MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT
MEMBERS MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting Type:	**Members' Meeting**
Meeting Location:	**Town of Exeter, Exeter Public Library, Meeting Room**
Remote Location:	**https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIscOmtqzIoG9YWnFu8S-l802ZQHoSoHP52**
Meeting Date:	**April 4, 2022**
Meeting Time:	**10:00 a.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to Order at 10:00 a.m. with a quorum of the Members present.

Present:

Members:

Town/City	Representative	In person
Dover	Gretchen Young Environmental Projects Manager	Yes
Portsmouth	Suzanne Woodland Deputy City Manager	Yes
Rochester	Katie Ambrose Deputy City Manager	Yes
Exeter	Jennifer Perry Public Works Director	Yes
Milton	Chris Jacobs Town Administrator	Yes
Rollinsford	Raymond McNeil W&S Superintendent	No

Town of Newington representative unable to attend.

Non-Members Participating In Person:
Terry Desmarais, Portsmouth City Engineer
Paul Vlasich, Exeter Town Engineer
Melissa Paly, CLF Waterkeeper
Mel Cote, EPA Region I
Danielle Gaito, EPA Region I
Mark Vorhees, EPA Region I
Ted Diers, NHDES
Sally Soule, NHDES
Jamie Houle, UNHSWC

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Non-Members Participating Remotely via Zoom:
Erik Beck, EPA Region 1
Abdulrahman Ragab, EPA Region 1
Deb Loiselle, NHDES
Tom Swenson, NHDES
Kalle Matso, PREP
Miguel Leon, UNH/PREP
Clifton Bell, Brown & Caldwell
Rene Bourdeau, GeoSyntec
Jim Steinkrauss, Rath, Young & Pignatelli
Hannah Coon, Archipelago Law
Diana McNabb, Portsmouth, Stakeholder Committee
Costikyan Jarvis, Dover resident
Josh D.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2022 MEETING

Motion: Motion by SW to accept Regular Meeting Minutes. Seconded by KA. RM abstained. All members voting unanimously approved.

3. COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS INITIATIVES

G. Young distributed the 2-page "Great Bay Community Conversations, A Proposal from the Stakeholder Committee of the MAAM" dated March 23, 2022. M. Paly introduced the proposal to engage and inform the public via a series of community events. C. Jarvis voiced concerns about educating people in 45 minutes on the problems on nitrogen in the watershed; it's complicated and difficult and has potential for misinformation. M. Paly agreed it is enormously complex but in her experience it is possible to connect people at a high level. G. Young suggested more in-depth workshops could be held in the future as another outlet. S. Woodland stated another value to the community conversations is having the host community speak to their efforts. Zoom meeting recording started at 10:22 a.m. K. Ambrose stated the goal is to focus on what it is and why it matters. M. Paly thanked all for sharing their concerns, will be mindful and start as soon as possible.

4. STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE PILOT PROJECT UPDATE

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G. Young distributed the 3-page "Draft Proposal, Septic System Retrofit Pilot Project in the Great Bay Watershed" dated April 4, 2022. M. Paly provided an overview of the proposal. She and the Stakeholder Committee have looked into innovative retrofits to septic systems to improve performance and nitrogen reduction. Septic systems are a significant contribution to the nitrogen problem; approximately 1/3 of the non-point source nitrogen load comes from the tens of thousands of septic systems in the watershed. Although each septic system is a small component, the cumulative impact of all septic systems is huge. The plan is not to test efficacy, but to explore questions whether this could work for property owners, discover logistical constraints, usefulness at scale, owner willingness to pay for maintenance and inspection, what happens during power loss, etc. Goal is to retrofit 10 residential septic systems in two different communities.

C. Jacobs asked if this is a proven technology. M. Paly answered yes, SludgeHammer has been used successfully. It is essentially a canister with aerobic bacteria and an aeration system; it extends the life of a conventional septic system and reduces nutrients. On average it costs $4,500/household, $150/year for annual inspection. C. Jacobs asked if NHDES Subsurface Systems Bureau has been involved. T. Diers isn't familiar with this specific product, but this appears to be an aftermarket device and may not need approval; he will confirm. M. Paly pointed out that Rob Roseen had listed this as a potential alternative when reviewing the feasibility of the GBTNGP at a cost of about $500/pound nitrogen removed. T. Desmarais pointed out that last fall NEWEA reviewed alternative systems; technology selection could have an effect on results of the study.

