

Meeting Minutes

NH Lower Merrimack Valley Stormwater Coalition Meeting

Zoom

Thursday, March 14, 2024, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Present:

<i>Dawn Tuomala, Chair</i>	<i>Merrimack</i>	<i>Nicole Crawford</i>	<i>Milford</i>
<i>Jeanne Walker, Chair</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Doug Starr</i>	<i>Nashua</i>
<i>Joe Jordan</i>	<i>Amherst</i>	<i>Sara Siskavich</i>	<i>NashuaRPC</i>
<i>Brandon Boisvert</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Emma Rearick</i>	<i>NashuaRPC</i>
<i>Matt Monahan</i>	<i>CHNRPC</i>	<i>Andrea Bejtlich</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Craig Durrett</i>	<i>Derry</i>	<i>Tom Swenson</i>	<i>NHDES</i>
<i>Scott Ozana</i>	<i>Goffstown</i>	<i>Dena Hoffman</i>	<i>Pelham</i>
<i>Saya Hickey</i>	<i>Hazen and Sawyer</i>	<i>Christine Addington</i>	<i>Pembroke</i>
<i>Dave Gleason</i>	<i>Hazen and Sawyer</i>	<i>Mike Leach</i>	<i>Stantec</i>
<i>Kevin Anderson</i>	<i>Hollis</i>	<i>Jamie Houle</i>	<i>UNHSC</i>
<i>Paul Elsholz</i>	<i>Laconia</i>	<i>Kaitlyn Allen</i>	<i>Verdantas</i>
<i>Kim Kleiner</i>	<i>Litchfield</i>	<i>Nick Germain</i>	<i>Wilton</i>
<i>Rebecca Balke</i>	<i>Manchester</i>	<i>Meaghan O'Dwyer</i>	<i>Windham</i>
<i>Leo Laviolette</i>	<i>Merrimack</i>	<i>Alex Mello</i>	<i>Windham</i>
<i>Jarid Pretzer</i>	<i>Merrimack</i>		

1. Introductions

- Tom conducted roll call alphabetically by municipality or affiliation.

2. Approve meeting minutes

- Joe Jordan made a motion to approve the February 8, 2024 meeting minutes. Dawn Tuomala seconded the motion. The February 8, 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

3. Developers/Construction Audience Outreach Materials

- Tom presented.
- During Year 6, all permittees must reach out to the developers/construction audience. Some examples of how to conduct the outreach are handouts for pre-construction meetings, emails, mailings, or putting the content on the permittee's website. There are resources available on the [MCM #1 page](#) of the NHMS4 website. The new resources were explained. All the materials can be modified to best suit the needs of the permittee.
- [Construction General Permit Fact Sheet](#)
 - The fact sheet provides a background for, and changes made to the CGP in 2022, including the need for inspectors to complete EPA approved trainings. The fact sheet provides information about NOIs and the expected timeline for submitting to EPA. The last section has information on federal, state, and local requirements and where to find additional information.
- [Construction Site Erosion and Sediment BMPs Fact Sheet](#)
 - This fact sheet provides background on why BMPs are needed on construction sites. The material informs the reader how to select, install, and maintain BMPs. There's a link with fact sheets from EPA that can be included with this fact sheet or specific BMP fact sheets can be printed out and included in mailers for BMPs commonly used on sites in the area.
- [Developers Outreach Letter](#)
 - The letter contains some background information on the CGP and BMPs for construction. If you want to mail out these outreach resources, the letter will help to introduce the materials, resources, and provide contact information for more questions.

- [CGP Website Write Up](#)
 - Permittees can add the language in the CGP Write Up document to their website to explain and introduce the CGP and outreach materials.
- [Manchester's Homeowners Guide to Managing Stormwater](#)
 - Manchester created a guide to managing stormwater geared towards homeowners. Thank you to Manchester for sharing this with us!

4. Large Scale BMPs Presentation

- Jaime Houle presented.
- Permittees with a phosphorus or nitrogen impairment must implement one structural control within the impaired watershed in Year 6.
- Permittees can use their LCPC or Hot Spot Mapping Data to determine the best site to install a BMP.
- The *Appendix H: PSIR Attachment D – Identification of potential retrofit opportunities or opportunities for the installation of structural BMPs during redevelopment* spreadsheet includes the cost for each parcel. These are estimates that may need to be calibrated to your community.
- All nitrogen or phosphorus load reductions from BMPs implemented within the NH MS4 area by the permittee or its agents must be tracked. PTAP will help you track the pollutant load reductions for any BMPs implemented.
- The UNH Stormwater Center has some great [resources](#) for calculating load reductions, including fact sheets.
 - There are [Fact Sheets for each BMP](#) which include pollutant load reductions, equations, costs, and performance curves.
 - The [Performance Curve Calculator](#) is a helpful tool. You input the applicable data including BMP type, land use, and infiltration rate and it will do the calculations for you. You can use the calculator to look at different scenarios and sizes of BMPs and see which will be most beneficial for implementation.
 - The [Stormwater Control Measure Crosswalk](#) shows the different names of each BMP in the Massachusetts and New Hampshire Stormwater Manuals and provides the EPA Performance Curve models and cost.
- Q: Are you developing this information for the BMPs that don't already have performance curves associated with them?
A: Yes, that is a work in progress. We are working on new BMP performance curves but they have to go through the approval process.
- Q: Do you recommend going after every little load reduction with multiple BMPs, or should we go with the biggest BMP we can afford to implement?
A: You should look at the performance curves to determine this. As the curve goes past the knee, you aren't getting as much load reduction for the price.

