

**MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT
MEMBERS MEETING
MINUTES**

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
 Meeting Location: **City of Portsmouth Department of Public Works, 180 Pevely Hill Road,**
 Remote Location: **Portsmouth NH 03801.**
 Meeting Date: **January 28, 2022**
 Meeting Time: **2:30 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to Order at 2:30 p.m with a quorum of the Members present.

Present:

Members:

Town/City	Representative	In person
Dover	Gretchen Young (GY) Environmental Projects Manager	Yes
Portsmouth	Suzanne Woodland (SW) Acting Deputy City Manager / Deputy City Attorney	Yes
Rochester	Katie Ambrose (KA) Deputy City Manager	Yes
Newington	Denis Messier (DM) Plant Operator	Yes
Exeter	Paul Vlasich (PV) Town Engineer	Yes

Town of Milton and Town of Rollinsford representatives unable to attend.

Non-Members present in person:

Jamie Houle, UNH Stormwater
 Sally Soule, NH DES
 Terry Desmarais, Portsmouth City Engineer
 Hanna Coon

Non-Members Participating Remotely via Zoom included but not limited to:

Kalle Matso, PREP
 Melissa Paly, Waterkeeper
 Ted Diers. NH DES
 James McCarty, Portsmouth GIS Coordinator
 James Steinkrauss, Esq. on behalf of Rochester

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2021 MEETING

Motion by DM and Seconded by SW. PV abstained. All members voting approved.

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3. 6 MONTH REVIEW OF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

GY shared/distributed a spreadsheet to help the members and stakeholders track and discuss ongoing work and compliance with the Adaptive Management Plan (AMP).

K. Matso provided update on the work and upcoming meetings of Piscataqua Region Estuarine Partnership (PREP) Technical Advisory Committee and Piscataqua Region Monitoring Collaborative (PRMC) work. Discussion of Brown & Caldwell continuing involvement on technical water quality input.

K. Matso reports all monitoring and studies identified on spreadsheet on track.

In response to questioning from KA, K. Matso reports that new database is being brought on line for any member of the public to access data collected.

Link for this new database will be provided on MAAM webpage.

<http://data.preestuaries.org:8510/>

Communities are entering data into PTAPP. Exeter, Dover and Portsmouth have added regulations to require applicants/developers to use PTAPP to enter data. Training video is available and will be distributed and posted. <https://youtu.be/Wpi3LdpDKnU>. DM reported on Newington's efforts including catch basin cleaning and pervious payment and follow up discussion on entering data.

Detailed discussion of how PTAPP can help account for changes – strengths, opportunities and limitations. Retrofits should be entered into PTAPP.

GY gave a summary of Rollinsford efforts. Rollinsford implemented stormwater regulations for both MS4 and non-MS4 areas. Catch-basin cleaning and street sweeping being undertaken.

Portsmouth's T. Desmarais provided update on Portsmouth work under AMP, specifically providing updated nitrogen loading numbers from the two wastewater treatment facilities. Portsmouth seeing significant reduction in nitrogen loading, well below permit limits.

KA indicated Rochester still on track for its work. No significant changes since September's update.

GY reported Dover on track. Dover reported receiving funding for clarifier improvements. Dover also received funding for a stormwater project.

GY noted that Exeter received EPA 2021 Operation and Maintenance Excellence Award.

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PV spoke further to Excellence award and the \$53 million in improvements to the Exeter wastewater facility which has delivered water quality benefits including nitrogen reduction.

Exeter committed to one BMP this upcoming year, project cost approximately \$200,000 and estimated to remove 60lbs of nitrogen. Also implementing two media box filters and replacing catch basins (100 over the permit cycle).

Reported on other efforts as well including encouraging residents to adopt better fertilizer practices and like.

Applied for a grant to try to develop a program to incentivize residents to install advance systems septic systems.

PV reported on a recent analysis regarding impact of new housing development adding septic systems on nitrogen loading. Discussion also regarding challenge of private sewer lines that need to be upgraded to reduce inflow and infiltration.

T. Desmarais references recent NEWEA program on septic nitrogen reduction systems. Cost coming down, but implementation and homeowner maintenance is ongoing challenge to address. Continued discussion on topic and question and answer among PV, M. Paly and others regarding septic nitrogen reduction options. One noted challenge, how do towns/cities incentivize homeowners to use these nitrogen reduction systems – hard to invest public funds on/for private property.

