



City of Watertown
Department of Public Works
Department of Community Development and Planning
Stormwater Committee

Stormwater Committee Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, May 28, 2026
Location: Remote participation only on Zoom
In Attendance: Nancy Hammett, Sean Harrington, and Katie Swan
Absent: Warren Tolman
Visitors: None

Meeting commenced at 4:00 pm. Hammett chaired the meeting and took roll call.

1. Approval of Minutes

- A. November 20, 2025 minutes were approved.
- B. February 19, 2026 minutes were approved.

2. Brief Reports/Status Updates

- A. Status of SAC resident member recruiting:
 - Hammett reported that a candidate had been recommended for appointment and could become a committee member soon.
 - Discussion included outreach strategies, personal recruitment efforts, and improving public awareness of committee activities to attract volunteers.
- B. City staff SAC members/roles:
 - The committee has struggled to maintain a quorum, resulting in several postponed meetings.
 - A new DPW representative, Sean Harrington, introduced himself as the Assistant Director of Public Utilities, overseeing water, sewer, and drainage operations.
 - Swan clarified her continuing role as staff support representing Community Development and Planning.
 - Discussion focused on clarifying staff representation and updating membership records and website information.
- C. Status of Copeland Street and ongoing Stormwater Management Projects: tabled

3. General Business

- A. City Administrative code – status and effect on SAC:
 - Discussion focused on new administrative requirements, including:
 - Election of officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk).
 - Annual reporting obligations
 - Meeting procedures
 - Record keeping responsibilities

- Compliance with Open Meeting Law requirements
- B. Brief overview of past SAC activities:
- Monitoring and Reporting
 - a. Nancy noted that the committee previously:
 - i. Tracked stormwater monitoring data
 - ii. Publicized water quality results
 - iii. Reviewed permit waivers and ordinance implementation
 - Hammett shared information about stormwater program performance with residents. Participants discussed restoring greater transparency and public access to this information.
- C. Discussion of future SAC roles, activities, and operating methods:
- a. Operations: tabled
 - b. Outreach activities:
 - Seventh-Grade Stormwater Walk
 - Swan shared that the annual seventh-grade stormwater walk is planned for June.
 - The event will continue the long-standing educational program that introduces students to stormwater infrastructure and green infrastructure practices.
 - Committee members expressed interest in participating and supporting the event.
 - Members discussed past and future outreach opportunities, including:
 - Presentations to neighborhood groups and businesses.
 - Participation in community events such as EcoFest and Fair on the Square.
 - Collaboration with several non-profit environmental organizations.
 - Increased public education about flooding, drought, and stormwater management.
 - Youth Engagement
 - Discussion emphasized the value of involving students and youth organizations.
 - Members noted that educational efforts can influence household behavior and increase community awareness of stormwater issues.
 - c. Current and future Watertown stormwater policies:

- Members discussed inviting the City's stormwater consultant to present:
 - Monitoring results.
 - Regulatory updates.
 - Program performance.
 - Future compliance requirements.

- Flooding and Drought
 - Increasing concerns about both flooding and drought conditions.
 - Need for greater public education and planning.
 - Major Development Projects

- Potential committee involvement was discussed regarding:
 - Watertown Square redevelopment.
 - Walker Pond improvements.
 - DCR riverfront park projects.
 - Green infrastructure investments and funding opportunities.

- Members emphasized the importance of providing informed public information about stormwater impacts associated with these projects.

4. **Announcements**

A. Next meeting: June 18, 2026 at 4 pm

B. Stormwater Walk with the Watertown Middle School on June 10, 2026

5. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm

Minutes submitted by Katie Swan