

Meeting Minutes

NH Lower Merrimack Valley Stormwater Coalition Meeting

Zoom

Thursday, February 8, 2024, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Present:

<i>Dawn Tuomala, Chair</i>	<i>Merrimack</i>	<i>Leo Lessard</i>	<i>Milford</i>
<i>Jeanne Walker, Chair</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Amy Gill</i>	<i>Nashua</i>
<i>Joe Jordan</i>	<i>Amherst</i>	<i>Scott McPhie</i>	<i>Nashua</i>
<i>Eric Slosek</i>	<i>Amherst</i>	<i>Doug Starr</i>	<i>Nashua</i>
<i>Brandon Boisvert</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Sara Siskavich</i>	<i>NashuaRPC</i>
<i>Brian Defosses</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Emma Rearick</i>	<i>NashuaRPC</i>
<i>Nick Cristofori</i>	<i>CEI</i>	<i>Andrea Bejtlich</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Craig Durrett</i>	<i>Derry</i>	<i>Deb Loiselle</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Scott Ozana</i>	<i>Goffstown</i>	<i>Tom Swenson</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Kevin Anderson</i>	<i>Hollis</i>	<i>Dena Hoffman</i>	<i>Pelham</i>
<i>Ben Berthiaume</i>	<i>Hooksett</i>	<i>Victor (VJ) Ranfos</i>	<i>Pembroke</i>
<i>Heidi Marshall</i>	<i>Hoyle-Tanner</i>	<i>Todd Welch</i>	<i>Salem</i>
<i>Paul Elsholz</i>	<i>Laconia</i>	<i>Zach Swick</i>	<i>SNHRPC</i>
<i>Rebecca Balke</i>	<i>Manchester</i>	<i>Kaitlyn Allen</i>	<i>Verdantas</i>
<i>Leo Laviolette</i>	<i>Merrimack</i>	<i>Nick Germain</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
<i>Jarid Pretzer</i>	<i>Merrimack</i>	<i>Meaghan O'Dwyer</i>	<i>Windham</i>
<i>Nicole Crawford</i>	<i>Milford</i>	<i>Alex Mello</i>	<i>Windham</i>

1. Introductions

- Deb conducted roll call alphabetically by municipality or affiliation.

2. Approve meeting minutes

- Jeanne Walker made a motion to approve the January 11, 2024 meeting minutes. Amy Gill seconded the motion.

3. BMP Tracking Using PTAP Funding Vote

- In the infancy of the NHLMV, there were 10 permittees that contributed funds (Amherst, Bedford, Hollis, Litchfield, Manchester, Merrimack, Milford, Pelham, Nashua, and Wilton). Nashua RPC is the fiscal agent for these funds. The funds have previously been used for the Hot Spot Maps.
- PTAP is a database that allows permittees to track their pollutant load reductions by adding information on structural and non-structural BMPs that have been implemented and runs the calculations for the nutrient load reductions.
- Q: Is there a list of BMPs that PTAP can run calculations on?
A: It's based on the EPA approved calculations found in Appendix F and encompasses all the stormwater BMPs we talk about regularly. Since Jamie and Sally are the ones that run the database, Tom will check with them to see if there is a list. Tom will provide the list of calculations to all NHLMV members.
- One representative from each contributing community voted to spend up to \$1,500 to pay UNH to add all NHLMV and SSC permittees to the PTAP database, excluding permittees that are already registered in the database, and to provide training on how to use the database as well.
 - The vote was in favor for spending the funds. Each community's vote on whether or not to authorize the spending of the funds is recorded below:
 1. Amherst- Yes
 2. Bedford- Yes
 3. Hollis- Not in attendance
 4. Litchfield- Not in attendance

5. Manchester- Yes
6. Merrimack- Yes
7. Milford- Yes
8. Pelham- Yes
9. Nashua- Yes
10. Wilton- Yes

4. Lake Phosphorus Control Plan (LPCP) Non-Structural Controls

- Tom presented.
- Permittees with a Lake Phosphorus TMDL must implement their chosen non-structural controls by the end of Year 6.
- The permittees with a Lake Phosphorus TMDL include:
 - Amherst
 - Bedford
 - Derry
 - Hollis
 - Hudson
 - Manchester
 - Merrimack
 - Newton
- A list of approved EPA phosphorus reduction credits for non-structural BMPS can be found in [Attachment 2 of Appendix F](#).
 - You do not have to implement all the non-structural controls listed, but should implement some.
 - You may already be doing some of these non-structural controls like catch basin cleaning or using fertilizer with less than 0.67% phosphorus.
 - You can either implement these non-structural controls for the entire LPCP area or only within parts of the LPCP area. It is important to note where the non-structural controls are being implemented.
- There is a list non-structural controls within the LPCP template that are not included in Attachment 2 of Appendix F and do not currently have EPA approved nutrient load reductions.
 - UNH and NHDES will be working with EPA to get these approved. So, for now, you cannot officially claim the nutrient reductions associated with them. It is important to note that these were added to the LCPC template in hopes that you will get credit for them once they are approved by EPA.
- There is also a list non-structural controls within the LPCP template that are not included in Attachment 2 of Appendix F meaning they do not currently have EPA approved nutrient load reductions. There are also currently no known ways to calculate their associated nutrient load reductions. Examples of these types of non-structural controls include outreach efforts. However, we do suggest that you include these measures, so EPA can see all the work you are putting into reducing phosphorus.
 - Our hope is that in the future, nutrient reduction credits will be developed for these non-structural controls and that you will receive credit for them.
- Please reach out if you have any questions about the LPCP requirements.

