

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

Thursday, March 10, 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>Andrea Bejtlich</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Eric Slosek</i>	<i>Amherst</i>	<i>Steve Landry</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Nic Strong</i>	<i>Amherst</i>	<i>Deb Loiselle</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>John Apple</i>	<i>Atkinson</i>	<i>Tom Swenson</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Brandon Boisvert</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Katie Zink</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Craig Durrett</i>	<i>Derry</i>	<i>Dena Hoffman</i>	<i>Pelham</i>
<i>Scott Ozana</i>	<i>Goffstown</i>	<i>Christine Addington</i>	<i>Pembroke</i>
<i>Joan Cudworth</i>	<i>Hollis</i>	<i>Victor (VJ) Ranfos</i>	<i>Pembroke</i>
<i>Heidi Marshall</i>	<i>Hoyle-Tanner</i>	<i>Lyndsay Butler</i>	<i>Salem</i>
<i>Paul Elsholz</i>	<i>Laconia</i>	<i>Zach Swick</i>	<i>SNHRPC</i>
<i>Leo Lessard</i>	<i>Milford</i>	<i>Michele Decoteau</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
<i>Amy Gill</i>	<i>Nashua</i>	<i>Nick Germain</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
<i>Doug Starr</i>	<i>Nashua</i>	<i>Peter Howd</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
		<i>Alex Mello</i>	<i>Windham</i>
		<i>Kyle Hacker</i>	<i>Verdantas (formally GeoInsight)</i>

1. Introductions: Those in attendance are listed above.

2. Meeting Minutes:

- The February 10, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.

3. Year 4 Requirements:

- Tom Swenson presented.
- Tom brought up the Year 4 Requirements Table.
- Tom went over the Year 4 requirements for MCM 4 through MCM 6.
- Tom clarified that wet weather sampling and System Vulnerability Factors (SVF) are Year 7 requirements, but we are starting them now to be proactive.
- If the box says “municipal specific” that means it’s up to the permittee to work on these topics, if the box is in yellow and says “in progress” that means the coalition is working on templates/resources for everyone to use.
- Make sure to track your site inspections throughout the year.
- Check your regulations for green infrastructure.
- Ranking for permittee owned property and infrastructure- this is the hot spots resources that UNH and NHDES created. There will be some ground truthing and GIS work when permittees get to picking a parcel for retrofit.
- Reporting on catch basin cleanings and street sweeping metrics. This has been ongoing for a couple of years.

- Training for employees that work in areas or with materials included in SWPPPs.
- In the annual report, permittees should include any modifications to BMPs, water quality monitoring, etc.
- Lyndsay Butler suggested duplicating the header on each page of the document.
- Poll Question 1- How are you doing with MCM #1 outreach requirements?
 - 19%- Really good, 75%- getting there and confident on completion, 6%- not feeling great about outreach.
- Poll Question 2- Have you met your state public notice requirement for MCM #2?
 - 38%- Yes, 62%- No.
- Poll Question 3- How are you doing with your MCM #3 requirements?
 - 40%- Great, 53%- OK, but need help, 7%- Not good.
- Q- How are people doing on wet weather sampling?
 - Salem hasn't started yet but has a contract for this work that will start soon. Nashua has a consultant as well. Merrimack doesn't have a consultant but can pay overtime for this work. Dawn is having a hard time finding interns, they do a lot of this work.

4. MCM #1 Pet Waste Outreach Resources:

- Tom Swenson presented.
- Now is a good time to send out pet waste fliers/outreach if you have not done so already.
- The outreach materials can be sent out with your dog licensing information.
- There are many outreach options on the MS4 Blog including videos.
- Feel free to use any of the outreach resources on the blog and make them your own.
- Share what you've prepared with Tom and Deb, and they will post it on the MS4 Blog.

5. New & Improved NH MS4 Blog - Coming Soon:

- Tom Swenson presented.
- The MS4 Blog is going to be completely redone.
- This new blog will be on the NHDES website, but it will be an off shoot.
- The main reason for this change is because of security issues on the current platform.
- The current platform has been having issues and goes down sometimes for long periods of time.
- The new platform should be more consistent.
- The new website won't be ready for several months, late spring or early summer is the launch goal.
- It should be a lot more user friendly.
- You won't have to scroll for ages to get to what you want since it will have multiple new webpages for all of the different materials.

6. Winter Maintenance:

- Tom Swenson presented.
- Ted Diers and Aubrey Voelker are working on this.
- Visit the MS4 calendar on the MS4 Blog or the [UNH T2 website](#) to view the available trainings.
- Data Driven Maintenance is a two hour course and is free to municipalities.
- Snow Fighters Seminar is \$60 and is a full day course. This is a great opportunity to network and learn from your peers.
- Steve Landry put in a plug for the Annual Salt Symposium which is coming up in September. They are looking at moving the symposium to the NH Motor Speedway in Loudon.

