Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 10:00 AM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

10:00 Welcome, NepRWA

Attendees

Ian Cooke – NepRWA
Jeff Frisch – NepRWA
Nancy Fyler – NepRWA
Emily Leone – NepRWA
Sean McCanty – NepRWA
Kerry Snyder – NepRWA
Suzanna Sullivan – NepRWA
Anna Yie – NepRWA
Rory McGregor – NepRWA Board Member, Sharon Water Advisory Committee
Patrick Field – CBI
Abby Fullem – CBI
Sukayna Al-Aaraji- EPA
Natalie Burgo – EPA
Damien Houlihan – EPA
Lynne Jennings – EPA
Joanne Kittrell – EPA
Anne Lieby – EPA
Tristan Pluta – EPA
Laura Schifman – EPA
Lindsay Skovira – EPA
John Sullivan - BWSC
Kristine Meaney – Canton
Michael Trotta - Canton
Nathan Bettermore – Dedham
Patrick Hogan – Dedham
Meredith Labelle – Dedham
Jason Mammone – Dedham
Lance DelPriore – Foxborough
Ryan Norton – Foxborough
Maria De La Fuente – Medfield
Michael Perloff – Medfield
Carly Rocklen – Norwood
Courtney Botelho – BETA
Paul Costello – Quincy
Joseph Dunn – Randolph
James Conlon - Stoughton
Craig Horsfall – Stoughton
Laurence Langolis – Stoughton
Pat Dechenes – Walpole
Landis Hershey – Walpole
Javier Gutierrez - MAPC
Martin Pillsbury – MAPC
Kate England – City of Boston
Richael Wells – Milton Landing Committee
Emily Scerbo – Tighe & Bond
Zachary Henderson – Woodard & Curran

10:05 Introductions

What is one challenge your municipality is facing with stormwater management?

- *Old infrastructure*
- *Stormwater regulations*
- *Keeping storm drains clear in Sharon, MA*
- *Implementing BMP's*
- *The need for bylaws for stormwater utility and the use of green infrastructure.*
- *Freezing water from sump pumps.*
- *Infrastructure repair.*
- *Stormwater fee management.*
- *Funding improvements.*
- *Getting mapping right for modeling stormwater.*
- *Education and outreach.*
- *Communication*
- *Costal resiliency and climate change.*
- *Available space in the right-of-way.*
- *Impact on the Estuary.*
- *The amount of building/renovation and education for developers on process and timeline.*
- *Helping those directly affected and those not directly affected to care about what's going on.*

10:15 Presentation by and Discussion with EPA on RDA Permit Development

Staff from the Region 1 office of the U.S. EPA provided updates on the process they are undertaking to develop a draft Residual Designation Permit (sometimes referred to as an "RDA permit") that it will issue for comment later this year.

The RDA permit will require certain private commercial, industrial, and institutional sources of stormwater in the Neponset River Watershed (as well as the Charles and Mystic River Watersheds), to control their stormwater run-off to reduce pollutants, such as nutrients and bacteria, from entering the Neponset River and its tributaries.

EPA provided an update on the RDA permitting process and described its approach to preliminary stakeholder engagement, for which the agency has partnered with the Consensus Building Institute (CBI). For the next several months, EPA and CBI will attempt to engage with diverse stakeholders (including residents, potential permittees, etc.). They welcomed feedback on how to best reach out to, and hear from, interested stakeholders.

Please refer to the recording for more information.

Question/Comments & Answer:

Do the "13", "15" and "19" percentages in the first slide represent the Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) properties are contributing against total TP load or just the waste load allocation in the TMDL for stormwater sources?

Those percentages are pollutant loads of total discharges (i.e., of the entire graph bar).

I thought that RDA is something that would be less work for municipalities, but presentation suggests some accounting and tracking will be municipal burden.

- *Not the case that municipalities will be required to shoulder the burden – no decision has been made.*
- *Municipalities will benefit from reduced pollutant loads achieved through the RDA permit.*
- *Treatment on private properties in a watershed with a TMDL, that load will be taken off BMP implementation off municipal requirements.*

What is the direct relationship of credit to municipalities (e.g., Dedham needs to remove 900 lbs of phosphorus over the next 15 years). Will municipalities have a reduction in targets based on RDA improvements or will it be based on actual calculations?

Total reduction will count towards requirement, whether it comes from RDA or MS4 permit. Choose how you want to implement the requirements, if crediting takes place on private property, then that will be transferred.

Additional questions for EPA may be submitted through NepRWA (snyder@neponset.org). NepRWA will gather questions and submit them without identifying information of municipality asking the question.

10:50 Brief Polling

Who are key stakeholders (businesses, associations, others) we should try and engage in your community during this permit development process?

- *Business owners*
- *Town Government Officials*
- *Religious Community*
- *Decision Makers (ex. Select Board, Mayor's Office, etc.) to understand the impact on local businesses. Will this drive businesses out of the community?*
- *The Kraft Group in Foxborough, MA*
- *Norfolk Agriculture School*
- *Walpole Mall*
- *Economic Development Commission*
- *Siemens*
- *Chamber of Commerce*
- *Institutional Stakeholders*
- *Non-municipal road owners*
- *The owners of the parcels identified in the requirements.*
- *DPW Departments*
- *Canton Association of Business and Industry*
- *Neponset Valley Chamber*
- *TRIC*
- *MAPC*
- *Trade Groups/Associations*
- *Higher Education*
- *Non-profit*
- *Green Ribbon Commission*

Are there active environmental justice groups in your community and if so, who?

