

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

AGENDA

Meeting Type: **Members Meeting**
Meeting Location: **Rochester DPW**
209 Chestnut Hill Road, Rochester NH
Remote Location: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84481111111>
Register in advance for this meeting:

Meeting Date: **November 20, 2025**
Meeting Time: **2:00 pm**

A quorum of Members will be in person, but for those interested in participating remotely please register at the above link.

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Approval of minutes**
 - a. September 22, 2025 Members meeting**
- 3. Recommendations for next steps with EPA/NHDES/Stakeholders (SW to lead discussion)**
- 4. CY26 Budget discussion & potential approval (GY to lead discussion)**
- 5. Inter Municipal Agreement Update (SW to review updates and requirements)**
- 6. Stakeholder comment (Melissa Paly from CLF to lead discussion)**
 - a. Public comment (Limited to 5 minutes per speaker)**
- 7. Other business**
- 8. Schedule next meeting and agenda items (January – Stakeholder/EPA meeting)**
- 9. Adjourn**

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Members Meeting**
Meeting Location: **Rochester DPW**
209 Chestnut Hill Road, Rochester NH

Meeting Date: **September 22, 2025**
Meeting Time: **1:00 pm**

A quorum of Members will be in person, but for those interested in participating remotely please register at the above link.

A full recording of this meeting is available to review for further detail.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Members:

Town/City	Representative	Present
Dover	Tim Puls Environmental Projects Manager	Yes
Portsmouth	Suzanne Woodland	Yes
Rochester	Gretchen Young Deputy Director of Public Works	Yes
Exeter	Stephen Cronin Public Works Director	Yes
Newington	Aerial Write Plant Operator	Yes
Milton	Billy Walden Public Works Director	No
Epping	Jake Roger Town Administrator	Yes

Non-Members:

Danielle Gaito – EPA Region 1
Sally Soule, NH DES
Steve Couture, NH DES
Jamie Houle, UNH Stormwater Center
Tim Puls, City of Dover
Denniss Messier, South Berwick
Jay Wheeler, Berwick
Jessa Kellogg, Kittery
Kristi Rebeska, Berwick and South Berwick
Kalle Matso, PREP
Melissa Paly, CLF
Jamie McCarty, City of Portsmouth
Chris Whitney, PREP
Brianna Group, TNC

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Meeting Date: **September 22, 2025**
Meeting Time: **1:00 pm**

A quorum of Members will be in person, but for those interested in participating remotely please register at the above link.

2. Approval of minutes August 14, 2025 meeting

Motion: SW moved to approve meeting minutes of August 14th, 2025, second by TP.

Vote Passed 6-0

3. Joint Adaptive Management Review

GY noted a few minor edits to the plan. Communities shared elements of their individual updated plans. No further comments, GY will submit to EPA on behalf of MAAM.

Motion: SW moved to approve the submittal of the AMP as presented, second by TP.

Vote Passed 6-0

4. Stake Holder Comments MP shared that they are continuing to look for opportunities to pilot a project using the \$45k that MAAM has supplied for this committee.

5. Public Comments - None

6. Other business

- SW shared that South Berwick Sewer District and Berwick Sewer District have both signed up to participate in MAAM. There has already been a fair amount of scientific information shared from the Maine Communities that may bolster our data.
- SW shared that she is updating the Intermunicipal Agreement and will be sharing that in the coming months.
- SW recommended a future discussion among communities on stormwater maintenance and lessons learned. Maybe include the Stormwater Coalition.
- SW shared that Portsmouth is continuing to explore a stormwater utility.
- KM welcomed the Maine communities. He feels very good about the collaboration and shared science.

7. Schedule next meeting and agenda items

October 23, 2025 at 1:00 PM. To discuss next year's budget.

