

Seacoast Stormwater Coalition Meeting Minutes

Zoom meeting

Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Present:

Gretchen Young, Dover- Chair

Sean Maxwell, AECOM

Bill Boulanger, Dover

April Talon, Durham

*Annie Tucker, Environmental Partners Inc./
Durham*

Nils Larson, Exeter

Paul Vlasich, Exeter

Renee Bourdeau, Geosyntec Consultants

Kara Campbell, Hampton

Joe Lynch, Hampton

Heidi Marshall, Hoyle-Tanner

Michael Trinqué, Hoyle-Tanner/ SWA/Chester

Lisa Perreault, Kingston

Chris Jacobs, Milton

Sean Greig, Newmarket

Deb Loiselle, NHDES

Sally Soule, NHDES

Ben Sweeney, NHDES

Tom Swenson, NHDES

Katie Zink, NHDES

Daniel Okuniewicz, Portsmouth

Abigail Lyon, PREP

David Fredrickson, Raymond

Ryan O’Conner, Rochester

Jason Rucker, Rye

Mike Bobinsky, Somersworth

Amber Hall, Somersworth

Autumn Scott, SRPC

Matt Perry, TEC/Seabrook

Amber Hall, Somersworth

Jamie Houle, UNH SC

David Bowley, UNH

Will Powers, UNH

Bill Arcieri, VHB

Megan Dalton, Verdantas/Kingston

Christine Rinehart, 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. Dover’s Stormwater Utility Efforts:**
 - Gretchen Young presented.
 - Dover has a strong group of committee members including citizens, businesses, etc.
 - Physical quorum was needed, some online participation as well.
 - NHDES and PREP worked with the group.
 - The group talked about the options for funding including what they do now, grants, public/private partnership, stormwater fees, village districts, taxes, etc.
 - It took 12 of the 14-month process to come to a consensus.
 - The largest property owner in the City was looking at his sites and didn’t want to invest in them.
 - Wentworth Douglass also was against this as they are tax exempt. Church’s, public housing authority, etc. do add additional benefits to the community besides taxes.
 - They do pay water and sewer.
 - Wentworth Douglas is already doing stormwater work.
 - They hadn’t anticipated the City paying into this fund, as they went along they found out that the City has about 30% of impervious surfaces, they discussed the City paying in at the same rate as others using the general fund.
 - This helped to get others on board.

- SW credits would be available for work that is going on. This incentivizes everyone to reduce their impact on SW.
- Social credits will be available as well.
- The committee's comments are recommendations to the Dover City Council.
- The committee will present to the City Council on Feb 2nd so tune in if you want to see more.
- Q- Will there be a limit on crediting?
 - A- Ben Sweeney-There was no consensus on that. The City Council will need to make a decision on this if the SW Utility Fee passes.
 - Mike Bobinsky- In Lewiston, ME they established a 100% credit if it could be proved. Ability to achieve that may be impossible, but it is in the ordinance.
- Is there a report that synthesizes the recommendations of the Dover Stormwater Utility committee?
 - The draft report is available in the Jan. 10th meeting minutes.
 - A final version should be available on Feb 2nd.
- Q- Did you hear from Churches?
 - We didn't.
- Q- There should be a write up with how credits work and what's available.
 - Dover plans to put in for a CWSRF planning loan to work out some of these details.
- UNH gave GIS and technical assistance which was very helpful.
- Jamie Houle- Very few utilities (between 1 and 5%) use crediting.
- Ben- Need to consider how realistic it is for property owners to achieve credits.
- Jamie Houle- Martha Shields from New England Environmental Finance Center was very helpful in making sure that this was equitable.
- Gretchen-Dave Cedarholm was a guest speaker on how a utility was being worked on in Concord. They hired a consultant to do some work.
- Other NH towns are looking into a SW Utility as well.
- The utility includes SW and Flood Resiliency. Flooding tends to have a bigger impact on people than SW.
- Flood resiliency was a big part of Dover's Master Plan.
- Annually Dover has about 1 million dollars per year in their SW budget.
- Previously the idea of a SW Utility was shot down, this was attributed to lack of outreach and education. One positive that came from that is that the budget was increased.
- Dover looked at 10 years' worth of data to come up with a SW budget of 3.5 million dollars.
- When they looked at why to do this utility now, they have a fair amount of aging infrastructure that they need to budget for.
- Next steps- Feb 2nd City Council presentation, End of Feb.- resolution and vote, target start date is July of 2023.
- Will need to spend time with the Dover Utilities Commission to go over the SW Utilities report.
- Education and Outreach will be essential.
- The finance and legal staff will need to start looking at issues.
- They may need to hire another staffer or two.
- Social credits will use whatever the assessing unit is already using. They don't plan to recreate the wheel.
- Ben Sweeney will stay on in an advisory capacity, Abigail Lyon (PREP and Dover resident) will stay engaged as well.
- Joe Lynch started a SW Utility in Milton, MA. Milton never implemented a credit program.
- Mike Bobinsky appreciated the thoughts on staffing. When it comes to credits he recommends self-certification with inspections.
- Q- Mike Bobinsky- Will you be able to use your existing billing software?
 - A- We hope to use the same billing software.

