



## **BASWG October Meeting**

Thursday, October 9, 2025, 9:00 – 11:00 am

**Rangeley Room (105), Eastern Maine Community College**

**268 Sylvan Road, Bangor, ME**

ZOOM: [LINK HERE](#)

### **MINUTES**

Present: Megan Hess (Chair - Town of Orono), Abe Chase (Vice Chair - Eastern Maine Community College), Rob Howard (Secretary - Brewer), Victor Smith (Hampden), Cara Belanger (Stillwater Environmental Engineering, Veazie, Old Town, UMaine) Matthew McCarthy, Reinhard Bustillos (ANG), Rich May (Bangor), Brenda Zollitsch (Facilitator), Melissa Genoter (Haley Ward, Milford, UMAB), Holliday Keene (MDEP), Kristie Rabasca (SMSWG), Ali Clift (ISWG), Cindy Dionne (MDOT), Angela Marcolini (Pulse)

**9:00 am Welcome, Agenda Review (Megan)**

**9:05 am DEP Updates**

#### **Scheduled and Upcoming Audits (Holliday)**

- **Field Audits:** No field audits were conducted in PY3. Extra will be conducted in PY4 to catch up.
- **Desk Audits:** Field Audits (Old Town) will receive a desk audit letter early next week.
- **Future Plans:** Additional 2026 audit schedules will be announced soon. Brewer and Orono are expected to have field audits next year.
- **Eligibility:** Desk audits can only be conducted for communities that have not had deficiencies in previous audits.
- Holliday will check and resend Bangor's audit report from last year.

#### **Annual Reports and Templates**

- Holliday noted that a general letter of receipt for PY3 reports is being sent out tomorrow.
- Holliday asked for feedback on the interest in MDEP providing an annual report template:



- If a template is provided, municipalities would prefer it at the beginning of a new permit, not mid-cycle.
- It has been difficult to update annual reporting since MDEP has not yet provided feedback on submitted reports.
- Brewer requested a template.
- BASWG expressed interest in having a template available for the next permit cycle.

### Permit and Policy Updates

- **New Permit Discussions:** MDEP plans to begin discussions for the new permit cycle approximately six months before the end of the current permit.
- **LID Ordinance:** The implementation deadline has been extended to one year after the appeal process is complete. The appeal is a judicial appeal rather than a BEP appeal like the previous one. Not sure what the timeline will be.
- **Invoice:** Brenda asked Holliday when the invoices would be sent out. - Likely November.
- *Copied from ISWG Sept Meeting Notes: (Ali)*
  - Most PY4 audits will be desktops with a rolling timeline (Biddeford, Brewer, Kittery, Lisbon, Old Town, Orono, Scarborough, SMCC, York)
  - Permit fee increase signed into law, new annual invoice amount per MS4 \$1,306, effective Nov 2025. Traditionally invoiced in the fall.
  - LD 646: Commission to study unregulated stormwater - On hold
  - LID Ordinance: Extension to implementation of Nov 2026 or later,
  - MS4 Permit Modification Finalized August 1, 2025, Lewiston appealed

### 9:20 am Organizational Business

- **Approval of August Minutes (Rob)**

Victor motioned to approve the August meeting minutes. Rich seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- **PY3 BASWG Annual Report (Megan)**

Megan reported that the PY3 BASWG Annual Report has been submitted. Brenda and Pulse assisted with the submission.



- **Budget Update**

Megan shared a budget update on Brian's behalf. All member invoices have been paid, and BASWG's account remains in good standing.

- **Credit Card Payment Option**

The group discussed the possibility of accepting credit card payments. Brewer confirmed they will continue to pay by check. Brenda attempted to speak with the bank about credit card options but was not authorized to do so. Brian will contact the bank directly. Megan and Brian will follow up to coordinate next steps.

- **Accountant Update (Brenda)**

Brenda located a national accounting firm in Portland that works with nonprofits. Their rate is \$395 per month for comprehensive services.

Brian noted that accounting support is not currently needed, but if BASWG receives the grant under consideration, it may be worthwhile to pursue the enhanced service option (\$835 per month). The firm provides all data at the end of service, with an estimated 3–4 week onboarding period. Megan suggested waiting to engage accounting services until after the grant outcome is known. Grant applications remain in progress.