8. ADJOURN

Summary of PREP 2026 Monitoring Proposals & MAAM Funding Request								
Study Name	Previous MAAM Expenditures				2026 Request		Study Description	Notes
	2022	2023	2024	2025	Cost	Priority		
Light and Bio-optical Model (Formerly "Turbidity")	\$60,000	\$67,000	\$79,920	\$70,113	\$73,568	1	GBE-specific Kd (λ) model. To have robust optical model, data collection in the GBE waters is ongoing.	Report from work funded in 2022 in progress. 2026 request is a continuation of a multi- year workplan.
Tier 1 Seagrass Monitoring	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$77,500	\$100,580	\$103,597	1	Continuation of annual aerial imagery mapping of seagrass.	
Tier 2 Seagrass Monitoring	\$53,000	–	\$55,000	\$72,028	\$74,189	1	Continuation of work that started in 2021. Annual study that includes characterization of seagrass density and morphology, macroalgal abundance and type, and sediment characteristics.	
Estuarine WQ Monitoring	\$41,000	\$64,000	\$66,000	\$120,960	\$124,589	1	Ongoing estuarine water quality monitoring program for a more comprehensive understanding of water quality patterns.	MAAM would be providing a portion of overall study cost.
External Advisors	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$31,500	\$32,445	1	Funding for engaging external advisors to review and provide guidance on scientific methods and results.	External advisors: time and expenses for Lora Harris, Jud Kenworthy, expenses only for Mike Van Den Heuvel
Light Array Program	\$29,000	\$42,000	\$43,400	\$56,325	\$58,014	2	Continuation of annual work that started in 2021. Provides high resolution data on the light environment in the estuary.	If not funded, the dataset collected through 2025 will provide important info about the light environment and duration, frequency, and timing of low light events.
Green Crab Monitoring	–	–	–	–	\$46,620	3	Estimated cost. Design and implementation of a monitoring plan focused on green crab abundance in GBE.	BC and PREP agree that a green crab- workplan is not needed in 2026. Near term focus should be on reviewing recent data collected by others.
Historical TN Loading Calculation	–	–	–	–	\$79,565	3	Estimated cost. Calculate historical (i.e. late 1990's and early 2000's) annual TN loads to the estuary with methods comparable to those currently used.	BC and PREP agree that this effort is not a high priority for 2026 MAAM funding.
Previous studies funded by MAAM, for which additional MAAM funding is not requested in 2026								
Storm Add-On to Eelgrass Stressor Project	\$5,000	\$91,000	–	–	–	–	Implementation of a study to investigate the impacts of storm events and inputs on water quality in GBE.	In progress, results to be reported in Feb. 2026.
Tributary Discharge Measurements	–	\$5,000	–	–	–	–	Estimating discharge measurements for Bellamy, Great Works, and Salmon Falls Rivers. Part of a stated commitment in MAAM AMP.	In progress, results to be reported in Feb. 2026.
Macroalgal Dynamics Synthesis and Recommendations	–	\$25,000	–	–	–	–	Compilation, review, and synthesis of green and red macroalgae status and trends in GBE, identifying data gaps, and development of a monitoring plan (if needed).	Report pending; scheduled for completion in spring 2026.
Shoreline Hardening Survey	–	\$15,000	–	–	–	–	A survey to determine the location and extent of hardened shoreline in GBE.	Data and methods summary report will be available in December 2025.
Tier 3 Seagrass	–	\$33,000	–	–	–	–	Continuation of annual Tier 3 Seagrass (aka SeagrassNet) program; long-term monitoring of fixed transects.	Will be conducted with other funding sources through 2027.
Estuarine WQ Monitoring	–	\$20,000	–	–	–	–	Funding to buy new sondes.	
Mussel Watch	\$7,300	\$10,000	–	–	–	–	Analysis of bivalve tissue to measure toxic constituents.	
Non-Structural BMP Expert Panel	–	–	\$30,000	–	–	–	Literature review of nitrogen reduction credits from non-structural BMPs.	2024 work complete. No follow on work suggested at this time.
5% Contingency	–	\$19,500	\$13,345	–	–	–	Not included for 2026.	Costs for 2026 include inflation adjustment and overhead costs.
Total	\$107,300	\$409,500	\$310,245	\$381,392	\$408,388	1		
					\$466,402	1 & 2		

Costs:	
Website	
Brown and Caldwell	\$ 135,790.00
PTAP	\$ 50,000.00
PREP Core monitoring/oversight	\$ 466,406.00
	\$ 652,196.00

