

Watertown Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) minutes

~~August 18,~~ December 21, 2023~~2~~ 4:00 PM @ Virtually

In attendance: Janet Buck (Chair), Steve Magoon, ~~Matt Shuman,~~ Cambria Ung, Tyler Glode, Katie Swan

Visitors: ~~David Gardner, Nancy Hammett, David Gardner~~ Nick Haddad

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

II. ~~Discussions / Actions:~~

III. ~~Approval of Meeting Minutes:~~

The minutes from the ~~March~~ September 2023~~2022~~ meeting were approved. The committee is meeting Tyler Glode for the first time.

I. ~~_____~~

IV. ~~II.~~ Reports/ Status Updates

A. Committee membership: ~~Nick Haddad is scheduled for an interview. David Gardner expressed interest as well. He has a background in electrical engineering. There are currently three positions open. Nancy Hammett is interviewing for one.~~ David has been participating but not yet sure he's interested in membership.

A.B. Grants Status:

1. DPW is chasing the usual grant opportunities. Tyler welcomes info about any others. Nancy mentioned that she is on the Board of Mass Rivers and can meet with Tyler to look at other potential grants she becomes aware of. One is a USDA grant.
2. Tree trenches with infiltration measures are in process, with a number along Mt. Auburn Street.

B.C. MS4 Permit : Tyler has submitted the updates MS4 and met with DEP representatives.

No substantive comments received. ~~• Matt shared a slide show that described the addition of an infiltration system at Sawins Street, off Cottage Street. Photos are included under separate cover. Janet asked how it came to be installed, especially in this location. Matt explained that it came from ARPA funds, obtained by way of our state senator and rep. This area was selected because it was upgradient of the DCR Greenway, which floods in heavy rains, had good sandy soil and a low water table.~~

1. There are two locations that suggest a leak in the sanitary sewer nearby.

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2. We still need to remove more phosphorous, but are doing well – quite ahead of the curve compared to other towns. Tyler noted that the goals are high. Cambria asked if he could circulate the phosphorus control plan.
3. Tyler is planning to update the website ASAP.
4. David asked how much a typical tree trench removes. Tyler said 0.5 – 1.0 lb. Average about .6. Each one costs \$30-50,000.
5. Cambria said that the [new](#) draft of the [MS4 Residual Designation \(RD\) Permit](#) should be out in September.
6. There was some discussion re non-green infrastructure remedies. Tyler warned of the danger of sinkholes around them. Many are made of corrugated metal pipe which has a limited lifespan. He also noted the “jellyfish units” are not acceptable under the MS4.

- Matt said that we are getting close to meeting the 5-year target for phosphorous removal. This is partly by virtue of the amount of private development happening during this period. Tracking Operation and Maintenance for private properties will be an ongoing challenge.
- David asked if we could use BMPs on private properties to divert roadway runoff or runoff from other properties. Matt responded that it is possible (66 Galen is doing this) but there are liability reasons why property owners and their insurance companies might object.
- Nick asked if salt control is part of the permit, and Matt replied that there are no numerical limits (TMDLs) on salt for the Charles, but other watersheds do have requirements.

D. Community Outreach Efforts: - Janet

1. 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. Tyle 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. [Reaching out to make presentations to Watertown Forward and/or Community Chats, with a “get to know Watertown’s environmental efforts” theme. 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. Simple intro that addresses questions like “Where](#)

does the rain go and why does it matter?" "Why are they always opening up the streets?"

3. Also planning to do the annual 7th grade stormwater walk along the river.

E. New Business / Discussions:

1. Janet raised a question about the water filtration product that was sent around via email. No feedback from anyone. It was the first impression of a few that it was mainly for use in construction sites. But it could also be used for selective private sites such as large parking lots near the river. Hopefully we could discuss this in more detail next time after people read it.
2. BMP's at Schools – David raised the question whether these BMPs, already in place for the new schools, can be expanded to accommodate other adjacent sites. Janet suggested talking to David Stokes who is very involved in the school construction.
3. Question – will we be looking at a utility fee down the road ? DPW needs to compile a list of upcoming capital projects, burdens and costs in order to justify it, if it is indeed needed. And potential sources of grants to offset fees.
4. Janet has expressed the desire to step down from being the chair of the committee. Too many other pressing commitments at this time. Since the chair must be a resident member, we can wait until a new member is added to elect a new chair.

Commented [CU1]: I don't remember discussing these topics at the Dec meeting (looks like copied from old notes). BMP at high school discussion is covered above.

F. Next Meeting: Proposed for January 18, 2024.

C. — Climate Action Plan Updates: The plan was unanimously approved by the City Council

IV. — Discussion / Actions:

A. — Other Outreach Activities:

1. Stormwater Walk – Live Well Watertown – Janet spoke with Stephanie. They are aware that we are available, but currently have other priorities.
2. Watertown Public Schools – Nick will plan on talking with one of the teachers from WMS.
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.

C. — Faire on the Square – September 24

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a. ~~— A table has been reserved~~

b. ~~— Able to Attend: Janet, Nick, David Gardner, possibly DPW intern, David Stokes~~

c. ~~— Not Able To Attend: Cambria, Matt,~~

~~Announcements~~

~~Next Meeting September 15 at 4:00 IF NEEDED~~

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Buck, Chair.
