

**MINUTES -  
NH Lower Merrimack Valley Stormwater Coalition Meeting  
Zoom**

**Thursday, January 13, 2022, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

<i>Dawn Tuomala, Chair</i>	<i>Merrimack</i>	<i>Sara Siskavich</i>	<i>NashuaRPC</i>
<i>Jeanne Walker, Chair</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Emma Rearick</i>	<i>NashuaRPC</i>
<i>Brian Arsenaault</i>	<i>Allenstown</i>	<i>Deb Loiselle</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Nic Strong</i>	<i>Amherst</i>	<i>Tom Swenson</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Brandon Boisvert</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Katie Zink</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Sarah Whearty</i>	<i>Belmont</i>	<i>Dena Hoffman</i>	<i>Pelham</i>
<i>Craig Durrett</i>	<i>Derry</i>	<i>Christine Addington</i>	<i>Pembroke</i>
<i>Jonathan Meunier</i>	<i>Geolnsight</i>	<i>Adam Mendozza</i>	<i>Pembroke</i>
<i>Evan Clements</i>	<i>Hollis</i>	<i>Victor (VJ) Ranfos</i>	<i>Pembroke</i>
<i>Joan Cudworth</i>	<i>Hollis</i>	<i>Brian Goetz</i>	<i>Portsmouth</i>
<i>Earl Labonte</i>	<i>Hooksett</i>	<i>Lyndsay Butler</i>	<i>Salem</i>
<i>Thomas Bartula</i>	<i>Hooksett</i>	<i>Zach Swick</i>	<i>SNHRPC</i>
<i>Heidi Marshall</i>	<i>Hoyle-Tanner</i>	<i>Mike Leach</i>	<i>Stantec</i>
<i>Paul Elsholz</i>	<i>Laconia</i>	<i>Amanda Furtado</i>	<i>VA Medical Center</i>
<i>Ben Lundsted</i>	<i>Manchester</i>	<i>Michele Decoteau</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
<i>Kevin Anderson</i>	<i>Merrimack</i>	<i>Nick Germain</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
<i>Jason Cleghorn</i>	<i>Milford</i>	<i>Peter Howd</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
<i>Amy Gill</i>	<i>Nashua</i>	<i>Dave Sullivan</i>	<i>Windham</i>
<i>Doug Starr</i>	<i>Nashua</i>		

1. **Introductions:** Those in attendance are listed above.
2. **Meeting Minutes:**
  - November 18, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.
3. **Portsmouth’s Think Blue Campaign:**
  - Brian Goetz (Portsmouth) presented.
  - Moved to item 10 because Brian was called to another meeting.
4. **December Holiday Meeting Recap:**
  - Jeanne Walker presented an overview of the meeting.
  - There was an in-person holiday meeting in Hollis.
  - Dena Hoffman won the Ugly Sweater Contest. Congratulations, Dena!
  - Hot spot mapping was discussed which we will talk about more today.
  - A logo for the Municipal Green SnowPro was discussed and we will talk about this more at future meetings.

## **5. Wilton's Stormwater Murals:**

- Michele Decoteau and Tom Swenson presented.
- Wilton reached out to local schools to do storm drain stenciling.
- One school did some stenciling with the traditional stencils.
- A local art teacher asked Michele about storm drain murals.
- These murals were brought into the curriculum which turned into each student creating a mural that could be used for a storm drain.
- The students toured storm drains around the downtown area to get a better understanding of what storm drains are and what they can look like.
- Michele is working on writing a how-to manual on how the project was done that she can share with other communities who might be interested in doing something similar.
- Come and check out what was put together in Wilton.
- The murals will be shared on the NH MS4 Blog under MCM #1.