- All attendees will be entered into a raffle to take three laps around the racetrack in the lap car.

7. Construction General Permit (CGP) Resources and Feedback:

- Deb Loiselle presented.
- [CGP resources](#) are posted on the NH MS4 Blog.
- The CGP was just renewed last month.
- There is a link to an EPA resource page on the MS4 Blog.
- The webinar recording will be posted on the MS4 Blog when it becomes available.
- The CGP FAQ document is 34 pages, but it's broken down in a clear way that makes it easy to navigate.
- We need to reach out to the construction/developer audience before the end of Year 4.
- The Education and Outreach Subcommittee will be working on creating materials for this next month.
- NHDES is not the permitting authority. NHDES can give guidance, but they will likely guide you to contact EPA region 1. The contact is Michelle Vuto. Her email is Vuto.Michelle@epa.gov.
- The CGP is for disturbance of one or more acres (unless it is regular maintenance).
- Questions for existing project NOI's can be found on page 12 of the FAQ document.
- Deadlines for reporting can be found in a table on page 29 of the FAQ document.
- One of the biggest changes in the new CGP is the definition of a certified inspector. To become a certified inspector, inspectors will now have to take and pass a course. Page 32 of the FAQ document discusses this further.
- EPA will be offering a free training that will likely be held in August.
- There is an exam to become certified. You need an 80% to pass, but you can take it more than once if necessary. Be sure to keep your certification on file.
- There are also third-party courses to become certificated. EPA does not promote one course over another, but those listed on the EPA's website meet the requirements of the program.
- Projects that are started prior to Feb 27, 2023 don't need a certified inspector. There is time to get certified.
- This is not for the MS4 permit. This is the CGP only.
- Poll Question-Did you find the CGP webinar helpful?
 - 12%-Yes, 6%-I was unable to enter due to login issues, 82%-did not attend.
- Tom felt this was a helpful webinar. He highly recommends watching the recording when it becomes available.

8. Funding Opportunities:

- Deb Loiselle presented.
- Subscribe to get email alerts on the infrastructure funding webpage.
- 2022 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Loan Program.
 - NHDES "Virtual" Water Infrastructure Workshop Webinar Series
April 11th-13th & April 15th
[Details and Registration](#)
[Agenda](#)
*This will cover stormwater, wastewater, drinking water, cybersecurity, and more.
You will need to register for any individual webinars you are interested in.
Deb and Ben Sweeney will present on April 12th from 1-2 PM.*
 - Anticipated Dates & Critical Deadlines
 - [End of March/Early April](#): Pre-applications available
 - [June 1st](#): Pre-applications due
 - [July](#): Project ranking based on criteria

- August: NHDES publishes Intended Use Plan (IUP) & Project Priority List (PPL)
- August: IUP and PPL out for public review and comment
- September/October: Entities notified of authorized projects
- Culvert Flood Risk Assistance
 - \$1.2 Million in grants (no match required)
 - Statewide Goal: Support the replacement of outdated, undersized, perched and/or degraded culverts highly susceptible to flooding.
 - NHDES Website: https://www4.des.state.nh.us/infrastructure-funding/?page_id=144
 - Solicitation announcement anticipated Spring 2022
 - Q- from Salem-Is there any pre-qualification for eligibility?
 - A- Deb will look into this. We are hoping to have Ben Sweeney talk about this at an upcoming meeting.
- If you are thinking about CWSRF funding, think about projects for year 6. It takes a while to get the funding in hand. Call Deb to talk about potential projects.

9. Updates and Upcoming Events:

- **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](#)
\$60.00 for municipal staff
 - September 20th & October 4th, 7:30-9:30 AM
Data-Driven Winter Maintenance *Registration Coming Soon.*
- **NHDES Water Infrastructure Funding Workshop**
 - April 11th – April 13th and April 15th
 - [Details and Registration](#)
 - [Agenda](#)
- **2022 Annual Asset Management Conference for Water Infrastructure**
 - November 3, 2022
All day event (in-person)
Pembroke Army National Guard Readiness Center
Pembroke, NH
Details and Registration Coming Soon
- **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

10. 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. These will be considered for upcoming meetings and very helpful in the development of the monthly agendas.

April 14th: Hot spot mapping update, Year 4 requirement templates, Stormwater utility presentation (Dover)

May 12th:

June 9th:

July 14th: Prepare for Year 4 Annual Report

August 11th: Prepare for Year 4 Annual Report

September 8th:

October 13th:

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

December 8th 🌸 Holiday meeting – location TBD