

BASWG Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2014

9:00 am – 11:30 am

Orono Town Council Chambers, Orono, Maine

Attendees: Bob Osborne, LaMarr Clannon, Philip Winchester, Phil Ruck, Tyler Collins, Jeff Allen, Belle Ryder, Robyn Saunders, Rob Yerxa, Any Polyot, Patrick Decker, Andrea Dickinson, Mike Chodnier, Kathy Hoppe, Doug Hill, Tracy Drew, Mark Faulkner, Gretchen Heldmann. Facilitator: Brenda Zollitsch.

Welcome: Bob O. called the meeting to order. Meeting attendees introduced themselves. Introduced special guests Tyler Collins from the Eastern Maine Development Corporation and Robyn Saunders from the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District.

BASWG Meeting Calendar Update:

Based on the brainstorming session in response to review of the PY2 requirements during the July BASWG meeting, the following meeting topics are proposed. The BASWG meets every second Thursday of the month. Meeting locations rotate among member communities. Robyn S. indicated that she would like to share this calendar with the ISWG to encourage as much coordination as possible. In addition to regular business, emerging issues, and sharing of tools and lessons learned, potential special topics for each meetings are planned as follows:

- September: IDDE Manual and ThinkBlue SOP Revisions, Chloride Outreach Plans; Final approval of PY1 Regional SWMP Report
- October: IDDE SOPs Follow-up; Construction Site Runoff; final approval of Chloride Outreach Plan
- November: Continued IDDE work Follow-up and Improving Documentation and Tracking
- December: Improving inspections, potential presentation on extreme weather events resiliency (Southern Maine regional resiliency plan) and culvert sizing
- January: Focus on E&O – Implementation of the Chloride Implementation Plan; Planning for Stream Clean-ups, etc.

Regulatory Updates

Chapter 500:

- There are issues with statewide consistency and Chapter 500
- There used to be more detail in Chapter 500, but all of that has been taken out
- What is the standard in the new version? (Lack of certification, don't need to be 2x/year, etc.)
- ISWG is sending comments to DEP, will present oral testimony in the fall.
- The group decided that Phil R. will be tasked with writing in any draft comments for the BASWG
- If BASWG wants to submit oral comments, a representative will need to present them in September.

Clean Water Act:

- Maine Municipal Association has written a letter addressing the changes to the CWA Rule.
- BASWG will review all comments and considerations and determine if they or individual members want to comment by the October deadline.

Presentation on the Maine Environmental BMP Manual for Winter Snow and Ice Control

- Brenda Z. presented on behalf of the Working Group (Mike G. was out of town).
- The manual was developed in collaboration by the Maine Snow and Ice Control Best Practices Task Force, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the Maine Department of Transportation, the Maine Turnpike Authority and the Maine Local Roads Program.
- The presentation (attached PDF) included discussion of the origins of the project, the purpose, information provided for each BMP, and next steps for the project.
- The manual was developed and written primarily by winter maintenance directors and staff.
- The manual targets municipal winter maintenance budget and management decision makers as the primary audience. The individual BMPs have been designed to guide training of municipal staff. The manual does not currently address contractors.
- The manual promotes only the voluntary adoption of best practices, citing the challenges of any unified regulatory approach with the diversity of geography, resources, conditions and more.
- Currently, Maine Local Roads staff is incorporating the final submitted edits into the draft manual.
- A roundtable was originally planned for September, but additional submitted edits and lack of staff time at MLR has delayed the compilation of the final draft. The roundtable will be scheduled once the draft is ready for distribution.
- The purpose of the roundtable is to have the manual's creators (Working Group members) present the content, stimulate group discussion and lay the groundwork for the next version (2.0) which is planned to include content applicable to private contractors as well.
- The manual will be used in formal trainings by Maine Local Roads with municipal winter maintenance staff.
- BASWG will be using the manual as the basis for its fourth outreach audience, winter maintenance decision makers and on-the-ground maintenance staff in BASWG regulated communities.

Presentation on Road Weather Information Systems

- AMEC staff joined the meeting via webinar to present about RWIS.
- The goal of using these systems is to provide accurate, detailed forecasts to winter maintenance operations.
- The goal of using these systems include less chemical usage, better management of overtime, prevention of bonding to pavement through pretreatment and safety benefits (reduction in crashes and mobility of emergency crews during storms).

- One of the key questions when making decisions about whether or not RWIS makes sense for municipalities or collaborations of regional municipalities. A tool to help decision-makers can be found at www.clearroads.org/cba-toolkit/
- Estimate a 40% reduction in cost over 4-5 years.
- When asked how many stations, suggest at least one station every 25 miles (need enough to capture microclimates).
- A very imprecise estimate (many variables) for a small community is a \$125 upfront investment and \$5k/year to maintain.
- AMEC implementation examples include St. John, Newfoundland and Barry, Ontario.
- Possible to work with individual regulated entities or develop a regional joint contract.

