



Engineering Division

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
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MEMORANDUM

To: Mystic Watershed Municipal Stormwater Management Collaborative

From: Wayne Chouinard, Town Engineer
Bill Copithorne, Assistant Town Engineer
Emily Sullivan, Environmental Planner

Date: July 10, 2019

RE: Stormwater Action Plan for Arlington, MA

On October 1, 2018, Arlington filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) indicating that the Town intends its stormwater discharges to be authorized under the terms and conditions of the new permit. The Engineering Division and Planning and Community Development Department are working together to develop policies, procedures, and schedules to fulfill the requirements of the MS4 permit. The following provides an outline of the activities and actions that will occur over the next three years and opportunities for collaborative efforts to address stormwater issues and compliance.

Overall Plan

In the Fall of 2018, Arlington and Winchester were selected for the Mystic Watershed Municipal Stormwater Management Collaborative, facilitated by the EPA, MassDEP, Consensus Building Institute, and Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA). Through this program, Arlington identified small-scale, cost-effective stormwater projects that improve the resilience of the Town's stormwater drainage system, enhance water quality, and help the Town comply with MS4 requirements. Arlington also conducted a stormwater regulatory audit, reviewing all stormwater regulations across departments to identify opportunities to create consistency. Through both of these deliverables, the Town assessed structural and non-structural best management practices (BMPs) in order to formulate an MS4 action plan.

Over the next three years, Arlington will accomplish the following policy and infrastructure objectives:

1. Update stormwater regulations to create consistency across permitting boards (e.g. Engineering, Conservation Commission, Redevelopment Board, etc.).

2. Install pollution reducing green and gray infrastructure (e.g. the infiltration trenches designed as part of the collaborative). The Town will apply for state and federal funding, as well as allocate some of the annual stormwater funding for these projects.
3. Analyze funding mechanisms for stormwater improvements and assess the feasibility of instituting such a fund.

Action Plan 3 Year Schedule

Action	Objective	Timeline	Responsible Departments
Stormwater Regulatory Audit	Review stormwater regulations internally (with aid of Collaborative memo) and determine revisions, particularly for redevelopment and development thresholds	Summer-Fall 2019	Engineering, Public Works, Planning and Community Development, Town Manager, Legal
Propose a new stormwater bylaw at Town Meeting	Create an all-inclusive stormwater bylaw	Fall 2019- Spring 2020	Engineering, Public Works, Planning and Community Development, Town Manager, Legal
Educational outreach for new stormwater regulations when/if passed	Town departments, Town Commissions, general public	Spring 2020-Fall 2020	Engineering, Planning and Community Development, Inspectional Services
Install infiltration trenches along Coral St and Park St	Construct pollution-reducing trenches that will give Arlington MS4 credits	Summer 2019	Engineering, Public Works
Determine locations for additional infiltration trenches	Identify locations and funding for additional MS4 credited infrastructure	Annually	Engineering, Public Works
Determine locations for additional rain gardens	Identify locations and funding for additional MS4 credited infrastructure	Annually	Engineering, Public Works
Participate in MyRWA's Resilient Mystic Collaborative	Participate in the regional MVP grant awarded to RMC to conduct Upper Mystic Watershed stormwater modeling and identify	Summer 2019- Summer 2020	Planning and Community Development, Engineering, Public Works

	locations for green infrastructure interventions		
Participate in CRWA's Climate Compact	New group, objectives not yet defined	Ongoing	Engineering, Public Works, Planning and Community Development
Analyze stormwater funding mechanisms	Internally discuss the feasibility of a new stormwater enterprise fund and structure of fund	2020	Engineering, Public Works, Planning and Community Development, Town Manager, Legal
Assess feasibility of a stormwater enterprise fund	Hire a contractor to develop a feasibility study and mechanism	2021	Engineering, Public Works, Planning and Community Development, Town Manager, Legal
Comply with programs outlined in the SWMP	Comply with MS4 annual deliverables	Ongoing	Engineering, Public Works, Planning and Community Development
Landscaper Training	Lead a lunch-and-learn training landscapers about proper fertilizer treatment and stormwater management	Summer 2019	Engineering, Planning and Community Development
Stormwater Website Revamp	Update stormwater website with more information and additional educational resources	Fall 2019	Engineering
General Public Education and Outreach	Provide information for residents to improve stormwater quality and reduce stormwater runoff	Ongoing	Engineering, Planning and Community Development

Additional Stormwater Reflections

Through the experience of participating in this Collaborative, the Town has had an opportunity to reflect upon the major challenges faced in meeting the MS4 permit requirements. Some of the main challenges to improving local stormwater management include: interdepartmental coordination to create and enforce consistent stormwater standards/regulations; adjusting/creating bylaws and passing them at Town Meeting in compliance with the MS4 schedule requirements; and identifying and fostering enough political will to successfully implement a stormwater funding mechanism.

In regard to consistent regulations, an additional factor that currently complicates this effort is that MassDEP guidance (the MassDEP Stormwater Handbook) does not meet all of the requirements of the MS4 Permit Requirements. This leads to concerns that some of the efforts of Town staff will be duplicated over the coming years should edits to the Handbook not be completed prior to applicable reporting requirements.

The Town is also struggling to establish the BMP metrics outlined in the SWMP, because the Town does not necessarily have baseline data. Some of the metrics seem weak, but monitoring capacities within the Town are limited.

Lastly, the Town remains interested in an anticipated timeframe for when TMDLs may be established for the Mystic Watershed. Any further insight that the MassDEP may be able to share is appreciated.