**Bangor Area Stormwater Group**

April 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Location: Remote Meeting Via Zoom

9:00 am – 11:00 am

**Attendees:** Andrea Dickinson, Karen Cullen, Belle Ryder, Mark Leonard, Kyle Drexler, John Rouleau, Sarah Caldwell (Northeast Savings), Kristie Rabaska, Camden Amaroso, Cara Belanger, Chris Green, Jodi Munster, Phil Ruck, Taylor Lebreque, Rhonda Poirier. Facilitator: Brenda Zollitsch.

**Update from Maine DEP**

**Status of the permit:** Permit is still with EPA. Announcement will be made by DEP as soon as they have more information.

**DEP operations during COVID-19:** DEP is still permitting, but no inspections and nothing outside. Everything by phone and email. Working remotely full-time. Exceptions are hazmat and emergency response. There can be exceptions of compliance requests from MS4s if requested in response to COVID-19.

**MS4 Check-ins**

**Old Town -** John R. Doing street clean-up and picking up sand – one person per machine. There is not as much to pick up, as there are not as many people out.

**Orono** – Belle R. Orono has also done clean-up. Poster contest ongoing – allowing submission to include online and computer graphics

**Group discussion about clean-ups:** How to do stream clean-up? Cannot do as a group, as did in the past. Might be able to go out with own family and report back what you found. Social distancing clean-up? Maybe also not allowed under lockdown. **DECISION:** BASWG decided to hold off on clean-ups until changes in place. Don’t want to give mixed messages about being asked to stay home and BASWG saying its okay to go out and do a clean-up. Also with rationing PPE, would need to outfit people and may not be the most critical use of PPE at this time.

**Hampden** – Karen C. – once emergency order lifted – lots of pressure to do many things; even then may pursue on individual or family basis.

**Group Discussion on Household Clean-ups:** Should encourage them to do what they can on their own property. People are cleaning out their homes – help them understand what items are hazardous wastes and how to dispose of them properly. Regional HHW days still happening, but some transfer stations are reducing hours. Don’t want people to dump items in the woods. Seeing an increased volume of items being thrown away. Brewer suspended restriction and Sabbatus has stopped accepting recycling. Need to understand who is accepting what to be able to share with public. **DECISIONS:** Create new online content for the outreach program as alternative to stream clean-up. Rhonda P. verbally approved BASWG moving forward with online and personal clean-up messaging in place of public involvement plans. BASWG will submit request to change approach for approval. Rich M. will write up and submit to Kathy H. at DEP for approval.

**Plans to Modify BASWG outreach:**

* Changes in plans due to COVID-19 – **DECISION:** All BASWG public involvement outreach activities and events canceled
* Presentation of revised outreach concepts - Options for moving forward (NO events, stenciling, clean-ups)
* New BASWG.org website landing page – what you can be doing
* Modify content and schedule of posts to social media
* Increasing the social media presence and adding newCOVID-19/Spring online outreach campaign
* Possibility for regional HHW Day - John R. talk about the possibility to host the event (open to all BASWG communities); **ACTION:** John R. will speak with Jim Dunning at Casella.

**Possible Messages:** Housekeeping on property; 2) sanitary system (not flushing wipes, 3) not dispose of chemicals, 4) make sure you are following the guidelines of the Governor. Alternatives for chemical disposal – there are HHW events; other outlets as well – where can you dispose of these items (clarify what and how).

**Additional content for BASWG website**: **ACTION:** Cara will contact Brewer to see if they would be ok putting video of the enviroscape model demo on BASWG website.

**Check-in with other clusters** **on COVID-19 changes:** SMSWG – don’t have activities planned; only in May; point of sale is going to go via email contact. ISWG – Switched all in person workshops into online webinars (can come and go as they please); only big thing is the Urban Runoff scheduled for April; June 20th reschedule; remote race – runs a 5k race wherever they are and it counts. E&O was already online.

**Next Permit**

Rhonda P. shared that permit is mostly same as the last draft, with only minor changes to wet weather assessment.

* The new wet weather language may incentivize waiting, because if done, then will need to start implementing before next permit in place. Not likely MS4s will complete this assessment early (disincentive to do so).
* Kristie R. is willing to share spreadsheet with differential between UI streams and TMDLs spreadsheet.
* Want to make sure MCM 5 is clear
* Make reference to minimum compliance requirements in Ch. 500 (would set the standards quantitatively with treatment requirements) – already a requirement, pushing state level requirements to municipal level. Not wanting to see shift in administrative burden from state to local level. Not all MS4s have the capability to do that. Inequity as only on MS4s not the other municipalities. Could refer to the specifics, but not reference Ch 500. **ACTION:** Rhonda will have a follow-up discussion with Greg after EPA comments.
* EPA doesn’t like the modification language (language will change, but not the intent on permittee-specific requirements). Ongoing discussion between Don, Rhonda, Greg,and Kristie.
* Permit schedule may change by one month – wanted it final April 1st. Might move to November 1st. Group wondered if there is enough time for DEP review between Nov and July. Rhonda indicated that she may need more time, that completing review during the shortened time will be extremely difficult. Possible might meet May 1 deadline.