- Abigail- Really exceptional work by the City of Dover over the last 14 months. PREP is looking forward to continuing to partner with the City to advance outreach and implementation. My apologies that I have to hop off early for another meeting, but if anyone is interested in talking more about this type of project in your community, please reach out (Abigail.Lyon@unh.edu).
- Q- Can we post the PowerPoint on the Blog?
 - There will be something even better for Feb 2nd. We will share this info on the Blog.
 - If you don't want to read the full report, there will be abbreviated versions as well.

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

- Gretchen Young presented.
- We will revisit this in a couple of months as well.
- Opened up for questions.
- NHLMVSC was impressed with the document.

5. Year 4 Requirements Subcommittee:

- Gretchen Young presented.
- Not quite ready to share- will package everything up.
- The subcommittee talked about system vulnerability factors.
- They talked about defining some of the vague terms such as "formerly".
- Street design and parking lot guidelines review is needed in Year 4.
- Don't require overly wide roadways or excess parking.
- They've put together a method to make this simple.
- The Nitrogen identification report will be done using the hot spot mapping.
- The last piece of that is an engineering review. Portsmouth has come up with a specific review that can be used as a template.
- NHDES is trying to schedule discussions on how to continue to assist.

6. NH MS4 Contact List:

- Tom Swenson presented.
- This would provide information on who to contact if you had questions for a specific town.
- This would be on the Blog, but we wouldn't put it in an obvious spot for someone to use outside of this group.
- You can list more than one person if you'd like.
- This will be evolving; Tom will update it when needed.
- This is voluntary.
- Q- Would the coalition like to be involved?
 - A-Gretchen- This sounds like a good idea, I don't have a current list of who is on the email list. Deb holds the list so you have to get in touch with her currently.
- Email Tom or Deb with questions or concerns.

7. MCM #1 Updates and Progress Reports:

- Tom Swenson presented.
- Winter maintenance outreach materials are under MCM #1-Other.
- They will try to find a better spot for them.
- These materials are for anyone with or without chloride impairments.
- The letter has two options for chloride impairments. Use the first paragraph if you have a chloride impairment. Use the second paragraph if you don't have a chloride impairment.
- If a facility conducts its own snow removal they don't need to be Green SnowPro Certified, it is recommended though.
- Q- Christine Rhinehart- How is this required?

- A- It is written into new properties, but we can't require it on older properties. We are sending the letters, but we don't know how we could enforce this. It's not that many properties.
- Jamie Houle- it becomes grandfathered in until redevelopment.
- UNH tried to do GIS gymnastics to figure out what 10 parking spots would be, but it wasn't really possible.
- Most people are making this a requirement for all new development, not just MS4 area.
- NHLMV is focusing on larger facilities and will home in more next year.
- This isn't due until year 5.
- There isn't a downside to promoting Green SnowPro.
- Another question that came up at the NHLMV meeting is about the 10 parking spots. Is it the MS4 area as a whole or just the area around the impaired waterbody.
 - It is for the MS4 area.
 - The heading is where chloride is the cause of impairment, does the rest of it not count?
 - The way this is written is unclear.
- Municipal Green SnowPro rules are being worked on. We will keep you up to date on the process.
- We will bring a mockup of a logo to the coalitions soon.

8. Updates and Other Business:

- **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

Upcoming events and funding deadlines (currently known):
https://www4.des.state.nh.us/infrastructure-funding/?page_id=73

January 7, 2022: Drinking Water Sustainability Grant applications (past)

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- solicitations should be out in May.

- Ben Sweeney gave an overview of Critical Flood-Risk grants. This is for the 42 seacoast communities for SW projects. They hope to have the solicitation available soon- end of January or early February. The solicitation will have more information on types of projects. This is a grant and will have no match requirement. Sign up for email alerts (link above) and you will be notified when the solicitation is available.
- Start thinking of potential projects.
- Reach out to Ben at Benjamin.r.sweeney1@des.nh.gov with questions.

- There is an FAQ document on the website.

9. Upcoming Meeting Dates and Agenda Focus for 2022 – Mark your calendars!

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

February 16th: MCM #5 2.3.6.c

March 16th:

April 20th:

May 18th:

June 15th:

July 20th: Prepare for Year 4 Annual Report

August 17th: Prepare for Year 4 Annual Report

September 21st:

October 19th:

November 16th:

December 21st:

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.