



Bangor Area Stormwater Group

April 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Location: Council Chambers, Town Office, Orono, Maine

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Attendees: Rich May, Karen Cullen, Kyle Drexler, Chris Green, Cam Amoroso, Lou Colburn, Phil Ruck, Andrea Dickinson, Taylor LaBrecque, Rhonda Poirier, and Belle Ryder. Facilitator: Brenda Zollitsch.

Welcome and Introductions

Rich M. welcomed everyone and asked for round-robin introductions.

DEP/Permit Update

Rhonda P. shared that Gregg W. will host a stakeholder meeting on the most recent draft of the MS4 permit on April 25th from 9:30 pm - 12:00 pm. All members were provided with a copy of the BASWG's March 15, 2019 comment letter to DEP. Rhonda shared some decisions that have been discussed at DEP prior to the stakeholder meeting and BASWG provided some feedback:

- Wet weather assessment does not mean monitoring in the permit. It means that the MS4 should know their vulnerable points. In the next permit cycle additional scrutiny will likely be expected. EPA indicates that wet weather monitoring would make it more successful. However, it is not required.
- Impaired waters will only include the 502(b) list. Next cycle it is likely to include all impaired waters.
- The permit requirements must move forward in *each* permit cycle.
- The BASWG members inquired whether there are other different incremental changes that could be undertaken in the next permit *other than* wet weather work.
- BASWG should plan proactively over the next five years for wet weather work beyond expectations in this next five year permit.
- Some discussion pondered the preference for increased wet weather work in contrast to more impaired waters expectations.
- Rich will serve as the formal BASWG representative at the stakeholder meeting on April 25th
- Rhonda indicated that some of the permittee numbers that MS4s are using are incorrect. Rhonda will notify MS4s with incorrect numbers what the correct permittee numbers are for submissions moving forward. She will send out this information before the next reports are due.
- *MS4 Permit Fee Increase:* DEP will be increasing its permit fees by 40% this year (for example, if an MS4 was paying \$196, an additional 40% would bring the fee to \$274).

Ways to Address Dry/Wet Weather Requirements

Phil R. shared information from Kristie Rabasca (facilitator of SMSWG) about ideas for coordination among MS4s statewide around any new requirements in the next cycle permit. It is likely preferable, if there are new wet weather work requirements, to have the MS4s among the different clusters take similar approaches to this work (consistency in process for wet weather assessments). The group, while not committing to any formal agreement, indicated that they could be interested in some level of coordination/training around some activities, such as assessments, ordinances, outfall inspections and code enforcement. Rhonda indicated that DEP may also be able to provide some training. Another area of training (regional or beyond) may also be technical training on TMDL review.

Permit Compliance Reporting

Rhonda shared that she is working on creating standardized forms (or at least general expectations) for annual reporting in the next cycle. Reporting for the next cycle will mirror the permit, not the stormwater management plan (SWMP), which is not enforceable. Reports must cover the effectiveness of efforts.

Education & Outreach Planning

- **Presentation of Website Proposal:** Cam Amaroso presented a proposal from Pulse Marketing about potential plans for the BASWG.org website. The BASWG website is in need of updating. Was never designed to be a landing page for social media efforts. Needs to be easy to load agendas. ACTION: At the next meeting, Cam will provide information about a more user-friendly system to allow the BASWG Secretary to post agendas and minutes. DECISION: BASWG members were unanimous in their support for a BASWG website update. More details will be presented to the BASWG E&O Committee.
- **E&O Committee Meeting:** The E&O Committee will meet on Thursday, May 9th at 9 am at the Pulse Office in Bangor to discuss E&O business, the website proposal and a budget breakdown for the E&O line item for presentation to the full group at the June BASWG meeting.
- **Report Out on Focused Social Media Campaign Winter Practices:** A total of 343 visitors went to the landing page. To date the effort resulted in a total of 56,066 impressions with a 0.6% click-through rate (above average performance). More data will be available at a later date. The effort was seen as a successful way to provide outreach (efficient, effective and cost-effective).
- **Report on Science Festival:** There was strong engagement at the BASWG booth at the Science Festival. BASWG engaged people with the ice/salt/shaker demonstration as well as the watershed model. There was a glitch with transportation at the end of the event, which needs to be resolved for next year. TH Science Festival staff was very pleased with BASWG and that the group changes up their activities every year. Early estimates from the Festival indicate that there were around 10,000 attendees total, with ~7,500 participants on Saturday (when the BASWG had its display/activities). Kids were engaged, parents were asking questions and the booth/BASWG volunteers were busy the entire time. News reporters were there, but they did not interview BASWG volunteers or both participants specifically.

- **Discussion on T-shirt Design Decisions:** Cara has been able to secure a quote that is significantly cheaper than the quote provided by Advertising Specialists. By switching from screen printing to digital printing, the cost has decreased by \$1,600. This puts the quote within budget for the amount of donations collected for the clean-ups (\$2,200). The t-shirt purchase was approved and will be ready in time for all the clean-ups. After paying for the shirts, BASWG will have \$150 remaining in donations for any additional expenses.
- **Street and Stream Clean-up:** All MS4s are on track for completing their clean-ups. MS4s will share results at the June meeting.
- **Catch Basin Marking Planning:** The groups discussed the use of stencils. Belle R. reminded the group that it helps to wax the stencils. The best way is paste wax. MS4s are on schedule to complete their stenciling activities to achieve compliance with the permit. The group will check-in at the June meeting as well.
- **Bus Wrap:** The BAT bus still has the BASWG bus wrap on the back of the bus. It is continuing to run through September 17th.

Check-in About Tracy Drew: The BASWG asked for an update on BASWG member Tracy Drew. He is back in Maine recovering from initial treatments, but will return for surgery in several weeks. The outlook for his health is promising, but treatments have been hard. The BASWG sends its well wishes and support to Tracy and his family at this time.

Organizational Business

- **Approval of BASWG February Minutes:** As there was not a quorum at the end of the meeting, minutes were reviewed and informally approved, but should receive a formal vote on June 13th.
- **Treasurer's Update:** Kyle D. presented the BASWG's Budget v. Actuals for FY 19. Total income is \$40,700 and total expenses \$27,550. Net income is \$13,149. Some expenses and payments are still outstanding. BASWG is on budget for the year.

Planning Upcoming BASWG Meetings

- June 13, 2019 from 9-11:30 am – BASWG June Meeting – City of Bangor
- August 8, 2019 from 9-11:30 am – BASWG August Meeting – University of Maine
- October 10, 2019 from 9-11:30 am – BASWG October Meeting (Location TBD)
- December 12, 2019 from 9-11:30 am – BASWG December Meeting (Location TBD)

Agenda items for the June BASWG meeting include any necessary discussions about the next cycle permit, planning for September reporting (MS4s and regional BASWG SWMP), approval of a proposed E&O line item breakdown budget, reports on clean-ups and stenciling activities. A discussion on proposed bylaws is contingent on the executive committee scheduling a bylaws review meeting in the interim. This may be scheduled in July instead and this agenda item moved to the August meeting.