

BERWICK SEWER DISTRICT
PO BOX 15 / 39 POWERHOUSE ROAD
BERWICK, MAINE 03901
207.698.5740



September 12, 2025

VIA EMAIL to Gretchen Young <gretchen.young@rochesternh.gov>

Executive Board

Municipal Alliance For Adaptive Management

Dover, Portsmouth, and Rochester, NH

Subject: Berwick Sewer District Election to Join MAAM
Berwick, Maine

Dear Ms. Young:

Attached to this letter is the Berwick Sewer District's (BSD) executed Election to Join document. BSD appreciates the recent opportunity to understand how the work of the Municipal Alliance for Adaptive Management (MAAM) aligns with BSD's recent MEPDES permit (#ME0101397) requirements for permit condition K. Adaptive Management Framework. The New Hampshire communities in MAAM and BSD discharge to the same water body, the Great Bay Estuary, and the work to reduce nitrogen is consistent whether in Maine or New Hampshire.

We understand the New Hampshire MAAM communities pool resources to pay for water quality monitoring, Pollutant Tracking and Account Project (PTAP) support, scientific studies conducted by the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) and others, and outside estuarine specialty consultant advisors to MAAM. The allocation of the costs has been calculated based on the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) design flows of the participating communities with costs assessed to each community based on their respective percentage of the total flow from all participating communities. In this letter BSD provides background on the WWTF and requests a lower design flow be used than the design flow in the MEPDES permit. In addition, BSD provides background on permit requirements for water quality sampling in the Salmon Falls River for development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan. This work has been conducted for nearly two decades.

History and WWTF Flow:

The BSD WWTF was constructed in 1972 with a design average flow capacity of 1.1 million gallons per day (MGD). A major upgrade in 1997 expanded industrial treatment capacity for Prime Tanning, which used most BSD's capacity and contributed approximately 80 percent of the revenue. After Prime Tanning closed in 2008, BSD's operations and revenues were significantly reduced, though the permit capacity

remained 1.1 MGD. The final permit issued in July 2025 maintains this permitted average day flow.

The average daily effluent flow for the period of 2020 through 2023 was 0.29 MGD, about 26% of the facility's original design capacity. The facility's infrastructure no longer supports flows above current levels. BSD plans to upgrade the WWTF and is currently in design of the upgrade. The upgrade design is based on modifications to achieve a projected 20-year average day flows of 0.38 MGD. This projected increase is greater than historical growth over the past decade and is considered to be more than needed in this time period. The infrastructure at the WWTF will not be able to support flows greater than 0.38 MGD on average. For this reason, BSD requests that their contributions as a member of MAAM be based on 0.38 MGD for the flow condition.

Salmon Falls River Sampling for TMDL:

BSD is a required participant (through MEPDES permit provision Item J. Ambient River Monitoring) in the Salmon Falls River TMDL program managed by Maine DEP and New Hampshire DES, contributing ambient summer river monitoring data (e.g. dissolved oxygen, temperature, chlorophyll a, total phosphorus, orthophosphate) under a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for the Salmon Falls River Work Plan. Nitrogen water quality data has been added as another water quality criterion. The TMDL addresses impairments to dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, nitrogen, and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) in lower impoundments and river reaches. BSD has been participating in water quality monitoring since 2006 and the most recent annual cost for 2025 was \$7,143. BSD estimates that total costs have exceeded \$100,000 since 2006. This data contributes to the overall database that support the water quality monitoring objectives in the Joint Adaptive Management Plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to join with MAAM in these efforts. BSD requests that the flow rate to calculate contributions for BSD WWTF be held at 0.38 MGD as discussed above. BSD believes that information collected as part of the TMDL requirements is helpful to the MAAM and the overall adaptive management framework and would like consideration of BSD's annual TMDL water quality commitments when MAAM develops the member's fees.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this information. We look forward to understanding how BSD will fit into the MAAM.

Very Truly yours,
BERWICK SEWER DISTRICT



Jay Wheeler, Administrator

cc: Michael Tibbetts, Superintendent
Terry Desmarais, PE, Underwood Engineers, Inc.

Attachment 1: Election to Join

Election to Join
Intermunicipal Agreement
for Development of an Adaptive Water Quality Management Plan
for Great Bay Estuary

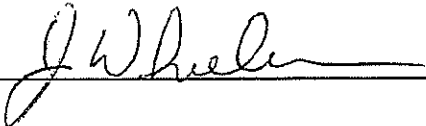
City/Town: Berwick Sewer District

Election Date: September 2025

The Acting Authority (City Manager, Town Administrator, Town Manager or Sewer Commissioner) for purposes of this Intermunicipal Agreement is identified below with contact information:

Jay Wheeler
Administrator
Berwick Sewer District
O: 207.698.5740
C: 603.817.5616
jwheeler@berwicksdme.org

By signing below I, Jay Wheeler, in my capacity as Administrator, affirm that I am authorized to enter into this Agreement on behalf of the ~~City/Town~~ District.



Please note that the Berwick Sewer District is interested in pursuing membership with MAAM but would like to discuss specific aspects of its MEPDES Permit (#ME0101397), including projected versus permitted flow rates and ambient monitoring data collected from the Salmon Falls River for TMDL development.