

# Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting

December 2, 2020

The final Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting for the Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) was held virtually from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm on December 2, 2020.

## **Attendance**

Forty-three individuals, including six Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff members and two staff persons from the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB; DEQ's contractual support), participated in the meeting.

Andy Alden	Ellen Kamilakis †
Heather Ambrose	Adrienne Kotula †
Daniel Ancona	Steven Kowalik †
Emily Bialowas	Jessica Lassetter
Gem Bingol †	David Lincoln
Heidi Bonnaffon	Corey Miles
Sandy Burkholder	Susan Miller
Emily Burton	Lauren Mollerup
Marian Carroll	Heidi Moltz*
Cathy Cogswell	Joel Moore
Scott Crafton	John Muse
Dennis Cumbie	Cathy Nicely*, #
Satoshi Eto	Edward Rodrigues
Dave Evans*, #	Niffy Saji
Adil Godrej	Erfaneh Sharifi*
Camila Goncalves Dias	Russ Short
Normand Goulet	Sarah Sivers*, #
Tracey Harmon	Joshua Smoot †
Jeremy Hassan	Bryant Thomas #
Herbert Holmes	Anna Tuthill #
Will Isenberg*, #	Carol Wong
Raven Jarvis	

\* Facilitator/Organizer

† General Public

# DEQ

## **Meeting Highlights**

Today's meeting, the second and last part of the final Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings, was held to seek SAC approval for the SaMS Toolkit and public summary document to move forward to public review and to discuss SaMS implementation.

## **Meeting Summary**

SAC members reviewed feedback on the draft SaMS Toolkit, voted to approve the draft SaMS Toolkit, and discussed SaMS implementation planning.

Meeting information was made available electronically to SAC members in advance of the meeting.

### **Introductions, Objectives, and Logistics**

Will Isenberg, DEQ, welcomed everyone to the meeting. A brief introduction of the GoToWebinar software and formal introductory remarks about remote meetings were then provided by DEQ. Will then introduced the purpose for the meeting – to wrap up any final comments and revisions, poll to approve the toolkit and public summary document as final, and discuss the rollout and implementation of the Toolkit.

Will Isenberg then explained the logistics of participation and polling.

A document describing the polling process was distributed via email to SAC members. Polling includes the following options: I support it, I can live with it, and I cannot live with it. Each organization should have a single person designated as the voting member, as only one member can vote per organization.

### **Summary of SAC Feedback**

Will Isenberg summarized the feedback received from the SAC during their review.

Comments on the public summary document included edits for proper grammar, more background and public friendly terminology, and revised phrasing edits. Comments on the SaMS Toolkit recommended adding missing abbreviations and glossary terms, including a date to the title page of Appendix A, and clarifying why certain alternative deicers are recommended. DEQ staff concur with the recommended changes and are working to make the revisions.

### **Resolving Remaining Changes**

The alternative deicer revision was discussed at the meeting, and Will Isenberg reviewed the proposed edits to Section 3.3.3 and Appendix E of the SaMS Toolkit to set the stage.

Comments received were:

- Some alternative deicers are not identified.
- What is the reason for the selective inclusion of alternative deicers?

Actions proposed were:

- Acknowledge available information suggested moderate environmental impacts for the selected alternative deicers.
- Note selected alternative deicers are for application on paved surfaces.

Will then asked participants whether they were all comfortable with the proposed changes. A participant noted a typo in the document. “Appensix E” should be changed to “Appendix E”. Participants then raised their hands to indicate that they supported the proposal. Since no concerns were raised, the proposed changes to Section 3.3.3 and Appendix E were approved without the need for a poll.

### **Final SaMS Toolkit & Public Summary Approval**

A poll was conducted next to finalize the SaMS Toolkit and public summary document. Poll question: *Please indicate your level of support to finalize the SaMS Toolkit and public summary document as presented here today, including any revisions proposed and approved during this meeting.*

Poll results: 80% I am/We are in full support, 20% I/We can live with it, and 0% I/We cannot live with it. Based on this poll, SAC members approved the SaMS Toolkit and public summary document by consensus, as defined in the SAC's second meeting (June, 2018).

