

## MINUTES -

### NH Lower Merrimack Valley Stormwater Coalition Meeting

#### Zoom

Thursday, March 11, 2021, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**Present:**

<i>Dawn Tuomala, Chair</i>	<i>Merrimack</i>	<i>Doug Starr</i>	<i>Nashua</i>
<i>Jeanne Walker, Chair</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Sara Siskavich</i>	<i>NashuaRPC</i>
<i>Brian Arsenaault</i>	<i>Allenstown</i>	<i>Andrew Smeltz</i>	<i>NashuaRPC</i>
<i>Eric Hahn</i>	<i>Amherst</i>	<i>Mason Twombly</i>	<i>NashuaRPC</i>
<i>Nic Strong</i>	<i>Amherst</i>	<i>Deb Loiselle</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Brandon Boisvert</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Tom Swenson</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Craig Durrett</i>	<i>Derry</i>	<i>Katie Zink</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Martine Wong</i>	<i>EPA Region 1</i>	<i>Dena Hoffman</i>	<i>Pelham</i>
<i>Lorilee Mather</i>	<i>GeoInsight</i>	<i>Christine Addington</i>	<i>Pembroke</i>
<i>Sarah Whearty</i>	<i>Goffstown</i>	<i>Victor (VJ) Ranfos</i>	<i>Pembroke</i>
<i>Patricia Kelliher</i>	<i>Hazen and Sawyer</i>	<i>Lyndsay Butler</i>	<i>Salem</i>
<i>Joan Cudworth</i>	<i>Hollis</i>	<i>Zach Swick</i>	<i>SNHRPC</i>
<i>Thomas Bartula</i>	<i>Hooksett</i>	<i>Mike Leach</i>	<i>Stantec</i>
<i>Earl Labonte</i>	<i>Hooksett</i>	<i>Jamie Houle</i>	<i>UNHSC</i>
<i>Heidi Marshall</i>	<i>Hoyle-Tanner</i>	<i>Julia Peterson</i>	<i>UNH/ SeaGrant</i>
<i>Ben Lundsted</i>	<i>Manchester</i>	<i>Michele Decoteau</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
<i>Kevin Anderson</i>	<i>Merrimack</i>	<i>Peter Howd</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
<i>Jason Cleghorn</i>	<i>Milford</i>	<i>Dave Sullivan</i>	<i>Windham</i>
<i>Amy Gill</i>	<i>Nashua</i>		

1. **Introductions:** Those in attendance are listed above.

2. **Meeting Minutes:**

- February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

3. **EPA Region 1- Martine Wong:**

- Martine introduced herself and her role with EPA.
- Her title is Compliance Assistance Coordinator.
- She provides technical assistance even though she is housed in the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance division. She also provides multimedia support.
- She works with stormwater, climate resilience, and emissions.
- She will be a connection/ liaison for NH MS4 communities and will help to get questions answered.
- Suzanne Warner was the previous NH MS4 liaison from EPA Region 1 and worked in the Water Division. Martine expressed that she is not assuming all of Suzanne's prior job duties, but, is taking over some portions of her role.
- There was an email that was sent out from EPA Region 1 regarding post construction compliance deadlines.
  - There was low reporting on this so EPA wanted to make sure everyone had access to resources.
  - If you are using the Southeast Watersheds Alliance (SWA) ordinances, you are fine.

- Send Martine an email ( [wong.martine@epa.gov](mailto:wong.martine@epa.gov) ) if you need to check in on where you are and if you are in compliance.
- She tracks annual reports and looked into how the pandemic affected the permit.
- They are already gearing up for year three reporting.
- Q- When will the template be available?
  - A- It should be available in May. We expect people to catch up on year two stuff that was missed this year.
- Q- There have been some audits in NH, who decides who will be audited?
  - A- Audits come from the Water Compliance Enforcement Section, there isn't a lot of communication with her on that. It is a bit of a black box. You can reach out to her with direct questions. [wong.martine@epa.gov](mailto:wong.martine@epa.gov) .
- Q- Are there webinars to look out for?
  - There is a webinar on a year three requirements for best practices and resources associated with construction. Look for this in May. Deb will send everyone the information once it becomes available. EPA is open to suggestions for other training opportunities that communities would like to see.