DM reports that Newington wastewater facility system providing good performance. Newington also has good redevelopment potential as they have updated stormwater regulations.

Rollinsford efforts reported earlier in meeting.

K.Matso provides update on items related to Eelgrass Resiliency Project and analysis that will have to be undertaken as more data is obtained. There will be discussions with DES on TMDL or other analysis to deal with regulatory aspects. PREP working on next State of the Estuaries Report.

4. DISCUSSION OF MEETING FORMAT/AGENDA

KA introduces discussion about increasing engagement with residents, business owners and other stakeholders and how we may be able to do more outreach. May need more/different forms of public engagement, perhaps a forum rather than a public meeting where the MAAM does business. Discussion of scheduling meetings out farther ahead.

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M. Paly affirms would be helpful to have another way to engage public/stakeholders. Discussion of maybe working with a MAAM representative and Stakeholder group to improve communication.

Hannah Coon is a stakeholder coordinator and offers to participate in a call with GY and M. Paly to discuss.

5. STAKEHOLDER COMMENT

M. Paly has nothing further at this time.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rochester resident emphasizes that it would be good to have another type of stakeholder opportunity for learning and input. Less technical jargon and more high level to get the community

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion of funding opportunities at another meeting due to time.

8. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Members will be held on April 7, 2021 at 10:00 am at the Department of Public Works in Exeter.

9. ADJOURN

Motion: DM moved to adjourn. Seconded by KA. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 4:13 PM

