

**MINUTES -
NH Lower Merrimack Valley Stormwater Coalition Meeting
Zoom
Thursday, April 14, 2022, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

Present:

<i>Dawn Tuomala, Chair Merrimack</i>		<i>Andrea Bejtlich</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Jeanne Walker, Chair Bedford</i>		<i>Deb Loiselle</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Brian Arsenault</i>	<i>Allenstown</i>	<i>Tom Swenson</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Yan Zha</i>	<i>AECOM</i>	<i>Ben Sweeney</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Eric Slosek</i>	<i>Amherst</i>	<i>Dena Hoffman</i>	<i>Pelham</i>
<i>Brandon Boisvert</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Jen Beauregard</i>	<i>Pelham</i>
<i>Craig Durrett</i>	<i>Derry</i>	<i>Christine Addington</i>	<i>Pembroke</i>
<i>Gretchen Young</i>	<i>Dover</i>	<i>Victor (VJ) Ranfos</i>	<i>Pembroke</i>
<i>Scott Ozana</i>	<i>Goffstown</i>	<i>Lyndsay Butler</i>	<i>Salem</i>
<i>Joan Cudworth</i>	<i>Hollis</i>	<i>Jon Vogl</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>Jamie Houle</i>	<i>UNHSC</i>
<i>Ben Lundsted</i>	<i>Manchester</i>	<i>Jonathan Meunier</i>	<i>Verdantas</i>
<i>Kevin Anderson</i>	<i>Merrimack</i>	<i>Megan Dalton</i>	<i>Verdantas</i>
<i>Amy Gill</i>	<i>Nashua</i>	<i>Michele Decoteau</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
<i>Doug Starr</i>	<i>Nashua</i>	<i>Nick Germain</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
<i>Sara Siskavich</i>	<i>NashuaRPC</i>	<i>Peter Howd</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
<i>Emma Rearick</i>	<i>NashuaRPC</i>		

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- 1. Introductions:** Those in attendance are listed above.
 - 2. Approve meeting minutes**
 - The meeting minutes for March 10, 2022 were approved
 - 3. Letter of approval (added agenda item)**
 - A letter of approval for UNH Stormwater Center is needed for congressionally directed funding for the Stormwater Center. This would allow for expanded testing and outreach.
 - Jeanne and Dawn will be sending a letter so please let them know if you have any comments you'd like added.
 - The letter is due tomorrow (4/15/22).
 - 4. ARPA Culvert Flood Risk Assistance Program – Ben Sweeney (NHDES)**
 - Ben Sweeney presented.
 - An overview of the Culvert Flood Risk Assistance Program which are federal funds through ARPA was given.

- Culvert project proposals for updating outdated, undersized, degraded, or perched culverts susceptible to flooding.
- Funding:
 - \$1 million in grant funding in 2022
 - Individual awards up to \$400,000
 - Maximum of 20% of grant to be used for non-construction related activities (engineering and design as well as permitting)
 - Likely will only be able to fund 2-3 projects
 - No match required
 - The grant is now available to all communities statewide and non-governmental organizations are invited to apply.
- Requirements:
 - The site of the proposed project must have a history of flooding.
 - The existing culvert must show signs of structural deterioration.
 - A conceptual design of culvert replacement must be completed and meet the needs of a 100-year storm event
- Timeline:
 - Call for applications- April 2022
 - Applications due-June 2022
 - Award notifications- July/August 2022
 - Finalized project scope- November 2022
 - Anticipated start date (dependent on G&C approval)- March 2023
 - Project must be completed within 3 years of the start date.
- Evaluation criteria- Coming soon! Will be published with the solicitation.
- How to apply: Through the NHDES N-form site.
 - You must register for an N-form account to apply.
- Q- Since only certain culverts need to meet the 100-year storm event criteria, is the funding only for culverts under certain roads?
 - A- All applications received are required to meet the 100-year criteria regardless of tier crossing
- Q- Is this presentation going to be posted on the MS4 Blog funding page?
 - A- Tom or Deb will put the presentation on the funding page of the MS4 Blog.

5. Dover's Stormwater Utility Efforts – Gretchen Young (Dover) and Ben Sweeney (NHDES)

- Gretchen Young and Ben Sweeney presented.
- Dover's stormwater utility resources can be found on the [MS4 Blog](#).
- Dover's stormwater funding needs are increasing due to a growing city with new buildings but old infrastructure. Expenses for infrastructure maintenance and increased flood resiliency are growing, but the budget is not.
- Currently, all stormwater and flood resiliency funds are from the General Fund. From FY 2016-2020 there was an average of \$3.5 million in capital costs.

- Stormwater and flood resiliency funding options must be secure, adequate, flexible, and equitable.
- A stormwater and flood resilience utility made the most sense for Dover's needs.
 - Fees for property owners are based in total square feet of impervious area.
 - a. Equivalent residential unit- median impervious area on typical residential property (ERU=3430 sq ft)
 - b. Tax exempt entities would not be exempt from this utility.
 - Funds can only be used for stormwater and flood resilience.
 - Dover would be the first municipality to have a stormwater utility in New Hampshire.
 - A credit system would be put in place for properties with stormwater BMPS.
 - There would be reduced rates for low income, elderly, veterans, and disabled residents.
 - The stormwater utility was the most equitable option as residential properties would pay less in utilities than they would in property tax for stormwater infrastructure maintenance. The fees would be proportional to stormwater runoff produced by the property.
- A large amount of outreach is needed to educate both municipal officials and the general public on the need and purpose of the stormwater utility.
- In order to keep administrative costs low, 1.5 full time staff members will be needed to coordinate billing and logistical processes.
- The utility credits add the incentive for private business owners to implement stormwater BMPS.
- Q- Do you provide a credit for private property owners where there is more flow onto private property from municipal roads than the other way around?
 - A-Yes, there could be a credit of over 50% reduction in their utility bill.
- Q- Did the Committee consider lawns as an impervious surface based on slope?
 - A- This has not been totally decided yet, but I think we would be looking to credit more for properties that capture and treat runoff from other properties. For now, lawns are considered pervious, we are only looking at impervious surfaces. Also, the ERU is a basic generalization, it does not consider routing, slope, or soils, just impervious cover.
- Q- Do the roadway totals include state owned roads?
 - A- Yes. Dover will attempt to bill the State
- Q- Did the Committee review the need for additional staff or funds to manage the utility (e.g. billing or credit applications)
 - A- There will be 1.5 staff members dedicated to the stormwater utility.
- Q- New developments are supposed to meet stormwater management criteria, will the new development owners need to pay the stormwater utility base charge or are they are exempt?
 - A- They would get credit for required BMP implementations.

