



COASTAL COMMUNITY GRANTS: Stormwater Management

Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission Towns of Kittery, Eliot, South Berwick and York Stormwater Utility Feasibility Workshop

*“Excellent use of my
time. Thank you!”*



PARTNERS

Towns of Kittery, Eliot, South Berwick and York

ISSUE AREA

Sustainable funding to allow municipalities to address stormwater quality and quantity issues.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (completed June 2013)

SMPDC received a Coastal Community grant to implement four projects associated with water quality improvement recommendations from the Piscataqua Region Estuary Management Plan. A Stormwater Utility Workshop for the towns of Kittery, York, South Berwick and Wells was conducted which informed key municipal officials and other stakeholders about the potential costs associated with stormwater quality and quantity treatment, reviewed current approaches to funding these costs and identified steps necessary to implement a stormwater utility as a potential stable funding mechanism. The workshop included an overview of regional stormwater issues followed by work in groups by town to identify local stormwater issues.

APPROACH

Identify information about each municipality's stormwater infrastructure, policies, local and regional issues, as well as current costs and funding mechanisms. Summaries were developed for presentation at the workshop.



COASTAL COMMUNITY GRANTS: Stormwater Management

RESULTS

Utilizing information presented at the workshop, each town met to identify its own related issues and strategies for addressing them. South Berwick moved to create an open space conservation plan. York decided to focus on a sea level rise adaptation plan as a chapter in York's Comprehensive Plan. Eliot focused on funding and prioritized stormwater studies. Kittery developed a project on septic system mapping. And Wells identified coastal flooding, water quality and erosion management.

NEXT STEPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Four of the five participating communities elected to continue on to an additional step to assess the feasibility of implementing a stormwater utility: Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick and Wells.

NEEDS

Additional funding to assist the towns with their studies and a coordinated meeting to discuss the potential to move forward as a collaborative group.

LESSONS LEARNED

The two-day workshop model did not consistently result in municipalities sending their key officials. A shorter more direct workshop may be needed for those key staff interested in stormwater utilities, followed by a more comprehensive, longer workshop with a broader selection of municipal staff.

APPLICABILITY FOR OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

A similar workshop could assist other communities in organizing and prioritizing their own stormwater issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continued additional funding to allow municipalities to develop their own stable funding mechanisms. In addition, the New Hampshire Great Bay nitrogen issue has potential ramifications in Maine, so provide a mechanism for the towns to cooperatively follow and respond to that issue with a single voice.

CONTACT

Paul Schumacher, Executive Director pschumacher@smpdc.org and 207- 571-7065
Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission

J.T. Lockman, Planning Director SMPDC 1999-2012 served as PM for this project

FY12– 17
3.3.17.

Financial assistance provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce Grant CZM NA10NOS4190188 to the Maine Coastal Program. Coastal Community Grants are awarded and administered by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Municipal Planning Assistance Program.

