

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL STORMWATER COALITION



What is CMRSWC?
December 5, 2019



John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E.
Director of Public Works
Holden, MA
Outgoing Co-chair

Tom Gregory
Town Administrator
Spencer, MA
Co-Chair

Kerry Reed, P.E.
Senior Engineer
Framingham, MA
Incoming Co-Chair

2019 EPA New England Environmental Merit Award



What is the Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition (CMRSWC)?

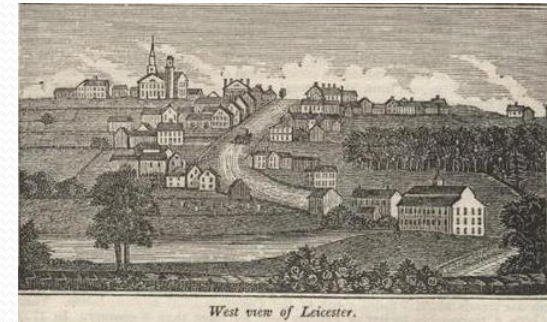
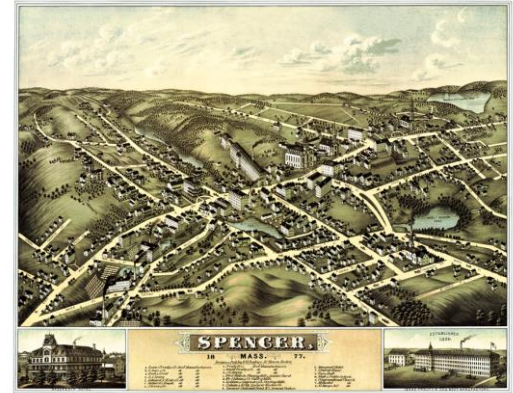
The CMRSWC is a group of communities working together to more effectively manage municipal stormwater.

As neighbors, our communities share stormwater systems, surface water resources, and the need to ensure the long-term protection of these resources. Working as a group allows us to collectively protect the resources we share, and to meet the requirements of the MS4 Permit in an efficient and cost-effective manner.