Prepared by: Suzanne Woodland, Acting Deputy City Manager / Deputy City Attorney

Task	Timing	Authority	Responsible Party	Status	Comment
Stakeholder Engagement: PRMC participation, Recommendations from PREP TAC, Committee convened by CLF	continually	AMP a.2	PREP	On track	Next PRMC meeting scheduled for June 2022.
Nutrient load estimating	Annual	AMP a.2	PREP	On track	Assessment through 2020 published as part of State of Our Estuaries. First drafts due in April 2022.
Water quality monitoring samples - eight tributaries	March - December Annually	AMP a.2	PREP	On track	
Water quality monitoring samples - 12 stations	April - December Annually	AMP a.2	PREP	On track	
Eelgrass distribution Assessment	Tier 1 - 2021	AMP a.2	PREP	On track	Assessment through 2021 published as part of State of our Estuaries. First drafts due in April 2022.
Tier 2 Eelgrass monitoring system - Water quality and sediment monitoring, seaweed measurement, percent of organic matter and grain size of sediment	Starting 2021	AMP a.2	PREP	On track	Assessment of 2021 complete by May 2022.
Green Crabs Monitoring	Continually	AMP a.2	PREP	On track	Assessment through 2021 published as part of State of our Estuaries Extended Report. First drafts due in October 2022.
River Discharge Measurements - Current analysis only/ ongoing consideration	Continually	AMP a.2	PREP	On track	
Evaluate collected data to assess relationships between potential eelgrass stressors and metrics of eelgrass health.	Continually	AMP a.2	PREP	On track	
Append data to prior monitoring by PREP	Continually	AMP a.2	PREP	On track	
Broad access to data through PREP	Continually	AMP a.2	PREP	On track	Alpha-version of database available.
Public access to data through Prep	2022	AMP a.2	PREP	On track	Public announcement as part of SOOE in December 2022.
Municipalities entering data in PTAP for Municipal structural and non-structural BMP's	continually	AMP b.1	Municipality	On track	
Municipalities entering data in PTAP for Private structural and non-structural BMP's	continually	AMP b.1	Municipality (may be done through approval process by applicant)	On track	4 active municipalities. Funding approved for added assistance in communities where PTAP is not being implemented. Also having individual meetings with consultants and other users.
Use of PTAP - structural measures	Continually	AMP b.1	UNHSC/NHDES	On track	Using structural credits developed by EPA
Use of PTAP - non-structural measures	Continually	AMP b.2	UNHSC/NHDES	On track	This has been done for street sweeping and CB cleaning. The BATT can be updated with other non-structural BMP credits
Use of PTAP - land conversion	Continually	AMP b.3	UNHSC/NHDES	On track	Using land use cross walk developed for hotspot maps
Use of PTAP - septic system	Continually	AMP b.4	UNHSC/NHDES	On track	
Accounting using BATT	continually	AMP b.5	UNHSC/NHDES	On track	UNHSC continues to coordinate with US EPA R1 staff to incorporate BATT tools with PTAP
Long term nitrogen tracking - Thematic mapping	every 5 years	AMP b.2	UNHSC/NHDES	On track	This can be done for all communities that enter data into PTAP for structural and non-structural BMPs. Report will compare progress to other benchmarks developed for the region.
Program development and technical assistance for tracking activities	Continually	AMP b.2	UNHSC/NHDES	On track	Data input training and database refresher workshop for PTAP end users held Oct. 27, 2021 - over 30 PTAP users participated; UNHSC and NHDES evaluating needs and planning for 2022 PTAP workgroup meetings and technical workshops
Overall Source Reduction (Portsmouth - 22.75% TN Load)	Continually with updates in September	AMP c.2 and Appendix D & CLF Settlement Agreement	Municipality	On track - as outlined in full in September	Amazing performance at new plant, new BMPs function well etc.
Overall Source Reduction (Rochester - 18.17% TN Load)	Continually with updates in September	AMP c.2 and Appendix D & CLF Settlement Agreement	Municipality	On track - as outlined in full in September	
Overall Source Reduction (Dover - 15.32% TN Load)	Continually with updates in September	AMP c.2 and Appendix D & CLF Settlement Agreement	Municipality	On track - as outlined in full in September	Currently received ARPA grant funding and CWSRF loan for design of large BMP in Henry Law Park and additional secondary clarifier
Overall Source Reduction (Exeter - 9.72% TN Load)	Continually	Individual AMP	Municipality	On track	WWTP recipient of the EPA 2021 Operation & Maintenance Excellence Award
Overall Source Reduction (Newington 1.38% TN Load)	Continually	AMP c.2 and Appendix D	Municipality	On track	Implemented SWA regulations for New and Redevelopment (not an MS4 community).
Overall Source Reduction (Rollinsford 1.1% TN Load)	Continually	AMP c.2 and Appendix D	Municipality	On track	Implemented SWA regulations for New and Redevelopment in entire town (not just MS4 area).
Overall Source Reduction (Milton 1.01% TN Load)	Continually	AMP c.2 and Appendix D	Municipality	On track	Working with consultant on MS4 and Nitrogen reduction plan.
Create "translator" model to equate loads to concentrations	Nov-24	AMP d.2	PREP	On track	Foundation for this provided by Eelgrass Resilience Project (2021 through 2024). Additional work will be required after project end.
Improve understanding of potential eelgrass stressors	Nov-24	AMP d.2	PREP	On track	Continuing as planned through PREP work as well as Eelgrass Resilience project (see above).
Data Collection	Nov-24	AMP d.2	PREP	On track	
conduct stressor response analysis to move toward a process-based ecosystem model		AMP d.2	PREP	On track	The stressor-response analysis is the Eelgrass Resilience project. See above.
provide recommendations regarding studied stressors, eelgrass, health in the estuary, and potential management actions or target thresholds		AMP d.2	PREP	On track	Recommendations will be in the "So What" report. Target thresholds may need to wait for completion of Row 26 after completion of Eelgrass Resilience Project.
Develop 5-year monitoring and data analysis plan	2021-2022; 2025-2026	AMP e.2	PREP	On track	
Monitor & scientific Studies	2024-2025	AMP e.2	PREP	On track	
Synthesis and interpretation of first term monitoring	2023-2025	AMP e.2	PREP	On track	
Proposal: Restoration planning approach	2024	AMP e.2	NHDES	Not begun	This task will begin as data emerges from the UNH Eelgrass stressor modeling project.
Reach consensus on restoration planning approach	2025	AMP e.2	NHDES & all	Not begun	
Modeling/technical analysis to support restoration plan	2025-2028	AMP e.2	PREP	Not begun	
Draft restoration plan	2028-2029	AMP e.2	NHDES	Not begun	
Final restoration plan	2030	AMP e.2	NHDES	Not begun	