



CNY Stormwater Coalition Meeting
November 12, 2019
Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board
Syracuse, New York

Designated MS4 Representatives:

Bill Reagan	Liverpool (V)	Jim Conlon	DeWitt (T)
John Houser	Marcellus (T)	Mark Parish	Pompey (T)
Paul Trovato	Geddes (T)	Chris Sherwood	Manlius (V)
Chuck Orr	Solvay (V)	Paul Legnetto	Camillus (T)
Adam Woodburn	Onondaga (C)	Mary Robison	City of Syracuse
Jason Hoy	Van Buren (T)		
Doug Fisher	OCSWCD		
Brian Johnstone	North Syracuse (V)	Staff:	
Steve Darcangelo	Baldwinsville (V)	Bruce Keplinger	CNY RPDB

1. Welcome and Introductions

John Houser opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and briefly explaining Kathleen Bertuch's absence.

2. Determination of Quorum

Designated MS4 representatives from MS4s in attendance: 14. Quorum not attained. (J. Hoy said that only nine voting members were present.)

3. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the August 6, 2019 meeting could not be voted on due to lack of quorum.

4. Treasurer's Report

Not given due to Stephanie Guerreschi's change in employment.

5. 2020 Elections

John Houser addressed the 2020 election, to be held at the February meeting. He confirmed that Adam Woodburn would be filling one of two at-large positions. He mentioned that Stephanie Guerreschi, who had been the Town of DeWitt's representative and the Coalition's treasurer, left their employment to take a planner position with EDR (Environmental Design and Research). He said that anyone interested in the position could tell him or contact K. Bertuch. The minimal nature of the duties was emphasized. No one volunteered at this meeting. He stated that he would remain chair as long as needed, for the next two years. He thanked Paul Legnetto for agreeing to stay on a vice-chair for one more year. Up for re-election are town rep Jason Hoy (Van Buren (T)), village rep Bill Reagan (Liverpool (V)), and at-large rep Mary Robison (Syracuse (C)).

6. CNY RPDB Updates

J. Houser presented CNY RPDB updates.

• **Status of Proposed MOA Amendment**

All municipal MS4 members have returned signature pages in response to proposed changes to the CNY Stormwater Coalitions MOA. All proposed changes are now in effect.

- **2020 Program-Year Membership**

At the end of October, thirteen MS4s had returned resolutions to participate in the 2020 Program Year. J. Houser requested those in attendance to bring this before their respective town or village boards ASAP. He requested that anyone who may have obtained board approval to participate but are not listed among the thirteen to please send the resolution to K. Bertuch. He noted that invoices would be sent in early December with payment due January 31, 2020.

- **Training Video Distribution**

J. Houser described the four training videos purchased by the CNY RPDB (approved in August 2019 meeting). These videos are being made available for member MS4s through each member MS4's designated Representative. It is the Representative's responsibility to distribute the videos to the appropriate departments and personnel. He noted that the first of the training videos (*Rain Check*) would be screened at the end of the meeting. It presents BMPs applicable in a wide variety of situations but may not be pertinent to every municipality's needs.

- **The Post Standard Stormwater Insert**

The four-page insert was published on September 19. Because of layout errors made by the newspaper (inner and outer spreads were switched), K. Bertuch was able to secure a 25% cost reduction, bringing the total to \$3,975 from \$5,300. A portion of the cost saving was used to boost Stormwater postings on Facebook. So far, \$25 has been spent to boost one message in October. Facebook and other social media are low-cost ways of getting the stormwater message out. Using Facebook to reach a broad public audience responds to findings/recommendations of the Coalition's 2015 public survey indicating that social media is used by many as source of information. K. Bertuch would like to continue paid postings as a cost-effective method for expanding message delivery.

- **Salt Calibration Workshop**

The CNY Stormwater Coalition, in cooperation with Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County, NYS Fairgrounds and NYS Department of Transportation held a Winter Road Maintenance and Salt Calibration Workshop October 29 at the NYS Fairgrounds in the Center of Progress building (provided by the Fairgrounds free of charge). There were 117 attendees: municipal DOT staff, school district maintenance department staff, and private contractors. The included two hours of classroom training and presentation of information, and NYS DOT calibrated 18 salt spreaders. Instructors are provided by the NYSDOT. All hard costs were equally shared by the CNY Stormwater Coalition, OCSWD, and CCE. Staff support and equipment were donated by CNY RPDB, SWCD, CCED, DOT and the Fairgrounds.