5. Wet Weather/SVF/Catchment Investigations Discussion and Questions

- Tom presented.
- We wanted to take a moment to give a general review on all things IDDE related including wet weather sampling.
- We know that this can be a very confusing topic so our hope is to gather any questions everyone might have about the topic and answer those questions during the March coalition meeting.
- Wet Weather Sampling

- Use the data you gathered during your dry weather sampling and information located within your municipal records to go through the [SVF spreadsheet](#) and determine if any of your outfalls have any SVFs. If an outfall has at least one SVF, then you must conduct wet weather sampling on it.
- The sampling process for wet weather sampling is the same as dry weather sampling including testing for the same parameters and using the same procedures.
- Your community can set a benchmark of what constitutes a wet weather event. Just be consistent and document the process in your IDDE Plan.
- Catchment Investigations
 - Catchment investigations can be done at the same time as dry/wet weather sampling or at a separate time.
 - To conduct catchment investigations, you will need to inspect key junction manholes to look for signs of illicit discharges.
 - The signs of an illicit discharge include visual signs such as fecal matter or toilet paper as well as olfactory signs such as a bad smell.
 - If you find any signs of an illicit discharge, collect a water sample.
 - If you do not see any signs of an illicit discharge within the manhole and if the dry/wet weather sampling results do not indicate a potential illicit discharge, then the investigation for that outfall/catchment is considered complete.
 - If you do find signs of an illicit discharge, be it visual, olfactory, or from the dry/wet weather sampling results, then you must determine where the potential illicit discharge is coming from.
 - This is done by working your way up the stormwater system and investigating each manhole until you can determine where the illicit discharge is located.
 - Once you have located the illicit discharge, the investigation for that outfall/catchment is considered complete.
 - You then must remove the illicit discharge.
- Q: Are there cases where we would do wet weather sampling despite having no SVF's?
A: It depends on the community. Some communities conduct wet weather sampling on all outfalls to cover their bases. Some communities are smaller and have less samples to collect, so it doesn't add too much to their workload. It is up to each community on how they would like to approach it.
 - One community mentioned that they completed a buffer analysis in GIS and designated high priority outfalls due to the associated impairments. They then conducted wet weather sampling on those.
- Q: Has anyone figured out a solution to the wet weather sampling collecting? Some of the common obstacles include outfalls being in difficult to access locations, timing, and safety.
A: Someone said they keep an eye out on the weather and go when it rains between 7am-11am. The E. Coli samples need to be processed within 6 hours. They do not sample if it is only sprinkling as there is little to no flow.
 - A very useful tool for sampling is a sampling pole.
- Q: What is the proper order for catchment investigations, dry weather, and wet weather sampling? For instance, do we do our dry weather sampling, then do our SVFs for all catchments, and if there is one SVF, then do our wet weather sampling? When exactly are we supposed to do the catchment investigation? Is this based on the results we get during dry and wet weather?
A: You can do your catchment investigations at any point. You can do the wet weather and catchment investigations at the same time or at different times. You may end up doing both wet weather and catchment investigations at the same time at some locations and then going out separately to do catchment investigations later on for others. If you are getting a lot of odors and signs of a potential illicit discharge while wet

weather sampling, you could do the catchment investigation at that time if you wanted to.

- Q: Do you need to complete the SVF spreadsheet for a catchment if you already collected a wet weather sample?
- A: No, you do not have to go through the SVF spreadsheet for a catchment if you collected a wet weather sample. Though it is important to note somewhere on your SVF spreadsheet that you conducted wet weather sampling instead of looking for SVFs. It is a requirement to update your SVF spreadsheet as you conduct wet weather sampling and to submit it with your annual reports. The SVFs are a way to reduce the burden on permittees so they do not have to conduct wet weather sampling on every outfall. If an outfall does not have a SVF and you still conduct wet weather sampling, you are going above and beyond the requirements which is OK as well.

6. [Pelham Protect Our Ponds: Understanding Watersheds Conference](#) – Dena Hoffman

- Dena Hoffman presented.
- Pelham is hosting an educational conference. There has been a lot of misinformation on the water quality throughout the town. Residents reached out to Dena and asked for help with educating the public on this.
- This free event is on Saturday April 6th 8:30 am-12 pm. There will be interactive exhibits and speakers. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.
- We can have the registrants list their town so other communities can get MS4 outreach credit for their Annual Reports.

