

## How Are We Doing?

### Highlights of activities in 2007 and plans for 2008 to implement the Town of Narragansett's

### Stormwater Management Program Plan

#### *Introduction*

In 2003, the Town of Narragansett adopted a Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMPP) and submitted a Notice of Intent to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) for the Storm Water General Permit for Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. The Town identified Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address issues under six "Minimum Measures". Every year the Town reports to RIDEM on progress in implementing the SWMPP.

The intent of this summary is to provide a brief look at the highlights of last year's activities and the actions planned for this year. Our thanks to those whose actions have complemented our efforts; we've acknowledged your partnership below. (Our apologies to those we've missed.) The Town cannot take all the credit for improvements in the quality of runoff within its borders, nor can it ever hope to take all the steps necessary to minimize the effects of human activity on our waters. Our hope is that this document will inspire you to consider how your actions, combined with those of other people and organizations, can help us achieve the goal of "fishable, swimmable, drinkable". And please tell us what you do and what you're planning to do, so we can include that information in our next annual report.

#### *Organization of the Report*

Under each of the now-famous Minimum Measures, we provide a brief summary of activities that occurred in Narragansett in 2007, and planned activities for 2008. If something could fall under more than one Minimum

Measure, we refer to it only under what seems the most appropriate category.

- ❖ 2008 activities that have already been completed (as of June 30, 2008) are marked with this bullet.

Please refer to the SWMPP and Annual Report dated March 7, 2008 for additional details. For questions, or to report on your activities, please contact John Lawless in the Engineering Department (782-0637) or Kris Stuart at the Southern RI Conservation District (295-1311; [kris@srccd.org](mailto:kris@srccd.org)).

## **MINIMUM MEASURE #1: PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

### *IN 2007:*

- The Town produced the third issue of *Stormwater Currents*, with articles on the purchase of a vacuum truck for catch basin cleaning, monitoring of storm drain outfalls, the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study for Pt. Judith Pond, a self-test on homeowners "Green Smarts" and an update on the next round of pollution-control practices to be installed in the Narrow River watershed. This has been distributed to more than 8,000 households in Narragansett.
- The annual Consumer Confidence Report on drinking water quality included an article on reducing runoff.
- The Salt Ponds Coalition's spring newsletter included an article on Pt. Judith Pond's "hot spots".
- Southern RI Conservation District's Annual Report highlighted Narragansett's stormwater program.
- SRICD and the Narrow River Preservation Association delivered a watershed education program to approximately 200 third and fourth grade students.
- Posters on the effects of car washing were distributed to the library, high school, Town Hall and Belmont by the Sea at Pier Market.
- A flyer encouraging water-saving irrigation systems was prepared and delivered to designers and installers of sprinkler systems who serve Narragansett.

- A number of calls were received expressing appreciation for last year's narrative summary, which was mailed or emailed to local organizations and posted on the Town website.
- The Town Beach was the site for two beach cleanups and hazardous waste collections, held in partnership with RI Resource Recovery, RI Coastal Resources Management Council, RI Chapter of Surfriders Foundation and Eastern Surfing Association.
- Narragansett Town Beach was also the site of Environmental Awareness Day, held in partnership with RI Rivers Council.
- The Town serves on the Steering Committee of the Stormwater Education and Outreach Program led by URI NEMO.

*PLANS FOR 2008:*

- Look for new opportunities to collaborate
- Produce next issue of *Stormwater Currents*
- Include a stormwater-related article in the newsletters of the Salt Ponds Coalition and the Narrow River Preservation Association
- Work with teachers to explore methods of involving students in stormwater projects
- Follow up with lawn care businesses on promoting water conservation and use of organic fertilizers

**MINIMUM MEASURE #2: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT/PARTICIPATION**

*IN 2007:*

- SRICD and the Salt Ponds Coalition conducted a presentation on lawn care practices to about 50 Great Island residents. The first version of the Homeowner Water Quality Report card was presented at this meeting (see *Stormwater Currents*).
- A NRPA volunteer conducted water quality sampling of Crooked Brook.
- Three additional volunteer monitors were recruited by the Salt Ponds Coalition to sample sites in Pt. Judith Pond.

