

Meeting Minutes

Seacoast Stormwater Coalition Meeting

Zoom

October 18, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Present:

<i>Doug DeNatale</i>	<i>AECOM</i>	<i>Jamie McCarty</i>	<i>Portsmouth</i>
<i>April Talon</i>	<i>Durham</i>	<i>Daniel Okuniewicz</i>	<i>Portsmouth</i>
<i>Sarah Large</i>	<i>FB Environmental</i>	<i>Jarrold Norris</i>	<i>Rochester</i>
<i>Paul Sanderson</i>	<i>Greenland</i>	<i>Renee McIsaac</i>	<i>Rochester</i>
<i>Joe Lynch</i>	<i>Hampton</i>	<i>Jason Rucker</i>	<i>Rye</i>
<i>Eric Sunderlin</i>	<i>Hampton</i>	<i>Michael Trainque</i>	<i>SWA/Chester</i>
<i>Jim Lavacchia</i>	<i>Hampstead</i>	<i>Susan Connors</i>	<i>Stratham</i>
<i>Heidi Marshall</i>	<i>Hoyle-Tanner</i>	<i>Mark Connors</i>	<i>Stratham</i>
<i>Lisa Perreault</i>	<i>Kingston</i>	<i>Matt Perry</i>	<i>TEC/Seabrook</i>
<i>Chris Robillard</i>	<i>New Castle</i>	<i>Megan Cramton</i>	<i>TEC/Seabrook</i>
<i>Andrea Bejtlich</i>	<i>NHDES</i>	<i>Amber Hall</i>	<i>Somersworth</i>
<i>Deb Loiselle</i>	<i>NHDES</i>	<i>Mike Bobinski</i>	<i>Somersworth</i>
<i>Erin Holmes</i>	<i>NHDES</i>	<i>Jamie Houle</i>	<i>UNH SC</i>
<i>Ted Diers</i>	<i>NHDES</i>	<i>David Bowley</i>	<i>UNH</i>
<i>Steve Landry</i>	<i>NHDES</i>	<i>Will Powers</i>	<i>UNH</i>
<i>Tom Swenson</i>	<i>NHDES</i>	<i>Bill Arcieri</i>	<i>VHB</i>
<i>Brian Goetz</i>	<i>Portsmouth</i>	<i>Agrima Poudel</i>	<i>Verdantas</i>
		<i>Christine Rinehart</i>	<i>Wright-Pierce</i>

1. Introductions

- Deb conducted roll call alphabetically by municipality or affiliation.

2. Approve meeting minutes

- There were no comments on the September 20, 2023 meeting minutes.

3. Congratulations on Years 1 through 5 – Ted Diers, Erin Holmes, and Steve Landry (NHDES)

- While the New Hampshire MS4 Permit was administratively extended, we made it through the original permit term! This is cause for celebration, so Deb, Steve, Erin, and Ted shared a few thoughts about the last five years.
- Ted recognized Tom, Deb, and Andrea for the effort and care provided to the NH MS4 communities. Everyone benefits from the collaboration between the NH Stormwater Coalitions and NHDES. At the end of the day, better pollution control leads to improved water quality. The NH MS4 communities are the ones with boots on the ground and provide NHDES invaluable feedback. NHDES has looked to the NH MS4 communities to make informed and practical decisions in rulemaking for the Green SnowPro Municipal rules, the Clean Watershed Needs Survey, and the Stormwater Manual update. The NHDES Commissioner meets with the Regional Administrator of EPA Region 1 regularly. If you have anything you want to bring to EPA’s attention, please reach out to Ted. We are and continue to be available to help you.
- Erin shared that it has been so great getting to meet the members of the NH Stormwater Coalitions over the last year or so. Erin congratulated everyone for their commitment to the NH MS4 permit. It has been a tough five years throughout the permit. Despite a pandemic, turnover, and other changes, the NH MS4 communities have continued to meet their MS4 permit requirements without skipping a beat.
 - Erin gave a shout out to Dover that had a large presence at the Salt Symposium.
 - The rest of the State is going to be looking to the NH MS4 communities for how to implement BMPs.