MS4 Sharing Time

- Tyler Collins joined the meeting from Eastern Maine Development Corporations. He is interested in partnering opportunities to assist in stormwater pollution reduction in the BASWG's coastal communities (and their partners). He has a grant from the Maine Coastal Program with unexpended funds that have to be repurposed or the funding will be lost. Tyler has been speaking with Brenda Z. over the last two weeks to identify potential projects. He is interested in assisting with the IDDE manual SOP rewriting project and the implementation of the chloride outreach plans. The funding can be used for Tyler's staff time. These tasks are within Tyler's scope of work at EMDC and are likely within the goals of the MCP's grant program. Tyler will make the proposal to MCP staff and get back to the BASWG with an update ASAP.
- City of Brewer – Hydrant Flushing SOP: The City of Brewer shared its new draft Hydrant Flushing Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The SOP has been reviewed by David L. at DEP with favorable feedback. Tracy D. will send an email to the group with an electronic copy of the SOP. Municipalities are welcome to use it as a model, understanding that Brewer is still in the development phase with the SOP. When testing the SOP, Brewer found that far fewer hydrants will need periodic dechlor than they had expected.
- LaMarr Clannon attended StormCon and learned about a program called "GreenTracks." The project takes railroad tracks, using expanded sale, sedum plugs and low growing turf to develop stormwater treatment services within the active track system. Pilot sites required zero maintenance over the three year study period. Rob Y. expressed interest in this project. With regard to implementation, Maine DOT owns the rails in the BASWG area, not the railroad companies.
- The Penobscot Tribe has filed suit to assert their right to tribal water quality standards. The members would like to invite an update from Dan K. or another tribal representative if possible.
- Robyn S. indicated that there has been a minor issue in Long Creek with connections to the MS4 system. The details of this are still developing.
- Robyn S. also reported that there is a new position in the City of Portland, titled Water Resources Director. Nancy Gallarano will be in this position and brings tremendous expertise. The position is one supervisory level below Mike Bobinsky.

Education and Outreach Update/Planning

- The regional chloride outreach plan is currently under development. Key elements include a likely two-staged outreach approach, with the first year of the plan focusing on outreach to municipal decision makers who make decisions about winter maintenance budget and plans. At the end of 12 months, each MS4 will have developed an internal plan with specific planned outcomes, including training on and implementation of BMPs from the Maine Snow and Ice Control Environmental BMP manual. The E&O Committee will have the next draft of the plan ready for review by the September meeting.
- The BASWG website has been redeveloped. The E&O Committee has completed its content upgrade plan and is currently advertising for an intern to complete the content development and support implementation of the social media supplemental plan.
- All municipalities need to let Phil R. know what neighborhoods they want targeted for stenciling, target volunteer groups and potential dates that work. The E&O Committee plans to complete PY2 stenciling this fall, if at all possible. The intern will also work on implementation of stenciling projects.
- The BASWG social media is getting increasing followers and likes for content. The goal is to not just get people to like the content, but to share it on their own pages. BASWG should capitalize on the recent flooding news to post and draw viewership to its social media pages.

Organizational Business (A quorum of members was in attendance)

- Rob Y. made the motion to table the approval of the minutes pending Bob O's review. Phil R. seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.
- Gretchen H. announced to the group that she has chosen to leave her position at the Town of Hampden. The group expressed how much her contributions to the BASWG have been appreciated and will be missed. Her efforts have provided great leadership and capacity to the BASWG. The group would like to recognize these contributions at the September meeting and have asked her to please attend for this reason.
- The Town of Orono has offered to serve as the new fiscal agent for the BASWG, as the City of Bangor can no longer take on this responsibility. Funds are currently held in an independent account at the University of Maine Credit Card, accessible by the BASWG's treasurer, Patrick D.
- Belle R. made the motion to "authorize the executive committee to work out the details of moving the financial resources to the Town of Orono." Tracy D. seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.
- The BASWG has a September 15th deadline for submitting the BASWG Regional SWMP PY1 Report. The report development committee consists of: LaMarr C., Phil R., Brenda Z., Bob O., and Rob Y. The committee will circulate a copy of the report for discussion and voting at the September BASWG meeting.
- The BASWG Email list will be circulated at the September meeting for updates.

Upcoming BASWG Meetings:

- The BASWG September meeting will be held at the Veazie Town Office and will include review of the EPA IDDE Manual, discussion about updating the ThinkBlue SOPs, the Chloride Outreach Plan, PY1 regional SWMP report, and the monthly regional sharing session. Regulatory updates will be provided as available.
- The group identified the following BASWG meeting locations for the remainder of the year: October – Old Town; November – Milford; December – UM or Orono; January – EMCC?

DRAFT