

Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition

**Charles River Watershed Association's Municipal
Stormwater Permits, Green Infrastructure, and You!**

Stormwater Coalitions

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What is a Stormwater Coalition?

- Group of Regional Entities With a Common Purpose and Similar Needs and Resources
- Encouraging Cooperation Between Neighboring Communities
- Sharing of Resources to the Benefit of All Members
- We Are All in This Together...



Why a Coalition?

- Access to Technical and Management Resources
- Educating the Public About Their MS4
- Implementing Permit Requirements
- Documenting Efforts and Submitting Regulatory Reports
- 250+ Cities and Towns Dealing with Stormwater-Really How Different is Stormwater?

Common Factor to those Challenges: \$\$\$\$\$



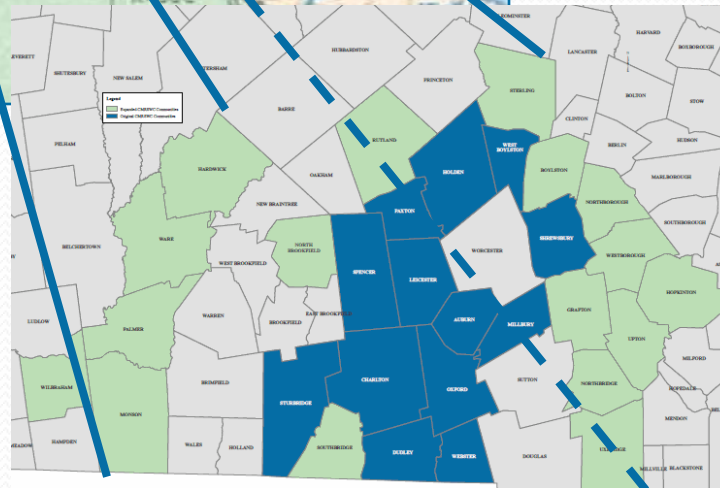
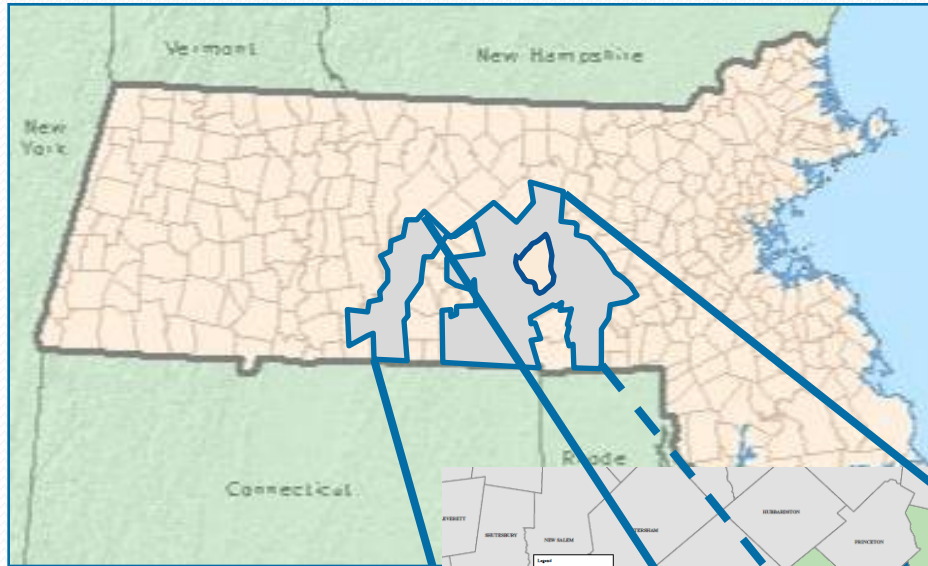
Creation of CMRSWC

- Common Questions Facing 13 Towns in Central MA:
 - How do we comply with Current and Proposed MS4 permits?
 - How do we pay for it?
 - Don't we all have to do the same things?
 - Can we pool resources?
- Answer in 2012-2013 was the Massachusetts Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) Grant



CMRSWC Communities

Auburn
Charlton
Dudley
Framingham
Grafton
Hardwick
Holden
Hopkinton
Leicester
Lunenburg
Marlborough
Millbury
Northbridge
Northborough
Oxford



Palmer
Paxton
Rutland
Shrewsbury
Southbridge
Spencer
Sterling
Sturbridge
Upton
Uxbridge
Ware
Webster
West Boylston
Westborough
Wilbraham



