



Neponset Stormwater Partnership

Annual Progress Report

April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018

Introduction

The Neponset Stormwater Partnership (NSP) is a regional stormwater collaborative which brings together communities in and around the Neponset River Watershed area. NSP members work together to reduce stormwater pollution and streamline compliance with the Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit (MS4 permit) which is issued jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

This report covers activities completed by the NSP during the period April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018, which spans two different annual work plans for the NSP (the NSP operates on a July to June fiscal year).

This report is generally organized by the six minimum control measures (MCMs) outlined by the MS4 permit, subject to the caveat that some activities do not fit neatly into the framework established by the minimum control measures.

Participating Communities

The following communities and other organizations were active with the NSP during at least part of the reporting period: Foxborough, Medfield, Westwood, Dedham, Milton, Norwood, Canton, Quincy, Stoughton and Sharon, along with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and the Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA).

Unless otherwise noted below, all participating communities were included in each of the tasks or activities described below.

Project Funding

Funding for the NSP during the reporting period was provided by matching contributions from the participating municipalities, grant funds provided by the MAPC, and other matching grants and donations assembled by NepRWA.

Coordination and Training

The activities in this category do not fit neatly into the six MCMs and/or apply to multiple MCMs and so have been aggregated under this heading.

The NSP held four meetings during the reporting period which included training opportunities for staff of the participating communities through guest presentations, staff presentations, inter-municipal information sharing, and discussion. The major topics covered during the reporting period included:

- Strategies for reviewing stormwater design plans submitted by developers
- Walkthrough of the EPA Performance Extrapolation Tool
- Overview of updated NSP model stormwater bylaw including off-site provisions
- Stormwater related zoning and subdivision rule changes implemented in Canton
- Overview of NSP SWMP template
- Member MS4 program priorities for the next two years
- Best practices for de-icing and snow management
- EEA municipal vulnerability preparedness (MVP) program
- Stormwater BMP retrofit site visit field trip
- Meetings also included discussion of NSP work plan items and administrative tasks

The NSP also provided delegates to participate in the meetings of the MA Statewide Municipal Stormwater Coalition (Statewide Coalition) during the project period. Work with the Statewide Coalition included:

- Participants on behalf of the NSP included Ian Cooke, NepRWA Executive Director, Nancy Fyler, NepRWA Outreach Director, Martin Pillsbury, MAPC Environmental Planning Director, Deirdre Hall, (former) City of Quincy Stormwater Coordinator, and Hillary Waite, Milton Stormwater Coordinator.
- NSP representatives attended all the quarterly meetings of the Statewide Coalition, were represented as members of the Statewide Education Committee, and served as Chairmen of the Statewide Advocacy Committee and the Statewide Administration Committee.
- NSP representatives also played key roles in the development of several successful grant applications by the Statewide Coalition including for a statewide outreach campaign, and for further development of model stormwater bylaw language regarding off-site stormwater mitigation.
- Reports on the progress of the Statewide Coalition were provided to all NSP members at each NSP meeting.

Public Education and Participation

Several tasks were completed in the area of Public Education and Participation, and several others (not mentioned below) will be forthcoming before the end of the NSP project year on June 30:

- NSP provided a delegate (Ian Cooke) to assist the Statewide Partnership with a successful \$200,000 grant application for a statewide stormwater outreach campaign. Involvement included helping to draft the proposal, revise the project

scope and procure the project consultant. Implementation of the project will be completed by June 30.

- Ongoing maintenance and upgrades to the NSP educational website which includes information for residential, commercial, construction and industrial audiences. This included work on new logo and revised easier-to-remember website address as well as work to create an interactive stormwater problem/question submission form which will go live before June 30.
- Worked with town clerks from all participating communities to design, print and distribute educational insert regarding pet waste with the mailing of dog license renewals.
- Implemented a 5th-grade school-based stormwater and water conservation education curriculum in Milton, Canton, Sharon, Dedham and Westwood school systems. Conducted one 5th grade program in Norwood using private grant funds. Additional programs are expected to be scheduled in Stoughton and Quincy before June 30.
- Implemented a volunteer-based river cleanup event in Milton (and Boston) using private funds in the fall of 2017, and began planning for a spring 2018 river cleanup event with sites in Milton, Quincy, and Canton (and Boston).
- Held an evening public presentation on water quality data for the Neponset River Watershed in the winter of 2018 (attended by 25 people) and publicized it across the service area.
- Made a presentation on the work of the NSP at the fall meeting of the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.
- Provided a representative to participate in the meetings of the Quincy Stormwater Advisory Committee.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

- Updated Model IDDE SWMP document.
- Continued working to refine and apply the MAPC Catchment Delineation Tool for all participating communities. Completed or updated catchment delineation for all participating communities except Norwood, Foxborough, Quincy and Canton. Plan to complete Foxborough and (if interested) Norwood later in 2018. Quincy and Canton previously completed this work on their own.
- Created an IDDE prioritization tool and corresponding documentation which uses a combination of local infrastructure and complaint knowledge, field water quality data and GIS derived data.
- Used the results of the completed catchment delineations to to extract key GIS attributes for IDDE prioritization for all communities where catchment delineation has been completed and loaded this attribute data into the IDDE Prioritization Tool.
- Populated the IDDE Prioritization Tool with water quality data. Data was compiled by MassDEP stream reach and included results from the Neponset River and its tributaries, along with MWRA an/or and MassDEP data where applicable for the Charles, Taunton and Fore River Watersheds. Completed in

communities that requested the IDDE Tool including Sharon, Dedham, Stoughton and Westwood.

- Conducted “hotspot” monitoring in areas of the Neponset River Watershed where water quality data suggested the possibility of contamination from illicit discharges and followed up with affected municipalities regarding any issues of potential concern (funded in part with outside grant funds). Resulting data posted on interactive map at www.neponset.org.
- Began a survey of private water quality monitoring labs available to assist with IDDE testing to identify lab capabilities and approximate costs.

Construction Site Erosion and Sediment Control

- Finalized and educational handout on sedimentation and erosion control practices for the construction industry and made it available to communities in electronic form.

New Development and Redevelopment

- Updated the NSP model stormwater bylaw, and developed first-generation language for offsite mitigation provisions. Further revisions will be completed by June 30.
- Began reviewing existing stormwater bylaws in all member communities to confirm compliance with current and expected MS4 requirements as well as recommended best practices.
- Provided preliminary technical assistance to a number of communities considering new or updated stormwater bylaws or regulations including: Stoughton, Foxborough and Milton.
- Provided in-depth support or recommendations for bylaw or regulation updates in Medfield and Canton.
- Worked with Dedham Planning Board staff on a preliminary review of parking lot island landscaping rules in order to encourage implementation of low impact development practices.

Other

- Participated in EPA train the trainer workshop regarding municipal stormwater financing (ongoing).
- Provided technical assistance to Milton regarding potential revisions to the structure of their stormwater management fee rates.