- NHDES leans on the NH MS4 communities to provide vital feedback. Both Jaime and Gretchen are on the Expert Panel for the Stormwater Manual update.
 - NHDES is committed to continue supporting MS4 communities.
- Steve recognized that teamwork has been one of the biggest factors leading to the success of the NH MS4 communities in meeting their permit requirements. The NH MS4 Stormwater Coalitions are used as a bragging point for many NHDES Watershed Management Bureau staff at regional stormwater meetings. Often, New Hampshire is looked at in awe due to the unique MS4 communities' format and the New Hampshire Stormwater Coalitions. The collaboration between communities and the stormwater coalitions has been the most effective way to meet the NH MS4 Permit requirements. Steve acknowledged the work of individuals in the NH MS4 Stormwater Coalitions.
 - Gretchen has put in so much time and effort into the NH Seacoast Stormwater Coalition.
 - Jaime's unwavering commitment to both NH Stormwater Coalitions is invaluable. We are so fortunate to have the UNH Stormwater Center as an asset to the NH MS4 communities.
 - Deb, Tom, Andrea, and Katie have collectively spent 2.9 years of time working on NH MS4 related items during this permit.
 - Matt Wood and Ken Edwardson, who work on the Water Quality Assessments, provide a lot of support with NH MS4 requirements and are consistently available to assist the NH Stormwater Coalitions with any requests.
 - Other NHDES staff have been invaluable assets to the NH Stormwater Coalitions. For instance, Aubrey Voelker with her clever outreach materials and Sally Soule with her technical support.
 - Deb really did the legwork on bringing the NH Stormwater Coalitions to fruition during her time at NHDOT.
 - We are so fortunate to have the ability to assist the NH MS4 coalition members and collaborate with NH MS4 communities on these important matters.
- Q: What surprises for the next permit year or following year are in store?
A: Since NHDES isn't the permitting authority, we don't know anything in terms of upcoming permit requirements or EPA's topics of focus. However, we believe that construction and pollutant loading may be big topics.
- Q: Has EPA responded to the RDA?
A: Not yet.
- A comment for Ted to advance to David Cash of EPA: When Dr. Cash was with Harvard, he published on knowledge systems for sustainable development. The studies found that mobilizing Science and Technology for sustainability is more likely to be effective when it engages the boundaries between knowledge and action in ways promote trust and co-development of solutions. Nothing epitomizes this more than the collaboration between the state, municipalities, consultants and academics in the NH Stormwater Coalitions and the municipal alliance for adaptive management.
- If there is anything you want Ted to bring up to senior leadership, we can talk about it next month.
- Q: The Stormwater Management Plan is very duplicative. The outreach for MCM #1, we use the same information over and over. Is there a way to streamline this?
A: Tom will put this on a future agenda to see if we can condense it.
 - The MCM #1 outreach efforts can be changed to best suit your community. For instance, Hampton had an issue with recreation vehicles dumping into catch basins. They used this as an opportunity to conduct outreach and educate to the public.
- Comments: The IDDE training and videos could be refreshed and updated.
 - Tom will look into this and see what we can do to update them.

4. Year 5 Annual Report Submissions

- Deb presented.
- So far, Deb has received 70% of the Year 5 Annual Reports. That's not to say that only 70% of NH MS4 communities submitted their Annual Reports, those are just the communities that chose to CC Deb on their annual report submission emails.
- If you didn't CC Deb when you submitted your Year 5 Annual Report, please reach out and just let Deb know that you submitted it. It would be very helpful to send her your Annual Report as well. While this isn't a requirement, it is extremely helpful to see what we need to focus on for the upcoming year. If there are things that multiple communities were struggling with, we want to make sure we address that and are adequately helping everyone.