6. Year 4 Requirements Subcommittee - Gretchen Young (Dover) and Jamie Houle (UNHSC)

- Gretchen Young and Jamie Houle presented.
- Jamie and Gretchen went over the [Section 2.3.6.c and 2.3.6.d Regulation Assessment Report](#).
 - This is a Year 4 requirement.
 - The regulation assessment report allows permittees to compare their local regulations to the requirements within sections 2.3.6.c and 2.3.6.d of the MS4 permit.
 - The report is broken down by individual topic and allows the communities to indicate if their local regulations meet the permit requirements.
 - Each section also has a space to explain if your local regulations do not meet the permit requirements and asks you to explain how you will make adjustments to meet them.
- Jamie and Gretchen then went over the [Section 2.3.4.8.c.i SVF \(System Vulnerability Factors\) Tracking Spreadsheet](#)
 - The SVF spreadsheet is a Year 7 requirement, but we are starting it early to be proactive.
 - The spreadsheet allows permittees to assess SVFs for all of the catchments that they investigated during their dry weather sampling.
 - Some of the SVFs include if the catchment has a history of SSOs and manholes serving both stormwater and wastewater.
 - This spreadsheet will help determine if catchments will need wet weather sampling. Any catchment with one or more SVFs will need to have wet weather sampling conducted.
 - Wet weather sampling is also a Year 7 requirement, but we are starting it early to allow permittees time to finish.

7. MCM #1 Outreach Resources

- Tom Swenson presented.
- Review of available fertilizer outreach resources
 - This spring is a good time for fertilizer outreach.
 - There are multiple different types of outreach resources such as videos for local TV stations, flyers, etc. that can be found on the [MS4 Blog](#).
 - NHDES created a new [Greenworks pet waste](#) article. This is the perfect format for a newspaper article.

8. 2020/2022 303(d) List

- Tom Swenson presented.
- The 2020/2022 303(d) list has officially been approved by NHDES and EPA.
 - Matt Wood will attend a future coalition meeting to present on this.
- Permittees should continue to use the [2018 303\(d\) list](#) for all Year 4 requirements as well as the Year 4 annual report.

9. Year 3 Annual Reports Review

- Dawn and Jeanne presented
- NHLMV and SSC chairs, along with NHDES, are meeting with EPA to discuss the Year 3 Annual Reports. The meeting is on May 3rd. Please send any comments that you may want to have included in the meeting to Jeanne or Dawn.

10. Hybrid Meeting Format

- Dawn and Jeanne presented.
- The May NHLMV Stormwater Coalition meeting will be a hybrid format. Anyone that would like to attend in person at the NRPC may do so. There will continue to be a virtual option as well for those that can't or are not comfortable attending in person.
- For anyone that is unfamiliar with the NRPC in Nashua, instructions on the location, where to park, etc. will be sent out with the next agenda.

11. Updates and Upcoming Events

- Tom Swenson and Deb Loiselle presented
- [UNH T2 Trainings Calendar](#)
 - September 8th & September 15th & September 21st & September 29th
October 13th & November 16th & November 17th
8:00 AM-3:00 PM
Snowfighters Seminar
[Registration](#)
\$60.00 for municipal staff
 - September 20th & October 4th, 7:30-9:30 AM
Data-Driven Winter Maintenance
[Registration](#)
- **Concord Stormwater Utility Presentation**
 - May 16th at 7 PM
 - Concord City Wide Community Center
14 Canterbury Road, Concord
 - Email mlt@naturesource.net to RSVP to attend
- **NHDES Water Infrastructure Funding Workshop**
 - April 11th – April 13th and April 15th
[Details and Registration](#)
[Agenda](#)
*Presentation recordings will be available soon
Contact Jen Brady or Kim Kelliher for the presentations
- **2022 NH CWSRF Loan Program**
 - [Pre-applications](#) are now available and due June 1, 2022
 - Stormwater Categories
 - Asset Management

- Planning
 - Infrastructure
 - Infrastructure with Planning Component
 - For more information go to [MS4 Blog funding page](#)
 - Look at the ranking criteria for how projects are assessed
 - **2022 Annual Asset Management Conference for Water Infrastructure**
 - November 3, 2022
 - All day event (in-person)
 - Pembroke Army National Guard Readiness Center
 - Pembroke, NH
 - [Save The Date](#)
 - 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

12. Upcoming meeting dates for 2022 – Mark your calendars! Meetings occur on the 2nd Thursday of each month, unless otherwise noted. We will continue working on the elements necessary for Year 4 requirements of the permit and update the SWMP template as needed. Following are the topics that are planned for the monthly meetings. Please note that topics may change dependent on priorities identified during the year.

2022 Meeting Dates

May 12th: Phosphorus Source Identification Report

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