



Solicitation for Interstate MS4 Stormwater Crediting Technical Assistance

Soliciting Bodies: United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 (USEPA Region 1), Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), Southeast New England Program (SNEP)

Qualified Applicants: All MS4 communities in the Blackstone River or Ten-Mile River watersheds

Under the NPDES program, watershed restoration through stormwater management has been an increasingly urgent priority for municipalities. Whether water bodies are impacted by TMDLs or are impaired without a TMDL, comprehensive tracking and accounting systems allow municipalities to identify the land uses and sections within municipal boundaries that require additional stormwater management and track progress towards meeting the target reductions (e.g., pollutant-specific or impervious cover reductions). However, developing and maintaining these systems have presented unique challenges for municipalities and regulating bodies.

It has become clear that stakeholders, such as municipalities, Departments of Transportation (DOTs), regulating bodies and technical experts need to collaborate to develop creative and efficient stormwater management tracking and accounting solutions to be able to effectively credit the diversity of structural and non-structural stormwater management practices. To foster this collaboration, our coalition is seeking up to two municipalities from each state (MA, RI) in the Blackstone River and/or Ten-Mile River watersheds. In parallel, solicitors may reach out to representatives from each state DOT and other watershed organizations. The final project contributors will work in collaboration to develop a regionalized approach toward implementing, accounting, and tracking pollution and impervious cover reduction credits as required under the NPDES permit.

Benefits to Participation

- Selected municipalities will receive ongoing technical support from the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center, USEPA Region 1, MassDEP, RIDEM, SNEP Network and the Consensus Building Institute from April 2021 to December 2021.
- Five half day meetings will be held with participating municipalities to work directly with the project team to delve into the challenges of effectively accounting for and tracking stormwater management activities and explore options for strategically improving the process, with a specific focus on structural and non-structural credits.
- Municipalities, and the project partners involved will gain a more thorough understanding of how to approach the process of tracking and accounting of stormwater management best management practices and making progress toward improving water quality that can then inform future efforts.



The SNEP Network is administered by:
New England Environmental Finance Center
University of Southern Maine, UMaine System
www.snepnetwork.org | TEL: 207-228-81-64



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For more detailed information on this project, see attached project overview

Next Steps

- Attend Our Informational Webinar: January 15, 2021 @ 2 PM
 - Please submit questions directly to Dr, James Houle, UNH Stormwater Center Director and SNEP Network Liaison: email: james.houle@unh.edu
 - The project team will answer all questions received via email on or before January 15 at noon and those received during the informational webinar and will post the information on the SNEP website: <https://snepnetwork.org/stormwatercrediting/>

Indicating Interest

Please submit a **1-3 page letter of interest** with contact info by **February 9, 2021**.

Consider the following questions in writing a letter of interest:

1. Why is your municipality ready to move to the next level on stormwater management?
 - a. What work has your community done in the past few years to address stormwater runoff and pollution?
 - b. This could include an overview of the basic elements of your stormwater management plan.
2. Who would participate on behalf of your municipality, why they are the right people, and have each of the people and organizations named committed to full engagement?
 - a. It is expected that each community that applies will commit the full participation of those people who are key in managing, planning, or approving stormwater management in the municipality. The group could include municipal planning staff, DPW staff, town engineers, consultant designers and engineers invited by the town/municipality, highway department staff, conservation agents, or others.
3. What are the most important natural water resources in your community (including rivers and ponds used for drinking water or recreation, and possibly groundwater or wetlands)?
4. What is your municipality's experience with green infrastructure or stormwater retrofits and other structural and non-structural stormwater controls? Does the knowledge or experience differ across municipal departments?
 - a. Having little experience is a valid answer; communities will not be penalized for this in the review process.
5. Does your community have requirements for implementation of structural or non-structural controls for redevelopment or new development? What is your process for reviewing applications to ensure compliance with stormwater rules?
6. Do you have waterbodies with a TMDL in your community? Do you have other waterbodies in your community that are impaired for which there is no TMDL? What strategies are you using to address stormwater management in these TMDL or impaired waters?
7. Are there other water resources challenges you are dealing with in your town (e.g. flooding, insufficient groundwater recharge, erosion, beach closures, LID implementation, etc.)?
8. Describe any tracking and accounting methods for pollutant reductions that is already underway. Having little to no experience is fine and will not be scored negatively.
9. Participation in this process will require five half day meetings in addition to work in between sessions. In your application, please confirm that you and your team will be able to



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commit to this time and the additional between-session work that may be required.

The project team will review applications and select the communities by **March 9, 2021**. The team will consider: the timeliness of this effort to the community, the level of commitment from key individuals in the community, and detail of responses indicating a willingness to start the process of identifying challenges and opportunities in stormwater management.

Timeline

- January 5, 2021 – solicitation released
- January 15, 2021 – webinar for communities to ask questions about the solicitation and project
- February 9, 2021 – deadline for letters of interest
- March 9, 2021 – communities will be notified



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