

# Meeting Minutes

## NH Lower Merrimack Valley Stormwater Coalition Meeting

### Zoom

Thursday, July 13, 2023 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

#### Present:

<i>Dawn Tuomala, Chair</i>	<i>Merrimack</i>	<i>Nikki Walsh</i>	<i>Milford</i>
<i>Jeanne Walker, Chair</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Nicole Crawford</i>	<i>Milford</i>
<i>Eric Slosek</i>	<i>Amherst</i>	<i>Amy Gill</i>	<i>Nashua</i>
<i>Brian Desfosses</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Doug Starr</i>	<i>Nashua</i>
<i>Matt Monahan</i>	<i>CHNRPC, Pelham, Atkinson</i>	<i>Sara Siskavich</i>	<i>NashuaRPC</i>
<i>Craig Durrett</i>	<i>Derry</i>	<i>Emma Rearick</i>	<i>NashuaRPC</i>
<i>Andrew Meranda</i>	<i>Derry</i>	<i>Andrea Bejtlich</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Scott Ozana</i>	<i>Goffstown</i>	<i>Kate Hastings</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Dave Gleason</i>	<i>Hazen and Sawyer</i>	<i>Deb Loiselle</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Kevin Anderson</i>	<i>Hollis</i>	<i>Tom Swenson</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Joan Cudworth</i>	<i>Hollis</i>	<i>Christine Addington</i>	<i>Pembroke</i>
<i>Ben Berthiaume</i>	<i>Hooksett</i>	<i>Adam Mendoza</i>	<i>Pembroke</i>
<i>Samantha Lewis</i>	<i>Hoyle-Tanner</i>	<i>Kaitlyn Allen</i>	<i>Verdantas</i>
<i>Paul Elsholz</i>	<i>Laconia</i>	<i>Nick Germain</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
<i>Leo Lavoilette</i>	<i>Merrimack</i>	<i>Patrick Jackson</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
<i>Jerid Pretzer</i>	<i>Merrimack</i>	<i>Anna Crane</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
<i>Will Feltus</i>	<i>Merrimack</i>	<i>Alex Mello</i>	<i>Windham</i>

#### 1. Introductions

- Deb conducted roll call alphabetically by municipality or affiliation.

#### 2. Approve meeting minutes

- Kevin Anderson made a motion to approve the June 8, 2023 meeting minutes. Dawn seconded the motion.

#### 3. New Cyanobacteria Resources – Kate Hastings (NHDES)

- Kate Hastings presented.
- Cyanobacteria blooms are extremely dynamic in appearance, color, texture, location, and the length of bloom. Cyanobacteria produce toxins that are variable in toxicity. Discoloration and unusual growth are signs of cyanobacteria blooms.
- There are some plants that may be mistaken for a cyanobacteria bloom. However, if you are unsure if there is a bloom, the best thing to do is stay out of the water.
  - Green filamentous algae may look like cyanobacteria, but you can tell the difference. If you pick it up with a stick and if it comes up in a blob, it is not cyanobacteria.
  - Duckweed looks like cyanobacteria however; you would see tiny root and leaf structures.
- If you see a cyanobacteria bloom, [report it!](#)
  - There is a new form under Survey 123 to make it easier to report. You can add pictures, the location of the bloom, and your contact information for any follow up questions.
- How do we determine if there is a cyanobacteria bloom?

