

Meeting Minutes

Seacoast Stormwater Coalition Meeting

Zoom

Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Present:

<i>Gretchen Young</i>	<i>Rochester, Chair</i>	<i>Deb Loiselle</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Lyndsay Butler</i>	<i>Newmarket, Chair</i>	<i>Tom Swenson</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Taylor White</i>	<i>AECOM</i>	<i>Lisa Loosigian</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Jill Semprini</i>	<i>Dover</i>	<i>Chris Vakili</i>	<i>Portsmouth</i>
<i>John Storer</i>	<i>Dover</i>	<i>Jarrold Norris</i>	<i>Rochester</i>
<i>Ken Mavrogeorge</i>	<i>Dover</i>	<i>Jason Rucker</i>	<i>Rye</i>
<i>April Talon</i>	<i>Durham</i>	<i>Autumn Scott</i>	<i>SRPC</i>
<i>Sarah Large</i>	<i>FB Environmental/ N. Hampton</i>	<i>Susan Connors</i>	<i>Stratham</i>
<i>Paul Sanderson</i>	<i>Greenland</i>	<i>Matt Perry</i>	<i>TEC/Seabrook</i>
<i>Eric Sunderlin</i>	<i>Hampton</i>	<i>Megan Cramton</i>	<i>TEC/Seabrook</i>
<i>Joe Lynch</i>	<i>Hampton</i>	<i>Jamie Houle</i>	<i>UNH SC</i>
<i>Lisa Perreault</i>	<i>Kingston</i>	<i>David Bowley</i>	<i>UNH</i>
<i>Phill Coombs</i>	<i>Kingston</i>	<i>Will Powers</i>	<i>UNH</i>
<i>Chris Robillard</i>	<i>New Castle</i>	<i>Bill Arcieri</i>	<i>VHB</i>
<i>Bill Meserve</i>	<i>Newfields</i>	<i>Agrima Poudel</i>	<i>Verdantas</i>
<i>Andrea Bejtlich</i>	<i>NHDES</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 December 20, 2023 meeting minutes.

3. Soak Up the Rain New Hampshire Presentation – Lisa Loosigian (NHDES)

- Permittees with nitrogen and phosphorus impairments must implement a BMP in the impaired watershed by the end of Year 6. Since not all communities have the funding to implement large scale BMPs, Lisa Loosigian from the Soak Up the Rain New Hampshire program explained some small-scale options. The Soak Up the Rain program typically works on residential properties to implement best management practices to reduce erosion and mitigate stormwater runoff.
- The [Homeowners Guide to Stormwater Management](#) explains how to look at a property and see how the stormwater is moving. The guide contains instructions on how to implement and maintain the following BMPs:
 - Infiltration practices
 - Dripline infiltration trench
 - Driveway infiltration trench
 - Dry well
 - Infiltration steps which are especially effective on waterfront properties but work everywhere.
 - Pervious walkways and patios are pavers with pea stone or pervious grout material between them.
 - Rain garden. An inlet and outlet are two key elements of the rain garden. The water flowing into the rain garden can be from a paved area or a down spout.
 - You can see an example of a rain garden at the Woodman Museum in Dover.

- Storage or conveyance
 - Rain barrels. They can have small storage capacity so you can split your gutter and have two barrels, create daisy chains, or use a cistern.
 - Water bars slow down the flow of water. Some can have a trench in front of them to divert water into a vegetated area.
 - A rubber razor is conveyor belt material sandwiched between lumber. When this is buried about four inches below the ground, it can divert the water away from the slope.
 - Vegetated swales help slow down water and allow the runoff to infiltrate. You can add check dams with stones and logs to slow it down more and allow larger pieces of sediment to filter out.
 - Vegetated buffers are vegetation between a landscaped area and waterbody. It is important to keep the Shoreline Protection Act regulations in mind when choosing the project.
- The biggest take away is to maintain or reestablish natural areas. The guide contains a [list of plantings for rain gardens](#). Keeping the site natural and planting native vegetation is beneficial for more than just stormwater infiltration.
- Newfields received a CWSRF grant to add two rain gardens on town-owned property. The garden club and library trustees are involved, and other private landowners have shown interest in planting their own rain gardens. The outreach and education aspect of rain gardens is proving to be very beneficial.
- Q: How durable is the rubber stop?
A: They are easy to replace but we don't have any data on how long they last. It is a cost-effective option though.
- Dover was going to use the Soak Up the Rain program and the homeowners guide to inform homeowners on how easy it would be to receive credits for the Stormwater Utility.
- The Soak Up the Rain New Hampshire Program has a [flyer](#) that you can hand out to educate the public on how easy residential BMPs are.

