

MINUTES -

NH Lower Merrimack Valley Stormwater Coalition Meeting

Zoom

Thursday, May 13, 2021, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Present:

Dawn Tuomala, Chair Merrimack

Jeanne Walker, Chair Bedford

Eric Hahn Amherst

Brandon Boisvert Bedford

Craig Durrett Derry

Amy Sanders Fuss and O'Neil

Lorilee Mather GeoInsight

Sarah Whearty Goffstown

Joan Cudworth Hollis

Thomas Bartula Hooksett

Earl Labonte Hooksett

Heidi Marshall Hoyle-Tanner

Ben Lundsted Manchester

Kevin Anderson Merrimack

Amy Gill Nashua

Caleb Cheng NashuaRPC

Sara Siskavich NashuaRPC

Andrew Smeltz

Mason Twombly

Deb Loiselle

Tom Swenson

Katie Zink

Jeff Gowan

Dena Hoffman

Christine Addington

Victor (VJ) Ranfos

Zach Swick

Mike Leach

Jamie Houle

Michele Decoteau

Peter Howd

Dave Sullivan

NashuaRPC

NashuaRPC

NHDES

NHDES

NHDES

Pelham

Pelham

Pembroke

Pembroke

SNHRPC

Stantec

UNHSC

Wilton

Wilton

Windham

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

2. **Meeting Minutes:**

- April 8, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

3. **Check-In – MCM #4-6:**

- Dawn Presented.
- Went over polls from last month.
- Please reach out if you need help.
- We can schedule to talk about what people are struggling with next month- just let us know.
- Poll- How are you doing with your MCM#4 requirements this includes site inspections
 - 55% great, 45% ok but need some help with this.
- Discussed Steven Chase's (PG Environmental) webinar that EPA hosted regarding site inspections.
- Previous annual reports had a lot of blanks; this raises a red flag.
- Make sure to keep records of enforcement activities.
- Will talk in depth on this next month.
- Michele D (Wilton) suggested a plan review tracking form. Bring an example if you are using this next month. Michele will help draft a form.
- Example inspection forms are available on the MS4 Blog (these are from UNH and Manchester). They are under MCM #4 towards the bottom.
- Manchester has a new form they will share.
- Peter (Wilton) wanted to talk about how towns are handling enforcement.

- They touched on that during the webinar. Does anyone have examples on what they do that they could share?
 - Merrimack used to give verbal warning, but they recently created a form. If problems persist they go to the zoning board which can issue a cease and desist and after that it can go to the health officer.
- NHDES will put together a list of people at the state that you can reach out to for enforcement.
- Sarah shared a story from Goffstown. A woman was walking on the rail trail on a Friday afternoon, called the fire dept. to tell them she saw a neon green flow from a pipe. They didn't respond, Sarah found out about it on Monday and investigated. It turns out it came from a car wash with a drain issue. Bellmore came to suck out the contamination. Sarah reached out to NHDES but got the run around and still hasn't heard back. Correct contacts at the state would be helpful.
- Deb thinks this should go to Teresa Ptak. Deb will follow up.
- Merrimack had an issue a couple of months ago and NHDES responded right away.

4. MCM #1 Updates and Progress Reports:

- Tom Swenson (NHDES) presented.
- Water Quality Lawn Care Presentation by Julia Peterson (UNH Cooperative Extension) is available.
- This presentation was given in the Town of Rye and it went really well.
- For the NHLMV communities that would like to do a similar webinar, you will hear from Tom and Julia on potential dates.
- Landscaping for Water Quality is rescheduled for Nov. 3 and 4.
- Deb and Tom have been working on a MS4 General Permit Training Matrix.
- You can use this document to see what resources are available. It is broken out by MCM.
- If you have resources that you would like to have added to this document, send them to Tom.
- This is a living document that will continue to be updated.
- This is on the MS4 Blog under MCM #6.
- The NHDES IDDE training video is still being working on. Filming will begin soon. This will be for all municipal employees.
- Poll- How are you doing with your MCM #5 stormwater management for new development and redevelopment.
 - 54% really good, 46% ok but need to work on this some more, 0% not doing well.

Sign the kudos card for Jeff Gowan, Pelham, who is retiring at the end of this month.

5. Winter Maintenance:

- Deb Loiselle presented.
- SB131 hearing was held. Deb could not find an update on whether it passed. There were some typos and water maintenance, instead of winter maintenance, was referenced.
- Deb and Tom met with Chris Avery, Ted Diers, and Steve Landry regarding the Salt Usage Database. As a result, there will be a long term fix, this will be discussed. The short term fix will be a simple form that will meet the intent of the permit requirement for those that fall under Appendix F & H for chloride. The goal is to present this form at the June meeting to give you enough time to use the form for your EPA Year 3 Annual Report.
- Thank you for sharing your comments on the database.
- T2 is offering free and virtual Green SnowPro trainings. See the MS4 Blog tab "Winter Maintenance Resources" and look under winter maintenance- training.

- There are full trainings and refreshers. The full trainings are broken into shorter sections over three days. They go from 8-10 am.
- There are additional trainings on the MS4 Blog as well, there is a cost associated with some of those.

