**Bangor Area Stormwater Group**

August 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Location: Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

9:00 am – 11:00 am

**Attendees:** Rich May, John Rouleau, Belle Ryder, Karen Cullen, Andrea Dickinson, Jodi Munster, Chris Greene, Cara Belanger, Camden Amaroso, Amanda Millay, Ryan Carey, Kyle Drexler, Kerem Gungor, Chris Cronin. Guest: Ali Clift. Facilitator: Brenda Zollitsch.

**MS4 Updates**

* Bangor – City hall semi-closed. Sewer, vehicle registrations etc. at the Cross Center.
* Old Town – Tracing a human bacteroides issue – found failed sewer line. Dry summer has been helpful.
* Hampden – Town office is open. Sean is busy with construction. Cara worked on updating stormwater maps. Using GPS unit with sub-meter accuracy, better for water flow directions. Looking at completing PY8 outfalls early.
* Orono – Town office is semi-open. All outfall inspections are done. Were working with Girl Scouts on stormdrains in March, which had to be halted. Not painted yet. 2-3 families did clean-up activities, but no coordinated municipal clean-up.
* University of Maine – Conducted a couple of illicit discharge investigations. Working with Cara on extra monitoring.
* Maine DOT – Teleworking due to COVID-19 until spring. Peter Newkirk is helping as a consultant. Updating MS4 maps and looking to collaborate more closely with BASWG towns.
* CES – Working in-office in Bangor. Dry weather has been good for inspections. Have been sampling wastewater for COVID for University of Maine. Not the one coordinating the testing, so not sure if data is numeric or presence/absence only. A new approach.

**Next Cycle Permit Update**

The new permit has not been issued yet. Awaiting work from DEP. The start date may be delayed. Some want aligned with the calendar year, others with the municipal budget year. Kristie R. has been working on discussions with DEP. BASWG has supported Kristie’s work with a small financial contribution for the benefit BASWG has received from her coordination and analysis.

**Stormwater Management Plan Development**

Decision: BASWG MS4s agreed that they will continue their practice of development their own independent stormwater management plans for the next cycle permit. The BASWG will only provide support in development of the regional BASWG SWMP for joint activities around Minimum Control Measures 1 and 2.

**Changed Compliance Activities Approved by DEP**

The BASWG continues to implement the modified MCM 1 and 2 plans in response to statewide requirements for social distancing, limiting gathering size and public health protections. The BASWG has changed all in-person public engagement activities to online engagement, specifically through a new digital campaign focused on proper disposal of harmful items that are commonly entering the water system during the pandemic.

**ThinkBlueMaine.org Website**

Ali Clift (ISWG) provided a demo of the newly revised ThinkBlueMaine statewide stormwater website. Ali worked with a Bates student to revise the ThinkBlue Website. Site categories include watersheds, stormwater 101, water pollutants, residents, businesses, and documents with resources by MCM. BASWG approved of the new site and was pleased to see the update. Decisions: BASWG gave permission to the ThinkBlue website coordinators to link to content on the BASWG website (with attribution). Rich asked Ali to add BASWG’s social media links to the Thinkbluemaine.org website.

**Pulse Update on BASWG Digital Campaign Components**

Chris Greene (Pulse Marketing) provided a review of all the work that had been conducted since the last BASWG meeting. Working with E&O committee members and Brenda Z., content was developed and used by Pulse to share proper disposal messages in a number of areas, including household cleanups during the pandemic, spring activities, and personal protective equipment (PPE) during the pandemic. The new campaign has three foci: 1) household clean-up, 2) gardening and lawncare, and 3) home renovation. Chris shared some initial images and plans. Actions: Pulse will send sample ads to Rich next week for review. The campaign includes building landing pages on these topics, associating digital campaign ads and tying in with social media posts on a number of different platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).

**Update on Snow and Ice Statewide Initiatives**

Rich M. shared information from a recent session he attended on snow and ice control in Minnesota. The session was hosted by Jeff Dennis from EPA and attended by Rich M., Fred Dillon and Doug Roncarati. Lots of interesting data was shared (e.g. 1 tsp of salt will pollute 5 gallons of water, high retention rates, etc.), especially around the management of commercial properties and how to hire chloride-responsible contractors. The session shared about mechanical power brooms used to remove salt spray after storms and both pre-treatment and removal of residual snow. MN efforts lower public expectations for clean roads immediately after a storm events. While the program is similar to the NH Green Sno Pro program, there are no liability protections. Do require documentation of reasonable care. The question becomes is this adequate or does Maine still want to pursue the liability protection legislation?

**Annual Report Development**

Brenda Z. presented the draft PY7 BASWG Regional Stormwater Management Plan Report (2019-2020). The group reviewed the content, provided some of the missing pieces requested and allocated remaining missing information for follow-up to appropriate BASWG sources.

Decisions: Karen C. made the motion, which was seconded by Belle R. to accept the report as presented with the addition of the missing information and Cara and Rich’s edits with the understanding that BASWG Executive Committee will vote on the final report prior to submission. The motion was passed unanimously.

The group also created the following timeline for report completion, approval and submission:

* Parties that agreed to providing remaining content will provide to Brenda by October 2nd.
* Brenda Z. will make final edits and send the final report draft out to the Executive Committee on Friday, September 4th.
* Cara B. and Rich M. will provide full editorial review of the report.
* All final edits will be incorporated and final draft sent to Executive Committee for vote by Rich on September 8th.
* Rich will submit the final report to DEP and to all MS4s prior to the September 15th deadline.

**Organizational Business**

*Approval of Meeting Minutes:* Decision:Belle R. made the motion which was seconded by John R. to accept the June meeting minutes as presented with one edit to change MS4 updates to read that SWEE stenciled catch basins for EMCC, rather than CES. The motion passed unanimously.Action:Karen C. will make the edit to the minutes and forward them to Pulse Marketing for posting.

*BASWG Budget Report:*Kyle D. provided a review of the budget. BASWG is well-within budget, but budget spending in the past permit year has been much lower than budgeted due to COVID-19 and the delay in permit plan development due to the lack of issuance of the next five-year MS4 permit. Additionally, BASWG did not engage in grantwiritng in 2019-2020, which was also budgeted.

**Next Meetings**

* October 8, 2020 – BASWG October Meeting from 9-11 am via Zoom (Orono Zoom account)
* December 10, 2020 – BASWG December Meeting from 9-11 am via Zoom (Orono Zoom account)