5. Wet Weather/SVF/Catchment Investigations Discussion

- Does anyone have any questions on the wet weather/SVF/catchment investigations for Jamie?
- There were no questions.

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

- Tom presented.
- MCM #3 and #4
- [Existing Permittees Year 6 Requirements](#)
 - MCM # 3:
 - Annual Requirements:
 1. Update the SSO inventory, system maps, outfall and interconnection inventory and ranking.

- 2. Retest any removed/fixed illicit discharges to ensure the problem has been resolved.
 - 3. Provide a progress report for indicators of IDDE program in the Year 6 Annual Report.
 - 4. Provide IDDE training to employees involved.
 - Due in Year 7 but may be a good idea to start now.
 - 1. Start wet weather sampling **and** catchment investigations for all problem outfalls and any outfalls or interconnections that indicate a potential sewer input.
 - 2. Document System Vulnerability Factors (SVF) for every catchment investigated.
 - Due in Year 10:
 - 1. Wet weather sampling **and** catchment investigations for all high and low priority outfalls.
- MCM #4:
 - Track the number of site reviews, inspections and enforcement actions taken.
- Q: From Meaghan O'Dwyer. How do other communities investigate potential illicit discharges for septic communities? We have involved the Health Department, but we cannot prove which septic system is causing illicit discharge. The actual testing is what we are struggling with.

A: This has been an ongoing issue in other communities as well. There are different protocols for accessing houses for septic issues.

 - Some options given included: go to the interceptor manholes and slowly measure each pipe and then narrow it down that way. Alternatively, you could use cameras or conduct upstream testing for field parameters (temp, conductivity, etc.) to help narrow the area. Then follow up with lab test.
 - A suggestion was to create a subcommittee to figure out the related legalities and how to best approach the subject.
- [New Permittees Year 6 Requirements](#)
 - MCM # 3:
 - Annual Requirements:
 - 1. Update the SSO inventory, system maps, outfall and interconnection inventory and ranking.
 - 2. Retest any removed/fixed illicit discharges to ensure the problem has been resolved.
 - 3. Provide a progress report for indicators of IDDE program in the Year 6 Annual Report.
 - 4. Provide IDDE training to employees involved.
 - Dry weather sampling must be completed by the end of Year 6.
 - Begin addressing problem catchments.
 - Due in Year 10 but may be a good idea to begin now.
 - 1. Start wet weather sampling **and** catchment investigations for all problem outfalls and any outfalls or interconnections that indicate a potential sewer input.
 - 2. Document System Vulnerability Factors (SVF) for every catchment investigated.
 - Due in Year 13:
 - 1. Wet weather sampling **and** catchment investigations for all high and low priority outfalls.
 - MCM #4:
 - Track the number of site reviews, inspections and enforcement actions taken.

7. MCM #1

- Tom presented.
- How are people doing on these outreach efforts? If you haven't started, now is a good time to do so!
 - Pet Waste- Dog licensing season is upon us. Any of the resources available on the MCM #1 webpage of the NH MS4 website can be customized and included in dog licensing mailing and messaging.
 - Yard Waste- If you didn't do this in the Fall, you can do this now since people will start doing yard work as it warms up.
 - Fertilizer- Spring is here and people will start fertilizing soon. This is a great time to conduct outreach on fertilizer use.

8. Pet Waste Disposal Discussion

- Dawn presented.
- Merrimack is struggling with people picking up their dog waste but leaving the bags on the trail. They are working on a video to educate people about this.
- A few communities suggested posting the issue on the town social media accounts and educating people that way. There is a strong reaction to these issues and having peers chime in, may influence people to pick up the bags.

9. Pelham Protect Our Ponds: Understanding Watersheds Conference

- Dena Hoffman presented.
- Some Pelham residence reached out to Dena about a presentation for education about waterbodies. There was a lot of misinformation going around, so this will be a helpful way to conduct outreach and present credible sources of information for the general public.
- The event is on April 6, 2024 from 8:30 am-12:00 pm.
- There will be representatives from NHDES and NH Lakes.
- [Register now!](#)

10. New Version of the New Hampshire MS4 Permit Update

- Tom presented.
- We have not heard anything from EPA but will inform you if we hear anything new.
- Please let Tom or Deb know if there's anything you'd like brought up to EPA.

11. Updates and Upcoming Events

- **NHDES Water Infrastructure Funding Workshop**
 - April 8-12, 2024.
 - [Registration](#) is open. Please register for every session you would like to attend individually. It is a good idea to register for any event you are interested in, even if you cannot attend. The recording and slides will be sent out to everyone that registered for that session.
- **2024 Salt Symposium**
 - September 10, 2024
 - Cisco Brewers
 - Portsmouth, NH
 - Agenda and registration coming soon.
- **2024 Asset Management Conference for Water Infrastructure**
 - October 30th, 2024
 - Edward Cross Training Facility
 - Pembroke, NH
 - Agenda 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](#).

- 12. 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:

April 11: System Mapping, Stormwater and Wastewater Asset Management, Year 6 MCM #5 and MCM #6 Requirements Review, MCM #6 Training Materials, New Hampshire MS4 Contact List

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.

- 13.** Joe Jordan made a motion to adjourn. Rebecca Balke seconded the motion.