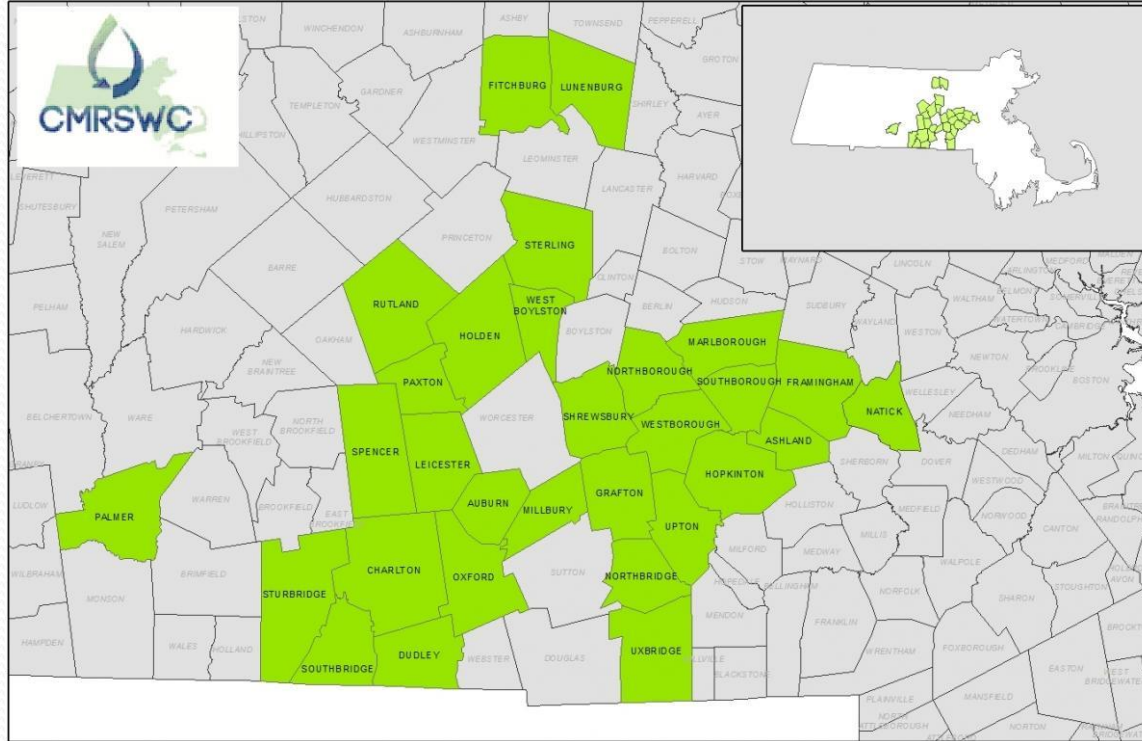
History

- Began with partnership between towns of Leicester and Spencer
 - Common watershed
- Formed in 2012 with 13 Towns
- Originally financed by a State grant (\$300,000); additional grant in 2013 (\$200,000)
- Formal Bylaws and Governing Structure in September, 2016
- Now 30 communities in FY 2020



CMRSWC Communities

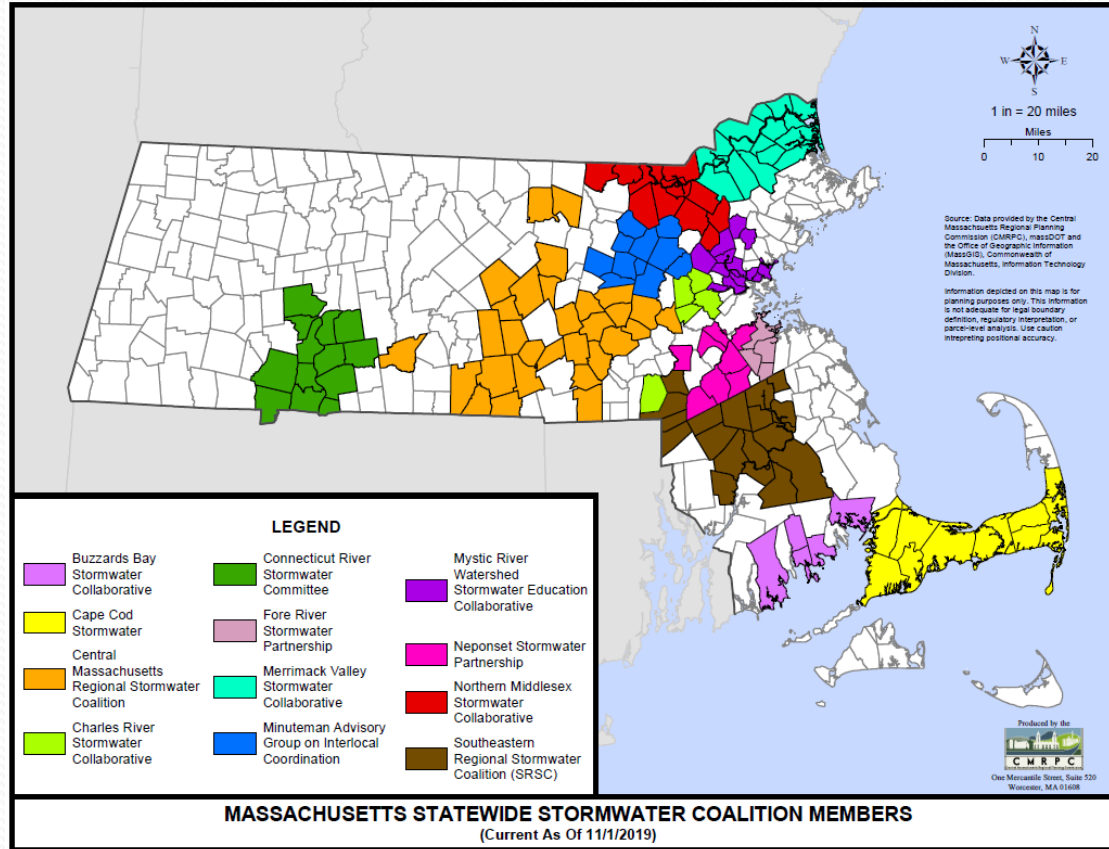
Ashland
Auburn
Charlton
Dudley
Fitchburg
Framingham
Grafton
Holden
Hopkinton
Leicester
Lunenburg
Marlborough
Millbury
Natick
Northborough



