

# Seacoast Stormwater Coalition Meeting Minutes

Zoom meeting

Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

## Present:

*Gretchen Young, Dover- Chair*

*Sean Maxwell, AECOM*

*Max Kenney, Dover*

*April Talon, Durham*

*Jen Mates, Exeter*

*Cameron Twombly, FBE/ N. Hampton*

*Matt Scruton, Greenland*

*Jim Hafey, Hampton*

*Heidi Marshall, Hoyle-Tanner*

*Lorilee Mather, GeoInsight*

*Dennis Greene, NHDES*

*Deb Loiselle, NHDES*

*Tom Swenson, NHDES*

*Katie Zink, NHDES*

*Jamie McCarty, Portsmouth*

*Phoebe Rafferty, Portsmouth*

*Dennis McCarthy, Rye*

*Mike Bobinsky, Somersworth*

*Amber Ferland, Somersworth*

*Jackson Rand SRPC*

*Alaina Rogers, SRPC*

*Stefen Nguyen, TEC/Seabrook*

*Jamie Houle, UNH SC*

*David Bowley, UNH*

*Julia Peterson, UNH Extension*

*Martine Wong U.S.EPA*

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1. **Introductions:** All in attendance are listed above.
  2. **Meeting minutes:** Meeting minutes will be approved when we meet in person, they will remain on the MS4 Blog in draft form until then.
  3. **EPA Region 1 – Martine Wong:**
    - Martine introduced herself.
    - She works in the EPA Region 1 Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division but is in the outreach section (Multi-media Assistance and Support section).
    - She helps to support permittees with webinars, fact sheets and newsletters
    - She also works on climate resilience, stormwater, industrial stormwater and more.
    - She has taken over a tiny fraction of Suzanne Warner’s duties.
    - She is not a permit guru or an engineer.
    - The Water Division is where the folks that oversee the MS4 permit reside. Martine showed the EPA Region 1 organization charts.
    - All EPA regions are set up the same to match EPA headquarters structure.
    - Some people received a post construction bylaw email.
      - This was addressed from Martine though she didn’t write it.
      - The purpose was to raise awareness and highlight what needs to be addresses.
      - This topic stood out because there was about 50% compliance so they wanted to share some observations.
      - A lot of people wrote in the annual reports that it was not completed as a result of Covid, that was appreciated.
      - They wanted to share the available resources so they could be in compliance for the next report.
      - If you are not sure if you are meeting requirements you can reach out to Martine and she can check if you are missing anything.
    - Q- Was 50% compliance based on all reports or just noted for those that used the EPA Annual Report template?
      - A- All reports.

- Year 2 Annual Report review- Really high all time submission rate. And they were on time.
- Martine's section put together a review to see what activities were most impacted by Covid and where help is needed.
- This report gets passed on to enforcement.
- Martine wanted to recognize all the work that the coalition is doing. She is impressed with what she is seeing.
- Q- Did I hear correctly that if the standards were modeled after SWA, that the pollution reduction requirements were covered?
  - A- Yes, if you modeled after those standards you have complied.
- Q- Which part of the SWA regulations were you having issues with?
  - A- Nutrient reductions.
  - Occasionally there were rates that weren't high enough.
    1. These are 50% both TN and TP.
  - Gretchen said she hadn't seen anything below that and Martine said she might be remembering incorrectly.
- Q- People can get in touch with you to see if they are in compliance?
  - A- Yes, email is best [wong.martine@epa.gov](mailto:wong.martine@epa.gov) or phone (617) 918-1740
- Q- Will you go back to the office or stay remote?
  - A- We will definitely go back to the office.
- Q- Anything we should be looking for while we put together the Year 3 Annual Report?
  - The post construction. Also finish up what was remaining in Year 2.
- Take a look at your ordinances and check that you have appropriate removal rates. Take her up on her offer to check your standing.