- *Alternative for Community and Environment*
- *Friends of Conservation in Sharon, MA*
- *Massapoag Lake Management Committee in Sharon, MA*
- *Sustainability and Climate Action Plan Interim Steering Committee in Canton, MA*
- *Foxborough Commission on Disability*
- *Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition*
- Progress Norwood (contact Katie Neal Rizzo) – Advocacy group that keeps an eye *out for environmental justice, environmental, sustainability, etc. initiatives.*
- *Sometimes it is hard to ID organized groups in suburbs. Some very active and organized neighborhood associations in Mattapan/Hyde Park; NepRWA has a list of some we've identified with social media presence but unclear how active many are.*

- *Islamic Center of New England*
- *Chinese Church of Metrosouth*
- *Quincy Asian Resources Inc.*
- *City of Boston, Office of Neighborhood Services can help with this question. Many of the liaisons will have lists and existing connections.*
- *City of Boston, Equity and Inclusion Cabinet will also be helpful.*

How actively do you want to be involved in outreach on RDA during this development phase?

- 5 responded “A lot”
- 1 responded “A lot; A little”
- 9 responded “A little”
- 1 responded “A little; Not so much”
- 1 responded “Not so much”

What big questions or two sticks out in your mind as we close for today?

- *The RDA should be completely overseen by the EPA. The only overlap should be permitting. The anticipated reduction in Phosphorous for those properties that fall under an RDA should be immediately realized by the municipality and not credited over time. Time costs the municipalities.*
- *Who has leadership responsibility within our town for this initiative?*
- *Will the CII Phosphorous reduction target be reduced from city/town MS4 phosphorous load reduction targets, and therefore all of the milestone reductions move over the 20 year TMDL implementation period?*
- *What will the Towns' role be in the RDA?*
- *Funding?*
- *More details on how the permit will work and municipality roll.*
- *Presumably this would be managed as a regionwide general permit for all properties as defined.*
- *We are glad to receive the credit for the RDA.*
- *For communities with Stormwater Fees that are already charging the CII properties, how will the RDA relate? Will the CII owners see this as "paying twice?" How to balance these?*
- *What is considered compacted soils? Athletic fields? Gravel driveways or parking lots? Will the EPA provide the properties?*
- *Who will enforce this regulation. What if it will cost a property owner $100,000 to become compliant?*
- *What is the role of municipalities in tracking implementation of the RDA?*
- *Who / how administers the RDA reviews and enforces permits?*
- *How will EPA plan to provide outreach to educate the public on the RDA? What mediums? Open forums planned?*

- *Grant funding for green infrastructure projects (can we make more available?). Resources to educate property owners about green infrastructure and show them what's possible (can we make some?).*

11:00 Partner Updates

How has flooding been these last few weeks? How does any flooding match up with the regional flood model? Any unusual places?

- Boston has been having a rough time, same with Quincy with low elevation roads, in-land, and coastal flooding. Flooding from almost 2 inches of rain also brought material debris as well as soil onto roads. DCR has had standing water is parks due to infiltration in the usual spots but for a longer duration. Coastal flooding was noticeable along the Harborwalk and Morrissey.
- Norwood flooding on Upland Road, Purgatory Brook culvert (state managed culvert) pretty severe flooding of river, wetlands, streams roads.

Any unusual/notable stormwater issues? Things we can address through education?

Boston will reach out NepRWA to discuss collaboration on the school program.

11:15 NSP Updates

- **Outreach** – *Suzanna Sullivan, NepRWA*
    - Please share deicing posts on social media; Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter.
    - Update that the Outreach Subcommittee meeting has been postponed.

  If you have any questions about NSP outreach please reach out to Suzanna at Sullivan@Neponset.org

- **School program** – *Emily Leone, NepRWA*, let the NSP know that scheduling is almost complete and that they have many schools scheduled for the spring.

  If you have any questions regarding the school program please reach out to Emily at Leone@Neponset.org

- **USGS Streamstats data request** – *Anna Yie, NepRWA*

  The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), along with the EPA, is developing a tool in the Neponset River Watershed to help municipalities and other stakeholders address water quantity and quality concerns. The tool will allow users to view the network of stormwater pipes and inlets (catch basins) across the entire watershed and delineate drainage areas based on elevation data and stormwater

infrastructure. The results will be free and available on the USGS streamstats website.

In order to build this tool, the USGS will need GIS data from all municipalities in the Neponset watershed. This would include pipes, catch basins, outlets, culverts, etc. We think this is a great opportunity for the region and will be a really valuable tool to help with stormwater infrastructure siting and public communication.

We need sign-off from communities for us to share the data (if we have it) with the USGS for them to build this tool (the original data won't be downloadable).

Please forward any questions or comments to Anna at Yie@Neponset.org

- **Water Quality results event coming up** – *Sean McCanty, NepRWA*
  CWMN results will be presented at the Canton Public Library on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 from 6:30-8:30pm. There will be a hybrid option to join the meeting as well. More information is coming soon.

  If you have any questions please reach out to Sean and McCanty@Neponet.org

11:30 Adjourn