



Beach Sampling Lean Event

Event Sponsor: Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Management Bureau
Event Lead: Amanda McQuaid
Dates: February 14 and 22, 2019, March 6, 2019

Approved By: _____

Approval Date: _____

1. **Background:** The Beach Inspection Program works to ensure safe swimming for all of New Hampshire's public beaches. NHDES personnel (and volunteers at 20 locations) collect water samples from coastal and freshwater beaches to protect health by testing for fecal bacteria.

2. **Current Conditions:**

NHDES began its beach sampling program in 2003. Since that time, the number of beaches sampled has grown significantly to over 180 sites. This growth, coupled with increased occurrences of cyanobacteria blooms, have placed strains on time and personnel. In addition, beach sample results and the number of times a beach is resampled may either give the public a false sense of security or trigger unnecessary harm.

3. **Goals:**

- Develop a sampling schedule that concentrates on high-risk beaches based on historical results and concentrate resources towards these high risk beaches
- Target limited resources to those beaches that have higher incidents of e-coli exceedances and higher public usage without increasing costs
- Attempt to reduce overall staff time spent on freshwater beach sampling
- Increase scientific defensibility of sampling to protect public health
- Identify when staff resources should return to beaches to remove advisory

4. **Analysis:**

- In current state, beach sampling program is under-staffed with one-full time program manager, one part-time VRAP person, and three summer interns
- Beaches are re-sampled the day following a positive result, resulting in travel and planning challenges ("firefighting"), as the beach sampling is planned by region
- Many beaches (approximately 90) historically come back "clean" >90% of the time but continue to be sampled annually.
- Program samples beaches that are privately owned.
- Program has several points of contacts when advising of a positive "hit"
- Informal (back-and-forth emails) notification process prior to start of beach season

5. **Proposal:**

- Create implantation plan using a phased-in approach
- Implement Phase I are changes to the program in the upcoming sampling year (2019)
- Review and re-assess in September 2019
- Implement Phase II changes to program over winter 2019-2020 for the 2020 beach sampling season

7. **Implementation Plan:**

1. Notify Private Beaches NHDES Will Not Monitor
2. Notify Clean Beaches of Changes
3. Create Form to Collect Beach Point-of-Contacts
4. Notify NHDES will use single Point-of-Contact
5. Create Beach Sampling Plan – Phase 1
6. Discuss with NHDES Lab changes to sampling
7. Create Beach Liason Network w/state parks
8. Create Beach "Go" kits for Watershed vehicles
9. Manchester – submit beach data via template
10. Remove signs from beaches not in program
11. Create beach sampling plan – Phase II Oct 2019

8. **Follow up:**

- Conduct 60 day follow up meeting
- Conduct calibration meeting with sponsor and process owner (Ocotber 2019)
- Conduct meeting over the winter 2019-2020 to discuss Phase II

6. **Project Team Members (l-r):**

- Amanda McQuaid
- Andrea Bejtlich
- Dave Neils
- Melanie Cofrin
- Jocelyn Degler (Co-facilitator)
- David Smith
- Meredith Collins
- Linda Magoon (Co-facilitator)