Facility Name	Total Permitted Flow (MGD)	Share	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
			\$ 422,805.00	\$ 519,684.00	\$ 440,751.00	\$ 641,173.52	\$ 652,196.00
Rochester	5.03	22.73%	\$ 120,835.75	\$ 126,893.71	\$ 105,070.03	\$ 152,848.52	\$ 148,240
Portsmouth	6.13	27.70%	\$ 147,261.06	\$ 154,643.83	\$ 128,047.57	\$ 186,274.58	\$ 180,658
Dover	4.7	21.24%	\$ 112,908.16	\$ 118,568.68	\$ 98,176.76	\$ 142,820.64	\$ 138,514
Exeter	3	13.56%	-	\$ 75,682.14	\$ 62,666.02	\$ 91,162.11	\$ 88,413
Pease ITP	1.2	5.42%	\$ 28,827.61	\$ 30,272.85	\$ 25,066.41	\$ 36,464.84	\$ 35,365
Epping	0.5	2.26%	-	-	\$ 10,444.34	\$ 15,193.69	\$ 14,736
Newington	0.29	1.31%	\$ 6,966.67	\$ 7,315.94	\$ 6,057.72	\$ 8,812.34	\$ 8,547
Rollinsford	0.15	0.68%	\$ 3,603.45	\$ 3,784.11	\$ 3,133.30	\$ 4,558.11	\$ 4,421
Milton	0.1	0.45%	\$ 2,402.30	\$ 2,522.74	\$ 2,088.87	\$ 3,038.74	\$ 2,947
Kittery		0.00%					\$ -
Berwick*	0.38	1.72%					\$ 11,199
South Berwick	0.65	2.94%					\$ 19,156

*Permitted Flow of 1.1 MGD does not align with operating capacity; 0.38 MGD being used based on 20-yr projected growth and operating capacity.

AMENDMENT TO RENEW AND UPDATE
INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT
FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AN ADAPTIVE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR GREAT BAY ESTUARY

The parties to this Amendment to Renew and Update the Intermunicipal Agreement for Development of an Adaptive Water Quality Management Plan for Great Bay Estuary are the current members of the Municipal Alliance for Adaptive Management consisting of the New Hampshire communities of City of Dover, Town of Epping, Town of Exeter, Town of Milton, Town of Newington, City of Portsmouth, City of Rochester and Town of Rollinsford and the Maine districts/communities of Berwick Sewer District and South Berwick Sewer District (collectively “the Parties”).

WHEREAS, the Parties seek to renew and update the Intermunicipal Agreement for Development of an Adaptive Water Quality Management Plan for Great Bay Estuary (“IMA”) which was formed in response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region I (“EPA”) issuing the Great Bay Total Nitrogen General Permit (NPDES Permit No. NHG58A000) on November 24, 2020 (the “General Permit”);

WHEREAS, the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection (“MDEP”) has begun to issue updated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits for Maine sewer districts and communities that discharge to the Great Bay Estuary, and those updated permits include language relative to adaptive management similar to that contained in the General Permit;

WHEREAS, Maine districts and communities subject to those updated permits that join this IMA shall be known as the ME-Dischargers;

WHEREAS, the Parties have determined that it is in their interest to continue with the benefits of the IMA including sharing information among members, State and federal regulators and stakeholder, participating in joint reporting as desired; and collaborating and coordinating their investments in study and analysis;

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that EPA and MDEP will continue to regulate the Parties’ discharge of nitrogen and other pollutants for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, the IMA allows renewal pursuant to paragraph III and amendment pursuant to paragraph XI (A).

THEREFORE, the Parties renew and amend the IMA as set forth below (language to be deleted ~~stricken~~ and new language **bolded**),

1. Amend Part I, DEFINITIONS, Section A. as follows:

“Contribution Formula” that mechanism for allocating costs among the Members who are Permittees **and ME-Dischargers**.

2. Amend Part III, *DURATION OF AGREEMENT*, as follows:

The term of this Agreement runs from March 1, 2021 to **June 30, 2031**~~February 28, 2026~~. This Agreement may be renewed for an additional term to be determined by vote of the majority of the Members.

