Salt Management Strategy (SaMS)
1st Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting
held at Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Fairfax, VA
February 27, 2018

The initial meeting of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) for the Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) was held from 1:00 – 3:00 pm on February 27, 2018 in Fairfax, Virginia at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) at 3040 Williams Drive, Fairfax, Virginia.

Normand Goulet of NVRC opened the meeting, welcoming participants on behalf of the Regional Commission. Bryant Thomas of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) offered brief introductory remarks, touching on key highlights of the SaMS initiative and introduced the three DEQ SaMS team members: Dave Evans, Will Isenberg, and Sarah Sivers. Bryant then asked all participants to introduce themselves, note their organization, and share an expectation they have for the SaMS.

Forty eight (48) individuals, in addition to four DEQ staff and Karin Bencala of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB; DEQ’s contractual support), participated in the meeting – 42 in person and 6 via conference call. A summary of expectations offered by participants during introductions is here: Expectations for SaMS.

Will Isenberg of DEQ presented information on the water quality impairments and TMDL background/context for this initiative, and DEQ's current plans for developing the SaMS; his presentation slides are shown here: DEQ Opening Presentation. Will also briefly discussed a summary of the responses to DEQ's SaMS survey that was open for stakeholder response from Nov. 1, 2017 to Feb. 14, 2018: SaMS Survey Summary.

Dr. Wilfrid Nixon, Vice President for Science and the Environment at the Salt Institute and a member of the SAC, next presented data on key benefits of winter salt use, policies and management practices that can reduce the negative impacts of salt use, and noted several other jurisdictions who have worked to address this issue. Dr. Nixon is an emeritus professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Iowa and has conducted extensive research on salt use for winter maintenance. His presentation slides are available here: W.Nixon Presentation.
Feb. 27, 2018 SAC Meeting Summary

Sarah Sivers of DEQ facilitated a brief discussion of participant ideas for guidelines to foster effective collaboration during SAC meetings. DEQ will use their Participant Guidelines Input to draft a set of participation guidelines for the SAC's further consideration.

Dave Evans of DEQ then sought feedback on DEQ's draft goals and objectives for the SaMS. Participants Goals & Objectives Input will be used to refine the goals and objectives, which will be shared with SAC members for further comment before the second SAC meeting.

Given time limitations, eight people provided additional written input on notecards. Most of these cards included comments on the goals and objectives, and they have been folded into the initial input noted above. The other notecards: (1) asked that DEQ clearly explain the broad manner it is using the term "best management practices" (BMPs) in the SaMS, (2) requested that DEQ clarify how BMP implementation will fit into Fairfax County's 25 year Master Watershed Plan, and (3) provided two additional staff contacts for Fort Belvoir. The first two will be addressed in follow up SAC meetings and communications, and the third has been addressed by updating the SaMS Contacts listing.

DEQ thanked participants for their time and valuable input and concluded the meeting at 3pm, after noting that the 2nd SAC meeting (also to be held at NVRC) is likely to be scheduled for mid/late April, 2018 and promised additional information in email communications within the next week.