4. BMP Tracking Using PTAP Update

- Tom presented.
- UNH and NHDES worked together to create the Pollutant Tracking and Accounting Project (PTAP). Currently, a few members of the Seacoast Stormwater Coalition are the only communities using PTAP. It is great for tracking BMP load reductions and is helpful for MS4 Annual Reports.
- We are working with the New Hampshire Lower Merrimack Valley Stormwater Coalition (NHLMV) to provide funding so all communities with and without impairments can use PTAP. The NHLMV will be voting in February to fund this effort. It is possible that nutrient reduction tracking will be required by the new permit as we focus more on implementation.
- Q: Will you be going over the steps needed to get a community integrated into the PTAP and how to use the tool?
A: Yes! Instructions and trainings will be provided to the communities. Resources will be available and trainings will be recorded.
- Even if you don't have a nitrogen impairment, you may have a waterbody that flows into a nitrogen impaired waterbody (like Great Bay) and still be required to track nutrient load reductions.

5. Rough Draft of Developers/Construction Audience Outreach Materials

- Tom presented.
- The conversation and feedback provided at the previous SSC meeting was invaluable. We incorporated a lot of the suggestions that were made. Please share any additional feedback you may have so these materials are useful for your communities. There are two fact sheets available.

They are in the same format as the Construction General Permit (CGP) outreach provided in previous years.

- CGP flyer
 - Inspectors must be certified. Information is provided about certified inspector training, the free training options and what to expect from the training.
 - NOIs: where to file them and a reminder that there is a two week minimum turn around time and to plan accordingly.
 - Suggestion to define who needs to submit NOIs.
 - Contact information and where to find further information for federal, state, and local requirements.
- Construction sites and BMPs flyer
 - This flyer gives more information on the types of BMPs and common mistakes made when installing them.
 - The flyer covers choosing a BMP, installing the BMP, and associated inspections and maintenance that will need to be done.
 - In the future, we will be able to reference the updated Stormwater Manual. However, since it is not published yet, we found [EPA's fact sheets](#) about BMPs that we could link to for each applicable BMP.
- Q: Is the CGP required for a project on a parcel that is not within the MS4 area?
A: Yes, the CGP is required for any project that created one acre or more of land disturbance, or collectively as part of a common plan, regardless of where the project is located.
- Feedback
 - It might not help to highlight one BMP. Maybe make it more generic. Reference links to the EPA Fact Sheets.
 - This is helpful! Especially if the links for CGP management certs are easy to find/follow.
 - Bill Arcieri and Joe Lynch are willing to help review the materials.

6. MCM #1 Pet Waste Outreach Resources Update

- Tom presented.
- PREP had previously attend a coalition meeting to discuss the creation/updating of pet waste outreach materials.
- The person leading the effort has left PREP. When that position is filled, this will be one of the first things they work on.

7. NEWEA 2024 Conference

- Lyndsay presented.
- Being held January 22-24, 2024.
- There are a number of stormwater presentations, technical sessions on asset management and stormwater management.

8. New Version of the New Hampshire MS4 Permit Update

- Deb presented.
- Deb recently spoke with Michelle Vuto regarding the new NH MS4 permit. There is not much of an update at this time. The Massachusetts MS4 Permit is top priority since that expired before the NH permit.
- We will have a lager update in February. We do know that any waived communities will have to resubmit their waiver request under the new permit.
- Q: Do you know if new permittees will still be “new permittees”, or will there be more new permittees? Would the current “new permittees” need to be caught up and therefore no longer have a different requirement timeline as the existing permittees?
A: Deb is unsure but will ask about that when she speaks with Michelle next.

9. MS4 Overview “Lunch and Learn” Webinar

- Tom presented.
- January 25, 2024 from 12:00 to 1:30 pm.
- [Additional Information and Registration](#)
- There is a Lunch and Learn being hosted by the Environmental Business Council which will focus on the Massachusetts MS4 Permit.
- There will not be any new information released during this Lunch and Learn.
- The information presented will be basic information about the MS4 Permit.

10. Green SnowPro

- Tom presented.
- Steve and Aubrey are still working on filing the necessary paperwork. We do not have a date for the Public Hearing currently. It would likely be at end of February at the earliest.

11. Updates and Upcoming Events

- **NHDES Water Infrastructure Funding Workshop**
 - April 8-12, 2024
 - Agenda and registration coming soon! You must have register for each session individually.
 - There will be sessions on drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater.
 - This is recommended for anyone thinking about submitting a CWSRF pre-app. The pre-apps will likely be due June 1, 2024.

- **2024 Salt Symposium**

- September 10, 2024
- Held at Cisco Brewery
- Agenda and registration coming soon!

- **2024 Asset Management Conference for Water Infrastructure**

- In Pembroke again on Wednesday October 30, 2024.

- **[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](#).

12. Upcoming meeting dates for 2024 – 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.

2024 Meeting Dates

February 21: Wet Weather/SVF/Catchment Investigations Questions and Feedback, LPCP Non-Structural BMPs, Large-Scale BMPs Presentation, Year 6 MCM #3 and MCM #4 Requirements Review, New Hampshire CWNS Summary

March 20: Wet Weather/SVF/Catchment Investigations Answers and Refresher, MCM #6 Training Materials, Year 6 MCM #5 and MCM #6 Requirements Review

April 17: System Mapping, Year 6 Appendix F and Appendix H Requirements Review

May 15:
June 19:
July 17:
August 21:
September 18:
October 16:
November 20:
December 18:

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.