3. Amend Part V, *EXECUTIVE BOARD*, Section C, *Membership of Executive Board*, second paragraph as follows:

At-Large Members of the Executive Board members shall be nominated at the Members' Organizational Meeting and serve through the expiration of the term of this Agreement. If this Agreement is renewed by the Members for an additional term, the Members will elect/re-elect At-Large Executive Board members at the meeting in which an extension of the term of this Agreement is made. ~~At-Large Executive Board Members must be Permittees.~~

4. Amend Part VI, *MEETINGS*, Section B, *Executive Board Meetings* as follows:

The Executive Board shall meet at least ~~biannually~~ **annually** or more frequently at the call of the Chair at such times and places that are mutually convenient. ~~The meetings of the Executive Board are not public meetings as that term is defined in NH RSA 91-A.~~ **The Executive Board may delegate to the Chair or other officers the preparation of agendas for both Member and Executive Board meetings and the development of the Recommended Annual Contribution to be presented to the Members.**

5. Amend Part VII, *WORK AND COST-SHARING*, Section B, *Participation in Water Quality Monitoring, Data Gathering and Analysis* as follows:

Members are expected to participate in the planning and cost of ambient water quality monitoring, data gathering and water quality analysis along with other stakeholders ("Annual Contribution for Monitoring"). The recommended formula for such cost sharing for Members who are Permittees is set forth in Attachment 4 ("Contribution Formula"). **The recommended formula for such cost sharing for Members who are ME-Dischargers is set forth in Attachment 5 ("ME-Dischargers Contribution Formula").** The Contribution Formula ~~or ME-Dischargers Contribution Formula~~ may be amended by a majority vote of the Members who are also Permittees **or ME-Dischargers respectively.**

6. Amend Part VII, *WORK AND COST-SHARING*, Section C, *Recommended Annual Contribution for Monitoring* as follows:

The Annual Contribution for Monitoring, in the aggregate for all Members, shall be no less than \$200,000 ~~and no more than \$500,000~~. The Executive Board shall **cause to be developed** a Recommended Annual Contribution for Monitoring to be presented to the Members at the Members Annual Meeting in the fall of each calendar year. The Members who are Permittees **or ME-Dischargers** shall vote on and set the Recommended Annual Contribution for Monitoring. Members shall make good faith efforts to budget and appropriate the funds in accord with the Recommended Annual Contribution for Monitoring and Contribution Formula adopted at the Members Meeting.

7. All other terms and conditions of the IMA remain in effect.

Signatures on a Separate Page(s)

Signature Page 1

Amendment to Renew and Update Intermunicipal Agreement for Development of an Adaptive Water Quality Management Plan for Great Bay Estuary

Dated this _____ day of _____, 202__.

CITY OF DOVER

By: _____
J. Michael Joyal, Jr., City Manager

Dated this _____ day of _____, 202__.

TOWN OF EPPING

By: _____
Jake Roger, Town Administrator

Dated this _____ day of _____, 202__.

TOWN OF EXETER

By: _____
_____, Town Manager

Dated this _____ day of _____, 202__.

TOWN OF MILTON

By: _____
Richard Krauss, Town Administrator

Dated this _____ day of _____, 202__.

NEWINGTON SEWER COMMISSION

By: _____

Name, Title

Signature Page 2

Amendment to Renew and Update Intermunicipal Agreement for Development of an Adaptive Water Quality Management Plan for Great Bay Estuary

Dated this _____ day of _____, 202__.

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

By: _____
Karen S. Conard, City Manager

Dated this _____ day of _____, 202__.

CITY OF ROCHESTER

By: _____
Kathryn Ambrose, City Manager

Dated this _____ day of _____, 202__.

TOWN OF ROLLINSFORD

By: _____
Cary Boyle, Town Administrator

Dated this _____ day of _____, 202__.

SOUTH BERWICK SEWER DISTRICT

By: _____
Kenneth Holmes, SBSD Trustees Chair

Dated this _____ day of _____, 202__.

BERWICK SEWER DISTRICT

By: _____
Jay Wheeler, Administrator