

## MINUTES -

### NH Lower Merrimack Valley Stormwater Coalition Meeting

#### Zoom

Thursday, November 18, 2021, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**Present:**

Jeanne Walker, Chair	Bedford
Eric Slosek	Amherst
Brandon Boisvert	Bedford
Craig Durrett	Derry
Jonathan Meunier	GeoInsight
Joan Cudworth	Hollis
Thomas Bartula	Hooksett
Earl Labonte	Hooksett
Heidi Marshall	Hoyle-Tanner
Paul Elsholz	Laconia
Troy Brown	Litchfield
Jose Lovell	Londonderry
Ben Lundsted	Manchester
Jason Cleghorn	Milford
Amy Gill	Nashua
Sara Siskavich	NashuaRPC
Emma Rearick	NashuaRPC

Ted Diers	NHDES
Steve Landry	NHDES
Deb Loiselle	NHDES
Tom Swenson	NHDES
Aubrey Voelker	NHDES
Katie Zink	NHDES
Dena Hoffman	Pelham
Nate Sullivan	Pelham
Christine Addington	Pembroke
Victor (VJ) Ranfos	Pembroke
Lyndsay Butler	Salem
Zach Swick	SNHRPC
Mike Leach	Stantec
Jamie Houle	UNHSC
Michele Decoteau	Wilton
Dave Sullivan	Windham

---

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

**2. Meeting Minutes:**

- October 14, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

**3. Winter Maintenance (moved from item 5):**

- Deb Loiselle and Ted Diers presented.
- Aubrey Voelker is the new Salt Reduction Program Coordinator. She comes from the Squam Science Center where she's worked for about the last 5 years.
- She is looking forward to bringing municipalities into the program.
- SB131 was passed in 2021 which authorizes the voluntary Municipal Winter Maintenance Green SnowPro Certification Program.
- This will be a little different from the Commercial Green SnowPro Certification Program in that the program will be certified, not individuals.
- There may be levels and incentives.
- There will be an annual fee but the amount is unknown at this time. This will be discussed at some point in the future.
- This discussion is meant to be high level. There will be more opportunities for input later on as well.
- What are the elements of a program? Ted proposed the following elements for discussion: Planning, Training, Preparation, Plowing, Salt application, Analysis of Level of Service, and Salt accounting.
- We will discuss each of these in depth.

- Something that came up in discussion yesterday is outreach and communication with town management and people that live there.
- Q-Are there any other things that did not get caught in this net?
  - A-Bedford would like to see credit for what they have already done to reduce salt usage.
  - Weather tracking.
  - Funding for retrofitting.
- Planning- what are the parts of your planning that could have salt reduction elements?
  - Low salt areas.
  - Salt accounting, storage, and not purchasing in excess.
  - Routes, Bedford has drivers look at the route before the snow flies. Labor shortages may cause issues based on amount of staff.
  - Communication to the public- do you have a plan that is shared with the public and elected officials? What does that mean for your salt use? Black pavement within 5 minutes of the first flake or getting to smaller roads within 24 hours are different expenses.
  - How you stage and plan equipment. When are you doing calibration? Are you doing new techniques like pre-wetting, etc.?
  - Mutual aid from neighboring communities. This can help with staff shortages and equipment failures.
  - Wilton developed a Storm Report to communicate with the Select Board after a storm. How much salt was used, what roads were plowed (miles), hours, workers...
  - Lexington, MA has a website that shows where trucks are in real time.
  - Looking at parking lots for things (catch basins, etc.) before plowing.
- Training-is there a value in single entity training (involving only one municipality in the training) vs larger group training (involving multiple municipalities in the training)? How can this be tied into the Road Scholar program?
  - Plow drivers wanted to be Green Snow Pro certified. Bedford likes to get employees trained so that everyone is on the same page.
  - How would the drivers like to be recognized?
  - Hands on training is important and talking about issues that others have run into in the field.
  - Q-Is it better to have someone come to you or send them out?
  - A-Better to send them out where they can talk with others.
  - Having multiple municipalities at trainings would be great to get different perspectives and techniques.
- Preparation- What can be done before storms.
  - Maintenance.
  - What happens after one storm and before the next? Do you check calibration and equipment?
  - Amherst's trucks are all calibrated, with most having onboard computers. We make sure to zero out material counters before storms to accurately account for salt tonnage used.
  - Check lists might be helpful. There could be different levels of checklists.
  - Weather monitoring, road temperatures.
  - Connecticut invested in forecasting that was specific for road temperature.
  - The City of Manchester hires a forecaster, maybe that is something that can be built upon.
  - Amherst uses Precision Weather Forecasting. They began including pavement temperature in their forecasts last winter.
  - Derry uses Precision Weather Forecasting as well.
- This presentation will be available on the MS4 Blog. Ted will come back to hear more suggestions.
  - Tables for application rate based on condition.

