suzanne's position will not be replaced but her duties will be spread out amongst several current EPA personnel. Martine will take over some of her role with NH and will be the NH MS4 liaison.
- They offered to supply NH MS4s with webinars if we wanted them.
- Question 1 was on outreach and education.
 - They suggested using questionnaires.
- Q2 how are we doing on compliance?
 - They are aiming to give a report card with friendly feedback in February and once they have completed their review of the Year 2 NH MS4 Annual Reports.
- Q3 was about the annual template (NH Stormwater Coalition versus the EPA template).
 - They want to discuss this further in February.
- Q4 was on funding for outfall testing.
 - They weren't sure but would look into it. It was noted that NHDES had financial assistance from EPA to provide IDDE training, site reviews, sample collection and analysis in the past, however, this was stopped once the permit came into effect.
- Q5 was on legal authority. Define "legal authority" as it pertains to MCM #3.
 - They aren't compliance personnel so they have to check with them and get back to us.
- Q6 was on-site inspections and whether a third party was acceptable.
 - They need to do research with other members of EPA.
- Basically any legal issue couldn't be answered at the time of the meeting.
- Martine will be the liaison/point person for any MS4 issues in NH. She has been with EPA for a little over a year now.
- There was consensus that we should invite Martine to a meeting to do a presentation to the group so we can put a face with the name.

8. Ugly Sweater Competition:

- **Best Overall Ugly:** Sarah Whearty with her Rudolph Pug Sweater.
- **Best Ugly Stormwater:** Tom Swenson with his Dachshund with Poop Emoji Sweater.
- Many thanks to all of you who participated and who wore your holiday attire.

9. Holiday Virtual Escape Room!

10. Updates and Other Business:

- 2020 Asset Management Webinar
Tuesday, January 19, 2021
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST ***New Date and Time***
[REGISTER TODAY](#)

- New NHDES website went live Dec 8th.
- EPA approved the modifications, you should have seen an email from Deb. It's a lot of rewording and clarifications in MCM 4 and 5.

11. Upcoming meeting dates for 2021 – Mark your calendars!

Please email potential agenda items and/or presentations to Deb Loiselle at deborah.loiselle@des.nh.gov. These will be considered for upcoming meetings and very helpful in the development of the monthly agendas.

January 14th: Year 3 summary table

February 11th:

March 11th:

April 8th:

May 13th:

June 10th:

July 15th: Note this date is not during the regular monthly scheduled time

August 12th:

September 9th:

October 14th:

November 18th: Note this date is not during the regular monthly scheduled time

December 9th: 🎄 Holiday meeting

Please email potential agenda items and/or presentations to Deb Loiselle at deborah.loiselle@des.nh.gov. These will be considered for upcoming meetings and very helpful in the development of the monthly agendas.