

# Handout #1: Highlights & Follow up Actions from Second Meeting SaMS Government Coordination Workgroup

## Workgroup Meeting #2 Highlights

- Workgroup members support **coordination among jurisdictions to decrease costs** associated with implementing aspects of SaMS such as pursuing alternative deicers and salt management **training** for snow maintenance professionals. Members representing local jurisdictions expressed interest to better train their operations staff on winter salt best management practices (BMPs) and intend to pursue this for 2020.
- **Ongoing coordination post SaMS development** among regional government agencies and other winter maintenance stakeholders and an **annual post-season GC Workgroup** meeting would be valuable to share lessons learned and help improve future snow event responses. The SaMS report should recommend such forums, and note the **need for an entity to take the lead role** for convening the forums and broadly supporting SaMS implementation.
- A recommendation to encourage coordination within the region to **support consistent messaging** should be included in the final SaMS document. For example, consistent messaging that clearly communicates expectations for **levels of service** (enhance “clear road” understanding) while recognizing local jurisdiction’s prerogative to define expectations for their constituents.
- The SaMS document should **generally support** (without prescribing specific details) **future legislative actions** to bolster implementation of SaMS recommendations. **Liability relief** to salt-application trained winter maintenance professionals and the organizations who hire them, and winter **salt product labeling** with information on proper application and the negative effects of excess salt use will be further discussed for inclusion in the final SaMS report.

## Notes from Other Workgroups: *WQ Monitoring and Research (11-21-19 mtg)*

- Pooled monitoring efforts are encouraged so that resources are maximized and groups are not duplicating effort. The WQMR workgroup recommends the Government Coordination workgroup consider coordinating this recommendation.
- The implementation of the pilot water quality monitoring program may be something the Government Coordination Workgroup can discuss coordinating since it will likely be multijurisdictional.

## Workgroup Meeting #2 Follow-up Action Items

Workgroup volunteers are pursuing follow-up action items before the next meeting of the Government Coordination Workgroup:

- Investigate the **alternative deicer** used by the National Park Service and the cost of the product. (Heidi Bonnaffon)
- Provide the draft language for winter salt management in **Maryland’s next generation of MS4 permits**. (Heidi Bonnaffon - completed)

- Find City of Fairfax Council member Jon Stehle’s connection with the **Community Associations Institute**. (Heidi Bonnaffon)
- Identify the point of contact for **VDOT’s pre-season winter messages/media event**. (Tracey Harmon and/or Scott Crafton)
- Draft language for workgroup recommendations on **conceptual support for legislation**, shared-service contracting, operator training, and ongoing GC Workgroup support for SaMS implementation. (DEQ Staff/workgroup volunteers welcome)

### **Item 1: Alternative Action Deicer Product: Opportunity for Shared Contracting**

NPS has used an alternative deicer product, Apogee, which SaMS local government workgroup members expressed interest to have MW-COG explore potential for shared contracting access.

- Heidi Bonnaffon reached out to Tony Migliaccio, National Park Service, to seek information about the product Apogee, the unit cost, whether the price might come down if the region did a bulk purchase, and whether local jurisdictions would have the possibility of riding the NPS contract.
- Tony explained that NPS uses Apogee on Arlington Memorial Bridge. Envirotech, the manufacturer, lists it as a trade secret (proprietary). Apogee is bought by NPS in bulk it is \$3.15 per gallon for a 4,500 gallons delivery. Application rate is 15-20 gallons per lane. NPS doesn’t have a contract with Envirotech, hence there is no ability to add a rider clause yet, but they’d be interested in a region wide bulk purchase.
- Rick Conrad, MW-COG, observed that a bulk purchase contract for Apogee would be “sole source” and not competitively bid, and thus would not qualify for a consortium opportunity. Without a competitive process, other jurisdictions would not be able to ride any resulting contract.
- Rick noted that MW-COG has done bids for de-icers in the past and would be willing to lead an open invitation for bid with a good specification, provided there was a commitment by the partners to buy under the resulting award.

#### Workgroup Input Needed

- Is there interest to make a specific recommendation to have MW-COG explore Alternative Deicer products for future shared contracting by local governments?

If there is consensus to recommend this, should the SaMS report frame and explain this specific recommendation or be framed more generally to pertain to this type of coordination vs. the product?

## **Item #2: Sharing Draft Language from Maryland's Next Generation of MS4 Permits**

Maryland has developed proposed language for its next MS4 permits that addresses winter salt use. Workgroup members expressed interest to receive copy of this, which Heidi Bonnafon offered to share.

- Maryland's MS4 permit includes provisions requiring development of a salt management plan under the Property Management and Maintenance section of the permit. Specific components include identifying technical advances, training, public outreach, tracking and reporting of winter operations, and annual reporting of program changes.
- Heidi provided DEQ a copy of the draft MD MS4 permit in August, but this draft has subsequently been further revised and its finalization is expected in the near-term. Consequently is not available to share at this time.
- DEQ will share the final Maryland MS4 permit with the Government Coordination workgroup once it is finalized.

## **Item #3: Contact with Community Associations Institute**

Workgroup members were interested to learn more about the Community Association Institute, and City of Fairfax Council Member Jon Stehle's participation.

- Heidi Bonnafon shared with DEQ the contact for the local chapter of the Community Associations Institute, and indicated she would speak with Jaime Barnhart in September about the SaMS initiative.
- In email communications with Heidi, Jamie indicated that WMCCAI was looking to expand its engagement and connections with local governments within the region. WMCCAI has several committees that would be able to support the SaMS effort. He indicated that he planned to attend a September 20 MW-COG meeting.
- More information on the Washington Metropolitan Chapter, Community Associations Institute is found at their website: [www.caids.org](http://www.caids.org)

## **Item #4: VDOT's Pre-Season Winter Messages/Media Event**

Workgroup members expressed interest to have better awareness of VDOT's pre-season messaging event held with local elected leaders.

- VDOT held its annual NoVA pre-season briefing for local elected leaders on November, 15, 2019. A point of contact for this event is Jenni McCord.
- The materials are available online from the VDOT website: <https://www.slideshare.net/vdotnova/2019-vdot-northern-virginia-snow-briefing>

## **Item #5: Conceptual Support for Future Legislation for SaMS Implementation**

Participants in the second Government Coordination workgroup meeting discussed two topical areas where future legislation could provide support for implementation of SaMS: liability relief associated with training/certification of operators, and product labeling to inform the public on winter salt use. While the workgroup recognized that developing specific legislative recommendations was beyond its scope or abilities, members were interested to have the SaMS report include a statement of conceptual support for future legislative proposals.

- DEQ staff informed senior managers of the workgroup's desire to have the SaMS report indicate conceptual support for future legislative action to provide some form of liability relief for winter service operators trained and certified in salt management BMPs, and to require labeling of winter salt products to inform the public of their constituents, proper use, and the negative impacts associated with excessive application of winter salts.
- In a meeting focused on this, it was clarified that DEQ does not take a position on or offer legislative recommendations in advance of Virginia's Governor taking a position on a given issue.
- Accordingly, given the final SaMS report will be a DEQ publication, DEQ management communicated that the report cannot include statements of support for future legislation in the areas discussed by the workgroup.
- SaMS participants who wish to pursue these ideas further should do so using ongoing policy deliberation and collaboration processes outside the SaMS process (while DEQ is the primary facilitative leader).