- NHDES staff receive pictures and reports of suspected blooms and will confirm through pictures or request a sample to confirm the presence of cyanobacteria. They will inform the health inspector or town officials of the bloom.
- NHDES staff will review the samples under a microscope and determine if there is need for an advisory/warning or alert. This does not tell us about the toxicity of the bloom. Toxin analysis is run in the winter.
  - An advisory/warning is issued when the cyanobacteria density exceeds 70,000 cells/mL.
    1. Do not swim, make contact with the water, or let your pets in the water.
    2. Resamples will occur every week until the bloom is gone.
  - An alert is issued when the cyanobacteria density is below 70,000 cells/mL.
    1. Alerts can be issued based on images. We only resample if things change. The alert will last for one week.
- Stay Informed!
  - You can sign up for [waterbody specific updates](#). You will receive an email for updates on specific waterbodies.
  - [Weekly updates](#) are also available for all of New Hampshire. This contains an overview of all samples collected for the week. This information is also posted on the NHDES website.
- The [Healthy Swimming Mapper](#) will always have the most up to date information. It shows all active advisories and alerts with pictures and sample collection information.
- Q: Are there specific locations where you're looking for these blooms?  
A: We do not routinely sample for cyanobacteria. This is response based, so we rely on the public or NHDES staff in the field to inform us of the initial bloom. They collect an initial sample and then report the bloom in the Cyanobacteria Bloom Report.
- Q: Do you have jurisdiction over all waterbodies in NH? Or, what happens if you don't have permission to sample on someone's property?  
A: We ask permission in the form but if they don't want us to sample on their property, they can tell us the location of the closest public access point. We give them the information they need to make informed decisions. Neighbors would usually allow us to sample from their property as it is helpful for them to know too.

#### 4. Lake Phosphorus Control Plan Workshop

- Tom presented.
- August 21<sup>st</sup> 10 – 11:30 AM
- An invite was sent out for this workshop. It is open to all, so please let us know if you would like the Zoom invite. You can also send the information to anyone that would like to attend as well.
- Communities with phosphorus TMDLs:
 

○ Amherst	○ Manchester
○ Bedford	○ Merrimack
○ Derry	○ Newton
○ Hollis	○ Sandown
○ Hudson	

#### 5. Overview of Year 4 Annual Report Discussion with EPA

- Jeanne presented.
- The chairs of the NHLVM, SSC, Jaime Houle, and NHDES staff met with Michelle Vuto and Newt Tedder from EPA on June 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Together, we reviewed the results of the Year 4 Annual Reports. 100% of NH MS4 Permittees submitted their Year 4 Annual Reports.

- EPA requested some clarification on a few of the requirements on the NH Stormwater Coalition template. We are working towards correcting that for the Year 5 templates.
- Good:
  1. The MCM #1 and #3 sections on the reports were very good.
  2. New Permittees are making great strides on MCM #3 requirements!
  3. 88% of communities are cleaning catch basins.
- Needs improvement: Any communities that had missing or incomplete requirements have been reached out to. If you haven't heard from Deb, your community is in great shape. EPA wants to make sure we are trying to achieve these requirements and wants to see us provide updates in the Year 5 Annual Reports.
  1. Some communities were still changing the text or removing sections in the NH Annual Reports templates. Please make sure you don't do this.
  2. There was a decrease in compliance from Year 3 to Year 4 on street sweeping and IDDE training.
  3. Some communities were missing the following requirements:
    - Post-Construction Ordinances
    - Street Design Reports
    - Green Infrastructure (GI) Reports
    - Permittee-Owned Property Retrofit Lists
- EPA is working on uploading the Year 4 Annual Reports to their website.
- Newt and Michelle are not in the enforcement section. They went through the reports and sent the information to the enforcement section. Newt and Michelle do not decide what is going to be focused on by the enforcement section. Post-construction ordinances is important to Newt, so it may be something the enforcement section is interested in.
- During the meeting with EPA, Deb asked if there were any plans for audits. Newt didn't know but said we could assume there would be some soon. Please notify us if you do get an audit letter. We are very willing to help you if you receive an audit letter.
- Please reach out if you need assistance.
- Since the permit is being Administratively Continued, we will be continuing all annual requirements. There are also some Year 6 requirements in the permit.
- **Year 5 Annual Reports are due Sept 28, 2023.**

#### 6. Status of new MS4 Permit

- Jeanne presented.
- There is not much of an update. EPA is still on track to have the draft version out for review by the end of the year.
- The update to regulated communities based on the 2020 Census did not change much. Concord was about 200 people short and is still not a MS4 community. EPA is working on mapping out the new urbanized areas.

#### 7. Year 5 Annual Report Templates

- Tom presented.
- EPA released their templates. They are linked on the [NH MS4 website](#).
  - EPA [Existing Permittee](#) Template
  - EPA [New Permittee](#) Template
- EPA will be hosting two info sessions as they have in the past.