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

- Tom Swenson presented.
- Spring is coming, now is the time to look at your fertilizer and lawn care messaging.
- The first resource is on UNH's website. There are fliers, mailers, postcard templates available where you can customize to your municipality or an option that you do not have to change.
- Water Quality Lawn Practices has been updated recently. You can use that on your social media or websites.
- There is another option that is geared towards blogs.
- There are social media posts with pictures available they are pre-fab so you can just copy and paste to Twitter, Instagram etc.
- There are lawn care videos that can be used on your local TV station. They are each about 6 minutes long. They can also be shared on websites or on social media.
- Q- Who did these videos?
  - A- They were set up by UNH-Cooperative Extension.
  - If you have trouble with these- let Deb and Tom know.
- UNH has more videos available if you want to check for something that matches with your audience.
- Q- Who is the audience for these?
  - A- Residential and even some business.
- For pet waste there are Everydrop postcards and the pledge is ongoing.
- There are several brochures that towns have made that can be adapted for your town. They are located on the MS4 Blog.
- Reach out to Tom with questions or if you are in need of assistance.
- The industrial audience resources should be available in April. This will include a fact sheet and a spreadsheet with target audience addresses.
- Q- Are we going to have Ben Lundsted from Manchester present on this?

- A- Yes, Tom will check in to make sure that is still happening.
- There will be an IDDE 101 type of video in the spring. We are working on finalizing the script. The currently available IDDE videos starring Tom and Katie are in draft form. They are finalizing them and there will only be small modifications.
- Q- Was nitrogen in your videos?
  - A- There were two probes shown- Ammonia and Nitrate. There is now a Hach method that is being used.
- Julia Peterson shared more information on what UNH is providing.
- She can help towns host virtual workshops. One could be about having an attractive lawn without causing water quality issues. The town would do marketing and collaborate on content and UNH would host on Zoom link, provide information for marketing, and create/ deliver the presentation. They could also provide a survey. NHDES would assist as well.
- Later in the spring is a good time to do this messaging. Fall is also a good time to hold this as fall is traditionally the number one time to fertilize lawns.
- With many people working from home we are hoping this will draw people in.
- Q- Do you get into organic versus non-organic fertilizer?
  - A- Yes, that is something Julia would talk to the town about including.
- This can also be given in person, eventually.
- Reach out to Julia and Tom if you are interested in this.
- Gretchen thanked Julia and UNH for the outreach they have created.
- There is a Landscape for Water Quality training coming up.
- UNH, NHDES, and a landscaper have been working together to put on this workshop for professional landscapers.
- This includes an onsite training to conduct a redesign of a site where they incorporate what they learned in the virtual training classroom.
- The onsite training portion is taking place in Derry.
- This was promoted mostly to those who signed up last year (canceled due to Covid) and the Department of Agricultural distribution list.
- The website is: <https://extension.unh.edu/events/landscaping-water-quality-online> .

#### 5. Winter Maintenance:

- Tom Swenson presented.
- Gretchen said that she heard a rumor that putting salt usage into the database isn't the most user friendly. You might want to hold off until it improves.
- Deb and Tom are working on what fields would be helpful to make it easier for municipalities to enter data into the database. This information will be presented to Chris Avery and Ted Diers soon and they will work out how to improve the database.
- Anyone who has a chloride impairment is required to track their data.
- This is supposed to be a user friendly tool. We are finding that it's not.
- Deb gave an update on the Municipal Green Snow Pro-SB-131. It is moving along and voted likely to pass.

#### 6. UNH Stormwater Center Updates:

- Jamie Houle presented.
- Hot Spot maps (aka Pollutant Load maps) are available on the GRANIT website.
- These are for Appendix H Nitrogen Source Identification Report requirements.
- This could be used for those under the Great Bay Nitrogen Permit- there will be additional needs.
- This would be used for implementation that will be required in year 6 of the MS4 permit.
- There is talk of a webinar on how to sort the data- this will likely be in year 4.

