

**Meeting Notes**  
**Storm Water Advisory Committee Kick-off Meeting**  
**Thursday June 1, 2006**  
**SRICD Offices, Warwick, RI**  
**Meeting time: 10:00 – 12:15**

**Documents Provided at the Meeting**

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Stormwater Message Ad Hoc Committee document
3. RIDEM List of Acronyms, Phase II fact sheets and status report
4. Slides from presentation “Caution, Cute can be dangerous!”, A review of National Stormwater Outreach Efforts
5. Advisory committee survey
6. Graph depicting Stormwater Advisory Committee Membership
7. URI Stormwater Phase II Public Outreach, Education, Involvement and Participation Project, Scope of Work and Timeline (Condensed) April, 2006
8. Support to RI Municipalities in Complying with Phase II Minimum Measures, Draft May 2006
9. Stormwater Message Ad Hoc Committee

**Attendance:** 42 people attended the meeting; the attendance record is below:

<b>Organization Name</b>		<b>Title</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>
Crossman Engineering, Inc.		Ms.	Bauman	Cindy
RIDEM	RIPDES	Mr.	Beck	Eric
RIDOT		Mr.	Bennett	Mike
Univ. of Rhode Island	Department of Geosciences	Dr.	Boving	Tom
Conservation Law Foundation		Ms	Burke	Sue
Rhode Island T2 Center		Mr.	Cathcart	Jeff
Town of Narragansett		Mr.	Cearine	Jeff
URI	Cooperative Extension Education Center	Ms.	Chaffee	Caitlin
RIDEM	RIPDES	Ms.	Chatterton	Margarita
RIDEM	Division of Water Resources	Ms.	Dake	Betsy
Northern RI Conservation District		Ms.	DeMarco	Gina
Narragansett Bay Estuary Program		Mr.	Ribb	Richard
CTNEMO		Dr.	Dietz	Mike
DiPrete Engineering Associates, Inc.		Mr.	Duhamel	Chris
VHB		Ms.	Eisenberg	Bethany
URI	Cooperative Extension - RINEMO	Ms.	Esten	Marie
Conservation Law Foundation		Ms.	Giles	Cynthia
URI	Cooperative Extension Education Center	Dr.	Gold	Marion
USEPA	Office of Ecosystem Protection	Mr.	Gray	David
URI	Cooperative Extension Education Center	Mr.	Hughes	Dave
RIDEM	Watershed Program	Mr.	Millar	Scott

<b>Organization Name</b>		<b>Title</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>
URI	Cooperative Extension - RINEMO	Ms.	Joubert	Lorraine
RI Rivers Council		Ms.	Kerr	Meg
RIDOT		Ms.	LeBlanc	Allison
Southern RI Conservation District		Ms.	Lehrer	Alicia
Town of Smithfield		Mr.	Lemoine	Seth
Comprehensive Environmental		Ms.	Pannetier	Eileen
VHB		Mr.	Peterson	Jeff
URI	Cooperative Extension - RINEMO	Ms.	Philo	Lisa
USEPA		Ms.	Pryor	Margherita
AMEC		Ms.	Raymond	Sharon
Town of Narragansett		Ms.	Reilly	Nicole
ESS		Mr.	Rowe	Greg
NRCS		Mr.	Scherer	J.Eric
RIDEM	RIPDES	Ms.	Stout	Jennifer
Southern RI Conservation District		Ms.	Stuart	Kris
URI	Natural Resource Science	Dr.	Gold	Art
Horsley Witten Group		Ms.	Wallace	Christine
Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NBNERR)		Ms.	West	Jennifer
Town of Lincoln		Ms.	Wiegand	Kim
Joe Casali Engineering, Inc		Ms.	Wilkinson	Nicole
CRMC		Mr.	Willis	Jeff

## Discussion Points

1. Welcome and Introductions Lorraine Joubert, URI NEMO
  - a. Key project management
    - i. Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) – providing funding source for this project
    - ii. Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) – providing regulatory framework and support
    - iii. Univ. of Rhode Island (URI) Non-point Education for Municipal Officials (RI NEMO) program – project management and implementation
      1. Southern Rhode Island Conservation District (SRICD) – training support
      2. URI Cooperative Extension Education Center (CEEC) – public education and outreach message.
  - b. Contact information will be available for key project personnel on the project web-site.