5. Post-Construction Ordinance

- EPA correspondence
 - Deb presented.
 - When NHDES staff, the NH Stormwater Coalition chairs, and Jaime Houle met with Newt Tedder and Michelle Vuto from EPA, there were many communities that had reported that they had not completed the post-construction ordinance requirement. There were eight Seacoast communities that reported not completing this requirements on their Year 4 Annual Reports.
 - We recently heard that EPA's Enforcement and Compliance section has reached out to a community in the NHLMV about their Year 4 Annual Report non-compliance. They will likely be emailing anyone that reported they did not complete the post-construction ordinance requirement. This was a Year 3 requirement.
 - Please let Deb know if you have been contacted by EPA. It will be confidential unless the community decides otherwise. Deb is happy to work with any community and help them navigate the situation.
- Post-Construction Ordinance Checklist
 - Last month, we went over the post-construction ordinance checklist and overview that Jaime and Gretchen created to assist with ensuring all requirements under 2.3.6.a.i are met. The ordinances must be no less stringent than [Section 4 Elements C and D of the Southeast Watershed Alliance's Model Stormwater Standards for Coastal Watershed Communities](#). The checklist breaks down each requirement, you can go through each individual requirement and share the status and where it is located in your communities ordinances which will help you get organized. It will also help newer members to familiarize themselves with the ordinances.
 - We are still working on making the resources ADA compliant and uploading them to the NH MS4 Website but will have it done for the November meeting.
 - The checklist will be very useful as a self-audit. The Southeast Watershed Alliance document was updated in 2019. This version is on the NH MS4 Website. We used this version since it has been updated based on our experiences as communities implementing these ordinances.
 - Gretchen's version is good for anyone just starting out. The background information is very helpful. Jaime's checklist is helpful to check what your community already has in place.

6. MCM #1

- Tom presented.
- It is already time to start making progress on the Year 6 outreach requirements.
- Yard Waste
 - October and November are great times to do yard waste outreach. You can find outreach resources in the Yard Waste section on the [MCM #1 webpage](#).

- Septic Systems
 - Septic Smart Week was last month. If you weren't able to do septic outreach then, there are social media posts under the Septic System section on the [MCM #1 webpage](#).
 - NHDES put out a Septic System [article](#) last year that you can send out.
- Winter Maintenance
 - The Green SnowPro Program Coordinator, Aubrey Voelker, created three fun outreach images reminding everyone to get ready for the winter season. The Winter Maintenance Postcards can be found on the [Winter Maintenance webpage](#).

7. Year 6 Requirements

- Tom presented.
- The requirements for Year 6 will be broken down in a table very similar to the Year 5 Annual Requirements table. There will be two separate documents, one for existing permittees and one for new permittees.
- The draft will be available in November.

8. 2023 Salt Symposium

- Deb presented.
- For the first time, there was an all-day municipal track during the Salt Symposium. There were 40 attendees and half were from NH MS4 communities. We've heard some great feedback from attendees. Attendees seemed to get a lot out of the peer-to-peer format.
- For anyone that attended, NHDES is working with Maralee from UNH T2 to get Road Scholar credits. Tom will reach out once those are secured.
- We hope we can get even more MS4 attendees next year! Deb will be inquiring with all you on what should be included.
- Next year, we will be offering both Continuing Education and Road Scholars Credits.

9. Updates and Upcoming Events

- **UNH T2 Snow Plowing 101**
November 7th, November 13th, and November 14th
8:00 AM-2:00 PM
[Registration and Details](#)
- **UNH T2 Snowfighters Seminar**
November 9th
8:00 AM-2:30 PM
[Registration and Details](#)
- **2024 Asset Management Conference for Water Infrastructure**
- **[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](#).

10. Upcoming meeting dates for 2023 – Mark your calendars! Meetings will occur on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. We will continue working on the elements necessary for Year 6 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

November 15th: Year 6 Requirements, Year 6 Coalition Meeting Dates, Post-Construction Ordinance Checklist, Lake Phosphorus Control Plan

December 20th:

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