



Bangor Area Stormwater Group

December 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Location: Hampden Town Office, Hampden, Maine

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Attendees: Chris Cronin, Kyle Drexler, George Hanson, Andrea Dickinson, Jodi Munster, Rhonda Poirier, Kathy Hoppe, Cara Belanger, Doug Hill, Rich May, Lou Colburn, Chris Green, Camden Amoroso.

Facilitator: Brenda Zollitsch.

Welcome and Introductions

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

Maine Stormwater Conference

Several members of the group attended the Maine Stormwater Conference. Some of the interesting takeaways included:

- IDDE work in Boston.
- Keynote speaker was on NY chloride reduction (shared information on live-edge plow with articulated blade – removal improved and reduced salt use. (Note: Bangor has a few of these; they work well but not on dirt roads). This was a high tech approach with cameras on the roads and in trucks linked to GPS systems documenting where the trucks were going, how much product was being applied, etc. However, requires a person to review the information and respond. One key finding from their work was that the best trainers for other winter maintenance crew were other operators (peer-to-peer learning).
- Rich M. participated on behalf of the City of Bangor in a session on stormwater utilities in the state. Bangor has a lower rate than others in the state.
- Pulse and Phil R. presented on BASWG's outreach work, focusing on digital marketing and consistent branding.
- Phil R. also presented with Maggie and Forest Bell on retrofits in Presque Isle.
- A student from Bates College has been conducting research on stormwater outreach and education and has found BASWG's video game to be a unique and successful tool. BASWG should connect with the student to see how information can be used to help BASWG with planning or sharing the work as a model.

Regional MS4 Check-ins

- MEANG has had less need to deicing of jets this year than in past years. Serve on Governor's Task Force on PFAS.
- Hampden is involved with the RSU26 expansion project. Will be involved in the management of the new landscape.
- Old Town dealt with a fire that required them to boom off basins and use a spill kit. Also working on snow and ice efforts.
- University of Maine investigated an outflow, finding that students had built a bridge and used sandbags without the University's permission. The bridge was removed. Also installing Filterrags into parking lots (will keep the BASWG posted on their performance).
- CES – Worked with 120 middle school kids in Lewiston. Used the original video – kids continue to respond positively to the poop images. Also used the enviroscape model for an interactive session.
- Brewer food a stormwater line obstruction. Used a camera to find it, then flushed the line and successfully removed the obstruction.
- DEP awarded the Evelyn Jepson Award for excellent, dedicated service to Kathy Hoppe. At the BASWG meeting, members congratulated Kathy and agreed that her contributions have been tremendous.

Other sharing

- 604(b) watershed planning funds and 319 funding (a larger pot of funding this year) will be available this spring. 604(b) application available mid-March; 319 application available early/mid-April. All applications are due June 1st.
- The group discussed whether or not there is a need for another watershed model. However, there are models already in Portland, Augusta and Bangor offices.

DEP/Permit Updates

- At this time, the permit requires submission of an NOI by October 1, 2020 and will go into effect for July 1, 2021. This will be the same for nested MS4s.
- Several changes are being made to the permit (re: source tracking includes "or other acceptable...")
- If the final permit is not appealed, the development of the nested MS4 permit will go quickly (no additional stakeholder meetings). There is no formal timeline for this permit yet.
- Any comments on draft permit should be submitted to Gregg (DEP licensor) by January 6th.
- **Actions:** BASWG members must get any suggested edits to Rich and Brenda by December 24th. The Executive Committee will decide the first week of January if there are comments that should be submitted by January 6th deadline.
- Last year's annual SWMP reports were mostly great. Maine is far ahead of other states. DEP will make a change in the feedback they provide on annual reports, focusing solely on asking when something should have been provided related to a requirement, but was not or needs explanation.
- Rhonda will have a new, standardized SWMP reporting form for the new permit. Seeking submission of samples that MS4s like (e.g. MA, RI). Likely to include check boxes, a box for

additional explanation, and a way to include attachments. In annual reports, must submit all data (according to the new permit language).

- Alex Rosenberg is back working at EPA fulltime. The group was thrilled to hear this.

BASWG 2020-2021 Budget

The BASWG is planning a flat-funded budget at \$38,400. The group reviewed the line items proposed by the Executive Committee. The BASWG E&O Committee will meet on January 9th from 9-11 am at the Orono Town Office to develop line items under the E&O portion of the budget. Some considerations for the E&O Committee include bus ads, posters, decals for widows, roll-up banners for MS4 offices, postcards with website information. **Action:** The BASWG will formally approve the full budget and E&O sub-budget at the BASWG Annual Meeting in February. The proposed E&O budget is \$22,685.

Education & Outreach Planning

Pulse Contract: Pulse presented their contract to fund the development of the Winter Outreach Campaign online. They also presented plans for a Spring/Summer campaign using the same system.

Action: Pulse will submit a new proposal to the BASWG E&O Committee for up to \$2,7500 for the development of Spring/Summer ads. **Decision:** The BASWG membership voted on a Pulse contract to fund the development of the Winter Outreach Campaign. A motion to sign the contract was made by Andrea D. and seconded by Kyle D. The vote passed unanimously.

BASWG Website: The BASWG.org website has been completely overhauled. Pulse shared the new design. The site will be made live before the annual meeting. The site will change based on seasons. It will also be used as landing pages for the winter outreach campaign and other outreach campaigns throughout the year.

Winter Snow and Ice Campaign: Pulse provided an update on the upcoming winter campaign focused on reducing chloride pollution.

Science Festival Planning: The BASWG has been accepted for the Science Festival. Rich has received formal confirmation. The BASWG will have its regular outreach items onsite and has a new watershed model for interactive demonstrations. Belle's daughter is finishing the painting of the model.

Ducky Ad Reboot: The BASWG is contributing (minimally) to the edits to the Ducky Ad. It has been revised to be more modern. The BASWG does not plan to use the ad specifically, but wants to be part of statewide initiatives and express good will. Messaging across the state is good, even if it does not tie in directly with the BASWG's campaigns.

Bus Ads: The BASWG will review whether continuing with bus ads make sense moving into the coming year. A recommendation will be brought to the membership after the E&O Meeting.

Next Permit Cycle Education and Outreach Planning: Decision: The BASWG will commence E&O planning, including consideration of research and data for the upcoming permit.

Organizational Business

Budget Update: Kyle D. shared the BASWG budget profit and loss statement. BASWG is on track for spending, with most of the E&O expenses accruing in the spring period. **Action:** The E&O Committee will be allocating remaining education and outreach line item funds for compliance advertising, presenting a formal proposal for expenditures at the annual meeting in February.

Draft Bylaws Ready for Vote: The BASWG will vote on the revised bylaws at the February annual meeting of the BASWG. The bylaws have been revised by the Executive Committee (based on extensive discussion) to reflect current status of the organization. **Action:** The bylaws will be presented at the meeting for a vote of the membership.

Minutes: The BASWG still needs to vote on August and October minutes. **Action:** Brenda will send the revised draft August meeting minutes to Pulse for posting. October and December minutes will be voted on at the February BASWG meeting.

Planning Upcoming BASWG Meetings

- February 13, 2020 – BASWG Annual Meeting (Orono Town Office); annual meeting content, election, E&O planning. Include John McClean as guest speaker from NPS Training Center.