

Seacoast Stormwater Coalition Meeting Minutes

Zoom meeting

Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Present:

Gretchen Young, Dover- Chair

April Talon, Durham

Jen Mates, Exeter

Matt Scruton, Greenland

Heidi Marshall, Hoyle-Tanner

Michael Trinqué, Hoyle-Tanner/ SWA

Chris Jacobs, Milton

Deb Loiselle, NHDES

Ted Diers, NHDES

Tom Swenson, NHDES

Katie Zink, NHDES

Brian Goetz, Portsmouth

Jamie McCarty, Portsmouth

Phoebe Rafferty, Portsmouth

George Guilmette, Rollinsford

Dennis McCarthy, Rye

Mike Bobinsky, Somersworth

Amber Ferland, Somersworth

Jackson Rand, SRPC

Autumn Scott, SRPC

Stefen Nguyen, TEC/Seabrook

Leo Bush, UNH

Michael McKay, UNH

Will Powers, UNH

Jamie Houle, UNH SC

David Bowley, UNH

Bill Arcieri, VHB

Britt Eckstrom, Wright-Pierce

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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 Blog in draft form until then.
 3. **HB426:**
 - Ted Diers presented.
 - This is about the ability to regulate nitrogen from septic systems.
 - We've heard that communities want some express authority for nutrient reducing septic systems within their municipality.
 - You have some of that ability today however it is always better to be able to point to an express authority versus saying it doesn't say I can't.
 - This bill is located in the subsurface statutes.
 - The bill is currently sitting in legislative purgatory.
 - Communities need to request to move this particular piece forward.
 - The bill could come back with something narrower as it is a bigger piece.
 - Talk to your town planners as this will need support to move forward.
 - Q-We can already adopt stricter standards. Why is this needed?
 - There are a number of people that think this isn't necessary, but also a number that would find it helpful.
 - Would the cities be the ones to do the regulating? Would rather see this in state regulations versus at municipal level.
 - Ted doesn't disagree, this was seen as a baby step.
 - If this bill isn't needed or desired, we won't try to make it happen.
 - One of the challenges we have is that we haven't gone down the process of approving technology for nitrogen reduction.
 - There are other states that have approved such technologies.
 - Q- Could we look to NHDES on approving technologies like we do with AOT on approving BMPs?

- It's challenging the way the rules are structured. We need some way to have third party assessments to show how technologies meet all of the other requirements in the subsurface rules. This works better for the municipalities and the state.
- We don't necessarily need to have these everywhere (could just be closest to estuaries).
- We need to have a good idea on whether this should move forward by September. So we could have further conversations.
- Having something at point of transfer gets pushback from real-estate lobbyists.
- Q-Where is the language found?
 - Can look it up online. The bill number is HB426.
- Q-Will it change permitting within the subsurface bureau?
 - No, you would be responsible that whatever is required complies with all of the state regulations within their particular zone. The way it's written now is the state is not responsible at all.
 - The technology would have to be approved by the state.
- Q-If this isn't at the time of transfer, then is it just for new construction?
 - New construction or upgrades.
 - Determining failure is a dicey one as well.
- Milton sees a lot of summer camps that have been converted to year round without septic replacement- that might be causing the fecal problem that they are seeing. Would like to see sewer in this area but would be several miles. This area drives the economy in the summer.
- Q- The hang up is at the time of sale, but with the housing market the way it is, it seems like \$20,000-\$30,000 to replace the septic system wouldn't be an issue.
 - So the issue is not having a failing septic system.
- The push is that we need more support for regulations around septic systems.
- Q- Why don't we see support at the state level?
 - Would have to define who can do an evaluation, who is certified, and what qualifications are necessary. It makes sense to do it that way, but there is a whole set of constituencies that don't want to see change.
- Who makes decision on septic failings in Massachusetts?
 - In Nashoba Valley they have two lawyers and a stay at home person on a committee. The Conservation Committee granted it. So it wasn't at a state level.
- You'll have to hire hydrogeologists to look at soil. The technical design will be less.
- The other element to this is once you start going down the road of technologies, you can decrease set-backs and increase density.
- Nitrogen setbacks are based on slope and soils. That set of regulations is appreciated.
- It sounds like there is more discussion needed. Ted would like to set something up as a follow-up. Would love to find some baby steps that we can take.
- SRF use for sewer extension has been forbidden but there may be a change to that coming.

4. IDDE Sampling Effort (Dover and UNHSC CWSRF Project):

- Gretchen presented.
- There is a genomics lab in Greg Hall at UNH that can look at a range of species that can be in your bacteria sample.
- Costs are \$20-\$30 per sample. Microbial source tracking can be very expensive.
- Started by sampling in Dover. They also sampled in Rye, Rollinsford and will do Somersworth.
- You can have bacteria spikes but the average over 30 days should be around 35 CFUs.
- Knowing the origin of the bacteria changes the intervention. For instance, dog poop is education and outreach.
- UNH/ Dover have sampling kits and are ordering another kit to loan out.
- As we move into wet weather, there will be more work to do looking at system vulnerabilities.

