

Salt Management Strategy

4th Government Coordination Workgroup Conference Call

March 19, 2020

The fourth Government Coordination Workgroup (GCWG) meeting for the Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) was held from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm on March 19, 2020, via conference call.

Attendance

Sixteen (16) individuals, including two DEQ staff members and one staff person from the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (DEQ's contractual support), participated in the conference call.

Heidi Bonnaffon, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG)
Glenda Booth, Friends of Dyke Marsh and Audubon Society of Northern Virginia
Renee Bourassa, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB)*
Cathy Cogswell, Loudoun Water
Scott Crafton, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Satoshi Eto, City of Fairfax
Dave Evans, DEQ*

Norm Goulet, Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)
Tracey Harmon, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Marty Hurd, Fairfax County
Raven Jarvis, Virginia Department of Health
Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water
Jessica Lassetter, Alexandria City
Merrily Pierce, McLean Citizens Association
Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water
Sarah Sivers, DEQ*

*Facilitator

Meeting Highlights

Notes for Other Workgroups / Potential Areas of Overlap

None

Follow-up Action Items

- Provide additional existing coordination forums, including the Four Mile Run program and the Occoquan Run program (Norm Goulet).
- Send a message to local governments to gauge interest for the shared cost of winter maintenance training conducted by Fortin Consulting (Norm Goulet).
- Provide information on the different types of winter maintenance training provided by Fortin Consulting, including the agenda from the previous year's event (DEQ).
- Share draft language in SaMS Toolkit narrative acknowledging discussions held during SaMS development on legislative policy, following internal DEQ review (DEQ).
- Clarify plans for any additional meetings/discussions among the GC workgroup in advance of NVRC Commissioners meeting and/or Steering Committee meeting (DEQ).

Meeting Summary

The GCWG reviewed and commented on the draft recommendations compiled from previous workgroup meetings and had a brief discussion on the implementation of SaMS.

Introductions and Agenda Review

The meeting began with brief introductory remarks from DEQ and a review of the agenda. The in-person GCWG meeting was converted to a conference call due to social distancing mandates stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. The agenda was reviewed followed by a discussion on how much can and should be accomplished on the conference call due to the uncertainty of when and how future meetings may occur. The members participating on the call agreed that a full discussion on SaMS implementation planning should be postponed until a later TBD date. Therefore, the remaining discussion focused on the draft recommendations.

During this portion of the call, the following items were noted in light of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- The SaMS presentation to the Northern Virginia Regional Commissioners is postponed to an unknown future date.
- The budgets for state and local governments will be tight in the next year due to the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most importantly, leadership by NVRC to support implementation of the SaMS Toolkit will be dependent on available funding.
- The production of the SaMS Toolkit is moving forward, and is currently on schedule. DEQ will have the draft version from ICPRB by the end of March.

Overview of Draft Recommendations

The group reviewed the draft Government Coordination recommendations that were compiled by DEQ. Only the sections of the document that received comments are noted below.

Communicating Levels of Service and Winter Maintenance Plans

DEQ noted that the Education and Outreach Workgroup (EOWG) recommended the creation of a Communications Subcommittee as part of SaMS implementation. The subcommittee would help guide the use of the SaMS logo based on the [SaMS Logo Guidelines](#) created by the EOWG. Decisions on how the subcommittee would function will be a part of the SaMS implementation.

A workgroup member commented that messaging should be "spin-free and neutral", and while focusing on reducing chlorides, should also highlight the public safety benefits of winter salt use. The EOWG's guidelines for [developing education and outreach materials](#) provide for this.

Improved Government Coordination

Norm Goulet will provide information on additional existing coordination forums, including the Four Mile Run program and the Occoquan Run program.

It was noted that HOAs should be engaged. DEQ will reach out to the organization, Community Associations Institute, once the SaMS Toolkit is complete.

A workgroup member commented that the post-season lessons-learned workshop is an essential addition to the SaMS process.

Pooled Funding/Shared Services

Prince William County held a winter maintenance training last year through Fortin Consulting, Inc., and will be doing another one this year. The 2-day training will be held on either the week of Oct 19 or Oct 26, and will include some hands-on exercises with equipment to complement the classroom training. The costs of the training event could be lessened if during the same trip the contractor held additional training days for other Northern Virginia localities. Norm Goulet will send a message to local governments to gauge interest in this opportunity for local governments to receive expert training at a more affordable cost.

A workgroup member commented that there is likely to be substantial interest from a variety of audiences, such as winter maintenance professionals, facilities managers, and upper management. DEQ will look at what information is readily available on the different types of training offered by Fortin Consulting, including the agenda from the previous year's event. In advance of that, a general description of the winter maintenance training offered by Fortin Consulting, Inc. can be found here: <https://fortinconsulting.com/road-salt-best-practices/>.

Discussion of Legislation

Draft language for inclusion in the SaMS Toolkit that acknowledges the limited discussion of legislative policy ideas will need to be approved by DEQ management before it is shared with the GCWG. The GCWG members will get a chance to review and provide comments before the SaMS Toolkit is shared with the SAC. DEQ noted that some SAC members have interest in pursuing legislative recommendations in the future, and this would need to occur without the involvement of DEQ and other state agencies.

Implementation Leadership Roles

Leadership roles during the implementation of SaMS were planned for discussion, in light of DEQ stepping out of that role; however this topic was tabled at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. DEQ proposed to have a subsequent meeting, potentially with an intermediary opportunity to provide feedback through email, to discuss this topic at a later date..

Other Notes

A workgroup member commented that throughout the SaMS Toolkit, the recommendations from various workgroups should use consistent terminology and flow together to create a cohesive message. DEQ noted that there will be opportunities for cross-referencing and enhancing clarity and consistency throughout the document once it is complete.

ICPRB has integrated all parts of the SaMS Toolkit and is currently finalizing the draft. The structure will be clear so people can easily access what they find most relevant.

Meeting Wrap-up

DEQ summarized the next steps planned to complete the SaMS Toolkit, while acknowledging the uncertainty created by recent developments. The current timeline has the draft going to the Steering Committee by May. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was noted that the schedule is subject to change if precautions pertaining to in-person meetings remains when the first meeting with the Steering Committee is scheduled to occur, which is June 2. The workgroups will be kept apprised of the SaMS development schedule, including the status of the Steering Committee meeting and anticipated SAC and final public meetings.

All information, questions, additional resources, etc. should be emailed to Dave Evans (david.evans@deq.virginia.gov) and Sarah Sivers (sarah.sivers@deq.virginia.gov). DEQ will consolidate information received and distribute it to workgroup members as needed.

Meeting notes were prepared and submitted to DEQ by the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin.

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A [survey](#) to seek workgroup members input on the priority and timing of potential SaMS implementation leadership roles was shared following the March 19th conference call. A summary of feedback received as of March 31 will be added to the final notes.