MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT
MEETING OF THE MEMBERS
MINUTES

Meeting Type:	**Members Meeting**
Meeting Location:	**Rochester-DPW 209 Chestnut Hill Road**
Remote Location:	https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcodemgqDwvE9Ar1ne6OMca8ogTdd-54AF-
Meeting Date:	**June 6, 2024**
Meeting Time:	**1:00 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to Order at 1:05pm with a quorum of the Members present:

Members:

Town/City	Representative	In person
Dover	Courtney Mitchell (CM), Environmental Projects Manager	Yes
Portsmouth	James McCarty (JM) GIS\Stormwater Manager	Yes
Rochester	Gretchen Young (GY) Deputy Director of Public Works	Yes
Newington	Arial Wright (AW) Plant Operator	Yes
Exeter	Steve Cronin, (SC) Public Works Director	No
Milton		
Epping	Jake Roger (JR) Town Administrator	Yes

Non-Members In Person:
Sally Soule, (SH) NH DES James Houle, (JH)UNHSC niel Macadam, UNHSC Amanda Nolan, Town of Epping
Delores Leonard, (DL) ROCA,UNHSC Liz Wilson, Epping Conservation
Kalle Matso, (KM) PREP

Non-Members Participating Remotely via Zoom included but not limited to:
Tom Swanson, NHDES
Danielle Gaito, EPA Region 1
Steve Couture, NHDES
Stacy Villanueva (SV),Brown & Caldwell
Melissa Paly (MP), MAAM Stakeholder Committee & CLF
Susan Woodland, City of Portsmouth
Stacy Villanueva (Brown & Caldwell)
Jennifer Perez, City of Dover

2. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRAURY 8, 2024.**

Motion: AW moved to approve the meeting minutes of February 8, 2024 seconded by JM.
Roll call Vote passed 6-0

3. **Project Updates**
   a. **MAAM Consultant review of Eelgrass Resiliency Project take-aways-Brown & Caldwell**
   SV of Brown and Caldwell talked about the Eelgrass Resiliency Project. The first charette was held to discuss research and results. SV noted the following:
   - 2023 was a bad year for eelgrass
   - The findings confirmed a strong link to wet weather conditions and confirms the expectation that eelgrass would be very sensitive to such conditions
   - Appears that the link between eelgrass health and weather is stronger than eelgrass and WWTP nitrogen levels
   - Nitrogen levels from WWTP are at lowest levels in decades
   - Eelgrass project has been valuable for exploring hypotheses regarding controls on eelgrass and illustrating the important hydraulic factors such as residence time and sheer stress in controlling eelgrass distribution in the Great Bay. Looked at a variety of water quality metrics, TOC, BOC, light, seaweed, epiphytes
   - There are still important data limitations and uncertainties – relatively short term and small in scale, but still good data and a lot of utility.
   - Estuary-wide trends tend to be controlled by inherent differences between Portsmouth Harbor and Great Bay. It is important to evaluate the difference between the various sites and not necessarily expect trends to be the same.
   - Charette #2 will include a further discussion of the findings and analysis from longer-term data. There will be more discussion of potential management implications.

   GY states that the findings will start to inform the next steps in Adaptive Management. MP asked KM if PREP concerns that the link between nitrogen levels and eelgrass health was less than initially expected. KM said they are still crunching the 2023 data, will know better in a couple of weeks. Overall agreed with BC summation of information, very preliminary take on the data is that nitrogen is a factor but not necessarily a primary factor, and that other factors may play a larger role in the health of eelgrass. Water temperature, erosion, sediments are all playing large role. Notes that stormwater management is likely playing a much larger role in health, as opposed to WWTP. KM noted that though the WWTP nitrogen loads are down, overall nitrogen loads from non-point sources are up, but also noted there are questions about how different nitrogen sources may have very different impacts on the water. SV agreed, and noted that weather wet weather brings all sorts of issues including less light, more suspended solids, etc. that have more immediate impacts and potentially more important impacts than nitrogen levels at the WWTP. JH, UNHSC said the work was a huge leap of faith heading into adaptive project. KM noted that even beyond the science that was found, it is clear that increased population and impervious cover are driving eelgrass loss, along with rising temperatures and higher sea level. GY noted that taking this information may inform changes to the Adaptive Management Plan that will be submitted in September. KM noted that setting targets is not going to be a quantitative process rather it is more of a risk/benefit process.

   b. **PREP update on Eelgrass Resiliency Project next steps and monitoring progress PREP**
   GY said it might benefit to have an August or September meeting to see where we are at with the monitoring progress. KM said the study failed to manage its own expectations and needed more answers didn't get the silver bullet.

   c. **Catch Basin Crediting Literature Review Findings-UNHSC**
   JH noted that within the literature, there is nothing to substantiate that a larger cleaning effort would

yield added benefit. UNHSC does not recommend moving to an expert panel.

d. PTAP update-NHDES/UNHSC

JH stated that they continue to update PTAP and can work with communities to input data. JM asked if proprietary units will be entered into PTAP. GY asked how these proprietary units are being permitted if they do not have approved performance curves. JH stated that they know that this is missing and they are working on it.

e. GB2030 Regional Street Sweeper-Dover

JH stated that a huge component of the street sweeping efforts will be to target the fall months. GY questioned if that was an appropriate approach, because the communities and the EPA agreed that nutrient loading in the fall/winter months (outside of the growing season) does not have any real impact on the Great Bay water quality which is why the MAAM communities are not regulated for the nutrient loads in during these months. GY asked if the EPA would apply the same seasonal limits on non-point source loading if they were to regulate non-point source loading. DG stated that she was not aware of non-point seasonal limits being applied to any other TMDL. GY noted that nowhere else has seasonal limits on point sources either, so that is not necessarily a sign that it would not apply here. SS stated that NHDES is getting closer to providing guidance on managing street sweepings and CB cleanings.

f. Other business and updates

No other business and updates

4. Stakeholder Comment

MP commended Rochester on the recently approved BMP project for the Union Street Parking Lot.

5. Public Comment

No public comment

6. Other business

JH commended Mell Cote for his years of service to the communities.

7. Schedule Next Meeting and Agenda Items (September: AMP Update and Submission)

GY suggested an August meeting before September submission of the AMP. It was decided to do an August 15, 2024, meeting at the Rochester DPW at 209 Chestnut Hill Road, Rochester, NH.

8. Adjourn

Motion: AW moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by JM
Roll call Vote passed **6**:0