Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 1:00 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Recording available here

1:00 Introductions

Attendance:
Kerry Snyder, NepRWA
Anna Yie, NepRWA
Suzanna Sullivan, NepRWA
Emily Leone, NepRWA
Laura E. Harrington, USGS
Pete Steeves, USGS
Patrick Hogan, Dedham
Carly Rocklen, Norwood
Laurence Langlois, Stoughton
Courtney Botelho, BETA/Randolph
Regen Jaimeson, Canton,
Martin Pillsbury, MAPC
Meredith LaBelle, Dedham
Paul Costello, Quincy
Karon Catrone, Westwood
Joe Flannigan, Dedham
Nathan Buttermore, Dedham
James Conlon, Stoughton
Jason Mamone, Dedham
Scott G, Walpole
Leonel Lainez, Dedham
Rachel Luna, Boston GI
Lori Dorce, DPW in Foxborough?
Nora Loughnane, Westwood
Landis Hershey, Walpole
Phil Paradis, BETA/Westwood
Kristine Meaney, Canton
Ryan Norton
Bobby Kennedy, Medfield

1:10 Presentation: ***Delineating High-Resolution Urban Flow Network and Drainage Areas for Stormwater Management in the Neponset River Watershed, Massachusetts,*** *Pete Steeves and Laura E Harrington, United States Geological Survey (USGS)*

Notes:

- *Coordination with EPA Region 1*
- *Note all images presented are development version for informational purposes, not finalized*
- *Streamstats with stormwater infrastructure, expanding on earlier work in Mystic*
- *Drainage maps with land use and land cover, basin characteristics, flow estimates, etc*
- *Stormwater inputs can change drainage basin size, changes in flow estimates, etc.*
- *Use variety of basemaps to help make editing decisions to make sure it stitches together with the hydraulic connectivity of existing streamstats drainage network*
    - *Editing of points, use of snapping to grid, use of ArcHydro data model*
- *1 meter resolution digital elevation model (DEM)*
- *Inlets and outlets, including culverts to get overland flow through headwaters and stormwater infrastructure out to Neponset River Mouth*

- *Pilot Area: Medfield, Walpole, and Dover - 4.56 sq miles, currently in development, but available online for those interested*
    - *Watch video:*
    - *Separate basin delineation from state and CT River basin options – pilot area buffered by a 300m exclusion hatching*
    - *Example of residential stormdrain dainage altering basin*
    - *Flow statistics are not set up currently but expected in the future (working with DC office)*
    - *For Basin Characteristics, drainage area only until the model moves to the whole Neponset*
    - *Option to parse out surface water contribution only (excluding stormdrain network)*
    - *Delineation on a pipe network yields only daylighted area of catch basins (does not include above ground contribution that does not flow through that point*
- *Complexity from delineations in suburban watersheds, due to interactions between stormdrains and surface flow*
- *Interesting findings of incredibly small drainage area for some catch basins – might be areas that only contribute at exceedingly high flow, or driveway grade*
- *Hoping to complete data pre-processing by Sept 2025, integrate into streamstats in October 2025 -> 2026*

LINKS FROM LAURA:
https://streamstats.usgs.gov/ss/ (StreamStats Application)

https://dev.streamstats.usgs.gov/ss/ (StreamStats Development Site – Please do not widely disperse, not for public consumption as data is preliminary)

https://www.usgs.gov/streamstats (StreamStats Home Site)

1:30 Q&A

- Is Mystic further along and available online already?
    - Mystic does not have flow statistics, flow stats are best used at state scale
        - Transportation, low flow/drought, and others
    - Stormdrain product does provide more details about water quality, such as nutrient loading
    - Be aware of Streamstats web services for better use by town officials, can integrate into town or project applications
- Pilot area intentionally starts in Neponset headwaters before moving watershed-wide
- Laurence: What happens when you have junction points: Outlet to inlet, or to retention basin
    - Can make a determination about connecting two infrastructure pieces, can let overland flow modeling determine it, or could designate it to be a sink basin (unlikely to be fully true in MA)

1:45 EPA Draft Permit Discussion

EPA has issued two draft permits

- Draft CII GP (formerly referred to as "RDA") will apply to certain private properties with an acre or more of impervious surface within the Charles, Mystic and Neponset River Watersheds
    - Public meeting already occured, 2 public hearings upcoming
    - EPA has published their rationale and draft permit, with fact sheet
    - Both rationale and permit are open for comment
    - 60% P reduction
    - Municipalities in the Charles can remove that 60% reduction from their load under MS4
    - Structural and non-structural SCMs, offsite reduction via agreeement with local watershed management group, offsight reduction via trading credits in the same watershed
    - There will be a staggered schedule for NOIs, bigger properties sooner, requirements are also staggered
    - Fact sheet includes many questions EPA would like feedback on
        - Multifamily properties
        - Compliance schedule
        - Owners of non-contiguous properties (single permit or property-based permit)
        - Permitting owner rather than manager/operator
        - How will historic properties be handled
    - CRWA is generating a template comment letter for municipalites
- Draft MS4 Permit—modest changes for Neponset River Watershed communities
    - 1 Public hearing upcoming Jan 28
    - Submit new NOI within 90 days
    - SWMPS need to be updated and posted online
    - Reduction requirements remain the same in Neponset, Mystic has alternative TMDL
    - Educational program is more prescriptive with more interactive engagement with public, so NSP is well positioned to be in compliance
    - Translation of written materials into top 3 non-English languages in the area
    - IDDE update maps need more detailed information
    - Construction site regulation
    - Development and redevelopment must incorporate changes to non-stormwater bylaws such as street design, parking lot, to reduce barriers to GI implementation
    - Good housekeeping – similar to existing, high intensity street sweeping is given more reduction credits
    - Asset management system within 3 years
    - Retrofit at least 1 property per year from inventory muni maintains
    - Catch basin replacement program
    - Winter Road maintenance – report salt usage and trainings using salt
- Questions/thoughts:
    - Is that an expansion of requirements from chloride impaired communities to all? Answer: yes
    - Catch basin replacement
        - 20% replacement of those that need to be replaced based on needs or implement GI
    - Charles towns gaining credit from RDA reduction towards MS4

        - In fact sheet, but not actually in permit (may be because both are simultaneously drafts rather than active)
        - Treated differently than MassDOT permits, recommended that Charles communities ask for clarification
- NepRWA is interested in what munis think about these permits, please update us as you go through it

2:15 NSP Updates

- School Program Update (Emily)
- Outreach (Suzanna)
    - Ice Melt Survey
    - New Pet Waste Rack Cards
    - Working on non-DPW poster for good housekeeping/recognizing illicit discharges
    - Working on direct outreach to landscapers re: proper use of lawn chemicals
    - Looking for folks to serve as an outreach advisory group—meets about 2 times per year. Contact Suzanna if interested!

2:30 Adjourn