## **6. NH MS4 Contact List:**

- Jeanne Walker presented.
- Create a contact list that will allow communities to easily find who they can contact in other communities if they have questions.
- Create a form that communities can use to provide who the appropriate contacts are within their community.
- Tom is working with NHDES IT on the best way to approach this.
- Think about if there are multiple contacts in your community.
- This will be placed on the NH MS4 Blog though it will not be broadcast to the public. It will be placed in a subcategory and is intended as a local resource for our own use.
- Q- Laconia isn't an MS4 community yet. We anticipate becoming one in the future, but I don't want to give people the wrong idea that we are a MS4 community.
  - A- We don't have to list it strictly as MS4 communities, this contact list will be for stormwater concerns in general.
- Let Jeanne know if you have any questions or concerns.

## **7. Hot Spot Mapping (aka Pollutant Load Maps) Workshop Feedback:**

- Tom presented.
- We have had some feedback on the spreadsheets. We have heard that they are very helpful.
- There is a recording of the November workshop on the NH MS4 Blog under the Hot Spot Mapping page.
- Most people want to move this information into their GIS database. DES and UNH are working on how the GIS component of this information can be created. Meetings on how to approach this will be held in a week or two.
- Tom opened the floor to additional feedback.
- Sara S- No question- just wanted to say that having the data in GIS allows it to be used beyond the MS4 requirements. Sara is using this information for a watershed-based plan that NRPC is working on.
- Amy G wanted to say thank you and that everyone in the state using the same methodology can go a long way.
- If you have any feedback let Tom know.
- If you haven't seen the presentation, take a moment to watch it.

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

- Tom presented.
- VHB along with the help of some seacoast communities have been working on these materials.
- VHB presented at the Seacoast Stormwater Coalition meeting last month. The presentation was recorded since they were unable to come and present during this coalition meeting.
- These resources and recording are on the NH MS4 Blog under MCM #5.
- This is for the MCM #5 long-term operation and maintenance requirement which is Section 2.3.6.b. VHB knew communities were at different levels with their current O&M programs so they put together this document that gives everything you need to create an O&M program or enhance your existing program.
- Tom shared a portion of the VHB presentation video.
- The video is about an hour long.
- There are multiple attachments in the guidance manual.
- There are letters that can be used as templates to request annual reports.
- There is also a BMP reporting form.
- There is a fact sheet on why property owners are required to report and how to inspect/ maintain a BMP.
- There is a template letter requesting resubmittal of annual reporting information.
- The letters represent different scenarios that you might come across.
- Jeanne mentioned that municipalities can get overwhelmed by the sheer volume of reports. VHB mentions that you can take a random sampling of reports to check for compliance. That was nice to read, because there are some communities that are going to have a lot of reports.
- Deb reminded that this is a Year 3 requirement and completion was delayed for a variety of reasons.
- Those that have an asset management program (AMP) can use these forms in their AMP.

#### **9. Year 4 Requirements Subcommittee:**

- Tom presented.
- The SSC put together a Year 4 requirements subcommittee to help create resources to fulfill certain requirements.
- The SSC worked on a spreadsheet for MCM #3 to help track system vulnerability factors.
- Tom shared a rough draft that it is not on the NH MS4 Blog yet but will be once it is finalized.
- There is a two-page word document with questions that you can compare to your local regulations to help citizens reduce impervious surfaces. This will also be on the blog when finalized.
- Nitrogen and Phosphorus source identification reports are being worked on as well.
- The subcommittee will likely meet 2-3 more times. If you'd like to be a part of this subcommittee let Tom know. Jan 18 will be the next meeting with discussion focusing on Phosphorus reduction.
  - Jeanne Walker and Ben Lundsted volunteered to join the subcommittee.
- These meetings are fully virtual.

#### **10. Portsmouth's Think Blue Campaign:**

- Brian Goetz (Portsmouth) presented.

