

Watertown Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) minutes

March 23, 2023 4:00 PM @ Virtually

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

Visitors: Nancy Hammett

Welcome : Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM

I. Discussions / Actions

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the January 2023 meeting were approved. Motion by Steve and seconded by Matt.

II. Reports/ Status Updates

A. Committee membership: Nick Haddad has withdrawn. Nancy Hammett is considering re-entry. She made a pitch for the SAC to revisit goals and agenda. As a founding member of the SAC, Nancy reviewed the original goals of the committee. The focus was on writing stormwater ordinances, which has been completed. Looking ahead, we have new challenges: Getting to year 5 of the MS4; New MS4 permit coming; New SW management handbook coming; need for community engagement to reduce the TDML/Phosphorous levels. The SAC is the only group in Watertown focused on water. The other environmental organizations are more focused on energy.

B. Other Grants Status: No updates

C. MS4 Permit - Matt:

1. Matt has worked with the IT dept to get messaging out on social media. DPW has a Twitter account and Watertown has a Facebook page. This includes info on pet waste and on the Edenfield Ave. tree trenches.
2. There will be an insert in the quarterly tax bill regarding grass cuttings disposal and fertilizer use.
3. Matt did a presentation to the WHS Environmental Club and is in contact with their advisor for future collaborations. Janet will also get involved.
4. A brochure has been sent to gas stations and UPS for outreach (bad notes – can you remind me what this means?)
5. The MWRA has sent an email to 35 landscaping companies regarding phosphorous use. They are legally exempt from restrictions.
6. On March 29 there will be a Watertown Community Gardens meeting re care of planting strips and bump outs. The link is <https://watertowncommunitygardens.wildapricot.org/event-5126393>

D. Community Outreach Efforts:

1. Riverside Neighborhood Group: Nancy has been working with a local neighborhood group in an effort to bring together new generation of residents and activate the community. They are planning a “Spring Fling” on the weekend of Earth Day (Sun April 23). Janet is planning to attend. There may be interest in following up with a walk to look at good green infrastructure projects, and sites where it would be needed. Laurel has also talked with Stephanie about this as part of Live Well Watertown.
2. Schools – Janet will reach out to the middle school to see if there is interest in doing the 7th grade stormwater walk again.
3. Hosmer and Cuniff – Matt will reach out to see if the CRWA is available to repeat the 5th grade event they have sponsored in the past.
4. Reaching out to make presentations to Watertown Forward and/or Community Chats, with a “get to know Watertown’s environmental efforts” theme.
5. Same for new residents in new housing developments. Same for church groups. Table at the Farmers Market. Lots of material is already available to use from DPW.
6. Simple intro that addresses questions like “Where does the rain go and why does it matter?” “Why are they always opening up the streets?”

- E. Potential SAC Activities:** Matt shared a list of potential SAC activities including partnerships/Coordination; Education/Outreach; and Technical/Review. Everyone should review it and let us all know if there is a particular activity(s) that you would like to follow up on.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00PM

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Buck, Chair.