

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

MEMBERS MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
Meeting Location: **Newington Wastewater Treatment Plant**
Remote Location:
Meeting Date: **September 15, 2022**
Meeting Time: **10:00 AM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to Order at 10:00 AM. with a quorum of the Members present.

Members Present:

Town/City	Representative	Present
Dover	Gretchen Young (GY) Environmental Projects Manager	Yes
Portsmouth	Suzanne Woodland (SW) Deputy City Manager	Yes
Rochester	Katie Ambrose (KA)	Yes - remote
Exeter	Jennifer Perry (JP) Public Works Director	Yes
Newington	Denis Messier (DM) Plant Operator	Yes

Town of Milton and Rollinsford representatives unable to attend.

Non-Members Participating In-Person:

Melissa Paly (MP), CLF Waterkeeper
Jamie Houle (JH), UNHSWC
Brian Getz (BG), Portsmouth DPW
Jamie McCarthy (JM), Portsmouth DPW
Sally Soule (SS), NH DES
Danielle Gaito (DG), EPA

Non-Members Participating Remotely via Zoom:

Erik Beck, EPA Region 1
Emma Williams, GeoSyntec
Jim Steinkrauss, Rath, Young and Pignatelli

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2. **Minutes of June 23, 2022 Meeting.** KA noted Milton and Rollinsford representatives attended remotely.

Motion by SW, seconded by JP to approve the minutes as amended.

Roll Call Vote:

Town/City	Representative	Vote
Dover	GY	Yes
Portsmouth	SW	Yes
Rochester	KA	Yes
Exeter	JP	Yes
Newington	DM	Yes

3. **Community Plans for Nitrogen Reduction Efforts.**

GY from Dover presented a detailed spreadsheet on ongoing projects, planned projects tied in with Dover's CIP, and reasonable estimates on nitrogen reduction. Several projects have ballooned out to larger ones through the planning process. Projects include culvert improvements, flood mitigation, stormwater reconstruction, and reducing impervious surfaces. Dover was able to work collaboratively with a private development with a failed septic system to extend the municipal sewer into a private subdivision. Through an easement the city paid for the connection and was able to decrease nitrogen by 280 lbs. Currently they have another SRF to work on a similar project and are looking for additional ways to extend the wastewater system into septic areas. In addition, they are working on leaf litter management at the recycling center and are participating in a street sweeping pilot project – weighing the trucks to determine amount of materials collected. Electric vehicle readiness is now in their site plan review as is slow-release nitrogen for landscaping plans. 30% of all building should have green roofs or solar. Ongoing outreach programs are in place for pet waste, septic systems, leaf litter, and vehicle idling. Lastly, they are working on staff training and increasing their commitment to innovation.

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JM from Portsmouth advised the WWTP is continuing to work as designed, operating efficiently and well below permitted amounts for nitrogen. Review of spreadsheet of current and upcoming projects that include bike lanes and shared use paths. Like Dover, Portsmouth is continuing street sweeping, picking up curbside leaf litter weekly and cleaning catch basins. Goal is to clean more than 25% each year, averaging 600 catch basins a season. Continuing to improve programs for stormwater best practices for larger projects, encouraging liquid biological systems instead of fertilizers, and septic system outreach. Recently they connected 88 homes along Sagamore Ave from septic to a low pressure forcemain system and are looking to purchase conservation easements along the Bellamy Reservoir. They are looking at long-term funding for a storm water mitigation program. To tag on to this, using the PTAP system to verify that projects are meeting the requirements and being entered into an online permitting system to provide a mechanism to follow up with properties for future inspection and maintenance. The Water as a Memory Exhibit at Strawberry Banke is still on display.

KA gave an update from Rochester. Looking at developments, road work, and parking lot designs. Continuing on non-structural best practices such as street sweeping, leaf litter, and catch basin work. Goal is cleaning 25% of their catch basins annually. Working on their Asset Management Plan and Nitrogen source identification report. They just hired an assistant engineer to focus on stormwater projects. Currently working on a pilot project at their septage facility – receiving septage at the headworks did not impact the secondary and tertiary systems at the plant. They are also looking at non-point source benefits and working with surrounding communities.

JP had no written report from Exeter to share, but they are working on a number of projects. Focus is Salem St area, an older neighborhood with poor condition sewer – replacing the main and residential lines to the system. They are replacing catch basins with deep sumps and have upcoming utility replacement projects. Exeter is also planning on water main replacements and minimizing road widths. A dam feasibility study is coming up and they are working with their town planner to encourage infill development vs. expansion development.

DM provided a quick update for Newington. The WWTP is running below 5lbs for nitrogen. Catch basins have been vacuumed out, the first time in almost 10 years. Permits for a large development have been submitted to NH DES. MP asked if there was any focus on how to reduce nitrogen load in the mall parking lots. Currently there are retention ponds. GY pointed out getting the PTAP up and running with UNHSWC will help. Rollinsford and Newington are similar on the residential side for this.

