

Municipal Coalition Building in Massachusetts

Laura Schifman, Stormwater Coordinator, MassDEP

Kerry Reed, Chair, Statewide Stormwater Coalition

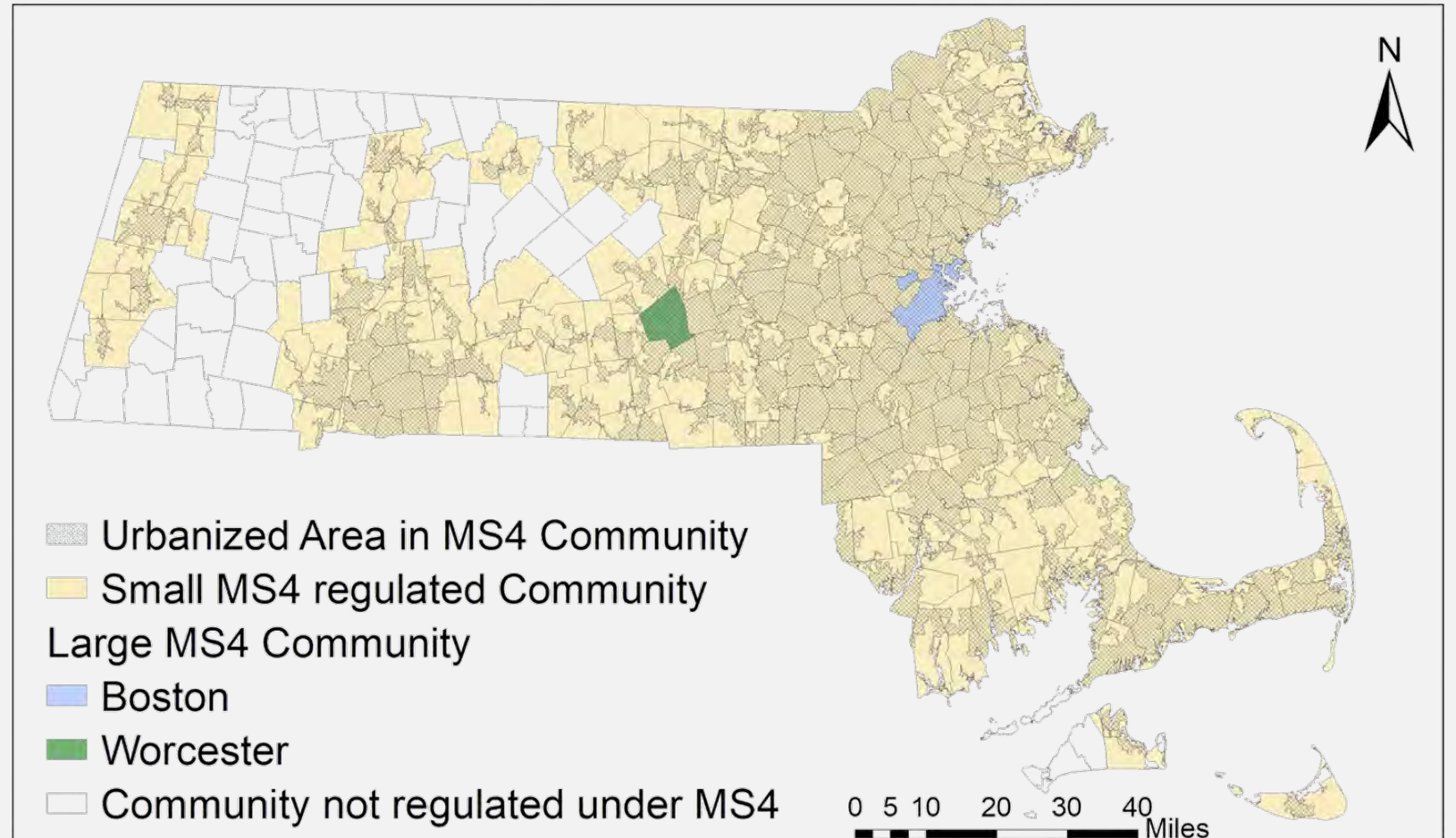
February 6, 2019

2020 ACWA Stormwater Roundtable

San Antonio, TX

Stormwater in Massachusetts

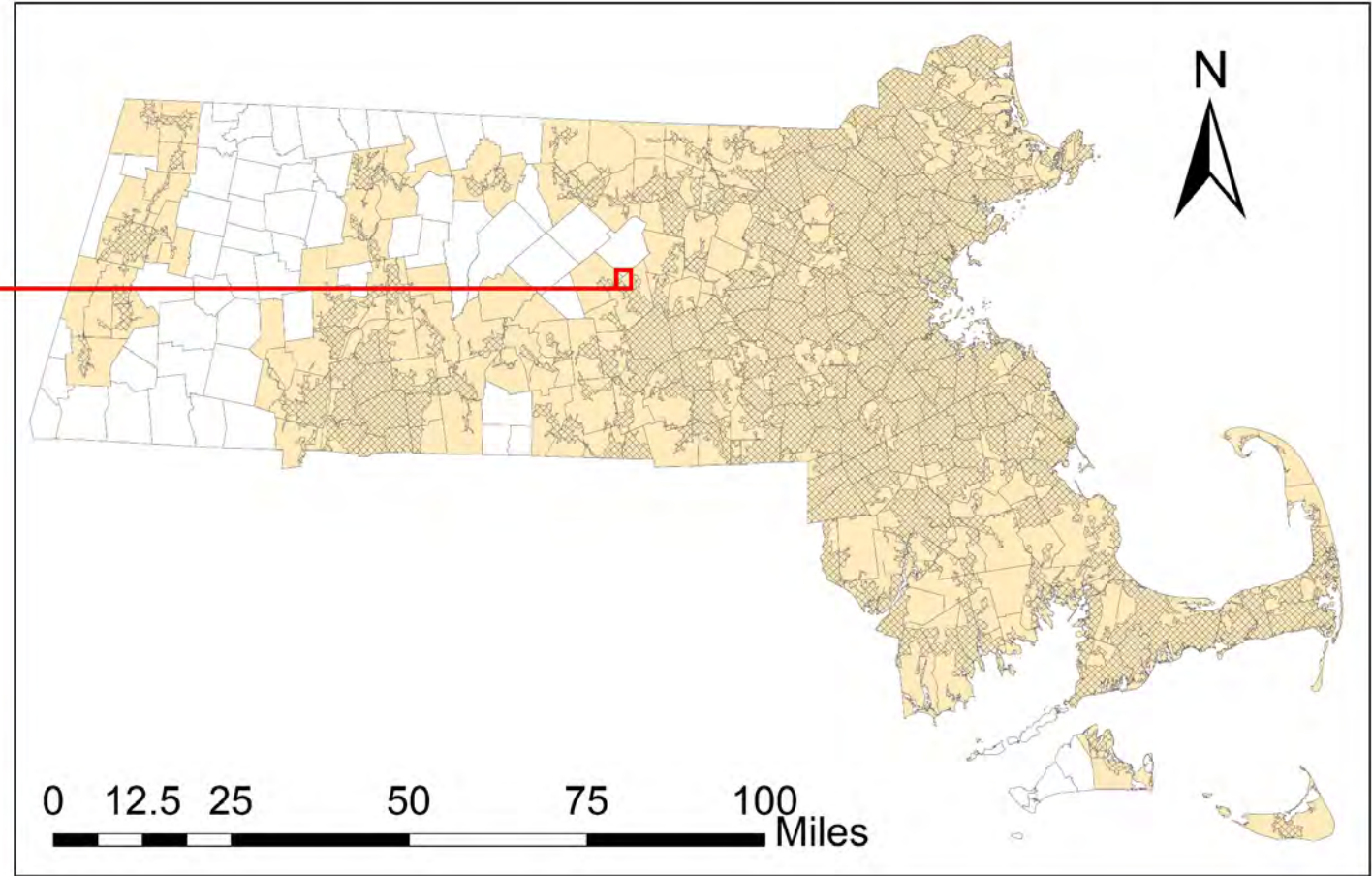