6. Year 3 Annual Report:

- Dawn Tuomala presented.
- NHDES, and NH Stormwater Coalition chairs met with EPA on the NH Annual Report template.
- EPA responded to the template and gave advice on improvements and language changes.
- EPA template will likely be out in June.
- The NH Template will be updated with EPA changes.
- The coalitions were split on reporting last year - about 50% using EPA and 50% NH template.
- Leaving info out raises a red flag so mark something down, even if it is just NA.
- Overview of comments:
 - MCM #1 was fine.
 - MCM #2 wanted language on record keeping.
 - MCM #3 Add in language on inspections and follow-up. They recommended including examples or put none found, NA, etc.
 - Take out language such as “in accordance with NOI”. This was acceptable for year 1 but not later years. It should be consistent with permit, not NOI.
 - MCM #6 they need to see units.
 - SWPPPs- need to report findings.
 - Inventory status needs to be reported.
 - There was a question on self-assessment. By reporting to them you are doing your self-assessment.
- Overall the meeting went very well. The changes were very reasonable.
- If you’ve fallen behind, note where you’re at and how you plan to get back on track.
- Poll- How are you doing with MCM #6- employee training, tracking catch basin cleaning and inspections, and establishing procedure for winter road maintenance.
 - 27% really good, 73% Doing ok, needs some work, 0% not good.
- It is hard to train people this year due to restrictions on size of gatherings.
- This is a big lift this year.
- Reach out with what specific pieces you need help with.
- Amy (Nashua) appreciates the virtual trainings. She cited the winter maintenance training.
- Q- Is the shorter timeframe over more days a good format?
 - A- Yes, two hours might be long. Starting earlier for them might be better as they start their day at 7 or so.
- Q- What about videos? Are those good so that timing is more flexible?
 - A- Yes, and it can be saved for when the weather is bad.
 - On demand videos would be awesome.
 - A lot of people don’t have desks or computers. There is a balancing act for the communities.
 - Tracking forms are helpful as well.
- Q- Would a master training form work or individual?
 - A- Any form is great, but individual is preferred.
 - Merrimack uses Excel.

7. MCM #5 (Section 2.3.6.b) Long-Term Operation and Maintenance

- Seacoast Stormwater Coalition is using their remaining pooled funds to hire a consultant to create documents to meet that requirement.
- Bill Arcieri, VHB will be working on this. The work should be done by June/ July.
- This will be shared with all NH MS4 communities.
- There will be an update at the June meeting.

8. Overview of the 2021 CWSRF Loan Program, Pre-Applications and Upcoming Deadlines (Note: This was an added agenda item)

- CWSRF pre-app due June 1. Deb gave an overview of her presentation that she gave on Tuesday.
- There are three SW categories for funding; Asset Management, Planning, Infrastructure.
- 88% of towns have not used the \$30,000 available for loan forgiveness- even if you have a program you can kick it up a notch with this funding. You could also do wastewater at the same time with additional principal forgiveness.
- Planning loans have up to \$75,000 in principal forgiveness. This can be used for meeting MS4 requirements. Manchester and Salem have received these loans.
- Infrastructure loans are to implement SW infrastructure. 10-15% is usually available for principal forgiveness. Make sure to contact NHDES no later than 30% design.
- Pre-apps due June 1. Contact Deb or Katie ASAP.
- Asset Management projects are not ranked and all submissions will be authorized.
- Planning and infrastructure projects are ranked.
- The project priority list is out in August or September.
- If you are selected, you will receive a letter with next steps.
- Full loan applications are due June 30, 2022.
- Loans can be greater than the principal forgiveness amount. This is encouraged.
- Consultants must be hired using a Quality Based Selection procedure.
- Poll- Do you look at or use the “News and Updates” page on the MS4 Blog?
 - 8%- yes, 50% sometimes, 42% no.

9. Updates and Upcoming Events:

- **Virtual Drinking Water Source Protection Conference**

May 19 (9:00-2:30) and May 20 (9:00-3:00)

[Register Here](#)

- **The Merrimack: River at Risk**

- [Movie Trailer](#)
- [Full Length Movie](#)

If you would like to air the movie on your local television station, please reach out to:

Ryan Smith

Communications Manager

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

Tel: 603-224-9945

Email: rsmith@forestsociety.org

- **31st Annual Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference (virtual) (5/20-27/2021)**

This conference, coordinated by NEIWPCC in partnership with member states and EPA, has become the premier forum for sharing information about nonpoint source pollution (NPS) issues and projects in this region. This year's conference theme – A Virtual Watershed Moment – focuses on the strength we find in our partnerships and collaborative efforts between states, agencies, and organizations. For more information about this conference, please visit <http://neiwppcc.org/our-programs/nps/annual-nps-conference/>.

- **Save the Date – 2021 Annual Asset Management Workshop for Water Infrastructure**

Data in the Water Industry
November 9, 2021 All Day Event
Edward Cross Training Complex
722 Riverwood Drive
Pembroke, NH

10. 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.

June 10th: Winter Maintenance, Draft IDDE Training Video, Hot Spot Map Overview,
2018 Municipal Water Quality Report

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 – Hollis Barn!

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