7. Existing/Old Permittees and New Permittees Year 6 Requirements

- Tom presented.
- MCM # 1
 - We will be reaching out to the developers/construction audiences this year.
 - The MCM #1 requirements for each permittee depend on their specific impairments. See the [Year 6 MCM #1 Outreach Matrix](#) for the requirements.
 - We assume that every permittee has a bacteria impairment, so all permittees will need to complete those associated outreach requirements.
- MCM #2
 - Public Participation
 1. Every permittee must annually provide an opportunity for the public to comment on their SWMP.
 - Q: To meet this requirement, does that need to be an explicit open invitation for commentary or does posting the SWMP on your community's stormwater website work as well?
A: Either way would work, as long as the SWMP is available for the public to review and comment on.
 - An optional requirement is to record anything else you're doing for public involvement to get credit for it on your annual report.
 - This could include events like hazardous waste days or old home days where you are sharing stormwater related information.

8. Developers/Construction Audience Outreach Materials

- Tom presented.
- Thank you all for the fantastic feedback.
- To make sure that all of the feedback can be incorporated into the developers/construction outreach materials, we will now be presenting the final versions of the materials during the March coalition meeting.
- Deb and Tom were also able to run the rough draft of the materials past Michele Vuto from EPA and received some feedback from her as well.

9. Construction General Permit

- Tom presented.
- The contact for the CGP was Michelle Vuto. There is a new point of contact:
Margarita Chatterton
Chatterton.Margarita@epa.gov
617-918-1034
- If you have any outreach materials that you're able to update, please update the contact information to now list Margarita as the main point of contact.

10. MCM #1 Pet Waste Outreach Resources Update

- Tom presented.
- Previously, PREP had offered to create new/update our current pet waste outreach resources. The employee who was working on this task, has moved on from PREP. Their replacement will still be completing this task once they are hired.
- In the meantime, if anyone has new or updated outreach materials, please let Tom know so he can share them on the NH MS4 Website.

11. New Version of the New Hampshire MS4 Permit Update

- Deb presented.
- Deb and Tom met with Michelle Vuto and received an update on the new version of the NH MS4 Permit.
- Newton Tedder is currently on duty within the Enforcement and Compliance Section of EPA. This is a routine shuffle for EPA employees and Newton should be returning to work on MS4 related tasks in the future. For now, Michelle Vuto will be the direct contact and Danielle Gaito will be assisting while Newton is on duty.
- Massachusetts will receive a new MS4 Permit and then New Hampshire will receive its new MS4 Permit. This was a discussion made by EPA upper management.
- The draft NH MS4 Permit is currently being worked on and will be released around Dec 31, 2024.
- EPA will hold education and outreach events to go over the new version of the Permit. These events will be both virtual and in-person.
- All reporting relating to the new version of the Permit, including Annual Reports, will be done online.
 - EPA has technical staff that can assist with questions or problems with this new system should any issues arise.
- Michelle said it is likely that the communities that are currently "new" permittees will become "old/existing" permittees for the new version of the Permit. Permittees that get pulled in with the new version of the Permit will then be considered "new" permittees. The permittees currently called "new" permittees should be caught up to the "old/existing" permittees by the time the new Permit gets put into effect, since the current Permit gave them two or three additional years for most of the requirements.
- Deb and Tom will provide monthly updates going forward.

12. Municipal Green SnowPro Rules Public Hearing

- Tom presented.
- The public hearing will be on Thursday February 29, 2024 at 2 p.m. It is a hybrid event at NHDES and over Teams.
- All associated documents will be available for review on February 8. Deb will send out an email with all of this information and associated documents as soon as we have them.
- There will be a week after the public hearing (until March 7) to submit comments.

13. Updates and Upcoming Events

- **NHDES Water Infrastructure Funding Workshop**

- If you are planning on submitting a CWSRF application, it is strongly suggested to attend the workshop.
 - April 8-12, 2024
 - Agenda and registration coming soon. Please remember to register for each presentation you would like to attend.
- **2024 Salt Symposium**
 - September 10, 2024
 - The symposium will be taking place at the Cisco Brewery in Portsmouth.
 - Agenda and registration coming soon.
 - **2024 Asset Management Conference for Water Infrastructure**
 - October 30, 2024 at the Pembroke Edward Cross Facility.
 - **[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](#).

14. Upcoming meeting dates for 2024 – 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 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:

March 14: Wet Weather/SVF/Catchment Investigations Answers and Refresher, Large-Scale BMPs Presentation, Developers/Construction Audience Outreach Materials, Year 6 MCM #3 and MCM #4 Requirements Review

April 11: System Mapping, Stormwater and Wastewater Asset Management, Year 6 MCM #5 and MCM #6 Requirements Review, MCM #6 Training Materials

May 9: Year 6 Appendix F and Appendix H Requirements Review, New Hampshire CWNS Summary

June 13:

July 11:

August 8:

September 12:

October 10:

November 14:

December 12: 🎄 Holiday Meeting

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.

15. Adjourn

- Dawn Tuomala made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rebecca Balke seconded the motion.