#### 4. MCM #1 Updates and Progress Reports:

- Tom Swenson (NHDES) presented.
- The Zoom link for the monthly meetings will be changing next month. Please see Deb's monthly email for the new link and make sure you use this link and not previous ones.
- Those with a bacteria impairment should reach out to their business audiences. That is scheduled for this year so please do that in year 3.
- There is an optional outreach item on the MS4 Blog.
- Julia Peterson will give an update on the Land-use Water Quality Training later in the meeting.
- Yard season is almost here- there are flyers, mailers, and postcards from UNH Extension available on the MS4 Blog. These are all customizable so you can add your towns logo etc. There are others that can be printed and mailed without customizing.
- These can be used for both residential and business outreach.
- There are also Covid-19 related resources.
- The first link includes tidbits- these can be put on a website or mailed out.
- You could also send a link to the UNH website that has this same information.
- There are new social media posts that you can copy and paste to your social media accounts. These include a picture.
- There are also links to videos that can be shared to local TV stations. The videos are about 6 minutes long. They are found on YouTube.
- These aren't one size fits all but you can pick and choose from the toolbox.
- Pet waste- with dog licensing happening or about to happen now is a good time to do this. The PREP pet waste pledge is still happening. Some towns have their own pledge on their website.
- These can be printed and mailed or handed out at a town hall, etc.
- There are examples of what towns have used that are available on the blog for others to use.
- There will be an update for industrial audiences next month.
- Contact Tom ([thomas.swenson@des.nh.gov](mailto:thomas.swenson@des.nh.gov)) if you need any assistance with your outreach.
- NHDES is working on another IDDE video, we hope to film in early April. This should be done this spring so that you can use it for training your employees.
- The previous videos are in draft form, but they are pretty well set there will just be some language added.

- Merrimack had an IDDE incident two weeks ago- catch basin cleanings were being dumped on private property without any licenses. This should be going to a proper facility. They found out due to a complaint. If this is happening in Merrimack it could be happening in other towns. You can actually see it on google earth. This started in 2017, there was a violation with NHDES. Merrimack contacted NHDES and it is in their hands now.

#### 5. Winter Maintenance:

- Tom presented.
- Deb sent an email looking for information on salt usage. This will help to make the salt database more user friendly.
- They are looking for your salt reports or just a few sentence on what you do.
- Thank you to the towns that have already supplied information.
- The SB 131 bill was titled "ought to pass". The NH Municipal Association has also been very supportive of this bill.

#### 6. UNH Stormwater Center Updates:

- Jamie Houle presented at the end of the meeting due to a timing conflict.

#### 7. Updates and Upcoming Events:

- **NHDES 2021 Water Infrastructure Financing Webinar Series**  
***Save the Dates: May 4th, 6th, 11th and 13th. All webinars are 1:00-3:00 pm***  
 The New Hampshire Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) Programs will be hosting the 2021 Water Infrastructure Funding Webinar May 4-13, 2021. The webinar will include a series of 2-hour sessions focusing on funding programs administered by NHDES and topics including funding program updates, crafting warrant articles, green infrastructure, energy efficiency, asset management and more. The intended audience includes current/future loan recipients, community/financial decision makers, public works directors, city/town managers, commissioners, selectmen, municipal and regional planners, consultants/engineers, operators, and others interested in the NHDES-administered funding programs. Registration information and a preliminary agenda will be available soon on the [website](#). **Questions/Contacts:** Emily Nichols, NHDES at (603) 271-8320 or [Emily.Nichols@des.nh.gov](mailto:Emily.Nichols@des.nh.gov); Kathleen Bourret, NHDES at (603) 271-2902 or [Kathleen.Bourret@des.nh.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Bourret@des.nh.gov).
- **UNH Stormwater Center Trainings**
  - Stormwater Management Certificate and Individual Trainings  
 \*Need to take 5 of 6 available trainings to receive the certificate  
 For more information and registration visit: <https://training.unh.edu/Stormwater>
- **The Merrimack: River at Risk**
  - [Movie Trailer](#)
  - [Full Length Movie](#)
- **The New Hampshire Rivers Council Annual Film Festival**
  - March 26, 2021  
 Virtual reception at 6:30 pm and films begin at 7:00 pm  
 For more information and to purchase your tickets visit: <https://nhrivers.org/film-festival-2021/>

