

Salt Management Strategy (SaMS)

Government Coordination Workgroup Meeting

November 18, 2020

The final Government Coordination Workgroup meeting for the Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) was held virtually from 9:00 am – 10:00 am on November 18, 2020.

Attendance

Twenty-two individuals, including four Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff and one staff from the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB; DEQ's contractual support), participated in the meeting.

Alistair, College studentⁱ
Heather Ambrose, Fairfax County
Heidi Bonnaffon, MWCOG
Glenda Booth, Friends of Dyke Marsh and
Audubon Society of NoVA
Catherine Cogswell, Loudoun Water
Mike Collins, Arlington County
Scott Crafton, VDOT
Dennis Cumbie, Loudoun County
Satoshi Eto, City of Fairfax
Dave Evans, DEQ*
Norm Goulet, Northern Virginia Regional
Commission (NVRC)

Tracey Harmon, VDOT
Will Isenberg, DEQ*
Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water
Marty Hurd, Fairfax County
Raven Jarvis, VDH
Jessica Lassetter, Alexandria City
Heidi Moltz, ICPRB*
Cathy Nicely, DEQ*
Merrily Pierce, McLean Citizens Assoc.
Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water
Sarah Sivers, DEQ*

* Facilitator

ⁱ General Public

Meeting Highlights

During this meeting, members formally approved the workgroup's recommendations as included in the draft SaMS Toolkit.

Meeting Summary

Meeting materials were distributed to workgroup members via email prior to the meeting. The purpose of this summary is not to duplicate the distributed information but, instead, to supplement that content with a summary of the meeting discussions and outcomes.

Introductions, Objectives, and Logistics

The meeting opened with a brief welcome from Dave Evans (DEQ) and some GoToMeeting logistics from Will Isenberg (DEQ). Dave Evans then proceeded with the formal introductory remarks that were distributed in advance to committee members.

Dave Evans noted that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the workgroup's recommendations as included in the draft SaMS Toolkit and to conduct formal polling on workgroup members' support of the recommendations. In addition, the workgroup will briefly discuss plans for SaMS leadership as the strategy shifts from development to implementation in the year 2021.

A round of introductions was conducted and each participant introduced themselves.

Dave Evans then noted that the workgroup's recommendations were informally agreed to at the March 19th workgroup meeting. Today's meeting will include a formal approval process using the polling function of GoToMeeting. If consensus is not achieved on the recommendations, polling will be conducted for each individual recommendation. At a minimum, however, one poll will be conducted to determine overall approval of the workgroup recommendations.

Workgroup Recommendations/Current Status

Dave Evans, DEQ, shared pages of the Toolkit using the webinar platform and reviewed each of the workgroup's recommendations in turn. The discussion for each recommendation is recorded below.

Section 8.1.1: Communicating Levels of Service and Winter Maintenance Plans

Dave Evans reviewed the Section 8.1.1 text and opened the discussion for questions or feedback.

A workgroup member noted that additional text is needed to clarify that this section describes existing efforts, an accounting of what is in place now (rather than a recommendation of what should be put into place). DEQ agreed to look for opportunities to clarify the text.

Section 8.1.2: Improved Government Coordination

Dave Evans reviewed the Section 8.1.2 text and opened the discussion for questions or feedback. No comments were made.

Section 8.2: Pooled Funding/Shared Services

Dave Evans reviewed the Section 8.2 text and opened the discussion for questions or feedback. No comments were made.

Sections 8.3 and 9: Acknowledging Discussions of Legislation

Dave Evans reviewed the Section 8.3 and Section 9 text and opened the discussion for questions or feedback. No comments were made.

Section 11.3 Implementation Leadership

Dave Evans introduced the contents of Section 11.3 and how DEQ's role will change during SaMS implementation. DEQ plans to be an active member during implementation; however, DEQ will no longer lead the effort.

Following the March 19th webinar, several potential future leadership roles were identified including website hosting, organizing and sponsoring winter maintenance training, fostering public communication of levels of service goals and winter service plans, and initial planning of a 2022 SaMS assessment forum. DEQ is awarding \$10,000 to NVRC to proceed with these identified tasks.

Norm Goulet (NVRC) provided a brief overview of the Commission's plans for leading SaMS implementation. NVRC will undertake the four tasks listed above, using the funding from DEQ and an additional \$10,000 of NVRC funding. Some components of the tasks will be conducted through ongoing NVRC efforts, like the Clean Water Partners and MS4 coordination forum. A more detailed discussion will be held on SaMS implementation at the upcoming December 2nd SAC meeting.

Final Discussion and Polling

DEQ asked for any final comments or discussion before beginning the polling process. No comments were made.

Polling

DEQ initiated the poll to determine approval of the workgroup recommendations.

POLL – workgroup members indicated that they were either in support (90.9%) or could live with it (9.1%).

DEQ invited any comments from the “live with it” category verbally, in the chat box, or by email. No additional comments were made on this topic during the meeting.

Wrap-up and Next Steps

Dave Evans, DEQ, offered thanks for the hard work of workgroup members. He reminded members of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) webinar taking place at 10am on November 18th. He then asked for any final questions or comments. Participants thanked DEQ for their good work and noted that it was an excellent process.

Meeting Feedback

Steering Committee members will receive a virtual meeting public comment form after the meeting. Optional comments using this form are submitted directly to the Virginia FOIA Council. DEQ would welcome receiving a copy of these forms as well if they contain suggestions to improve future virtual meetings (send to Dave Evans via email).

All questions and comments should be emailed to Sarah Sivers (sarah.sivers@deq.virginia.gov), Will Isenberg (william.isenberg@deq.virginia.gov), and/or Dave Evans (david.evans@deq.virginia.gov).

Meeting notes were prepared and submitted by the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin.