- Like in years past, the NH stormwater coalitions are also making our own Annual Report templates for both existing and new permittees and we will update everyone as we move forward.

#### **8. Year 5 Requirements Check-In**

- Tom presented.
- Year 5 has ended! Does anyone have any questions on the Year 5 requirements?
  - There were no questions.
- Please reach out if you have any questions.

#### **9. Holiday Meeting**

- Dawn presented.
- December 14<sup>th</sup> 12 – 2 PM
- Wasserman Park Function Hall  
116 Naticook Rd  
Merrimack, NH 03054
- We want as many people to attend as possible, so we are notifying you early! Deb will be sending out an invite to hold the time for the meeting. Please put the date on your calendar.

#### **10. Clean Water SRF Pre-Apps**

- Deb presented.
- The draft Project Priority List (PPL) will be posted on the NHDES website within the next week or so.
- August 3<sup>rd</sup> is the virtual public hearing. The hearing times will be posted when the PPL is released.
- Q: If we got a Grant Agreement approved by G&C in June, when would we hear about that?
- A: It's taking longer than usually since the State is also dealing with the end of the fiscal year. Please contact Deb if you have any questions.

#### **11. Clean Watershed Needs Survey CIP Wording**

- Deb presented.
- A representative from CEI will come and give an overview of the findings of CWNS. They noticed that some projects in community's CIPs, that they could have gotten credit for under CWNS, were not eligible because there were some key words on water quality missing. We want to give communities language to use so they get credit for the projects they are already doing or have planned.
- The goal is to add key words to the projects in your CIPs and keep CWNS in mind as these types of documents are being updated. This will help us get more funding in the future.
  - **Examples:**
    1. Instead of saying "upsizing culverts due to flooding". You would say "Upsizing culverts due to flooding that causes water quality issues" or "Improved culverts that improve aquatic organism passage and reduce pollutant loads".
    2. "Reduce pollutant loading"
    3. "Water quality improvement".

#### **12. Updates and Upcoming Events**

- **UNH T2 Winter Operations Strategy for Supervisors and Directors**  
August 15<sup>th</sup>, August 16<sup>th</sup>, and September 19<sup>th</sup>

7:30-2:00 PM

[Registration and Details](#)

- **UNH T2 The Winter Road More Traveled**  
August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>  
8:30-11:00 AM  
[Registration and Details](#)
- **UNH T2 Calibrating Winter Operations**  
September 7<sup>th</sup>  
12:00-1:00 PM  
[Registration and Details](#)
- **2023 NH Salt Symposium**  
September 13<sup>th</sup>  
NH Motor Speedway  
1122 NH-106  
Loudon, NH  
*Details and Registration Coming Soon*
- **2023 Asset Management Conference for Water Infrastructure - **POSTPONED to 2024****  
~~November 2<sup>nd</sup>  
8:00-3:30 (registration starts at 7:30 am)  
Edward Cross Training Center Complex  
722 Riverwood Drive  
Pembroke, NH  
*Details and Registration Coming Soon*~~
- **[NHDES Infrastructure Funding Webpage](#)**  
Information on any available funding will be posted on this website.

Use the [email alerts page](#) to receive updates from NHDES pertaining to CWSRF/ARPA/Infrastructure funding opportunities.

All upcoming events and funding deadlines, that are currently known, can be found on the [important dates page](#).

**13. Upcoming meeting dates for 2023 – 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 5 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.

#### **2023 Meeting Dates**

**August 10<sup>th</sup>:** Prepare for Year 5 Annual Report

**September 14<sup>th</sup>:** Prepare for Year 5 Annual Report

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

**November 9<sup>th</sup> (Veterans' Day on 10<sup>th</sup>) or 16<sup>th</sup>:**

**December 14<sup>th</sup>:** 🎄 Holiday Meeting

Please email potential agenda items and/or presentations to Deb Loiselle at [deborah.s.loiselle@des.nh.gov](mailto:deborah.s.loiselle@des.nh.gov). These will be considered for upcoming meetings and very helpful in the development of the monthly agendas.

**14. Sign-in Sheet** – Your names will be documented during introductions.