

TOWN OF ESSEX
STORMWATER (MS4) WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2021
Zoom Meeting

The Essex Stormwater (MS4) Working Group Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 by Zoom.

Attendees

William Drouin (Apex Co)
Lisa Fasulo (Health Director)
Carey Duques (Land Use Official)
Rebecca Talamini (MapGeo GIS)
Jessica Sypher (Assessor)
Robert Doane (Town Engineer)
Alyson Finnegan (First Selectman's Office)

Absent

Norman Needleman (First Selectman)
Ryan Welch (DPW)
John Guszowski (Town Planner)

Bill Drouin reported that the Annual Report was submitted in March 2021. Mr. Drouin thought it was a fair report with a weakness in the public education section due to the pandemic limiting our efforts.

Mr. Drouin reported there is a new CT general permit for miscellaneous industrial waste (MIU GP). This permit was submitted on behalf of the Town's Department of Public Works to DEEP on April 30th.

Mr. Drouin finalized the draft IDDE plan (Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination) on February 26, 2021 and sent it to Ryan Welch and Lisa Fasulo. We need to designate "problem" drainage areas so we can use this information to determine the priority areas in town. The Town needs to determine the Immediate, High, Low, or No priority areas. Then the Town must focus on the immediate and high priority areas for inspection. We should use the "Essex Outfall WallMap Labeled" drawing as our guide. Lisa Fasulo can also utilize septic system issues and location (i.e. Main Street in Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton) as priority indicators.

Mr. Drouin wants the Town to be prepared to locate and track illicit discharges based on the IDDE Plan and citizen reports. Mr. Drouin emailed the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and tracking form that can be useful in documenting any citizen reports. The Tracking Form is useful in documenting follow-up activities to determine if an illicit discharge does exist and how to determine where it may be coming from.

Bob Doane reported that the Crosstrees Hills outfall was discovered today. Mr. Drouin was very excited about the discovery and said it was classic material for the next Annual Report.

Rebecca Talamini asked for a new list of verified outfalls since the last list she has is dated 2018-19. There is also a list of "not verified" outfalls – they are high priority because we don't know anything about them.

Ms. Fasulo asked about an outfall on Collins Lane. She received a call last fall about water discharging out towards South or Middle Cove. It may or may not be verified. Ms. Talamini confirmed that an outfall at Collins and South Main Street has been verified, CRN-OF-001. The outfall goes behind 7 Collins Lane. Ms. Fasulo believes there's another outfall that is unverified at the end of Collins Lane. Ms. Talamini asked Bob Doane or Ryan to please check it out and get the information back to her.

Mr. Drouin reported that the state would like the town to monitor catch basin cleaning, and to track the sand and street sweeping in the spring, and track the materials used for ice and snow. Mr. Drouin said as long as we document what we normally do and submit to him we will be in good shape.

There was general discussion about pool water, foundation drains and sump pumps and where the water drains out to. Basement sump pumps should not drain into catch basins since the water can be impacted by whatever is in the basement. Ms. Fasulo also asked about dry wells or infiltrators for backwash water from a water treatment system and if we could get points if we report those systems. Mr. Drouin confirmed that we should report that information.

Mr. Doane mentioned that he reviewed 3 or 4 swimming pools being installed in Town. He questioned each one about the discharge for the pool. They are all salt water so there is no backwash discharge and that was a requirement of the approval.

Ms. Fasulo said the two public pools discharge into the CT River. Mr. Drouin stated that there is a permit to do this. Ms. Fasulo will be inspecting the pools at the end of the month and will confirm that the state permits are valid.

Mr. Doane mentioned that the Town should be trying to install disconnects into the MS4. An ideal time to install a disconnect is during new construction. Mr. Doane said there will be new construction at the intersection of Ferry Road and Main Street, Essex. This would be a great place for a disconnect.

Mr. Drouin said the Town should look at areas around the highways and watch out for contributory pollutants from state sources. The state only inspects when we submit a request. The Town is aware of the problematic catch basins near the state roads.

Alyson Finnegan has updated the MS4 webpage and continues to upgrade and maintain Facebook and Instagram pages (and maybe Twitter) to promote public awareness on the stormwater program.

Carey Duques reported that the Wetland Agency is looking at the Town's MS4 regulations. She would like Mr. Drouin to review.

Next Stormwater Meeting: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 11:00 am in Conference Room B/ZOOM