## General Discussion

- In the ordinance document that Jeanne put together item 2.3.6 was different than what was in the draft. Jeanne, Deb and Jamie are going to sit down and piece through that to make sure that no changes need to be made. If anyone else would like to join that conversation let Jeanne or Deb know.
- Regarding the post construction regulations email that Martine touched on- was there a template for those regulations or was that municipality specific?
  - Jeanne is not sure what they are going after. There are some resources on the MS4 Blog. If you used the SWA template, you should be ok. If you want to know specifically for your community if you met the mark you can reach out to Martine and she will let you know.
- When I go to MCM 5 on the blog there are two items- they download the same document.
  - The document that Jeanne put together is under MCM #4.
  - If you want to bring down the language in the ordinance you can say must comply with the regulations and you can cover everything there.
  - EPA noted that one thing that was left out was pollution reduction, so make sure you have that.
- Sarah got an email to be a certified stormwater inspector. The email made it seem like you need to be certified for the permit.
  - This is not a requirement for NH. Some state run programs require certification, but not NH.
- **Julia Peterson shared Water Quality and Lawn Fertilizer/ Yard Waste Outreach Support for MS4s.**
  - Sea Grant and UNH received a grant to do research a few years ago and that is the basis of what she has to offer.
  - Check out the UNH Extension page for resources. There are workshops and presentations available that Julia can present. She can also do a skills clinic.
  - There are lawn care kits that prompt appropriate behavior.
  - Landscaping for Water Quality Training is a multi-day event that is coming up. This is designed for professional landscapers.
  - Would anyone be interested in hosting an event?
    - Jeanne (Bedford), Lyndsay (Salem), Joan (Hollis) would be interested.
  - You can email Julia at [Julia.peterson@unh.edu](mailto:Julia.peterson@unh.edu).
- **Jamie Houle (UNHSC) gave an updates on Pollutant Load/Hot Spot Mapping and IDDE sampling.**
  - UNH GRANIT should have something to share regarding the maps as early as next week. Jamie will provide an overview on how to use these, specifically the sorting features. Jamie will present more in the coming months.
  - Initial outfall investigation is due this year. A draft of the standard operating procedures is on the MS4 blog. <https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-ms4/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Dry-Weather-Investigation-Standard-Operating-Procedures.docx>
  - These can be cut and pasted into your IDDE plan.
  - Please send Jamie comments and feedback by April 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - They had to define certain values like sample size and what constitutes enough flow and what was just ponding.
  - Field kits were identified.
  - There is a table with threshold conditions.
  - There is a screening for surfactants that meets the intent of the permit. This was discussed with Newt Tedder because the kits contained hazardous waste.

- Q- When would you like comments by?
  - The hope is that these same documents will be used for the wet weather sampling so he would like to see comments by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**8. 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](mailto:deborah.loiselle@des.nh.gov). These will be considered for upcoming meetings and very helpful in the development of the monthly agendas.

**April 8<sup>th</sup>:** Municipal (Salem and Bedford?) presentations on Stormwater Asset Management Programs and how it has helped to assist with meeting requirements (i.e. MCM #6 Section 2.3.7.1.d.ii and others)

**May 13<sup>th</sup>:**

**June 10<sup>th</sup>:**

**July 15<sup>th</sup>:** Note this date is not during the regular monthly scheduled time

**August 12<sup>th</sup>:**

**September 9<sup>th</sup>:**

**October 14<sup>th</sup>:**

**November 18<sup>th</sup>:** Note this date is not during the regular monthly scheduled time

**December 9<sup>th</sup>:** 🎄 Holiday meeting