A public meeting will be held on January 21, 2021. The meeting will be virtual. Consistent with the stakeholder-driven process used throughout SaMS development, DEQ encouraged SAC members to participate in the final public meeting. A thirty day public comment period will follow the meeting, from January 22 through February 22, 2021. Where appropriate, DEQ will coordinate with SAC members on the final public comments received. Comments and responses will be added to the Toolkit in Appendix S "Public Participation".

### **SaMS Implementation Planning**

With final completion of SaMS, DEQ will transition from a leadership to supporting role, and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) will be the new facilitator for SaMS implementation. Normand Goulet, NVRC, shared some remarks on that transition.

He summarized the core areas of this transition as:

- Creation of a SaMS website: the SaMS Toolkit and selected information and resources will be transferred from DEQ's website to the NVRC website. New information will be added to the website as additional resources become available, especially those of interest to the public.
- Hosting the meetings: NVRC will host the meetings of localities and interested parties to promote SaMS implementation.
- Training: NVRC will contract with an expert winter maintenance consultant to host formal training for local government operational staff in 2021. The details of this training (timing, cost, location, etc.) will be determined and communicated to local governments by mid-2021.
- SaMS Assessment: NVRC will bring the localities together to assess the implementation process and identify the issues that need to be addressed. NVRC will plan a SaMS implementation assessment forum to be held in 2022, and will work collaboratively with DEQ to hold an implementation planning meeting during Spring 2021.
- Outreach material: the Clean Water Partners will collaborate in developing the outreach material, and Corey Miles of NVRC will coordinate this effort.

Will Isenberg then set up remarks by Heidi Moltz of ICPRB on how the Commission can promote and support SaMS implementation. ICPRB has been DEQ's contractual support and partner throughout SaMS process, shared many of the costs of SaMS development, and is well situated in the community to support implementation.

Heidi Moltz provided an overview of some of the ICPRB's efforts that can help the SaMS implementation process. In addition to development of the SaMS, ICPRB was involved in the technical development of the Accotink Creek TMDLs, and looks forward to continuing to engage in this process during implementation. Heidi discussed two program areas at ICPRB that overlap with SaMS implementation: the [Potomac Basin Comprehensive Water Resources Plan](#) and the [Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership \(DWSPP\)](#).

Will Isenberg briefly elaborated on the Spring 2021 SaMS implementation planning meeting noted by Norm Goulet. This forum will be led by NVRC, with support from DEQ. Some possible topics for discussion at the spring meeting are:

- future of the SAC;
- government coordination and training;
- involving the business community and private service providers;
- pilot monitoring program and partners; and
- planning for the first SaMS assessment forum.

SAC members suggested adding some other possible topics for discussion including:

- performance measures to gauge implementation success;
- water quality monitoring;
- forming a coalition to review the communication materials; and
- funding opportunities to support SaMS implementation.

The most detailed comments were offered on water quality monitoring. SAC members observed that (1) monitoring will be critical to assessing the impact of SaMS going forward, (2) targeted ion monitoring following winter storms and salting events is most important, and 3) conductivity monitoring is valuable as a proxy for salt ion monitoring. Will noted that in the Section 7 of the Toolkit, there are a number of resources and recommendations that provide support for organizations looking to conduct this monitoring. A participant in the meeting then asked, “will some of the resources for education and outreach be available to download?” DEQ answered that when the Toolkit becomes final the resources will be shared among SAC members.

### **Wrap-up and Next Steps**

The SaMS Toolkit will be formally presented at the final public meeting to held at 6:30 pm on January 21, 2021. A 30 day public comment period will be held from January 22 to February 22, 2021.

DEQ committed to send an email to SAC members on December 3 with the meeting recording and the virtual meeting public comment form. The form is optional and should be submitted to the FOIA Council.

Will Isenberg, Dave Evans, and Sarah Sivers thanked SAC members for their support. DEQ then summarized the project timeline. The project started in 2018 with the first public meeting, the development phase wraps up at the beginning of 2021 with the final public meeting, and then the transition to implementation will begin.

### ***Meeting Feedback***

Comments and questions should be emailed to Sarah Sivers ([sarah.sivers@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:sarah.sivers@deq.virginia.gov)), Will Isenberg ([william.isenberg@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:william.isenberg@deq.virginia.gov)), and/or Dave Evans ([david.evans@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:david.evans@deq.virginia.gov)).

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

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