

Watertown Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) minutes

February 15, 2024 4:00 PM @ Virtually

In attendance: Janet Buck (Chair), Steve Magoon, Katie Swan , Cambria Ung, Nancy Hammett, Tyler Glode

Visitors: Mike Albano - DPW

- I. **Welcome :** Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM
- II. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**
The minutes from the December 2023 meeting were approved.
- III. **Reports/ Status Updates**
 - A. **Committee membership:** Nancy Hammett is now an official member again. The committee still has room for one more resident member. Nancy will reach out to Mass Rivers to see if they have any Watertown members we could contact. Janet expressed her hope that she could step away from being the chair soon.
 - B. **Other Grants Status:** Tyler had a good meeting with Laurel Schwab to look into opportunities for MVP grants.
 - C. **MS4 Permit: Tyler:** The process is moving along. First quarterly report is due on March 1. Testing samples have come back with no red flags. He is updating the website to reflect this status.
 - D. **Community Outreach Efforts:**
 1. Watertown High School Outreach (copied from last month – no change in status)– Janet made a presentation to the WHS AP Environmental Science class. She was joined by Laurie Soave who is the construction manager for Vertex at the high school. She learned that some of the reasons working against stormwater management on that site are shallow groundwater and poor soil quality. There is a lot of fill, resulting in less opportunity for infiltration. Tyler gave an overview of the issues at the site. DPW worked with the designers to develop a modified tree trench design. The site is expected to achieve 91% phosphorous removal.
 2. Nancy is interested in pursuing meeting with neighborhood groups such as the Riverside Neighborhood Action Group, Watertown Community Conversations, broadening the audience for the April 20 Clean-up. Cambria added that Matt had circulated outreach suggestions.
 3. Also planning to do the annual 7th grade stormwater walk along the river in June.

- E. **Mass Rivers Alliance webinar re Financing Future BMP's: Nancy & Cambria** – At this point, we don't know what we will need or how much we will need for it. The action step is public outreach so the issues are understood.
- F. **DEP Stormwater Handbook – Cambria** - This largely provides guidance to the Conservation Commission for wetlands protection. It came out in December and is 860 pages long. The comment period has been extended to April 30. DEP has posted the changes on their website. Does the SAC want to write a review letter ? Tyler feels we are way ahead of the pack, with tighter regulations. Tyler will write a letter, and the SAC can write one that states we agree with his assessment. The size and frequency of rainfall events are catching up with us and need to be kept in sight. Janet noted that results might impact the zoning regulations regarding setbacks. Steve noted that meeting the phosphorus regs will be a challenge.
- G. **Environmental Business Council Webinar: Cambria** – The target audience was beginning professionals. There were two main presenters – a high level overview of the MS4 by the CRWA and an update on it by the EPA.

New Business / Future Agenda Items:

- A. **Charles River Clean-up** – Janet and Nancy will reach out to local organizations to broaden participation.
- B.
The meeting was adjourned at 4:55PM

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Buck, Chair.