

A Strawman Proposal for SaMS Work Groups

Proposed Scope of Discussions / Focus Areas

Six separate work groups are currently envisioned to deliberate on specific topics and prepare recommendations for SaMS development. The proposed scope of discussions and focus areas for each group are discussed below. The exact format and scope of each workgroup may vary depending on the interest and participation by the various stakeholders and therefore, adjustments will be made through consensus accordingly. DEQ plans to propose to the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) prior to the second SAC meeting the following work groups and the initially intended scope.

Workgroup #1: Traditional Best Management Practices (BMPs): This group will be tasked to discuss and offer recommendations on BMPs such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Best management practices
 - Equipment Calibration
 - Integrate liquids
 - Reduce bounce and scatter of salt
 - Anti-ice before events
 - Use ground speed controllers
 - Upgrades to equipment
 - winter maintenance plans
 - Training
 - Better storage
 - Tailor product usage and application rates based on pavement temperatures and conditions
 - Refine application rate charts and test lower rates for effectiveness
 - Remove excess salt after storm events
 - Alternative deicer/anti-ice products/approaches
- Funding sources
 - Funding options to support implementation
- Incentives opportunities
 - Possible financial incentives to support implementation
 - Potential non-financial incentives (e.g., personnel)

Workgroup #2: Non-Traditional Practices: This group will be asked to discuss and offer recommendations for areas such as:

- Non-traditional management practices
 - Lower levels of service
 - Alternative pavement types and urban designs
 - Driver behavior changes (i.e., teleworking)
 - Certification/training program for winter maintenance activities
 - Commercial applicator training requirements
- Legislative initiatives
 - Winter weather speed limits
 - Ordinances/administrative code that addresses certification of winter maintenance applicators
 - Slip and fall liability protection for certified applicators
 - Salt tax to annual vehicle registrations
- Funding sources
 - Funding options to support implementation
 - Potential financial incentives to support implementation

Workgroup #3: Education and Outreach: This group will be asked to discuss and offer recommendations for areas such as:

- An Overall Education and Outreach Plan
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Roles and Resources
- Target Audience-Specific Communications
 - Private/Commercial Property Owners/Managers
 - Political leaders
 - Large Institutional Property Owners/Managers
 - Homeowner Associations
 - Winter Maintenance Professionals - Applicators
- General Public Outreach/Education
 - Traditional media outreach: increase awareness
 - Social media awareness & engagement (what you can do)
 - Additional outreach campaigns (e.g., door to door, salt scoop giveaways, salt labeling and marketing recommendations)
 - Develop basic deicer best practices for homeowners
- Refine impacts report
 - Review and amend as appropriate the impacts report detailing the effects of deicing anti-icing salts on the environment, infrastructure, personal property, and public health
- Funding sources
 - Funding options to support education and outreach campaigns

Workgroup #4: WQ Monitoring and Research: This group will be asked to discuss and offer recommendations for areas such as:

- Ambient water quality monitoring
 - Review existing WQ monitoring information and suggest enhancements
 - Location, frequency and WQ monitoring parameters
 - Government, private, and voluntary monitoring
 - Assess the best ways to study salt loads and sources in the region's watersheds
- Monitoring Effectiveness of BMPs
 - Study design to capture BMP effectiveness
- Reporting Framework for WQ Data on Salts
 - Reporting data to National data systems (STORET, etc.)
 - Summarizing and communicating data for outreach
 - Tracking WQ trends over time
- Funding sources
 - Funding options to support water quality monitoring

Workgroup #5: Salt Tracking and Reporting: This group will discuss and offer recommendations for areas such as:

- Salt use tracking
 - Internal business record keeping
 - Uniform metrics for data comparability

- BMP Tracking
 - Process for tracking iterative BMP adoption
 - Monitoring success of BMP adoption

- Salt use reporting
 - Reporting data for region-wide trend analyses
 - Reporting data to DEQ

- Funding sources
 - Funding options to support these initiatives

Workgroup #6: Government Coordination: This group will likely include participants representing local government and institutional MS4 permittees, State agencies, public safety, and public water supply purveyors. They will be asked to discuss and offer recommendations for areas such as:

- Folding SaMS into existing government processes/operations
 - Impacts from proposed actions on existing programs/ordinances/initiatives
 - MS4 Permits
 - Other Watershed Restoration/Action plans
 - Government Road and Property Management contracts

- Funding sources
 - Funding options for implementation options

Steering Committee: Given the potential size of the composite workgroups membership, it may be valuable to have a small and balanced group of the leading contributors for each workgroup also serve on a steering committee. The steering committee may consist of designated representatives from each workgroup, DEQ, and if needed to strike a balance, and selected additional SAC members to ensure balanced representation. The steering committee would:

- consider the recommendations/outputs of all workgroups
- discuss progress and potential mid-course corrections after the second workgroup meetings
- provide the SAC with overarching recommendations on the strategy as a whole
- discuss time-based performance goals for SaMS implementation, and
- serve as a review committee for the draft strategy prior to being shared publicly.