

Salt Management Strategy (SaMS)

Steering Committee Meeting

September 30, 2020

The Steering Committee meeting for the Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) was held virtually from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm on September 30, 2020.

Attendance

Eighteen (18) individuals, including four Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff and one staff from the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB; DEQ's contractual support), participated in the meeting.

Emily Bialowas, Izaak Walton League
Glenda Booth, Friends of Dyke Marsh and
Audubon Society of NoVA
Mike Collins, Arlington County
Satoshi Eto, City of Fairfax
Dave Evans, DEQ*
Norm Goulet, Northern Virginia Regional
Commission
Will Isenberg, DEQ*
Adrienne Kotulaⁱ

Lauren Mollerup, VDOT
Heidi Moltz, ICPRB*
Joel Moore, Towson University
Jonathan Murray, Fairfax County
Cathy Nicely, DEQ*
Merrily Pierce, McLean Citizens Assoc.
Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water
Edward Rodrigues, Washington REIT
Sarah Sivers, DEQ*
Greg Waters, Snow and Ice Management Co.

* Facilitator

ⁱ General Public (Non-Member of Steering Committee)

Meeting Highlights

During this meeting, remaining Steering Committee comments on the draft SaMS Toolkit were discussed and addressed. The Steering Committee then voted to forward the draft Toolkit to the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) for review and approval.

Follow-up Action Items:

A few targeted changes to the draft Toolkit were agreed to during the meeting. The Toolkit will be revised as detailed in the “Resolving Remaining Comments” section of this meeting summary.

Meeting Summary

Presentation slides from the meeting are available [online](#). The purpose of this summary is not to duplicate the information in the slides but, instead, to supplement that content with a summary of the stakeholder discussions and outcomes.

Introductions, Objectives, and Logistics

The meeting opened with brief [introductory remarks](#) from Will Isenberg, DEQ, including a thanks to the Steering Committee members for their engagement. The importance of the great participation throughout the process was highlighted.

Meeting objectives and virtual meeting logistics were also discussed by DEQ.

A Steering Committee member noted that some organizations and individuals may have additional comments on the draft Toolkit after today's meeting. DEQ responded that additional comments are welcome after the meeting; however, committee members are expected to voice any "can't live with it" concerns during the meeting today. The purpose of today's meeting is to find out if the Steering Committee approves of moving the Toolkit forward to SAC – this meeting is just one step in the ongoing review process. The SAC process will also provide an opportunity to add additional comments.

Summary of Comments and Responses

Sarah Sivers, DEQ, provided a summary of the [comment and response document](#) prepared by DEQ. DEQ noted that the Steering Committee process, although different than originally envisioned due to the pandemic, has provided a more substantial opportunity for in-depth review and response process leading up to today's meeting. DEQ thanked the Steering Committee members for the many thoughtful comments.

In general, Steering Committee comments on the draft Toolkit focused on how to make the product more cohesive and streamlined. Opportunities for clarification were also identified. There were relatively few suggested substantive changes, owing to the thorough workgroup efforts to develop the draft Toolkit's content.

DEQ then asked for Steering Committee thoughts on 1) the review process and 2) how comments were addressed. Members voiced positive comments about the draft Toolkit and the changes that have been made based on Steering Committee feedback.

Resolving the Remaining Comments

Will Isenberg, DEQ, led the discussion on resolving remaining Steering Committee member comments.

Comment No. 6

Information on this comment is provided in the [comment and response document](#) and on Slide 15 of the [meeting presentation slides](#).

Steering Committee members were supportive of the changes made to the draft Toolkit, especially changes to the table of contents and the pdf bookmarks.

A poll was not initiated on this comment because there was agreement that it was satisfactorily addressed.

Comment No. 38

Information on this comment is provided in the [comment and response document](#) and on Slide 16 of the [meeting presentation slides](#).