## 9:30 am ISWG/SMSWG Updates

### ISWG Update (Ali Cliff)

- Passed along notes from ISWG/MEWEA (attached).
- No new information yet on the appeal.
- NPS 3PI Workshop scheduled for October 24 at MDEP in Augusta.
- MDOT website is currently down; email Tammy (Tammy.Sobiecki@maine.gov) for training options.
- Cindy is looking into the broken links on the MDOT website.
- No final draft of the *Our Shore* manual yet; more information will be available at the *Our Shore* training next month (Cara, Victor, and Megan will attend).
- MDEP is encouraging more municipalities to become delegated review communities.
- Bangor is in the process of becoming a delegated review community (Chapter 420 D). Communities must have ordinances at least as stringent as state requirements. No stormwater permits will be required.



- Ali asked UNH to track down a table of TSS, nitrogen, and phosphorus data.

### **SMSWG Update (Kristie Rabasca)**

- Ongoing nitrogen concerns from the Great Bay nitrogen reduction permit.
- Three wastewater discharge permits, Berwick, South Berwick, and Kittery, only apply within the Great Bay Watershed, for now. Check [MAAM \(Municipal Alliance for Adaptive Management\)](#) for more information.
- Friends of Casco Bay (FOCB) is very focused on nitrogen entering Casco Bay. Permit appeals could extend these nitrogen requirements statewide.
- Fact sheet attached

### **10:00 am Education and Outreach Update**

#### **Grant Updates (Brenda)**

- **Sage Grant:** Wrapped up and completed; final report submitted.
- **Davis Foundation:** \$500 remaining for final video production, which Cara and Pulse are working on (due December 31, 2025). Jasmine and Cara will meet to discuss video options.
- Upcoming CCTV video will highlight how the technology is used to assess pipe conditions. Brewer and Bangor will participate, with before-and-after footage. Cara will meet with Pulse this afternoon to move the video forward.
- The group is interested in a boy scout activity with the Sign Search activity after video production is finished (Boy Scout info sheet attached).

#### **Training Updates**

- **Winter Maintenance for Managers Training** – October 14, 2025, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at EMCC (105 Rangeley Hall). **Mandatory.**
  - Taco bar for lunch.
- **Our Shore Training** – November 20, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at UMaine Wells Conference Center and online (registration required).
  - Focus on inland shore stabilization for Code Officers, Contractors, and Engineers.
- **3PI Training** – October 24 at MDEP Augusta.



- **Watershed Managers Roundtable** – November 14 at MDEP Augusta.
- **Maine Local Roads Drainage Training** – End of November; reach out to MaineDOT for details or registration information.
- **Stream Smart Crossings Trainings:** [Register here](#).
  - **Montville:** October 21–22, 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. at Hidden Valley Camp.
  - **Bridgton:** October 28–29, 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. at Maine Lake Science Center.

### **10:30 am MS4 Updates**

#### **Bangor Stormwater Capacity**

- Ordinance now meets or exceeds state stormwater standards (Ch. 500–502) and allows local review of projects that would normally require a state permit.
- Stormwater Permit by Rule remains a state permit (Rich to confirm); delegated review would apply City-wide, not just within the MS4 area.
- Rich will present the ordinance to Council next Wednesday, with Planning Board discussion to follow. The new process should be simpler and faster for developers, with possible engineer certification required before occupancy.

#### **Orono/UMaine IDDE**

- Town sewer leaking into UMaine's stormwater pipe; repair planned in sewer budget over the next two years.
- Stormwater and sanitary are separate departments; Megan has \$20,000 annually for stormwater but cannot direct sanitary funds.

#### **EMCC**

- Purchasing broom attachment for skid steer to reduce salt use.
- Plowing followed by sweeping has significantly reduced salt needs.

#### **Hampden**

- Working on Sucker Brook WBMP; stakeholder process underway.



## **Pulse Update**

- Strong social media engagement; Google for Nonprofits has limited impact.
- Tangible content performs best; may add landing page for stormwater badges.

**11:00 am    Adjournment (Rob motions, Victor seconds)**

**Next meeting:** Dec 11, 2025, 9AM @ Eastern Maine Community College (Breakfast Provided!)

**Attachments:** Ali's Email, Kristie's Fact Sheet, Boy Scout Info Sheet