2. Project Overview/Meeting Objectives
  - a. RI NEMO in cooperation with SRICD and the CEEC as well as RIDOT and RIDEM will provide a program to RI municipalities that will meet the objectives for Phase II Minimum Measures I and II of the Phase II Stormwater Program.
  - b. The Advisory Committee is tasked with providing input into the development of the project objectives and methods
  - c. Comments will generally be solicited through the formation of ad hoc committees that will be provided with a specific task and timeline. Ad hoc committees will generally operate though email, with the potential for conference calls or meetings when necessary. All information related to ad hoc committees will be available on the project web-site.
  
3. Phase II Status Update Margarita Chatterton, RIDEM
  - a. Refer to the document provided by RIDEM “RIDEM List of Acronyms, fact sheets and status reports”
  - b. Most municipalities and non-traditional MS4s have submitted their annual reports for 2004 and 2005. The communities that have not submitted have been contacted by RIDEM. Most will be submitting annual reports in the near future. If these groups do not submit in a timely manner then enforcement action will be pursued.
  - c. In year 2 (2005) regulated groups were expected to adopt ordinances to prohibit and enforce illicit discharges to MS4 and to address post-construction runoff from new development and redevelopment. Most regulated groups are still working on this requirement.
  - d. Tier I communities are municipalities where a TMDL has been completed on a waterbody within their jurisdiction. They are expected to submit a Scope of Work for TMDL implementation 180 days from notification that a TMDL has been finalized.
  
4. URI Public Outreach and Education Program Overview
  - a. Refer to the document provided entitled “URI Stormwater Phase II Public Outreach, Education, Involvement and Participation Project Scope of Work and Timeline (Condensed) April 2, 2006
  - b. There are three main elements to the project:
    - i. Evaluate the needs of the towns – review work previously completed by municipalities and complete a brief survey of municipal officials.
    - ii. State, municipal and private trainings – provide training and technical assistance to municipalities. Develop training that targets needs specific to urban and rural areas. Trainings will be provided on a statewide basis or possibly a regional basis. Training topics include:
      1. Training on the new Stormwater Manual – technical training including TR55 training for LID techniques and possibly emerging technology.
      2. Good Housekeeping – focusing on Department of Public Works (DPW) garages, highway maintenance and landscaping.
      3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) – training will be provided by EPA and RIDEM.

4. Model ordinances and enforceable policies – model ordinances for insertion into existing ordinances for pre and post construction stormwater controls.
  5. Budget planning and funding sources for Phase II implementation.
  6. RIDOT staff training on stormwater design using the new manual.
5. Role of the Advisory Committee
- a. It is expected that small pieces of the project will be presented to the Advisory Committee and volunteers for ad hoc committees will be requested.
  - b. The ad hoc committee will be given a specific task to be completed within a limited time frame. The full advisory committee will meet rarely; all project information will be available on the project web-site.
6. Activity “Get to Know Your Stormwater Colleagues” – Lisa Philo
7. Model for working with municipalities and other nontraditional groups.
- a. The “local committee” will consist of DPW heads and planners for each municipality that agrees to participate in the project. Invitation to join the project will be provided to municipalities and non-traditional MS4s such as universities and state-managed properties, collectively known as local groups. The invitation will include information on the pre-established guidelines that each municipality will be expected to meet once they join the group. By accepting membership and complying with actions provided in the invitation letter they will be meeting minimum measures I and II.
  - b. The pre-established guidelines for participation are currently in development and will be provided to the advisory committee for review. At a minimum they will include participation in training and technical support offered through this project.
  - c. An ad hoc committee will be formed once documents are ready for review and documents will be posted on the project web-site.
  - d. If a municipality decides not to complete each established guideline, it will be their responsibility to show compliance with the Minimum Measure in their own way.
  - e. It is expected that a tiered approach will be implemented for working with the municipalities. In this approach, municipalities with major pollution concerns, TMDLs, etc. will be targeted for a more comprehensive approach than municipalities with smaller issues and no TMDLs. The tiered approach will allow municipalities with documented problems to focus on these issues.
8. Additional ad hoc committees that will be set up within the next month:
- a. RIDEM manual standards for treatment and infiltration in critical areas
  - b. Public education and outreach message
  - c. It was also noted that Watershed Councils can be a good education and outreach partner.