**Guided Discussion on BASWG E&O Planning for Next Permit Cycle (Brainstorming Notes)**

**What are water quality issues in the Greater Bangor Urbanized Area? What pollutants are impacting waters in the urbanized area?**

* Sediment is an issue
  + People’s driveways export a lot of sediment (throw down clean stone)
  + A lot of sediment after major storm events
  + An issue in all of the municipalities
* Chlorides is a regional issue
  + Still an issue
  + Have done a lot of work – easy to continue
* Pet waste
* Cigarette butts - Sidewalk butlers (Pulse designed labeled and ready to order)
* Nip bottles
* Restaurants – cleaning grease traps
* Carpet cleaners and fire protection companies (minor impact) - Measurability piece to determine effectiveness
* Add transportation to the list (Orono)

**What impaired waters are in the urbanized area (and their priority pollutants)?**

* Penjajawok, Arctic, Shaw, Sucker and others
* Impairments are documented; what causes the impairment is less clear
* A lot are under IC TMDLs – thoughts are changing on how to treat that, esp. re chlorides
* Habitat is important (given assessment) – but won’t be addressed through MS4 permits; stream restoration
* In Hampden’s Sucker Brook – biggest concern between 202 and 1A where through the farm fields and the area of the stream has been degraded by cattle waded in the stream; likely to stop in the future. Ways to address it through improvements in stream morphology.
* Also pollutants are coming from Bangor (NPS)
* Orono – relationship between transportation and water. Alternative work through BACS etc. Potentially can look into; expanding on what already doing

**What have MS4s heard are the issues?**

* Cigarette butts
* Pet waste
* Nip bottles

**ISWG and SMSWG E&O Next Permit Plans**

* Rase awareness
  + ThinkBlue Maine (will getting upgrade) timeline
  + SMSWG -
  + ISWG -Construction development folks – want to do less follow-up when do site inspections and send post-construction reports – help smooth over other MCM 4&5
* Behavior change
  + ISWG - Nutrient reduction – homeowners through lawncare, proper septic maintenance and
  + ISWG - Pet waste management
  + SMSWG – cigarettes
  + SMSWG – transfer stations? Looking at Keep America Beautiful
  + SMSWG – May partner with ISWG re nutrients

**What is the BASWG currently doing? Is it successful?**

* Dog waste depots have worked extremely well in Old Town (up to about 14)
  + Started out three and requested more; told where they are walking dogs
* Looking forward to sidewalk butlers
  + With restaurants closed, less – target by restaurants
* Working with Innovative Surfaces Solutions – beet juice significant reduction in salt use (OT); magic solution (Mag Chl and sugar) also for dust control. Increased the use on gravel roads which significantly reduces sediment
* Nips is a social issue as well

**What are MS4 Priorities for E&O Issues to Address?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Sediment | Chlorides | Pet Waste | Lawncare\* | Cig Butts | Nip Bottles | General Trash | Roads/  Transp | Veh Maint |
| Bangor | 1 | 2 | 3 | ~ | ~ |  |  |  |  |
| Brewer |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hampden | X |  | 1 |  | 2 | 3 |  | X |  |
| Milford | X | 2 | 1 | X |  |  |  |  |  |
| Old Town | X | ~ | 2 |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| Orono | X | 2 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Veazie | X | ~ | 2 | X | 1 |  |  | X |  |
| DDIX |  | 1 | X |  | 2 |  | 1 |  |  |
| EMCC | X |  | X |  | X (S-F) |  | 1 |  |  |
| MEANG |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| UMABC |  | 1 | X |  | 2 |  | 1\*\* |  |  |
| UM | 3 | 4 | X |  |  |  | 1\*\* |  | 2 |

\*Group agrees that lawncare outreach reminders enough – only to limit forgetting over time; Statewide and regionally, there has been reduction

\*\* Snack wrappers are the primary concern regarding trash on campus

* Bangor – Sed, chloride, pet waste (side lawncare and cig butts)
* Brewer – Classroom ed, chloride, very active with pet waste
* Hampden – Pet waste and cigarette butts +nips (less sediment)
* Milford – pet waste, chloride (not lawncare; not roads in UA and no construction)
* Old Town – Cigarette butts, pet waste, chlorides (sediment last)
* Orono – Pet waste and chlorides higher on list (not sediment)
* Veazie – Cigarette butts, pet waste, less chloride (not lawncare; not roads in UA and no construction – sediment low)
* University of Maine - snack wrappers and poor vehicle maintenance (always has a lot of construction; smoke free); chlorides
* EMCC – general trash; Smoke-free campus; pet not an issue; not a lot of construction/sediment.
* DDix and UMAB – chlorides, cigarette butts and snack wrappers. Not a lot of pets.

**Audience: POTENTIAL DIRECTIONS (FOR MORE DISCUSSION)**

* General Public – General topic of all types of pollution (incl. lawncare)
  + Chloride, Pet Waste, Cigarette Butts and Litter
* Secondary audience:
  + Could be specific to individual MS4s – looks different for each municipality
  + Municipal audience (widespread across MS4s)
* Behavior change
  + Chlorides
  + Pet Waste

**NEXT MEETING - Based on today’s discussion, next meeting will look at:**

* What are our pollutants we want to focus on?
* What are our target audiences to address these pollutants?
* What approaches are most successful to reach these audiences?

**Organizational Business**

* Approval of February meeting minutes (TABLED TO JUNE FOR REVIEW)
* Treasurer’s update – ON TRACK, WITHIN BUDGET
* Hold on ordering t-shirts
* E&O Meeting – May 11 from 9-11 am via Zoom to discuss draft materials
* June BASWG meeting via Zoom – June 11, 2020 from 9-11