K. Jarvis asked how many units in a given river would need to be installed to see or measure reduction of nitrogen in river or Great Bay. M. Paly noted they aren't proposing to spend money on monitoring water quality. T. Diers reminded that it takes years for TN reduction to manifest in groundwater; it could take decades to get to rivers and Great Bay.

C. Jacobs said the question to answer is, is this something home owners are willing to participate in and continue into the future. Are they willing to pay additional electricity, dig up lawn to expose covers for inspection, pay for inspection? Is this as viable compared to extending municipal sewer to shoreland septic systems?

P. Vlasich referred to research question #5 (What is the average cost per pound of nitrogen reduced from septic system retrofit technology?) If proven technology, we should have this now to remove loads in Great Bay.

S. Woodland asked if approval is being sought from MAAM or the Dover, Portsmouth and Rochester agreement. M. Paly asked if MAAM is willing to support to know whether to continue to develop. S. Woodland the decision can be made through the MAAM Executive Board.

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5. INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION WITH EPA NON-POINT SOURCE DEPARTMENT

G. Young asked to move up Agenda Item #8. Motion made by S. Woodland. Seconded by C. Jacobs; unanimous in favor.

Mel Cote, EPA Chief of Surface Water Protection Branch, introduced members of the EPA team in attendance including Danielle Gaito, Mark Vorhees and Abdulrahman Ragab in the stormwater permits branch and Erik Beck, water policy specialist assisting the NH region and PREP. Mel and the EPA team are very interested in the progress being made by MAAM and in the Great Bay Total Nitrogen General Permit. It is an historic opportunity for this innovative permit and Mel stated "If you succeed, we succeed." EPA is more than willing to share their knowledge and management experience from other areas including the Charles River watershed, Cape Cod and Long Creek Watershed

6. MEMBER COMMUNITY REVIEW OF CLF LETTER TO EPA

M. Paly explained the purpose of the letter was at this 1 year mark is to encourage EPA ongoing engagement and feedback to assure real progress. Communities did a great job in short order, but the approach is a bit scattered and wants consistent means of measuring progress. G. Young agrees no one wants to get to year 5 without feedback and significant progress. As part of the agreement between Dover, Portsmouth and Rochester with CLF, they will be reviewing the work completed at the 1 year mark in July and reporting out in September; suggested other communities would benefit from doing similar report out.

7. PTAP

J. Houle provided an update on PTAP use and reporting. The tool has been developed to take the annual report and import into EPA's BATT. They have been working closely with Exeter, Portsmouth, Dover, and now Rochester. They will be moving forward working with smaller communities, starting with Milton and Rollinsford. Newington is next for hotspot mapping and PTAP use. J. Houle also called out potential for significant nitrogen reductions through enhanced sweeping and fall leaf collection; they are working on appropriate credits for these BMPs. M. Voorhees acknowledged those current credits available are undervalued.

8. BROWN & CALDWELL UPDATE

C. Bell noted that B&C has participated in PREP and TAC meetings and the eelgrass resiliency project on behalf of MAAM. They worked with K. Matso on funding request format and work plan. They will review the State of Our Estuaries report and fall round of funding recommendations and other actions that should be added to the Adaptive Management Plan.

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9. CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTED SPENDING (CDS) MAAM INITIATIVE

K. Ambrose reported that the 2021 MAAM $1 million application for Great Bay adaptive management/restoration work was approved within NOAA. She does not have detailed information yet regarding the funding, timing, etc. S. Woodland suggested scheduling another meeting when more detailed information is available.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

G. Young introduced a potential source control project and recognizing that some communities in the Great Bay watershed are challenged to invest significant funds in regenerative air or vacuum sweepers. On behalf of MAAM Dover is considering drafting an application for Clean Sweep, to purchase one, house it and maintain it for use by other communities in the Great Bay watershed.

K. Ambrose reported that they will be presenting to the Rochester Planning Board about requiring PTAP by developers.

11. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting will be an Executive Board meeting on Thursday, May 11 at 10:00 a.m. at Rochester City Hall.

The following meeting will be a membership meeting on Thursday, June 23 at 10:00 a.m. at Dover.

12. ADJOURN

Motion: S. Woodland moved to adjourn. Seconded by K. Ambrose. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Jennifer Perry, Public Works Director, Town of Exeter

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