Northbridge
Oxford
Palmer
Paxton
Rutland
Shrewsbury
Southborough
Southbridge
Spencer
Sterling
Sturbridge
Upton
Uxbridge
West Boylston
Westborough



Regional Stormwater Coalitions



CMRSWC Partners

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)
- Massachusetts Department of Revenue (MassDOR)
- Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (MassDCR)
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)
- Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)
- Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resource Stewardship (MCWRS)
- Other Regional Stormwater Coalitions
- All Have Provided Help & Guidance, Educational Materials, & Labor



Why a Coalition?

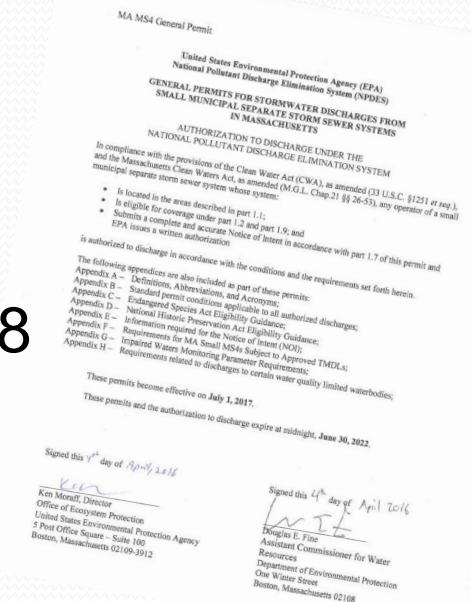
- Same regulatory requirements
- Concerns about new MS4 requirements
- Access to technical and management resources for implementing requirements
- Documenting efforts and submitting regulatory reports
- Educating the public about their MS4
- No dedicated funding

Common Factor to those Challenges: \$\$\$\$\$



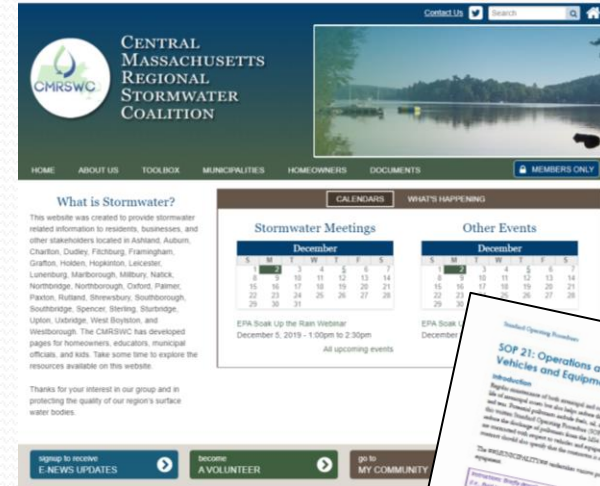
MS4 Permit

- Massachusetts is a non-delegated states...EPA runs the permit process
- Permit had been administratively continued for 15 years
- New permit became effective on July 1, 2018
 - Due to legal appeals (both MA & NH), was postponed for 1-year
- Stricter requirements in all facets of the permit



What has CMRSWC done?

