

Watertown Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) minutes

January 20, 2022 4:00 PM @ Virtually

In attendance: Steve Magoon, , Janet Buck (Chair), Laurel Schwab, Matt Shuman, Cambria Ung.

Visitors: David Gardner

I. **Welcome :** Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM

II. **Discussions / Actions**

A. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the October 2021 meeting were approved.

III. **Reports/ Status Updates**

A. **Committee membership:** Cambria is officially sworn in. Nick Haddad waiting for his application to be reviewed. David Gardener expressed interest as well.

B. **MS4 Permit: Bottom line – we have 15 years to reduce phosphorous loading by 1500lbs/year. This is Year 4. In Year 5, we need a 15 year plan, but it is hard to predict EPA policy changes and the amount of redevelopment we expect here. Also, the CRWA Phosphorous Control Plan will offer additional activities. Matt feels like the towns need more direction on how to get to the goals.**

Matt presented a PowerPoint outlining the work on the permit to date. It should be visible on our website. (<https://www.watertowndpw.org/162/NPDESProgram>).

Of the areas to be addressed, highlights:

1. Public Education - Good presence at Faire on the Square, leaflets in mailings
2. Public participation – SAC met 4 times, added members
3. IDDE Program – Continued manhole testing and investigations, resuming building inspections (stopped for Covid), continue to line open joint clay sewer pipes w/pvc liner, mapping BMP's. All CB's cleaned once. Will do 600 supplemental cleanings in the spring for CB's that had high levels of sediment.

Matt wondered if these were located more in curbed or uncurbed streets.

4. Construction Site Runoff Management – conducted 27 site plan reviews, 73 inspections, updated SW rules & regs. Specifically, reduced req's for smaller projects (<500SF) and upgraded permit app to include written certificate of compliance.
5. Post Construction SW Management - almost 6 lbs phosphorous estimated removed.

Janet asked whether we knew which was a bigger contributor to phosphorous runoff – cross contamination between sewer and water lines, or runoff from streets and parking lots. We really don't have an answer to this. At this point, it is difficult to incentivize property owners to add filtration systems unless they are doing major redevelopment. Particle separators that were required 20 years ago don't address phosphorous. And the EPA only credits certain types of filtration systems.

- C. **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant:** Laurel has drafted two community ambassadors. There may be a walk in the spring. Janet has not had success coordinating this with Live Well Watertown, but Laurel will try to reach out to them. Weston & Sampson has created a map of equity areas and an urban heat island assessment. They are moving in on selecting three potential green streets and locations for tree trenches.

The expression of interest for the next round is due Feb. 1. The obvious idea would be to ask for funding to move above items forward.

- D. **Climate Action Plan Updates:** Laurel : Input collected from stakeholder groups is being sent to the consultant tomorrow. A draft plan should be ready for public review in mid February.

IV. Discussion / Actions:

A. **Other Outreach Activities:**

1. **Live Well Watertown Walk:** In past years, the SAC had tried to lead a Green Infrastructure Walk with Live Well Watertown. Janet contacted Stephanie and the possibility of a walk for this fall. Time and duration will depend on who is attending. It's in her court now. 1/27– Laurel will approach as part of grant activities
2. **Annual Report to Town Council:** Matt has sent his presentation to Mike Driscoll. Next Tuesday is his last Council meeting before he retires. Probably ought to wait until new manager is hired.
3. **Dam Removal:** Laurel met with the CRWA regarding the removal of the dam. They are looking for support from the town bodies, perhaps the Conservation Commission. Follow up – should the SAC draft a letter of support ?

Announcements

Next Meeting Feb 17 at 4:00

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM