

DRAFT BASWG Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2016

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Rangely Hall, Eastern Maine Community College, Bangor, Maine

Meeting Attendees

Belle Ryder, Patrick Decker, Rhonda Poirier, Doug Hill, Tracy Drew, David Ladd, Sean Currier, Richard May, George Hanson, Andrea Dickinson, Phil Ruck. Facilitator: Brenda Zollitsch.

Welcome and Introductions

Belle R. welcomed everyone and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Education and Outreach Input Session: BASWG Website

- Brenda Z. outlined plans for the small group work session on the BASWG website.
- The site is missing content and members are not sending Pulse content as they had promised.
- The first session of the meeting broke the attendees into groups of 3-4 people. Each group was provided with a set of documents that showed pages from the website.
- Each group was tasked with reviewing the assigned pages, correcting errors, looking at what is missing and identifying additions to be made (both immediately and over time).
- The groups worked for 45 minutes and provided extensive feedback and content suggestions.
- A suggestion was made that the BASWG may want to consider making short videos to post on the BASWG website about catch basin pollution and grease trap SSOs.

Actions:

- Belle will compile these comments into mock-ups to provide to Pulse Marketing.
- These changes will be brought to the full membership at the April BASWG meeting for approval.

New BASWG Logo

Pulse is working with the E&O Committee to develop a new BASWG logo.

Actions:

- Sample logos will be available for the members to review at the April BASWG meeting.
- The logo will be used on the website and other materials to create a recognizable brand for BASWG.

Street and Stream Clean-up Planning

Decision: The group made a consensus decision to provide kids with existing t-shirts (there are a lot of smalls and mediums left over) and order grocery bags for adult volunteers with the new BASWG logo on it. MS4s should send Phil the number of grocery bags they need for him to order by the beginning of next week.

Actions:

- MS4s should contact Belle R. if they want her to make a Facebook “Event” for them to use and promote (allows people to like, share and get reminders). They should let the E&O Committee know if they have any dates to add the calendar/website. E&O will work with Pulse to order shopping bags for adult clean-up participants (existing shirts will be used to give child participants), order coffee mugs to raffle off at each clean-up event
- E&O will distribute raffle tickets to MS4s for coffee mug raffles
- Belle R. will send an electronic copy of the poster to all BASWG members
- Tracy D. agreed to share the following with the group Brewer’s Clean-up donation letter, press release, information about cone signs, and share information about how MS4s could connect with the Dunkin Donuts trailer.
- Rhonda P. will arrange donation to the regional clean-up like DOT did last year and get information to the group about getting the flashing road signs at clean-up sites
- Assignments for donation solicitations: Casella (Rob), UMAB (Patrick), SEE (Phil), Lane/Gene Weldon (Phil), US Cellular (Kyle) and DOT (Rhonda).

Garden Show Planning

Pulse has secured BASWG a spot at the Bangor Garden Show.

Actions:

- Brewer will bring the backdrop, folding tables and any other display equipment for set-up and break-down at the Garden Show
- MS4s should sign up for volunteer work slots when they receive the doodle poll from Phil R
- Phil R. will send around doodle to schedule volunteers for April 15-17 and contact Scott W. to get copies of the brochures to distribute
- Pulse/E&O Coordination will buy a rain barrel and invoice BASWG through Patrick D.
- E&O will purchase a roll of raffle tickets for use at the Bangor Garden Show

Promising Practices for Street and Stream Clean-up

Brewer Clean-up Model: Tracy D. shared that Brewer has a strong planning committee consisting of representatives from all parties that meet regularly to plan each year’s clean-up. There is a lot of buy-in from the City. They work to recruit volunteers for several months. The best way to connect is face-to-face. They block off streets using large signs for both safety and promotion of the clean-up. They engage media and have had good success with coverage. BBQ is held at Jeff’s Catering (donated) and there are a lot of other supporters, including a trailer from Dunkin Donuts. Public works is paid to pick up the trash after the event. They use a donation letter to go and speak with potential donors. The city is conducting a survey of participants, including questions about cigarette butt pollution, an issue which the city is addressing currently. They are also working to address pet waste. They have 14 new pet waste stations. The placement of the stations was based on previous survey data, which asked citizens where they see most of the waste.

Orono Connecting Stormwater Outreach with Fire Education: Belle R. reported that Orono is working with the fire department to talk to kids and promote the clean-up poster competition.

Stormy and The Duck of Justice – Potential Opportunities for Stormwater Messaging

- Belle shared that she has reached out to the City of Bangor Police Department and they are working on arranging some connection between Stormy the Duck and the Duck of Justice for outreach purposes. At this time, they are exploring having 7th grade students develop a video with the two mascots that has general messaging.

Organizational Business

- The BASWG's February meeting minutes were approved with a number of edits.
- Phil R. reported on the MEWEA Stormwater Committee. They are still in the forming phase. There have been organizational guidance documents approved. The primary focus of the group is on E&O. There will be policy work done by the group. Richard May will join Phil R. as a BASWG representative on the committee.
- Brenda Z. reported that she met with the coordinator of EPA's Trash-free Waters program. They are seeking interested groups to work with them on local clean-ups and projects. The group approved Brenda making contact with her to explore possible partnering opportunities.
- The group reviewed the potential foundation application opportunities. The group approved Brenda Z. drafting a proposal to the John Sage Foundation to support the exploration of new and improved ways to conduct stormdrain stenciling projects (including medallion markers and an imprint mechanism). Brenda will bring the draft proposal to the BASWG for review at the April BASWG meeting. The application is due on April 30th. The group selected to hold off on other applications until summer, after additional planning can take place.

Process for Developing Next MS4 Stormwater Permit

David L. shared that BASWG may want to start discussing the new permit in order to provide comments that he can share with the permit writers at DEP. David will develop a draft MS4 General Permit. He will give the draft to licensing. There will not be a stakeholder process like there was in early years of the program. He said that DEP is seeking to provide greater specificity in the language of the next permit.

Some potential changes will be to monitoring. DEP will have a standardized list of audit questions. Potential changes are likely to be in the areas of illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE), minimum control measure six. MS4s are likely to see new requirements for weekly inspections of open construction sites during winter.

Action: BASWG members will discuss potential changes at the April meeting. Phil R. will provide discussion about the new MA permit language and what that may mean for Maine permits requirements.

Upcoming Meetings

The April BASWG meeting will be held at the Orono Town Office in the second floor council chambers. On the agenda will be continued work on the BASWG website, review of logo options, street and stream clean-up and Gardne Show updates and planning. Additionally, the meeting will include review of the MA stormwater permit and discussion of the potential changes that could come to Maine's permit. The BASWG members will start to discuss their concerns and considerations for the new permit about winter construction site inspections.

Future meetings will address topics including additional permit planning for next cycle, listing of projects BASWG wants to seek funding/take on in the future, grease traps education and outreach, demonstration with the “sniffing dogs.”