After some discussion, Steering Committee members agreed to generalize the statement addressing percent reductions in salt use from anti-icing alone. Members agreed that the statement would include the following general points: "Substantial salt use reductions can be achieved from anti-icing alone. This will be unique to each organization. Readers can find examples in Appendix B."

POLL – Steering Committee members indicated that they were either in support (80%) or could live with it (20%).

Comment No. 43

Information on this comment is provided in the [comment and response document](#) and on Slide 18 of the [meeting presentation slides](#).

Steering Committee members agreed to the changes made to Tables 1 and 2 as well as the possibility of making future minor changes to the table. A poll was not initiated.

Comment No. 52

Information on this comment is provided in the [comment and response document](#) and on Slide 19 of the [meeting presentation slides](#).

The group developed this text for Section 5.3 of the draft Toolkit:

For most of Northern Virginia, VDOT is responsible for winter road maintenance, and issues related to salt used on area roads can be raised to VDOT's attention at the following site: <https://my.vdot.virginia.gov>. Roads and paved surfaces managed by local governments are within the purview of those jurisdictions. Because there are no uniform regulatory standards for winter salt use, local jurisdictions have limited authority to address salt issues not associated with their own winter maintenance activities. Local governments are encouraged to develop ways that members of the public can bring winter salt concerns within their jurisdiction to their attention.

A concern was voiced about this new text that citizens should be encouraged to report problems and that this is a watered-down version of the original statements. After some discussion, it was agreed that public encouragement is present in other parts of the Toolkit, like the Education and Outreach section and elsewhere.

A poll was not initiated as there was general agreement on revised version (see italicized text above).

As a follow-up action, Mike Collins will provide information about Arlington's public reporting process for incorporation into this discussion.

Comment No. 63

Information on this comment is provided in the [comment and response document](#) and on Slide 20 of the [meeting presentation slides](#).

Steering Committee members were concerned that some of the potential additional text would require authorizing legislation or regulatory action. Because there has not been much discussion on this to date and it would take considerable leg work to get the context right, the timing does not seem to be right to add the text in question. There is comfort with the way the text is currently written for voluntary aspects like VEEP, but the group does not want to add anything that would involve authorizing legislation or regulatory action. Accordingly, the Steering Committee did not support incorporation of the potential additional text, and no change to the section was made.

Other Discussion

Members of the Steering Committee thanked DEQ for their SaMS efforts. DEQ returned the thanks to the committee members and noted that it has been an encouraging process.

Polling on SaMS Toolkit Approval

It was noted that members of the group have spent over four months reviewing the draft SaMS Toolkit and that this is a milestone in the process to poll to approve the draft document to move forward to the SAC.

DEQ then initiated the poll to move the SaMS Toolkit forward to SAC review and approval.

POLL – Steering Committee members indicated that they were either in support (63.6%) or could live with it (36.4%).

DEQ invited any comments from the “live with it” category. No additional comments were made.

Wrap-up and Next Steps

SAC Process

DEQ staff noted that the Steering Committee poll results signify formal approval for moving the draft Toolkit forward to the SAC. The next SAC meeting will be held on November 18th and will be comprised of a formal presentation to introduce SAC members to the Toolkit. Another SAC meeting will be held on December 2nd where SAC members will vote on approving the SaMS Toolkit. Steering Committee members are invited to have a speaking part in that meeting.

Meeting Feedback

Steering Committee members can expect to receive two surveys after this meeting: 1) a virtual meeting public comment form and 2) a Survey Monkey to provide feedback the meeting content and format.

DEQ offered many thanks to the Steering Committee for all the hard work.

Handouts from the meeting are available on the SaMS Meeting Materials [website](#).

All information, questions, additional resources, etc. should be emailed to Sarah Sivers (sarah.sivers@deq.virginia.gov), Will Isenberg (william.isenberg@deq.virginia.gov), and Dave Evans (david.evans@deq.virginia.gov) to reduce email traffic among EOWG members.

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