*PLANS FOR 2008:*

- Work with NRPA to inform homeowners' associations on the progress of retrofit projects.
- Work with SPC to update residents of Great Island and Briggs Farm on the Pt. Judith Pond TMDL
- ❖ Support volunteer monitoring as requested
- ❖ Determine need to continue focused monitoring of Crooked Brook by NRPA
- ❖ Sponsor a rain-barrel event (Water Dept., May 2008)

**MINIMUM MEASURE #3: ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION**

*IN 2007:*

- Additional outfalls were identified and mapped.
- The Town is tracking excessive pump-outs of septic systems.
- Animal Control Officers provided a handout to residents on what is expected of a responsible pet owner, including picking up animal waste.
- Dry weather monitoring of all known outfalls was conducted in the fall, measuring flow rate, temperature, pH and conductivity. Samples were also sent to Watershed Watch for analysis of fecal coliform.
- Two "Mutt Mitt" dispensers and trash barrels along the Ocean Road seawall have been declared a huge success by the Parks and Recreation Department. 12,000 bags were purchased. Additional dispensers were placed in Jerusalem in 2007.

*PLANS FOR 2008:*

- Install "Mutt Mitt" dispensers at Christofano Park and Sprague Park.
- Identify properties serviced by cesspools, for future notices re: the State's Cesspool Act.
- Update the outfall list to note those that are flood-prone, in compliance with State legislation.

- Continue to update maps, monitor and encourage source reduction.

#### **MINIMUM MEASURE #4: CONSTRUCTION SITE STORM WATER RUNOFF CONTROL**

##### *IN 2007:*

- Town staff participated in training sessions provided in conjunction with the State's Stormwater Education and Outreach Program, including:
  - Making an Impact with LID
  - TR-55 for Plan Reviewers
- 156 site plan reviews were completed
- Only two construction sites larger than 1 acre were located in Narragansett in 2007. Pre- and post-construction inspections were conducted on these sites, as well as at sites less than one acre in size.
- 10 complaints concerning erosion and sediment control and/or post-construction runoff were received. All were addressed satisfactorily.

##### *PLANS FOR 2008:*

- Ensure that all proposals to disturb 1+ acres have Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans to meet RIDEM's Construction Site General Permit
- Upgrade the permit tracking database

#### **MINIMUM MEASURE #5: POST CONSTRUCTION STORM WATER MANAGEMENT IN NEW DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT**

##### *IN 2007:*

- 2 sites of 1+ acres were inspected to insure proper installation of stormwater structures.
- 5 stormwater structures were inspected by Town staff for proper operation and maintenance. Town maintained those it is responsible for. 2 BMPs were added to the list of privately-owned structures.

*PLANS FOR 2008:*

- ❖ Complete a guidebook for homeowners' associations on "Care and Feeding of Your Stormwater Management Facility".
- Develop a comprehensive approach and tracking system to identify, inspect and ensure maintenance of privately-owned BMPs.

**MINIMUM MEASURE #6: POLLUTION PREVENTION AND GOOD HOUSEKEEPING IN MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS**

*IN 2007:*

- Three publicly-owned BMPs were added to the maintenance schedule.
- Publicly-owned structures were inspected and maintained. New operation and maintenance plans were prepared for the structures at Lilly Lane and Cedar Island Road in response to inspections; remedial maintenance will require permission from CRMC.
- The Town explored the feasibility and estimated cost of using wash pads at the fire stations to eliminate discharge to the storm drain system.
- Town staff participated in training sessions provided in conjunction with the State's Stormwater Education and Outreach Program, including:
  - ✓ DPW Employee Training
- All catch basins were inspected and cleaned, all roads were swept.
- A vacuum truck was purchased to assist with catch basin cleaning and BMP maintenance.
- An evaluation was made at Town Hall to determine if there was any potential for reducing runoff from the site.

*PLANS FOR 2008:*

- Continue monitoring the effectiveness of the Mettatuxet Beach BMP and publicize results
- Design additional retrofits in Narrow River through RIDEM grant
- Assess the feasibility of retrofitting runoff systems at the schools in Crooked Brook watershed, through RIDEM grant
- Seek funding for wash pads at the Fire Station
- Seek opportunities to promote infiltration at Town facilities
- Continue staff training on stormwater issues
- Update the Plan to include recommendations of the Pt. Judith Pond TMDL