MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT
MEETING OF THE MEMBERS
MINUTES

Meeting Type:	**Members Meeting**
Meeting Location:	**City of Dover – Public Works Building**
Remote Location:	https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlf-itqTsiG9Ao_uVG4hPWgRrYrzF3tSg3
Meeting Date:	**June 8, 2023**
Meeting Time:	**10:00 a.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to Order at 10:01am with a quorum of the Members present.

Members:

Town/City	**Representative**	**In person**
Dover	Gretchen Young (GY) Environmental Projects Manager	Yes
Portsmouth	Suzanne Woodland (SW) Deputy City Manager / Deputy City Attorney	Yes
Rochester	Katie Ambrose (KA) Deputy City Manager/Finance Director	Yes
Newington		
Exeter	Paul Vlasich (PV), Town Engineer	Yes
Milton		
Rollinsford		

Non-Members In Person: Erik Beck, EPA Region 1
Mel Cote (MC), EPA Region 1 Danielle Gaito, EPA Region 1
Jamie Houle (JH), UNHSWC Sally Soule, NH DES
Melissa Paly (MP), MAAM Stakeholder Committee & CLF Sean Greig, Town of Newmarket
Jillian Semprini, City of Dover

Non-Members Participating Remotely via Zoom included but not limited to:
Kalle Matso (KM), PREP
Jamie McCarty, City of Portsmouth
Jim Steinkrauss, Rath, Young & Pignatelli
Bill Meserve, Town of Newfields
Bill Arcieri, VHB

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2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2022.

Motion: KA moved to approve the meeting minutes of January 25, 2022 seconded by SW.

Vote passed as amended 5-0

3. STATE OF THE ESTUARIES UPDATE

Conference held Friday, June 2, 2023 was well received and highly engaging.

KM noted that he wants to take the conference on the road for the next 1.5 years with more focused, smaller, and customized meetings for municipalities or groups.

KM provided an overview of the website www.stateofourestuaries.org/.

KM noted that 75% of the indicators are in a cautionary or negative state, which means the watershed is "sick" and is in need of help. He encourages all to read "A Fish Story" in the report, which follows a river herring through its journey in the watershed. The important message from the story is that "we must improve water and habitat quality using everything we can control to compensate for factors that we cannot control." This is why nitrogen is being focused on as it is one thing that can be controlled.

KM provided an overview of the beta version of the Piscataqua Watershed Data Explorer released in the last few days, which can be accessed via the State of Our Estuaries website or through the PREP website.

4. PREP RESEARCH UPDATE/CHECK IN

KM provided an update and noted that there has been progress on the hydrodynamic element. KM showed two videos of a model that releases 10,000 particles at different locations in the watershed to determine how they are dispersed. The particles are shown to disperse differently depending where they are released; therefore, general statements cannot be made regarding the water turnover in the watershed and there is now evidence that water turnover is far more than 2 days. Physical drifters have been used to confirm that the model is accurate.

5. UPDATE ON EELGRASS RESTORATION PROJECT

This project is to study how oysters and eelgrass restoration compliment each other. KM provided an update on the project; approximately 5,400 eelgrass shoots have been transplanted with a second restoration to be completed within the month, adjust oysters have begun to be

integrated, and initial results are anticipated in August.

6. RESIDDUAL DESIGNATION PETITION DISCUSSION

GY noted that the Residual Designation Authority (RDA) had been discussed before, but that the timing of the release of the petition caught communities off guard. However, GY also said that there is an opportunity for MAAM to participated and potentially lead conversations about how the RDA could be implemented such that it complements the work that the communities are already doing.

MP provided an overview of the RDA. CLF has been discussing executing the RDA for many years predating early discussions of the nitrogen permit. The RDA is to compliment the Great Bay Total Nitrogen General Permit (General Permit) as there are major gaps in the General Permit, which only applies to twelve municipalities in New Hampshire. The intent of the RDA is to spread equity to municipalities not currently regulated by the General Permit, and to require private land owners (specifically commercial properties) to require stormwater management if impervious areas exceed certain thresholds. The RDA is not intended to undermine funding for stormwater utility efforts that some municipalities are currently evaluating. The RDA has been submitted to the EPA, and the EPA has a 90-day window to respond.

GY noted that it's important to coordinate with the EPA and CLF to ensure the same information is being used and dispersed.

SW noted that Portsmouth has temporarily stopped moving forward with their stormwater utility due to the release of the RDA. Portsmouth wants to ensure consistent regulations as to not create challenges to redeveloping properties with multiple layers of regulations; such as local regulations and the RDA. Portsmouth is committed to water quality but is wondering how to implement the regulations while encouraging positive development and redevelopment.

KA noted Rochester has the same concerns as Portsmouth. She added the stormwater utility was equitable to residential owners and wants to be careful as to not shift the burden on the residential owners with RDA credits to commercial properties.

DG noted that EPA is currently considering the RDA but wants to ensure it is scientifically and economically justified.

JH discussed the land use data developed by the UNH Stormwater Center. The hot spot map was specifically design for municipally owned properties as part of MS4 compliance work. The development of the hot spot map would have been developed differently if the goal was to target commercial property, and different assumptions could alter results dramatically. MP noted that the Technical Memo was not meant to be a definite analysis but only a scale to identify an approximate number of parcels the RDA is applicable to. GY asked if MAAM wanted to help

with starting over with the data for the hot spot map.

PV reminded the group that the topic is confusing, and that outreach about what the RDA means would be helpful. All agreed another meeting in the summer to discuss next steps is needed and that smaller communities who are not MAAM members, but would be impacted by the RDA will be encouraged to attend.

7. PTAP CHECK-IN

JH noted that data for each community will be compiled after the end of the permit date. All communities should have non-structural information in the program. The initial report will identify which communities need assistance.

JH noted that a general work session will be held at the end of the month that will focus around non-structural BMPs; the session will be held virtually and will be recorded.

8. Stakeholder comment

EB noted that the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) assists communities with Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) and encourages communities to contact him if they need assistance.

MC asked if Great Bay communities have been successful securing funding for stormwater projects. Many communities have taken advantage of funding opportunities for other infrastructure projects, not necessarily only for stormwater.

SS noted that NHDES has two funding opportunities that will be available next week; 604B planning and Watershed Assistance Grant (319). There is also a meeting on June 28, 2023 regarding the Great Bay 2030 funding.

KA suggested that during the outreach awareness for the RDA to also include information for funding opportunities and a list of resources.

9. Public comment

None

10. Other business

None

11. Schedule next meeting and agenda items

July 13, 2023 at 1pm tentatively at Rochester DPW; will focus primarily on RDA

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12. Adjourned

Motion: SW moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by KA.

Roll call Vote passed as amended 5-0

Adjourned at 11:44 am.