9. RIDEM Stormwater Standards Eric Beck, RIDEM
  - a. Phase II requires municipalities to adopt local ordinances on construction and post construction controls. Adoption on the local level will allow controls to be tailored to specific community needs. Ordinances should be based on the Rhode Island Stormwater Design Manual.
  - b. The old design manual doesn't have much information on new techniques, therefore it was determined that it should be updated. The update of the manual stalled because RIDEM lost resources that were devoted to it; currently they are attempting to move forward again. It will then need another agency review; then it will go out for a more formal review. RIDEM believes that there will then be a public comment period.
  - c. It was requested that municipalities be informed of the comment period and be encouraged to review the documents once it is provided for public comment.
  - d. EPA noted that some groups are looking at models that allow the determination of cost associated with different BMP alternatives. It was suggested that this information be included in the new Stormwater Design Manual.
  - e. It was also noted that RIDEM should include other key municipalities and organizations outside RI in the review of the manual since much of the RI manual was based on other states manuals. These other states have already been working with new manuals and can provide feedback on how well designs have been implemented.
  - f. Massachusetts is already making changes to LID, infiltration, recharge and design to their previously updated Stormwater Manual.
  
10. Public education – A Review of National Stormwater Outreach Efforts – presentation by Lisa Philo, URI NEMO
  - a. RI NEMO based their review of existing Stormwater education material on those that had been formally evaluated.
  - b. Specifics of the presentation can be found in the presentation slides.
  - c. Michael Deitz, CT NEMO reported that in one watershed project they completed on two newly build subdivisions that inclusion of LID practices was able to reduce stormwater runoff and resulting pollutant loads substantially, but that intensive stormwater education did not change behaviors. In another study they completed in two existing sub-divisions, educational efforts, and retro-fit and construction of BMPs using LID techniques decreased some pollutant loads, but not others.
  - d. Overall, previous studies exhibit mixed results. The best results were obtained when linking an activity that the public values such as eating seafood with a specific change in behavior (not fertilizing in the spring).
  - e. In Rhode Island recent research indicates that the public has a lot of interest in the bay and drinking water sources.
  - f. The group has requested that RI NEMO provide some information on the effectiveness of other public outreach campaigns for comparison to the information presented on the stormwater public message and post this on the project web-site.

- g. Advisory committee comments included that often bans and regulations are the best way to work with adults, while education is the best way to work with children. Once the children are educated they become educated adults.

11. Informal survey of Rhode Island’s education needs. Caitlin Chaffee, URI CEEC Group was asked to brainstorm answers to 3 specific questions and then to vote on which was most important before leaving the meeting.

- a. What stormwater pollutant deserves the most concern in RI?
- b. What is the cause of that pollutant?
- c. What water resource is the most important as we formulate our own stormwater education campaigns?

Results of this group survey follow:

What stormwater pollutant deserves the most concern in RI?

<b>Cause</b>	<b>Number of votes</b>	<b>Percentage of votes</b>
Nutrients (Phosphorus and nitrogen)	11	42%
Increased Stormwater Volume	5	19%
Sediment	4	15%
Pathogens	4	15%
Salt	1	4%
Oil and Grease	1	4%
Heavy Metals	0	0%
Pesticides	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100%</b>

What is the cause of that pollutant?

<b>Cause</b>	<b>Number of votes</b>	<b>Percentage of votes</b>
Land development	13	52%
Animal waste	4	16%
Septic systems	3	12%
Construction	2	8%
Automobiles, roads and parking lots	2	8%
Road sand	1	4%
Erosion (stream bank)	0	0%
Wetlands	0	0%
Agriculture	0	0%

Small hobby farms	0	0%
Impervious Cover	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

What water resource is the most important as we formulate our own stormwater education campaigns?

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Number of votes</b>	<b>Percentage of votes</b>
Beaches	14	48%
Drinking water	9	31%
Freshwater fisheries	3	10%
Marine fisheries	1	3%
Real estate values	1	3%
Recreation	1	3%
Aesthetics	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### **Action Items**

1. Advisory committee membership will be posted on the project website by Friday June 9<sup>th</sup>.
2. A solicitation for members to the Ad hoc committee focusing on the requirements for the Local Committee will be made by Monday June 12th.
3. RI NEMO will complete some basic research on the effectiveness of other public outreach campaigns to allow comparison between documented public outreach for Stormwater message with other messages.