**Bangor Area Stormwater Group**

October 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes

In Person at Orono Town Office and Via Zoom for those who were not able to attend in person

9:00 am – 11:00 am

**Attendees:** Megan Hess, Sarah King, Rich May, Victor Smith, Kyle Drexler, Brian Cotlar, Chris Green, Cara Belanger, Facilitator: Brenda Zollitsch.

**Welcome**

Rich M. welcomed everyone and asked attendees to introduce themselves. Rich M. and Brenda Z. will share a request for all MS4s to send a representative for decision making votes at the December meeting in order to endure a quorum.

**DEP Updates**

* BASWG’s PY9 report was submitted on September 14th. Rich M. received a confirmation email saying that the report had been received by DEP.
* Sarah has not heard back from Holliday about the report template. DEP is experiencing staff shortages. Gregg Wood will possibly do more permitting.
* Ivy F. submitted comments on the LID ordinance, requesting DEP change requirements. The model ordinance would be used as a benchmark, with all other ordinances benchmarked against the more stringent model (for example, changed to townwide instead of urbanized area, etc.). Also called out southern Maine communities that discharge into Casco Bay. Argues for a statement consistent approach.
* BASWG is concerned that this change makes the whole stakeholder engagement process undertaken by DEP relatively meaningless. The process stated that MS4s would be allowed to create their own approach. This creates an unfortunate position for MS4s now. BASWG members believe that the process documentation shows the intent of the meetings. Ivy was not a voting entity for that process.

**Trainings**

* There will be an ESC Training on October 27th at the Bangor Public Works building. There are 20 slots for the training. Currently 7/30 slots are filled. ACTIONS: Send information to Cara. MS4s should send out reminders. The training is free to participants. Site skills will be done onsite on the training day.
* Funding for training activities is available from MEWEA. It could cover some of this or other. BASWG would need to invoice MEWEA for training support and supplies. This might be able to offset the cots for MLR’s use of hay bales and silt fencing. Sarah King is the contact. ACTION: BASWG invoice MEWEA in the coming days.

**Winter Maintenance Local/Regional Compliance Work** - Megan H. is leading the regional effort.

* The regional Chloride Tracking Tool (CTT) listed in the BASWG SWP is based on Rob Yerxa’s Orono Public Works tracking tool. It has been used by Orono for more than 8 years. It is a “plug and chug” tool, meaning open it up and start entering information. The tool has been adapted for BASWG compliance data needs. The CTT provides summaries of storm events and tracks cumulative information. There are some additional elements in the tool that are not required for the compliance activities, including man and equipment hours (which are optional for use by BASWG MS4s). The tracking of these two additional data points can be used to give manager an idea of the “effort used.” Victor asked whether they will be required to breakout the urbanized area. Megan H. responded that it is fine to track total municipal use, not just in the UA. ACTIONS: The CTT is being distributed to all 11 MS4s in PY1 for a beta test year. The tool will be implemented in PY2. BASWG (Megan H.) will share how to use the CTT and the form on November 8th training in Orono in Town Council Chambers (8 am – 3 pm).
* PY1 Winter Maintenance Managers Baseline Survey: A survey mechanism will be developed to collect relevant data on baseline best practice use in BASWG MS4s. The survey will gather information on specific behaviors, use, and what they would like to see for additional training. ACTION: Brenda Z. will develop a Google Form and send it to Megan H. and Rob Yerxa (Orono Public Works) for review and incorporate suggested edits. Google Form needs to be ready prior to October 27th training event.

**Microplastics Research Project**

* Brenda Z. shared an update on the Microplastics project and asked the group to respond to a number of questions. This information is being used to inform the research project. BASWG will participate as a stakeholder group throughout the research project. ACTIONS: At the December BASWG meeting, Dr. Onur Apul from the University of Maine will present about the water testing work and analytical process. Brenda Z. will continue to work with the group to gather stakeholder input. Brenda Z. will be presenting and interactive session on microplastics at the Maine Stormwater Conference in Portland.

**Education and Outreach**

* ***Infographics:*** Chris G. shared some of the current work for outreach content. This included an infographic on “Snow Management for Business Owners.” The group loved the graphic elements. There was some discussion around language. The infographic includes a QR code to BASWG landing page. DECISIONS: A member brought up that review of content during meeting may not be the most effective use of group time. Agreed that will share basics and then request feedback from members separately. ACTION: Brenda Z. cite report of safety as lead concern in PYI BASWG SWP Report. Pulse will put a link to the Winter Maintenance BMP Manual on the landing page.
* ***Focus of Investments on Compliance Target Audience:*** BASWG members want most of the E&O invested dollars to focus on the homeowner target audience.
* ***Incorporation of Games:*** The idea of games like a Kahoot was brought up as a possible engagement mechanism on the landing page. ACTION: Pulse will explore the possible use of these as engagement options.
* ***PY1 Baseline Survey:*** Pulse will develop and disseminate the survey. DECISIONS: Will use gift card incentive. Want to include stormwater runoff, snow and ice, recognition of BASWG/interactions, and demographics. ACTIONS: Chris will send out the link. Survey will have an early November launch.
* ***Winter Ad Campaign:*** Social ads will go through the BDN network. ACTION: Chris will include a link to the survey as part of the ads as well. Ads will go out earlier than last year to make sure that they are helping people make decisions for this winter season.

**Regional Sharing Time:**

* ***Orono:*** Megan H. shared that they completed outfall inspections finding a metallic sheen. There were questions about its contents. DEP provided some general information that if it breaks into chunks is biodegradable even if there is a sheen.
* ***Bangor:*** During stormwater system repairs they found some evidence of illicit discharges. Did some tracing in a small system and hope to be able to identify the source.
* ***DEP Survey*:** Sarah K. shared that there is currently a “Clean Watersheds Survey” being conducted by DEP related to infrastructure upgrades. MS4s may want to complete the survey. May relate to getting a better request created and larger allocation from the federal government.

**Organizational Business:**

* ***Membership Change:*** Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center is no longer being regulated as an MS4. This change went into effect with the next cycle permit (July 1, 2022). The BASWG will not bill additionally to make up the difference in the budget but will adjust the budget or make up the difference with the use of the reserve fund.
* ***Budget:*** Currently have $2,400 in expenses. Zollitsch invoice forthcoming.
* ***Meeting Minutes*:** Minutes were reviewed, and one edit was made. Actions: No quorum, so vote will be delayed until the December meeting. Brenda Z. will send revised minutes to Chris G. for posting by Pulse.

**Next Meeting:**

* The Next BASWG meeting will be held on December 8, 2022, from 9-11 am at the Orono Town Office. A Zoom alternative will be provided for those who cannot attend in person.
* In-person attendance is requested for several voting items. MS4s should send a representative.