

Seacoast Stormwater Coalition Meeting Minutes

Zoom meeting

Wednesday, February 16, 2022, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Present:

Gretchen Young, Dover- Chair

Jill Semprini, Dover

April Talon, Durham

*Annie Tucker, Environmental Partners Inc./
Durham*

Nils Larson, Exeter

Paul Vlasich, Exeter

Matt Scruton, Greenland

Joe Lynch, Hampton

Kara Campbell, Hampton

Heidi Marshall, Hoyle-Tanner

Michael Trainque, Hoyle-Tanner/ SWA/Chester

Lisa Perreault, Kingston

Chris Jacobs, Milton

Bill Meserve, Newfields

Sally Soule, NHDES

Ben Sweeney, NHDES

Tom Swenson, NHDES

Katie Zink, NHDES

Abigail Lyon, PREP

Ryan O’Conner, Rochester

Paul Branscombe, Rollinsford

Maddie Dilonno, RPC

Jen Rowden, RPC

Jason Rucker, Rye

Mike Bobinsky, Somersworth

Amber Hall, Somersworth

Autumn Scott, SRPC

Nate Mears, Stratham

Matt Perry, TEC/Seabrook

Amber Hall, Somersworth

Jamie Houle, UNH SC

Bill Arcieri, VHB

Megan Dalton, Verdantas/Kingston

Britt Eckstrom, Wright-Pierce

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. Funding Opportunities:**
 - Ben Sweeney (NHDES) presented.
 - ARPA Critical Flood Risk Infrastructure Grant (CFRING).
 - This grant will support planning and assessment project and/or implementations projects.
 - Funding is available through ARPA at about \$4.5 million in grants.
 - No match is required for this grant.
 - Eligible applicants include municipalities, quasi-governmental entities, etc.
 - Projects must be in the 42 coastal communities.
 - Projects that would be eligible through Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) are eligible for this grant, there are other eligibilities beyond that as well.
 - Projects should deal with a water quality benefit or increased volume of stormwater.
 - For planning and assessment projects, funding must not exceed \$100,000 in reimbursement.
 - The project total can be more than \$100,000.
 - Projects should be complete within 24 months of Governor and Council (G&C) approval.
 - Examples include vulnerability and feasibility studies, etc.
 - Projects involving construction are expected to be complete within 36 months of G&C approval.
 - All other implementation projects are expected to be complete within 24 months of G&C approval.

- Projects include flood resilience, wastewater/drinking water assets, BMPs for stormwater, disconnecting impervious cover, implementing improvements in a O&M plan that enhance flood resilience.
- Reviewing permit submittals could be a great way to identify potential projects. Check your SWMP and requirements of Appendix F & H.
- Great Bay Total Nitrogen General Permit permittees check your Adaptive Management Framework, Element C.
- Email questions by March 11.
- Application Due April 15- Notification May 13.
- Scopes finalized June 17.
- Project start dates around September.
- Evaluation criteria for the grant is listed in Section F of the application.
- Ben went through sections of the application and some of the points associated with them.
- To apply, submit an application using the web-based form. This can be accessed on the CFRING webpage located here https://www4.des.state.nh.us/infrastructure-funding/?page_id=99.
- You will need to create a user profile. This will allow you to save an application and go back into it later on.
- If you have used the states application system you may already be registered.
- There is a document with application and evaluation criteria on the webpage.
- Your work on the application will save as you move through the sections.
- If you hover over the “i” you will see helpful information for that cell.
- You can forward your work to project collaborators.
- Reach out to Ben if you have technical difficulties. Benjamin.r.sweeney1@des.nh.gov or 603-559-0021.
- Ben can provide this [presentation](#) to Tom to share on the NH MS4 Blog. There will also be a webinar on March 7.
- Q- How many projects are you anticipating funding with this program?
 - A- That is unknown since this is the first, and potentially only, year for this funding.
- Q- There is a cap of \$2 million on ARPA funds through CWSRF, is this program part of that?
 - If you have reached that cap, you can still apply for funds through this program.
- Q- Does the \$4.5 million include planning and implementation?
 - A- Yes. We haven’t decided how much each will get yet. It will depend on the projects that come in.
- Q- There are so many ARPA programs, its hard to know which to apply for especially for projects that would fit multiple categories.
 - A- This is a blessing and a curse. Ben understands the challenge. There is no great answer for how to make some of those decisions. He recommends speaking with grant managers to see how well the project fits with each opportunity.

4. Construction General Permit (CGP) Update:

- Tom Swenson presented.
- New [CGP](#) will be effective as of February 17, 2022.
 - EPA CGP Webinar
February 24, 2022
1:00-3:00 EST
[Register](#)
- The FAQ’s will be on this page <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/2022-construction-general-permit-cgp>
- This webinar will be recorded and placed on the blog if you can’t make it on the 24th.

