

Watertown Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) minutes

April 17, 2025 4:00 PM - Virtual

In attendance: Nancy Hammett (Chair), Steve Magoon, Tyler Glode, Katie Swan, Warren Tolman, and Joseph Ganno

Absent: Thalia Akoi, Laurel Schwab

Visitor: David Stokes

1. Welcome: Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the April 17, 2025 Stormwater Advisory Committee meeting were approved – all in favor.

3. Brief Reports / Status Updates

Nancy noted the numerous public outreach & education opportunities coming up in April, May & June. Will want to know how the SAC members can contribute to these efforts. Nancy requested information on what city staff are responsible for and should be contacted for various opportunities.

4. MVP grant update

- Tyler and Laurel have been leading the efforts on O&E on the MVP grants, with Laurel taking the lead role on public education. Have coordinated with CRWA and MyRWA on education resources.
- Proceeding on the design work: survey work has been accepted,
- MVP Grant 1: have approved projects for Dexter and Templeton. Will be constructed this spring. No future match is required for this grant.
- MVP Grant 2: projects focus on Terrace & flooding of the Community Bikeway. Focus on capturing upstream flow (first flush), reworking existing SW features.
- O&E designed to engage the public, encourage involvement and increase general understanding.
- To date, to meet the match required, we have done:
 - River walk with middle school students – has a significant impact
 - A BMP cleaning session with some high school students
 - A walk through with Natick focusing on operating & maintaining systems
- In planning O&E, important to focus on the specific goals of the MVP-funded projects. Focus on vulnerable populations. Many BMPs are structural because of the large volume of water that has to be captured.
- Laurel will lead on planning education over the next few months. Nancy will meet with her to review how the SAC might help.

5. Future Outreach and Education Planning Opportunities

7th grade Stormwater Walk

- Waiting to hear back from the middle school; still using materials that were developed 10 years ago
- Proposed date: End of May to early June
- 10 years ago, David coordinated with the WMS to do a stormwater talk and walk. The teachers have taken on the presentation and David continues with the walk, Between 4 and 6 SAC members and other “experts” have joined past walks, and this need continues.
- David will share the presentation he prepared 10 years ago, which the teachers are still using. The presentation and the bingo sheet used on the walk may need updating.
- It would help to have “experts” who will join the tour do a pre-walk of the route

Charles River Cleanup – Sat. April 26 10 am - noon

- Opportunity to display outreach materials at a table.
- Warren helped start and expand the coverage of this event years ago.
- Nancy will attend this year to set up a stormwater table.

Resilient Watertown EcoFest - Sat. May 10 11 am – 2 pm

- SAC can host a table EcoFest at the Commander’s Mansion CRWA and MyRWA will also be there.
- Laurel is in charge of this event.

Faire on the Square - Sat. Sept 13

- DPW has supplies (rubber duckies, fishing rods, map of the stormwater system, etc) and we could borrow the panorama from CRWA.

Future MVP grant outreach & education

- Starting to plan block parties in June- the one for Cottage street/RPT will be on June 8th

Other possible events:

- Touch a Truck events – will continue. No date currently set.
- Coordinate with the fall Life-Friendly Garden Walk.

Promoting rain barrels

- DPW has available for sale

- Use as fallen off in recent years – might be good to promote at the EcoFest and other events. They are advertised in the city tax notices. Also ask our reps (Brownsberger, Owens) to promote in their newsletters.
- DPW has a small rain barrel that might be displayed at EcoFest and elsewhere.

6. Announcements

- Public Hearing on draft revised Massachusetts MS4 Permit Public Hearing - May 7, 7 pm.
- Upcoming EBC webinar – [EBC 3rd Annual Stormwater Summit - The Challenges of Managing Stormwater in a Changing World - Environmental Business Council of New England, Inc.](#) to be held on May 2, 2025 in Natick.
- DPW Touch a Truck event (will continue – date TBD)

7. Next SAC meeting: May 15, 2025 4 PM

8. Adjourn