- Nitrogen sources work shouldn't be a heavy lift since we have this data.
- IDDE sampling SOPs were created, this is on the Blog under MCM #3 titled Dry Weather Investigation Standard Operating Procedures.
- Let Jamie know if you would like to see changes to the document. Please do this by April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- They had to figure out a standard as to what constitutes flow.
- There is a table with threshold conditions. Some of these are for tracking.
- For surfactants they use presence or absence using a Q-tip and unbleached paper. If you get a hit you might follow up with a lab sample.
- Outside of E. coli or Enterococci action limits there are no EPA benchmarks and these will be noted.
- Gretchen shared what Dover did.
  - First they found their outfalls. They had used interns to identify outfalls- some were private. They used the DPW personnel to go to the sites and log in what they saw. They checked if it was accessible, whether there was flow, status (public or private) and if it had been tested or not.
  - Step 3 was to collect a sample if there was flow. Some areas were precarious. You can create a sampling pole if needed.
  - They used a minimum of 400 ml per sample. 400-600ml is typical.
  - Step 4 was to test the samples, they used the Idexx method for bacteria. They used a YSI meter and chlorine strips.
  - The WWTP ran the Nitrogen test. The meter was expensive at about \$1,000. This is to be shared so reach out if you would like to use it.
  - UNH is running the genomics to see what is causing the bacteria- whether it is humans or ducks, etc.
  - Step 5 is further investigation.
  - Step 6 repeat! They only had 10-15 flowing outfalls. It is good to get this down now because wet weather sampling will bring in a lot more samples.
  - It is doable to do this in house.
  - We will bring Bill Boulanger in to talk about how to find illicit discharges.
- Q- Were you able to use data from your Asset Management program?
  - A- We use ViewWorks. All of the information was collected through ESRI and pulled into ViewWorks. This helped narrow down where the outfalls were.
- Deb plugged the CWSRF loan program. Pre-apps will be due June 1<sup>st</sup>. More details to come. Reach out to Deb, Katie or Gretchen to learn more. Dover used Asset Management and Planning loans so feel free to ask questions.

## 7. Updates and Other Business:

- **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>
  
- **EPA New Multi-Sector General Permit Webinar**
  - EPA is hosting a webinar about the new Multi-Sector General Permit on February 18 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The webinar will cover industrial stormwater program basics, discuss the structure and requirements of the new permit, including how to renew coverage or get coverage for the first time, and highlight new provisions and changes from the 2015 MSGP. For information and to register go to [https://events-na6.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/2448447077/en/events/event/shared/default\\_template/event\\_landing.html?sco-id=2465075067&\\_charset=utf-8](https://events-na6.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/2448447077/en/events/event/shared/default_template/event_landing.html?sco-id=2465075067&_charset=utf-8)
  
- **The Merrimack: River at Risk**
  - [Movie Trailer](#)
  - [Full Length Movie](#)
  
- **Stormy Awards**
  - Submit your idea for the 2020 New England Stormy Awards. For more information please visit: <http://www.nestormwater.org/website-builder>  
Let's get New Hampshire in the mix!  
Due March 1, 2021
  
- **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/>
  
- Gretchen gave an update on the work progress for MCM #5 permit requirement, Section 2.3.6.b, relative to long-term operation and maintenance of stormwater management practices. Portsmouth is working on this with their consultant, VHB. Work should be kicking off soon. This will help with private development. *(Note: The Seacoast Stormwater Coalition members who provided financial support to the pooled funds voted at the monthly meeting on December 16, 2020 to expend the remaining funds in the amount of \$32,643.86 on this effort.)*

**8. Upcoming Meeting Dates and Agenda Focus for 2021 – Mark your calendars!**

Meetings will occur on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

**April 21<sup>st</sup>:**

**May 19<sup>th</sup>:**

**June 16<sup>th</sup>:**

**July 21<sup>st</sup>:**

**August 18<sup>th</sup>:**

**September 15<sup>th</sup>:**

**October 20<sup>th</sup>:**

**November 17<sup>th</sup>:**

**December 15<sup>th</sup>:**

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.