

## Watertown Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) minutes

January 19, 2023 4:00 PM @ Virtually

---

**In attendance:** Janet Buck (Chair), Nick Haddad, Steve Magoon, Matt Shuman, Katie Swan – Planning Dept., Cambria Ung.

**Visitors:** David Gardner, Nancy Hammett, Jaurice Schwartz (Weston & Sampson)

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

II. **Discussions / Actions**

A. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the August 2022 meeting were approved. Motion by Steve and seconded by Matt.

III. **Reports/ Status Updates**

A. **Committee membership:** Nick Haddad is now a member although he has not been technically, officially informed. Janet raised the possibility of getting the Watertown Business Coalition involved, as a member or offering a presentation.

B. **Other Grants Status:** The CRWA received a grant of \$68,000 from the State for updating land use and impervious area data. Watertown has also received \$240,000 for more tree trenches. Thank you Katherine Clark and Will Brownsberger.

C. **MS4 Permit: Matt: Matt was joined by Jaurice Schwartz of Weston and Sampson for this update.**

1. This is year 5 of the 2016 MS4 permit.– Phase 1 of the Phosphorus Control Plan is due June 30, 2023, which is implemented over years 6 through 10. The full PCP Must be implemented by 2038.
2. Watertown is 49% impervious.
3. Phosphorus is a pollutant of concern for the Charles River. Phosphorus levels in the river, in conjunction with warm, dry weather, can lead to cyanobacteria blooms and fish kills.
4. TMDL = Total Maximum Daily Load. It defines the acceptable level of pollutants. The MS4 is the vehicle for the implementation of TDML limits.
5. Per the MS4, we are required to achieve a 62% total phosphour (TP) load reduction from 2005 levels. *Implementation of the PCP, ie. credits are based on formulas rather than actual measurements.*
6. Non-structural BMPs that property owners are responsible for include the proper disposal of yard waste, limitations on the use of phosphate containing fertilizers, pet waste management.

7. Non-structural BMPs that the city handles are street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, leaf litter removal, and monitoring O&M on private property.
8. There was further discussion of how to require private property owners to document their compliance with their O&Ms.
9. Jaurice said that other clients are using ARPA funds for BMPs. Janet asked if we were planning to request ARPA funds for any specific projects. Matt was not aware of how the City is spending ARPA funds, but the City has been working on collaborative requests with other municipalities through grant proposals and earmarks (noted above).
10. There was a discussion of directly connected impervious area, how it is measured, and how it is incorporated into the MS4 permit.

IV. **Discussion / Actions:**

A. **Other Outreach Activities:**

1. **Stormwater Walks**– Nancy Hammett is part of a Riverside Neighborhood group that might be interested in sponsoring a walk. Will follow up with Janet.
2. **Flyers with RE Tax or Water Bills** – Nick described flyers that go out in Boston, which look to be very instructive and readable. Matt stated that this has been discussed before and the sense was folks do not read them and there is a cost associated with it. He noted that the City includes inserts with the quarterly tax bills and that the City uses that as a vehicle to send out messages and meet MS4 requirements. He also noted the City's use of social media for educational messages. After the meeting, Nick sent an example.
3. **Other Grant Opportunities for Education** – Nick asked about education grants, and Matt said that they generally come via the Watershed groups, like the CWRA. As a follow up, Nick will speak with an MWRA educator.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45PM

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Buck, Chair.