- In terms of conductivity, anything over 3000 us/cm is natural background. Anything over that, could be a salt issue.
- Q- Has everybody finished their dry weather sampling? We have 14 days to finish it.
- Reach out to Gretchen or Jamie if you need help.
- Somersworth is taking advantage of the UNH/ Dover testing. They have the rest of their sites scheduled.
- If anyone wants to tag along to see how this works, there will be sampling completed on Monday. Reach out to Jamie if you want to attend.
- The SOPs are on the blog and there are videos as well.

5. Pollutant Loading Maps (aka Hot Spot Maps):

- Jamie presented.
- These spreadsheets will be needed for year 4 requirements.
- There will be a new page on the Blog for pollutant load mapping under NH Resources. This should be up next week.
- All towns are listed in alphabetical order on the new webpage.
- This meets the prioritization requirement for BMP retrofits.

6. MCM #5 (Section 2.3.6.b) Long-term Operation and Maintenance:

- Jamie presented.
- Portsmouth Results- A group of five seniors investigated 17 BMPs to get them into the tracking database. They estimated over 13,000 pounds of TSS, 34 pounds of TP and 263 pounds of TN removal per year.
- If all 76 systems were entered, it would result in a removal of 1,152 pounds of TN per year.
- Resulted in estimated cost of \$4/ lb TN removal.
- Jamie discussed the ongoing O&M program with VHB.
- This is a year 3 deliverable. Might not be finished by the end of the month. Jamie wants to have a subcommittee on this.
- This will help to provide consistency in data collection.
- Will provide templates for letters and accounting items.
- We will have language for your SWMP and year 3 report.

7. MCM #1 Updates and Progress Reports:

- Tom presented.
- Landscaping for Water Quality Workshop has been set for November 3 and 4.
- It may be in person or virtual. The format will be decided at a later date.
- Julia Peterson is doing her annual reporting and would like to know who has been using the Green Grass Clean Water outreach materials that she has supplied. Please put a yes in the chat or email Tom if your community has used them.
- Do your industrial audience outreach by the end of year 3 so we can stay on track. Resources are on the blog. Let Tom know if you have any issues.
- There is a training matrix which compiles the training resources we have available.
- This is organized by MCM.
- This will be a living document. Send resources you would like to add to the matrix to Deb or Tom.
- Most of the resources are free but there are some with a fee.
- This is on the blog under MCM #6.
- The general overview IDDE video is almost ready, Tom shared a trailer. This should be ready in July.

8. Winter Maintenance:

- Deb presented.
- SB131 is about 50% of the way through the process.
- This is part of an omnibus bill and was sent back to the senate with an amendment. It was marked “ought to pass”.
- The salt usage database (T2) is required for anyone who falls under Appendix F or H.
- We’ve heard from many that the database doesn’t easily allow municipal salt use tracking.
- Revisions to the database will need to be made to make it work better for municipalities. These revisions won’t be done for several months.
- There is a form that you can use in lieu of the database.
- This is a temporary fix.
- This form is more user friendly.
- You can use the database but please only select ONE method.
- You can utilize this form even if you are mandated under Appendix F or H.
- Let Deb know if you have comments.
- Deb went over the sections of the form.
- Completed forms need to be submitted by September 15 for year 3. For all other years, it will need to be submitted by June 30.
- Q- We don’t use salt and sand on the road, but provide it for residence.
 - A- Anything for private residence doesn’t need to be reported.
- Q- What about the barrel we have for the town offices?
 - A- It seems like a small amount, but you should incorporate that into where it talks about parking lots and sidewalks.
- The form is on the Blog under Winter Maintenance. It is titled Annual Salt Usage Reporting Form. A link to the database is there as well. Only use the form or the database to report your salt use, not both.
- Free and virtual Green SnowPro trainings are available from UNH T2, don’t forget to sign up. These are in July and September. They might not remain free and virtual, so don’t miss out!

9. Construction General Permit:

- Deb presented.
- The proposed changes to the new Construction General Permit were noticed on May 12. Comments are due on July 12.
- Q- Was anyone aware of this? It wasn’t on NHDES radar, it is now.
- There is a webinar on 6/17/21 if you want to find out more about the proposed changes.
- <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/proposed-2022-construction-general-permit-cgp-and-related-documents>
- NHDES will be sending comments on the proposed permit to EPA.
- Please let Deb know if your municipality has concerns.
- Q- Is this for all types of projects? Such as roads, water plant upgrades, etc?
 - This is a national permit for areas of 1 acre or greater disturbance.
 - A lot of people are more familiar with it being referred to as an NOI which requires a SWPPP.

10. Updates and Other Business:

- **Do people have strong feelings about these coalition meetings being virtual vs in person?**
 - Most people like this format.
 - We will stick with this for a little while. Maybe do an in person meeting in the fall. Not seeing Dennis McCarthy is one downfall.

- **EPA Webinar on 2022 Construction General Permit (CGP)**
EPA is hosting a webinar to summarize the proposed permit and answer questions from attendees.
June 17, 2021
1:00 EST
[Register for the webinar](#)
- **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

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

Meetings will occur on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

July 21st: Year 3 Annual Report template, MCM #5 (Section 2.3.6.b) Long-term Operation and Maintenance materials developed by VHB.

August 18th: Year 3 Annual Report.

September 15th: Year 3 Annual Report.

October 20th:

November 17th:

December 15th:

Please email potential agenda items and/or presentations to Gretchen Young at G.Young@dover.nh.gov or 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.