

## SALT REDUCTION WORK SESSION

- Minutes -

Monday, April 15, 2010

1:00 to 3:30 pm

Derry Municipal Center,

14 Manning Street

Derry, N.H.

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### ATTENDEES:

Janusz Czyzowski,	DPW Town of Londonderry
John Trottier,	DPW Town of Londonderry
Craig Durrett,	Town of Derry
David Poulson,	DPW Town of Windham
Jack McCarthy	DPW Town of Windham
Dave Wholly,	DPW Town of Salem
Rick Russell,	DPW Town of Salem
Craig Durrett,	Town of Derry
Alan Cote,	Town of Derry
Erin McCracken,	N.H. DES
Barabara McMillan,	N.H. DES
Eric Williams,	N.H. DES
Paul Currier,	N.H. DES
Mark Hemmerlein,	N.H. DOT
Bill Cass,	N.H. DOT
Jim Marshall,	N.H. DOT
Jaime Sikora,	Federal Highway Admin.
Carl DeLoi,	EPA
Douglas Heath,	EPA
Pat Santoso,	UNH T2 Center
Mary Brundage,	Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission
Steve Whitman,	Jeffrey H. Taylor & Assoc.

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### Introductions

Steve Whitman of Jeffrey H. Taylor and Associates welcomed everyone, and led the participants through introductions and a review of the agenda. Whitman then introduced Eric Williams of the NHDES.

### NHDOT Municipal Program

Williams walked the participants through a draft timeline and phased approach for chloride reduction. Williams highlighted the fact that the Salt Management Plans must be approved before a community is eligible to apply for funds. The first round of funding will be for up to \$150,000 in each community, and the remaining funding rounds will be competitive and focused on projects that can generate the most reduction in salt use.

Alan Cote pointed out that the September timeline for funding means that the communities (Derry and Londonderry) may not get to spend their funds until July of 2011. Cote also pointed out that it appeared in the draft that \$600,000 in funding would be available for three years of competitive cycles. Williams agreed and added that more years could be added if the funds have not all been expended in each of the rounds.

Janusz Czyzowski asked if the competitive proposals will be based on road miles, and Williams explained that they will likely be based on the greatest reductions in keeping with the TMDLs. The representatives from the

Towns liked the tiered approach and timeline, but added that the largest challenge for them will be securing the match locally.

Dave Poulson suggested that a regional approach might make the most sense if that would be eligible for funding. Williams responded that conceptually it would be eligible, but he is unsure of the mechanics. Jim Marshall explained that the mechanics would not be a problem if the Steering Committee approved a regional effort. NHDOT has experience crafting this type of multi party agreement. Bill Cass added his support for regional solutions and held up CTAP as an example. Dave Poulson added that brine was one approach that might warrant a regional effort.

Whitman then introduced Jim Marshall to discuss the plan approval process with the communities. Marshall highlighted the June 30<sup>th</sup> submission deadline for the plans and explained the Steering Committees timeline for responding with comments during the summer so a final Plan can be submitted by August 13<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to have the plans approved/denied by September 1<sup>st</sup> so the first round of funding can begin. If the funding proposals are approved by the Steering Committee in September/October a municipal agreement will be drafted with the towns for those projects. Williams and Marshall pointed out that the Steering Committee still needs to create an application form for the communities to use when they apply for round one funding.

Alan Cote asked what happens if the local match does not get approved. Marshall explained that the Steering Committee can decide, but the commitment for funding can be held as the Town works to gain support locally. Janusz Czyzowski added that it is important for each town to realize that this must move forward, and that there will be consequences if the Town does not participate in salt reduction efforts. Alan Cote agreed that the Towns need to understand there are consequences if they do not participate. Bill Cass added that this is true, but it was recognized that this would be a burden to the communities and that was the reason for the earmark. Czyzowski added that it is still a win win for the towns because they get to purchase needed equipment for only the cost of match.

Marshall added that municipal agreements have been drafted for each of the communities and are available for review. Marshall then provided a handout on soft match, and explained that he was asked to look into this alternative back in January. The use of soft match needs to be preapproved by FHWA. The handout was discussed in detail and the group had lots of questions about the use of soft match by their community.

Craig Durrett asked if a fundable project can include a variety of approaches. Marshall said that it could as long as the Steering Committee approves the elements of the proposal. Durrett then asked about using funding to do more detailed monitoring and pinpoint where the salt is coming from locally. The group decided it would need to include a comprehensive approach explaining the data being collected and how that information would be used locally to reduce salt use. Mark Hemmerlein added that there should be a statement in the Town's salt management plan about the activity and the implementation plan that will make use of the data.

### **Chloride TMDL Implementation Approach**

Paul Currier then presented a series of TMDL implementation plan considerations. The handout included a table showing the target amount of salt for each watershed, and the sub allocations of salt use. Currier proposed that the allocations be measured as a ten year rolling average. Compliance will be measured by efforts to meet the ten year average. Currier explained that these TMDL allocations are a starting point and they can change based on what is mutually agreeable between the sectors. Windham had a good meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> with representatives of the private sector. T2 is working on the tracking process and will need the municipalities help to make it work.

Currier then explained the consequences that the towns need to communicate to get local support. If all of this does not happen DES and EPA have enforcement authorities. Currier added that it would be better to work on the problem than be in court. If all sectors participate it may take longer, but that is acceptable if progress is being made. Currier also stressed that in order for new development to take place in these watersheds there

need to be reductions in salt use on existing surfaces. Carl DeLoi suggested looking at case studies available on the EPA website. Specifically the Long Creek Case in Maine, and the headwaters of the Charles River in Massachusetts. These highlight the potential consequences that communities could face if they do not participate in salt reduction efforts.

### **Salt Reduction Plan Progress**

Pat Santoso then explained how the four communities can successfully reach the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Santoso and Erin McCracken have been meeting with the communities and have a modified plan template to share. Dates need to be set to meet with the three towns for a round of report drafting and review before they are submitted for June 30<sup>th</sup>. Salem is currently working with their consultant on a plan.

Janusz Czyzowski asked if the plans will be reviewed by an attorney to ensure the language will not create lawsuits. Santoso responded that the new template deals with that. Santoso said he would schedule meetings with the communities to keep working on the plans.

Santoso then provided an update on their work on the private sector issue. T2 has created a system that would provide some accuracy down to the watershed level without being a burden. The system dovetails nicely with the legislation. The success of this effort depends on the success of the pending legislation.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.