CIC Grant Awards

Project Year	Grant Received	Number of Towns
FY2012	\$310,000	13
FY2013	\$115,000*	30
FY2014	\$80,000**	30***

*- Each of 30 Towns contributed \$2,800

** - Each Town asked to contribute \$4,000.

*** - Two new Towns replacing two non-MS4's that couldn't continue.



Self-Funding FY2014-Present

- FY2014
 - \$4,000 from 30 towns for total of \$120,000 in addition to \$80,000 from CIC
- FY2016
 - \$120,000 from the 30 towns
- FY2017
 - ?? Most likely \$120,000 again, at a minimum



Original Goals and Objectives

- Achieve a Common Benchmark: Compliance With 2003 MS4 Permit
- Incorporate Elements/Needs Common to All Towns
- Be Forward-Thinking
 - What will be in the next MS4 permit?
 - Create tools to prepare communities for future permit requirements.
- Ensure That Each Town Benefits From the Coalition



What Did the CMRSWC Do?

- Created Common Procedures & Policies
- Created Stormwater Data Collection & Management Systems
- Combined Educational Outreach Programs
- Conducted Training Sessions for All
- Purchased Equipment That is Shared Among All



Major Accomplishments to Date

- Stormwater Mapping & Database Management
 - MapsOnline & PeopleForms by PeopleGIS, Inc.
 - Purchase & sharing of Leica RTK GPS systems (2)
- Combined Education Efforts
 - Common website: www.CentralMAStormwater.org
 - Large selection of educational flyer templates/videos
 - Enviroscape table
 - Group training sessions
- Stormwater BMP Toolbox
 - For homeowners and small developers



Major Accomplishments to Date

- Prepared and Submitted Joint Comments on the Draft (now Final) EPA MS4 Permit
- Sponsored 3 WPI Student Projects
- Outreached & Partnered with Other Coalitions
- Standardized Policies & Procedures (15 SOPs created)
- Created a SWPPP Template for Any Municipal Facility
- Water Quality Meters & Sampling Kits
- MSGP Overview and Inventory
- Regionalized Data Collection & Sharing
- Stormwater Utility Presentation by Raftelis, Inc.



Challenges

- Getting 30 Different MA Towns to Agree
- Coordinating the Consultants, & Administrative and Technical Staff of the Towns
- Accommodating the Budget Resources of Each Town
- Everyone Needs to Get Something
- Turnover in Membership
- New Permit!

Tools to Deal With The Challenges

- Commitment by a Lead Town(s)
 - Administrative burden of IMAs, contracts, grants, etc.
- Bringing in Consultants Early to do the Leg Work
 - Tata & Howard, Verdant Water
- Strong Core of Towns Forming Steering Committee
 - “Board of Directors” acting as project managers & liaisons to other towns
- Attracting Other Project Partners
- Communication, Communication, Communication

CMRSWC Project Partners

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Massachusetts Department of Revenue (MassDOR)
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)
- Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (MassDCR)
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)
- Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)
- Other Regional Stormwater Coalitions
- All Have Provided Help & Guidance, Educational Materials, & Labor



Future Work

- \$50,000 Grant From DEP to Create Outreach Programs and Materials
 - Perform 8-10 MS4 Implementation Workshops
 - Create 6-8 Short Form & 2-3 Standalone Videos on MS4 Topics
 - Produce 2-4 MS4 Public Awareness Tools
 - Produce 2-4 Written Public Outreach Products
- Study, Analyze, & Prepare to Implement New Permit



Future Challenges for the Coalition?

- New Permit!!!
- Keeping the Coalition Together as Grant Funding Goes Down & Municipal Contributions Increase
- Continuing to Ensure Everyone Gets Something
- Continuing to Partner with Other Coalitions



Future Challenges of All Municipalities?

- Increased Regulatory Burden On:
 - Drinking water (SWMI)
 - Wastewater treatment discharges
 - Stormwater management
 - And more...
- New Permit Requirements Usually Mean More Costs
- DEP Taking On NPDES Permitting Primacy
- Competition for Limited Municipal Resources
 - Stormwater Utilities??



What Next Then?

- Continue to Advocate for Integrated Planning & Permitting by the EPA & DEP
- Try to Advocate for Less Onerous Permit Requirements and More Funding
- Continue to Attempt to Educate Public About Stormwater & Its Impacts
- Continue Pooling of Resources and Talents of Member Communities



Questions?

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