- *Think Blue* is used in other areas and communities for stormwater efforts. Portsmouth took it a little further with their mascot.
- This outreach campaign was shared through a mailing in the water/ sewer bill. There are also website pages dedicated to sharing stormwater information.
- Some direct campaigns include a lawn care postcard and a leaf and grass clippings postcard.
- Portsmouth will pick up yard waste if it is bagged year-round.
- The permit is for the City, when you get into private property there are limitations, you either incentivize or penalize. They are working on incentivizing.
- A pet waste postcard is handed out with dog licenses.
- Another outreach effort is for septic systems. They have Get Pumped Portsmouth.
- The *Think Blue* campaign, with mascot Blue the fish, was first utilized in October of 2019.
- Jane Almeida, the daughter of a Portsmouth employee, created the mascot.
- They have partnered with Strawberry Banke on climate change/ sea level rise, history of water and wastewater system exhibits at the Strawberry Banke location.
- They had press from NHPR.
- The City used to have wooden pipes, which were hollowed out logs. They don't think they have any in use, but still find them when they dig up roads.
- Short videos were created to help gather more attention. So far there are three videos that utilize Portsmouth employees and their families.
- These were made in house using free software. Even the music was done in house.
- You can go to the City of Portsmouth's YouTube or Instagram to see the videos. The videos are also on the NH MS4 Blog under MCM #1.
- Portsmouth uses the hashtag #thinkblueportsmouthnh when they do their outreach efforts.
- Brian shared the videos with the coalition.

#### **11. MCM #1 Updates:**

- Tom presented.
- Winter maintenance outreach materials have been created for property and business owners.
- They are on the Blog under NH Resources- Other- Winter Outreach Materials. They will likely be located on the "Winter Maintenance" page as well.
- The first material is a letter that goes to private parking lot owners that have 10 or more parking spaces.
- The letter has two options.
  - The first option is for communities with a chloride impairment. This option states that private parking lot owners with 10 or more parking spaces must use a Green SnowPro certified contractor for snow removal.
  - The second option is for communities without chloride impairments. This option just recommends that private parking lots owners with 10 or more parking spaces use a Green SnowPro certified contractor for snow removal.
- The second outreach material is a customizable brochure for chloride reduction.
- Salt is a bigger problem than we think and communities without chloride impairments are encouraged to use these outreach materials as well.
- The Municipal GreenSnow Pro program is moving along. NHDES is working on the rules and will share any updates they have in the future.

## 12. Updates and Upcoming Events:

- **NHDES Infrastructure Funding Webpage**

NHDES weblink: <https://www4.des.state.nh.us/infrastructure-funding/>

Information on any available funding will be posted on this website

Sign up for email alerts from NHDES pertaining to CWSRF/ARPA/Infrastructure funding opportunities

at: [https://www4.des.state.nh.us/infrastructure-funding/?page\\_id=26](https://www4.des.state.nh.us/infrastructure-funding/?page_id=26)

Upcoming events and funding deadlines (currently known):

[https://www4.des.state.nh.us/infrastructure-funding/?page\\_id=73](https://www4.des.state.nh.us/infrastructure-funding/?page_id=73)

**January 7, 2022:** Drinking Water Sustainability Grant applications

**January/February 2022:** Drinking Water Sustainability Grant recipients notified

**January 2022:** Initial solicitation for Critical Flood-Risk Assistance

**March 2022:** Second solicitation for applications to the Assistance for Disadvantaged Communities grant program

**Spring 2022:** Cybersecurity Audit assistance solicitation

**February/March 2022:** Deadline for Critical Flood-Risk Assistance applications

**March/April 2022 (Deb added):** *Annual solicitation for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)*

**June 2022:** Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) pre-applications due

## 13. Upcoming meeting dates for 2022 – 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.

**February 10<sup>th</sup>:** Wet weather sampling.

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

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

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

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

**July 14<sup>th</sup>:** Prepare for Year 4 Annual Report

**August 11<sup>th</sup>:** Prepare for Year 4 Annual Report

**September 8<sup>th</sup>:**

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

**November 17<sup>th</sup>:** Note this date is not during the regular monthly scheduled time

**December 8<sup>th</sup>** 🎄 Holiday meeting – location TBD