

# Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting

November 18, 2020

A webinar introduction to the draft Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) Toolkit was held virtually for Stakeholder Advisory Committee members from 10:00 am – 11:30 am on November 18, 2020.

## **Attendance**

Thirty-eight individuals, including seven Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff members and one staff person from the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB; DEQ's contractual support), participated in the meeting.

Andy Alden  
Heather Ambrose  
Heidi Bonnaffon  
Sandy Burkholder  
Marian Carroll  
Cathy Cogswell  
Mike Collins  
Shannon Curtis  
Satoshi Eto  
Dave Evans\*  
Adil Godrej  
Camila Goncalves Dias  
Normand Goulet  
Stanley Grant  
David Greenspan  
Mark Gundersen  
Herbert Holmes  
Will Isenberg\*  
Pam Kenel

Jonathan Matheny  
Kelly Meadows  
Corey Miles  
Lauren Mollerup  
Heidi Moltz\*  
Jonathan Murray  
Cathy Nicely\*  
Merrily Pierce  
Niffy Saji  
Russ Short  
Sarah Sivers\*  
Bryant Thomas  
Marilee Tretina\*  
David Trimble  
Greg Waters  
Mary Alice Winston  
Jonathan Witt  
Carol Wong  
Evan Wright

\* Facilitator/Organizer

## **Meeting Highlights**

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the SaMS Toolkit and the associated public summary document to the SaMS Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) and to hear committee members comments and questions.

## **Follow-up Action Items:**

The deadline for SAC comments on the SaMS Toolkit and the public summary document is November 30, 2020 (Noon). Please submit any comments to DEQ by that time.

## **Meeting Summary**

Meeting information were made available to the SAC in advance of the meeting. The purpose of this summary is not to duplicate that information but, instead, to supplement that content with a summary of the meeting discussions and outcomes.

## **Introductions, Objectives, and Logistics**

Sarah Sivers, DEQ, welcomed everyone to the meeting. A brief introduction of the GoToWebinar software was then provided by Marilee Tretina, and Sarah shared the formal introductory remarks about remote meetings by DEQ. Sarah Sivers then introduced the purpose for the meeting - to provide an overview of the SaMS Toolkit and the associated public summary document to SAC members and hear committee member comments and questions. Next, a poll was conducted to gauge familiarity with the Toolkit.

POLL: How much of the Toolkit have you made it through? Responses: 17% haven't started it/"What Toolkit?", 52% only some sections/the introduction, 7% all of the appendices, Sections 1-11, 24% cover to cover.

Sarah Sivers then provided a refresher on the SaMS Toolkit including the project timeline, the stakeholder process, and the intended purpose. Following her remarks, Sarah asked for questions or comments. A request was made to add "Civic Associations" to complement HOAs on the "Stakeholder-driven Development Categories" slide.

An overview of the SaMS Toolkit contents was then provided, and Sarah acknowledged the tremendous amount of SAC member participation that went into making the Toolkit a reality. She asked for questions on the overview verbally or using the chat function. It was noted that while a recommendation to limit non-essential travel and maximize teleworking during winter storms might have seemed more extreme at the start of the SaMS process, perceptions may have changed since that time because teleworking has become more common during the pandemic.

Sarah Sivers then provided an overview of the public summary document and asked for comments/questions. No comments were raised.

Sarah Sivers then provided an overview of the Steering Committee's review. She asked for questions on the content of the steering committee review. A question was raised about whether there is a longer-term plan for implementation of certification/training programs. DEQ responded that as noted earlier in the meeting, the Toolkit does not include any recommendations that have potential policy implications, which this item could entail. It was noted that during deliberations by the Non-Traditional BMPs Workgroup that worked on this topic, they recommended only to include existing certification/training programs as a resource with no recommendation that one should seek certification or training due to potential policy implications.

Merrily Pierce, a Steering Committee member, commented on her experience with the SAMS process. She has been involved in this process for years and has experience with different sides of the salt issue. Originally, she did not anticipate such a cautious SaMS approach; however, she also did not anticipate an approach that was this comprehensive. She is grateful and impressed with the thoroughness of each workgroup's deliberations and the broad range of the subject matter that was discussed. She noted that the product is something we should be very proud of. She is looking forward to sharing the Toolkit broadly within the residential communities she regularly communicates with. She offered thanks to DEQ, support staff, and every member of the stakeholder group.

## **Summary of Comments**

Sarah Sivers, DEQ, summarized comments received from the SAC to date. Several comments were related to the public summary document. They were reviewed one-by-one, including the steps that will

be taken to address them. Comments on the SaMS Toolkit were also reviewed along with the plans to address them.

Sarah then opened the discussion for general questions and comments about the Toolkit and the public summary document. A participant asked if there will be a regularly scheduled check-in to keep the document up to date. DEQ said that the implementation process will be discussed in further detail at the December 2<sup>nd</sup> SAC meeting. Implementation decisions will be made under an implementation body. DEQ will be stepping back from the leadership role and will transition to an active participant in a supporting role.

### **Wrap-up and Next Steps**

The SAC comment deadline on the draft SaMS Toolkit and the public summary document is November 30<sup>th</sup> at noon. Another SAC meeting will be held on December 2, 2020. The December meeting will include a vote on finalizing the SaMS Toolkit using a polling process.

A document describing the polling process was distributed via email to SAC members. Polling will include the following options: (1) I/we support it, (2) I/we can live with it, and (3) I/we cannot live with it. Only one member can vote per organization. Organizations with multiple SAC members should identify who their voting member will be in advance of the meeting. Please reach out to DEQ if you have any questions about the polling process before December 2<sup>nd</sup> in order to allow the meeting to run as smoothly as possible.

Once the SAC process is complete, the Toolkit will move to the public review process. The final public meeting is expected to be in January of 2021. That meeting will kick off a 30-day comment period. At the close of the comment period, comments will be addressed and the Toolkit will be finalized. The Toolkit is expected to be final and ready to enter the implementation phase by February or March 2021.

### ***Meeting Feedback***

Stakeholder Advisory Committee members can provide feedback on the virtual meeting format via a virtual meeting public comment form (the survey is submitted to the FOIA Council, external to DEQ) found here:

[https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/Electronic\\_Meetings\\_Public\\_Comment\\_Form.docx](https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/Electronic_Meetings_Public_Comment_Form.docx) DEQ would welcome receiving a copy of these forms as well if they contain suggestions to improve future virtual meetings (send to Dave, Sarah and Will via email).

Comments and questions should be emailed to Sarah Sivers ([sarah.sivers@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:sarah.sivers@deq.virginia.gov)), Will Isenberg ([william.isenberg@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:william.isenberg@deq.virginia.gov)), and/or Dave Evans ([david.evans@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:david.evans@deq.virginia.gov)).

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

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