- Website with toolkit
- Annual summary for regulatory reports
- GIS mapping and data collection support
- Equipment sharing
- WPI project sponsorship
- Developed Standard Operating Procedures



What has CMRSWC done? (cont)

- Workshops/training
 - Notice of Intent
 - Stormwater Management Plan
 - Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans
 - Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination
 - Geographic Information Systems
 - Sewer-sniffing dog demonstration



What has CMRSWC done? (cont)

- Advocacy to state & federal agencies
- Helped fund MS4 legal appeal
- Helped form MA Statewide Stormwater Coalition
- Public education & outreach



Current Work

- Workshops
 - NOI, SWMP, IDDE
 - Provide templates, avoid paying for consultants
- IDDE support
 - PeopleGIS
 - Equipment
- Working with Other MA Stormwater Coalitions on Common Education Messages



Think Blue Massachusetts



Learn more at <https://www.thinkbluemassachusetts.org/>

And follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ThinkBlueMassachusetts/>

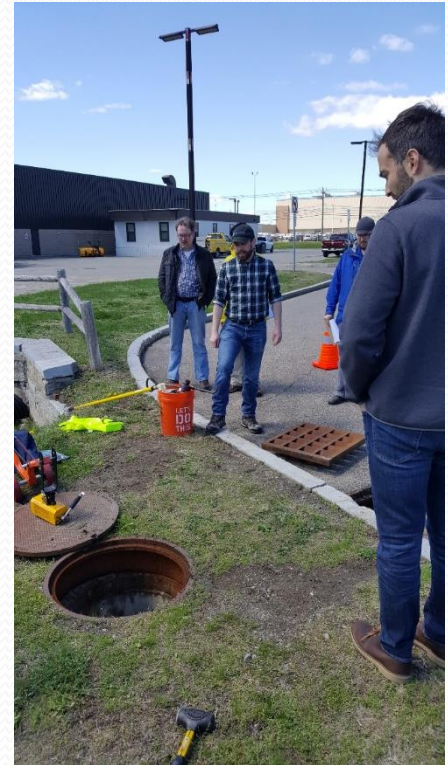
Challenges & Lessons Learned

- Everyone needs to get “something” from their membership
- Diverse membership is both a benefit and a challenge; requires coordination between 30 towns, administrative & technical staff
- Turnover in membership – need a core group to set goals and put ideas into action
- Steering committee
 - Sub-committees (Education, Technical, Advocacy)



Challenges & Lessons Learned (cont)

- \$\$\$\$ - accommodate varying budget resources of each town
- Dues provide a sustainable funding source and generate “buy-in” from members
- Create partnerships with environmental groups, professional organizations, and local universities.
- Document efforts.



Challenges & lessons learned (cont.)

- The new MS4 permit is complicated & expensive.
- State agencies want you to succeed.
- Consultants are great partners
- Need to educate not just the public, but also local officials on the needs and additional cost & effort.
- Stormwater is Stormwater is Stormwater



Future Challenges and Unknowns

- Increased regulatory burden on:
 - Drinking water
 - Wastewater treatment discharges
 - Stormwater management
 - Impaired waters & TMDLS
- New permit requirements = more costs
- DEP taking on NPDES permitting primacy?
- Competition for limited municipal resources
 - Stormwater utilities??



What Next?

- CMRSWC needs to continue to partner with other coalitions and the state and federal agencies
- Need to educate not just the public, but local officials on the reasons for additional efforts & costs
- Create partnerships with environmental groups where possible
 - All are working towards same goal, how can we get there cooperatively?
- Funding



What Next? (cont.)

- Continue to advocate for integrated planning & permitting by the EPA & DEP
- Advocate for realistic permit requirements
- Continue pooling of resources and talents of member communities



Questions?

<http://centralmastormwater.org>

<https://www.thinkbluemassachusetts.org/>

Twitter: @MAStormH2O



Image courtesy of J. Brooks McCarty, Framingham DPW Drainage Supervisor

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