



SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION
Stormwater Good Housekeeping Workshop Series
Workshop 3 – Municipal Facilities
April 10, 2015, 8-11 am
Northern Essex Community College, Lawrence, MA

Presented by: Ellie Baker and Richard Claytor, P.E., Horsley Witten Group, Inc.
Hosted by: Merrimack Valley Stormwater Collaborative

Discussion – Experiences and Questions from Participants

- 1) Statement (from Audience):** With regard to salt use in winter road maintenance, salt can be very corrosive on pavement and structures. This is an additional, maybe more tangible, reason in addition to water quality impacts to consider reducing salt use.
- 2) Statement (from Audience):** In addition to maintenance costs associated with frequency of maintenance, regulatory requirements, special equipment needs, serious storm events, and other items, staff training is an additional maintenance cost that is an important consideration.
- 3) Question (from Audience):** The use of rip rap to repair erosion in drainage infrastructure makes it difficult to maintain. It is very tough to clean sediment out of areas covered in rip rap. What else should be used?

Responses:

- One option is to use check dams in drainage swales to slow flow velocity and reduce erosion. You can also use hydroseeding methods to apply hay grass, roadside or conservation seed mix which are low maintenance and help stabilize the soil.

- 4) Question (from Audience):** How do we deal with the problem of snow storage or snow dams in country drainage and swales? When they fill with snow, water cannot flow and the roadway does not drain.

Responses:

- One option is what DOT did this year, which was to plow intermittent notches through the snow banks on eth highways to allow water to drain off the roadways through the snow banks.

- 5) Question (from Audience):** Is there a reason to separate catch basin cleanings and sweepings sediments?

Responses:

- Probably yes in some cases, depending on the proposed reuse of the material.

6) Question (from Audience): Are there any examples of regional Beneficial Use Determination (BUDs) for catch basin cleanings and street sweepings in Massachusetts?

Responses:

- None exist that we are aware of, and certainly none in the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission region. MVPC group may consider using a Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant to develop an application for one.

7) Question (from Audience): Who is doing stormwater operation and maintenance planning right? Any examples?

Responses:

- Few in MA are doing it well because there is no regulatory stick to make it happen. Highway DOTs often do it better than others, because they have to plan for a larger system. Some colleges and universities are doing it right because being green is part of their marketing and part of the status quo now. Most municipalities have not figured it out yet. Some good models include Montgomery County, MD, and Seattle, WA.

Discussion - Opportunities for Regional Efficiencies

1) Question (from Presenters): Are there opportunities for creating or taking advantage of regional efficiencies in stormwater good housekeeping for municipal stormwater infrastructure?

Responses:

- MVPC could draft a template O&M plan and inspection forms and make them available on their website.
- Provide additional training workshops, including one on stormwater financing.
- Facilitate dialogue among DPWs, Conservation Commission, and Planning Boards on stormwater issues.
- Use of iPads by staff in the field is extremely helpful and time efficient. Sharing of iPad templates and apps, including forms and mapping, might be helpful.
- Create a set of templates or a toolkit to guide site inspections.
- Create other relevant shared Standard Operating Procedures, as needed.