- Ted wants to see wrist bands with “plays” on them like Tom Brady wears.
- How are you measuring what comes in and goes out?
  - Amherst uses a work order software. It has helped with generating reports. This can help to see differences between trucks, routes and operators.
  - Bedford uses software that uses measurements by weight. The bucket has a scale on it. That’s how you figure out total use by truck. The scale automatically sends the data to the software.
  - Having a dedicated loader can help.
- Levels of certification- could be gold, silver, and bronze. Should it be based on performance or activity?
  - Bedford would be concerned with it being based on reduction. They need to balance public safety. The best management practices should be weighted the most. They want to get to the point where they don’t need to reduce anymore.
- Other things to talk about are incentives for municipalities and for employees.
  - How do we tie this in with the Road Scholar Program?
  - Can we tie in grant funding?
  - A bonus system, passes to conference, gear or merchandise?
  - Contact Ted Diers, [ted.diers@des.nh.gov](mailto:ted.diers@des.nh.gov) or 603-568-5991. Or any NHDES folks (besides Steve Landry ☺) with thoughts on this program.

#### 4. Year 4 Requirements:

- Deb Loiselle presented.
- The Seacoast Coalition has formed a subcommittee to talk about these requirements.
- There will be SOPs developed for dry weather/ wet weather sampling.
- This will utilize the same prioritization as you used for dry weather. They will make a similar chart for the wet weather sampling.
- We will share these products with the NHLMV when they become available.
- Dover and the UNH Stormwater Center had an IDDE presentation. This presentation will be posted on the Blog.
- The SOP will be updated on the Blog soon.
- There is equipment available if you would like to borrow that from Dover. Reach out to Gretchen Young for more information.
- MCM5- Looking to put together a checklist for this. The Seacoast thought they were in good shape on this. Reach out to Deb if you feel that you need additional help.
- Appendix H- Nitrogen and Phosphorus Identification report requirements. How are you doing with this?
  - There were no responses.
- Let Deb know if you need assistance.

#### 5. Hot Spot Mapping (aka Pollutant Load Maps):

- Deb Loiselle and Tom Swenson presented.
- Using Hot Spot Data and Reports for MS4 Compliance Workshop
  - Friday November 19<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am -12:00 pm EST  
Virtual via Zoom <https://unh.zoom.us/j/97974445328>
- Get to this meeting. The coalition spent money on these maps. Hopefully you will all be there.
- This will be a fully virtual workshop. They are going to bring up maps and showcase a community from each coalition.

- Reports have been developed for each community that will help with retrofitting and prioritizing municipally owned parcels.
- The presentation will be recorded and placed on the Blog under Pollutant Load Maps “Hot Spot Maps”.
- The reports and spreadsheets for each community are available on the Blog.

**6. MCM #1 Updates and Progress Reports:**

- Tom Swenson presented.
- Portsmouth made some outreach videos. They are on the Blog. There are two for pet waste and one for yard waste.
- The Landscaping for Water Quality Workshop was on November 3 and 4. It was hosted by the Town of Derry. There were 29 participants that learned about landscaping for water quality and had there was a component where the participants created retrofit ideas for Hood Park to improve water quality.

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

- Deb Loiselle presented.
- VHB has presented the materials to the Seacoast subcommittee.
- The subcommittee will go over the draft documents after Thanksgiving.
- More information will be provided soon.

**8. Holiday Meeting and Planning:**


- Tom Swenson and Deb Loiselle presented.
- The holiday party will be hosted at the Hollis Barn.
- The holiday party will be in place of the normal coalition meeting.
- Poll- Are you planning on attending this event?
  - Yes- 39% No-33% Not sure-28%

**9. Updates and Upcoming Events:**

- **Training Workshop: Using Hot Spot Data and Reports for MS4 Compliance**  
November 19<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Virtual via Zoom <https://unh.zoom.us/j/97974445328>
- **2021 Annual Asset Management Workshop for Water Infrastructure**  
Data in the Water Industry  
December 16, 2021 7:45 am-3:30 pm  
Edward Cross Training Complex  
722 Riverwood Drive  
Pembroke, NH  
\$45.00/person – includes coffee, snacks and lunch  
[Registration](#)

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

**December 9<sup>th</sup>:**  Holiday meeting – Hollis Barn!