- This permit covers NH, MA, District of Columbia, and some other locations.
- New or updated provisions related to:
 - Erosion and pollution prevention.
 - Dewatering discharges.
 - Turbidity monitoring.
 - Inspection training. In the past you did not need to be certified. Now you need to be a certified/licensed individual or be trained by EPA.
- This permit changed the way inspectors are defined. They will now need to be certified.
- EPA will be offering a free workshop this summer for certification.
- Inspectors need to know that they will need to be certified.
- You will need to reach out to your developers, contractors, etc. to let them know about this change.
- There is an email/ letter template on the blog that you can use for this outreach.
- Change it to add what you need.
- It can be found under MCM #1 under Developers Resources. Its towards the bottom of the MCM#1 section.
- This is an opportunity for outreach and education.
- This was part of Merrimack's audit so it will be good to have this defined.
- The Outreach and Education Subcommittee will be working on making additional outreach materials about this as well.

5. Year 4 Requirements:

- Tom Swenson (NHDES) presented.
- NHDES ran out of time for a Year 4 requirements matrix so a table was created instead.
- This is a different format than other years, but still has Year 4 requirements, MCM/ Appendix, Permit Page Number, Permit Section and Status.
- Some of these might say in progress- this will let you know we are working on that requirement as a coalition and that you are not on your own.
- Other sections might say municipal specific, meaning that the materials have been created and that it is up to each individual municipality to complete the requirement.
- The outreach section has a link to the MCM #1 Matrix document. You can use either table depending on your impairments.
- MCM #2-Public Participation is a yearly requirement. You have to give the public a chance to review and comment on your SWMP.
- Update SSO inventory.
- Update System Map.
- Update outfall and interconnection inventory and ranking.
- Document System Vulnerability Factors for catchments that have been investigated (not due until Year 7 but it's good to get a head start on this).
- Start wet weather sampling (not due until Year 7 but it's good to get a head start on this).
- Retest any removed or fixed illicit discharges within one year of fixing the issue.
- Define and describe indicators of IDDE program progress in your annual report.
- Provide IDDE training to involved employees.

6. Sections 2.3.6.c and 2.3.6.d (not on agenda)

- This is a draft report that you can customize to see if your local regulations and rules meet the requirements of section 2.3.6.c and 2.3.6.d.
- This includes where codes/ regulations are located.
- If your codes need to be updated check out Dover, Exeter, or other communities' codes on the blog under MCM #5. Most are already doing this.

- If you are using Southwest Watershed Alliance regulations, you should be in good shape.
- If code/ regulation adjustments are needed, you need to outline the needed changes and a timeline to implement those changes.
- This is on the NH MS4 Blog under MCM#5.

7. Hot Spot Mapping (aka Pollutant Load Maps):

- Tom Swenson presented.
- We heard from many communities that they want to get the hot spot data on a GIS layer or viewer.
- UNH, NHDES, Portsmouth and other stakeholders met to figure out the best way to bring the data into GIS and display it.
- They need to know how communities want to use this data.
- We want to create a subcommittee to make sure we are giving permittees the right tools to succeed.
- This will probably be 1-3 hours of discussion over a couple of meetings. People with no GIS experience are welcome to join as well. All input is important.
- Jamie provided this link to the Hot Spot Mapping webpage on the NH MS4 Blog https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-ms4/?page_id=1798
- Subcommittee volunteers: Chris Jacobs, April Talon, and Amber Hall.
- Jamie Houle stated that this is for added utility using the hot spot maps. We will be looking into resources to develop that.
- Under Appendix H, there is a subcommittee that is working on the Nitrogen Source Identification Report template.

8. Winter Maintenance:

- Tom Swenson (NHDES) presented.
- Municipal Green SnowPro program is still moving forward. It is taking longer than expected.
- UNH T2 is offering a lot of classes for winter maintenance.
- Snow Fighters seminars are a full day training that will be taking place at six different municipal locations throughout the year. This is a hands on training and costs \$60.
- This information is on the blog.

9. Dover's Stormwater Utility Efforts Update

- Gretchen presented.
- Gretchen and Ben Sweeney did a presentation to the Dover City Council.
- You can watch the recording of their presentation and view other stormwater utility resources on the [Stormwater Utility page](#) on the Blog.
- There may be more presentations about this subject at future coalition meetings.
- On February 23rd, 2022, next Wednesday, the Dover City Council will make recommendations on how they would like Dover's staff to proceed.
- If you have additional materials for the Blog, please send them to Tom.

10. Updates and Other Business:

- [UNH T2 Trainings Calendar](#)
March 16th, 8:00-9:30 am
[Stormwater Green Infrastructure Maintenance](#)
Virtual, Free
- September 8th & September 15th & September 21st & September 29th
October 13th & November 16th & November 17th

Time TBD
Snowfighters Seminar
Registration Coming Soon
\$60.00 for municipal staff

- September 20th & October 4th Time TBD
Data-Driven Winter Maintenance Registration Coming Soon
- EPA 2022 Construction General Permit Webinar
February 24, 2022
1:00-3:00 EST
[Register](#)
- **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

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. Contact Deb with project ideas or questions.

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

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

March 16th: MCM #4 through MCM #6 Year 4 requirements, Year 4 subcommittee materials

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.