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JH brought up the Clean Sweep program – experts to look at street sweeping credits. It's an innovated measured approach – pick it up, measure it, get credit for it. The University of Minnesota has a great study and data on this. It's simple and incentivizes cleaning streets, they will be working this into the PTAP. Based on research USGS has done, 70-80% of phosphorus load occurs in the fall. Target street sweeping for fall. DM inquired about spring street sweeping to remove salt and sand. JH advised we should continue to do so, but also in the fall for leaf debris. Because of the difference in solid matter, the credits are different seasonally

4. Review of PTAP progress and year one reports.

Review of load reductions shown for each community. JH advised the database is working well, and they are continuing to make improvements. They can look at individual reports and will want to verify that a project meets 80% reduction. Portsmouth, Dover, and Exeter are using this as part of the planning review process. Reports can be generated annually that meet requirements. A batch import feature has just been added but features and attributes must line up with the database. What the PTAP does is a user authentication – anyone can put stuff in. Administrators authorize what is a valid entry. The database only counts what is constructed, not what is planned. Non-structural needs to be entered or reviewed annually. Infiltration rate is required with infiltration best management practices. In the back of the report is land use change tracking, this will provide a rough idea of efforts done to date. It can show effective impervious surface decrease and calculate nitrogen load. I.e., in Durham the Riverwoods complex has 16 acres, 10 acres are now impervious cover with a commercial development, and they are now working to mitigate that impact. Land use changes are included – classes on how we track this are numerous and depending up on data set used – how we classify land use is different than others. They are now testing hydrological response monitoring for Great Bay. At this level they can easily track long use land change over time. Between DES, EPA, and UNH they can track land use change over time. Focus on land use change is at the local GIS level. So, they can focus on nitrogen reduction. We have hit every target so far from the EPA. The data begins when the PTAP was started in 2015. BG noted when posting, add a footnote if it is a draft or work in progress so they can look at potential credits and how to assign them. JH advised they can produce annual reports. Their recommendation is for municipalities to control how data is shared and should post this on their municipal websites. There is no sunset on structural credits, however that might change down the road. They are tracking property owner information as well. Part of a UNH senior project has been inputting that type of data. Their baseline was 2014 information from a 2010 data set. GY added that a MAAM dashboard is being developed to showcase information from PTAP as well as with information about land conservation. Focus is on

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phosphorus, nitrogen, TSS, and land use. Put your information into the database and then start showing progress that you can share with your community. SW also mentioned that sharing data can help with buy in from municipal and community leaders. Sediment removal as well. Reports with both of there are helpful. JH concluded that metrics are aligned with the MS4. In the future there is the potential for features to be added in or if an emergency contaminate comes up they can work with the EPA to develop credits.

5. Discussion for improvements for PTAP implementation for next year

PTAP and NHDES to continue to work with towns to improve the data input.

6. Stakeholder comment

MP advised that they had a very interesting stakeholder meeting and that a few questions came up:

- How are communities accounting for new development? Rapid growth in towns, increases in wastewater, site changes, stormwater, etc. Are we really reducing or slowing the rate of increase?
- Are we seeing negative numbers for impervious surfaces?
- What are the municipalities doing that is new as a result of this permit? What is happening that wasn't already happening? How are we illuminating where things are happening?
- Stakeholders seeing projects, how is a small project part of a nitrogen control permit, how are they producing a small net gain?
- Seeing some reports, what are the other towns doing that did not submit a report? Maybe dashboard and more municipal involvement?
- Everyone is talking about for state regulations for different things ... are municipalities actively advocating or just saying it?

GY noted that there were answers to these stakeholder questions. SW asked if there was a municipal representative at the stakeholder meeting – no. GY asked MP to provide a written list of questions. MAAM will work to formally respond to each comment, and at the same time formally respond to EPA comments. This will likely be completed for the 6-month AMP review slated for January or February 2023.

7. Public comment

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DG commenting from the EPA lens – exciting to be here today and seeing stormwater bleeding into every project and part of the planning process. General permit was in larval stage and now moving into juvenile stage. They want to see how we are benchmarking so we can move forward. But also want municipalities to get credits for all actions taken. PTAP is the process – PTAP answers most if not all of the Appendix D questions raised in the EPA comment letter. Would like to streamline process for municipalities. Lists right now are a bit vague, the power of PTAP is helping to quantify. It puts everyone on same page with equal comparisons. Want to clarify that PTAP and BATT programs are open-source software, free to use. Will make it easier for EPA to issue future permits.

8. Other business

Letter from EPA will get some comments in writing, GY would like to create a subcommittee to compile a response. Then potentially look at the feed from the output of PTAP how it is adjusted to create annual report or forecasting. Consensus is yes to a subcommittee. JH was nominated. If we streamline reporting it will make the education piece easier.

Goal of January update – EPA wants submission in the Fall. Keep Jan/Feb as goal for mid-year check in and then look forward.

JP advised that Exeter did receive new individual general permit, effective with their November reporting. GY inquired- will that impact the funding into the alliance? JP is looking into that.

KA advised that the Alliance receive a second and final invoice. Turbidity was included in it but thought that the scope had changed. Moving forward as fiscal agent, if we have an invoice come forward that was different than original vote should we revote? GY suggested that if the invoice is greater than \$1,000, there should be a vote of the executive committee. It could be done electronically.

Motion by SW, seconded by DM to approve the change of scope on the invoice

Roll Call Vote:

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9. Schedule next meeting and agenda items

Next meeting will be November 3, 2022 at 10 am in Portsmouth. Budgeting will be on the agenda.

10. Adjourn

Motion by SW to adjourn, seconded by DM.

Roll Call Vote:

Town/City	Representative	Vote
Dover	GY	Yes
Portsmouth	SW	Yes
Rochester	KA	Yes
Exeter	JP	Yes
Newington	DM	Yes

All in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Minutes Prepared by: Gail Klanchesser, Sewer Clerk, Newington Sewer Commission.