A meeting attendee stated that his municipality sent trucks a week later and NYSDOT was able to calibrate them (DOT was there for another reason). The municipality was not charged by the DOT.

- **MS4 Semiannual Report**

K. Bertuch distributed the MCM 1 section of the MS4 Semi-Annual report on October 23. MS4s in the Onondaga Lake watershed must submit a full semi-annual report to NYS DEC by December 1. J. Houser noted that B. Keplinger should be contacted if anyone did not receive the form.

- **Fill Exchange**

The online fill exchange has not yet been utilized. J. Houser noted that K. Bertuch sent the website link to everyone and that the link is included in today's meeting agenda.

- **System Map Distribution**

J. Houser announced that the CNY RPDB will be distributing stormwater system maps as a reference visual of MS4s features mapped on the Coalition's online system map. The maps will be approximately 2'X3'. Maps will be sent to each MS4s designated representative unless requested otherwise. He asked that recipients review the maps and report known areas or questionable features.

7. Open Discussion

Regarding Facebook, a meeting attendee asked if there was a concern or if an MS4 felt that Stormwater information wasn't being well announced to the public. He continued that all MS4s are required to get information to their constituents and he wondered if K. Bertuch was pursuing other means of transmitting information because of a perception that some MS4s weren't effective in their outreach efforts. J. Houser replied that he was not aware of any issue. M. Robison pointed out that Facebook is a cost-effective way to get out information and for many it is the prime source of information, not newspapers. The original questioner wondered if there is an additional mandate beyond current outreach efforts, or if something additional is necessary to meet current requirements. He went on to say that he presents at board meetings, which are televised, he talks to the Rotary Club nearly every year, and he works with the local TV station who periodically broadcast stormwater-related segments. J. Houser replied that it was a good question, and went on to say that his own efforts are similar to the previous speaker's, and while he understands how important it is to get the word out, he doesn't know if there are concerns that their efforts aren't enough. The original speaker mentioned the \$5,000 spent for a newspaper ad and now more money being spent for Facebook. Another pointed out that \$5,000 was originally budgeted but that savings K. Bertuch obtained from the newspaper due to their error was the source of funds for Facebook ads. Whether or not required, K. Bertuch was taking advantage of the unplanned funds for additional public outreach. He wondered about the possibility of discovering that Facebook alone is enough, and a question worth considering for future expenditures. He noted that maybe the cost savings could have been used for another purpose. Another commenter noted that the MOA states that the Coalition will provide public outreach. The response to him was that Kathy used the savings in a way that she felt was appropriate, but while good for K. Bertuch to secure a cost reduction from the paper, a discussion at the Executive Committee meeting could have determined a different use for that money. He asked if this meets DEC's outreach requirement and the response was "Yes."

Further discussion followed regarding DEC's expectations that money be spent effectively for the most possible public outreach. J. Houser stated that he will bring these questions to the committee.

A meeting attendee stated that his email contact seems to have fallen out of Kathy's contact list (he said he didn't receive notice for this or the previous Coalition meeting) and noted that he had to contact her directly for information.

8. Next Meeting **Election Meeting:** February 4, 2020. Location to be determined.

9. Video Training: *Rain Check*: Stormwater Pollution Prevention for MS4s

J. Houser said that he had a copy of the trainer's guide that could be reviewed at the meeting and a *Rain Check* employee quiz that he distributed after the video.

Discussion following the video:

An attendee said that he didn't have much highway experience, and he asked the highway people in the group if there are other trainings that they have to participate in. The response was "Some." That person went on to say the MCM for training is rather vague. The departments are supposed to select the employees who should be trained and went on to elaborate. He did say that the Salt Calibration workshop went toward fulfilling this requirement. More discussion in this area followed.

Additional discussion followed, touching on paperwork to verify procedures (truck clean, etc.), supervisor training in the area(s) that employees must be trained in, and general discussion of procedures.