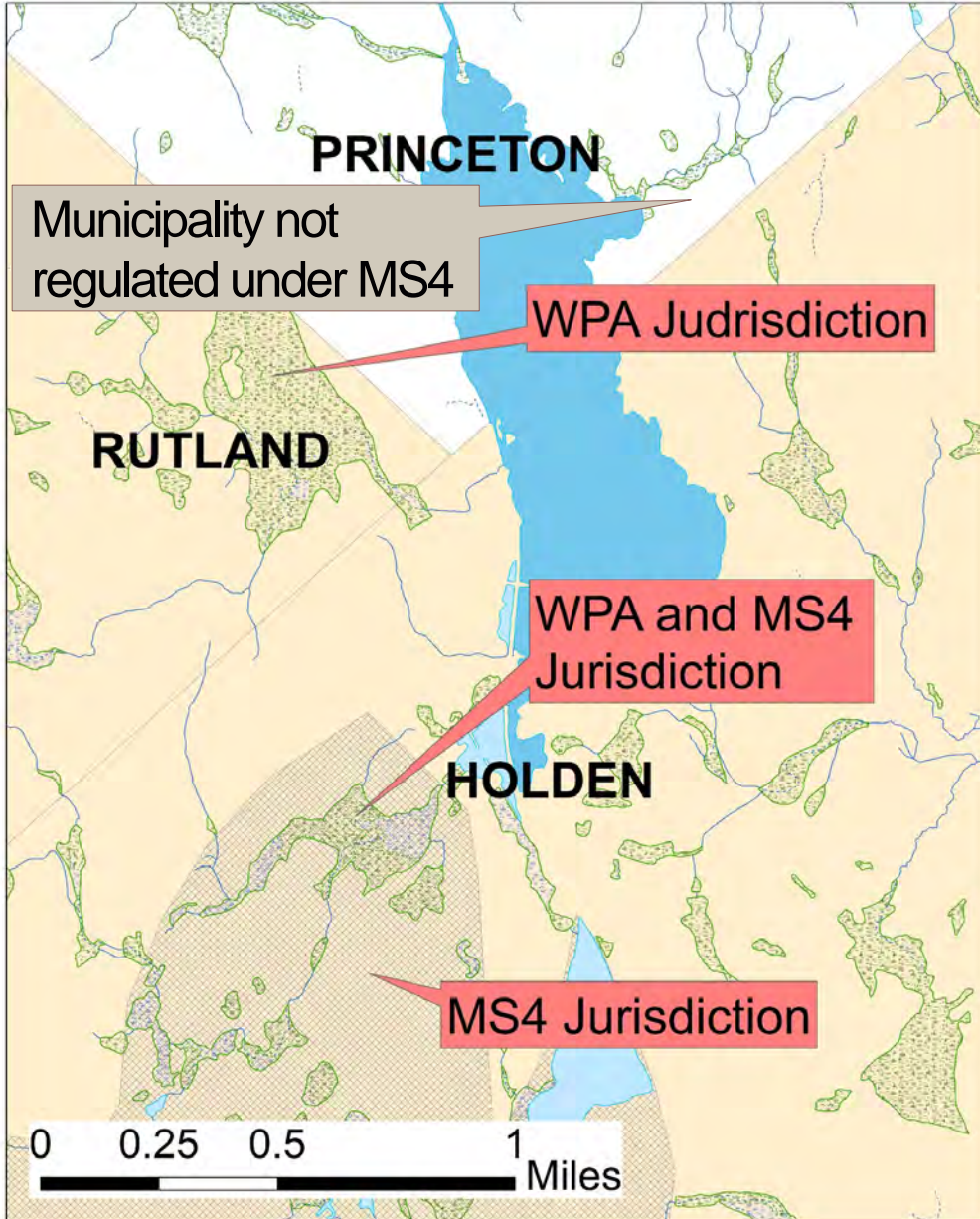
- Not a NPDES delegated state
- Boston and Worcester fall under Large MS4
- More than $\frac{3}{4}$ of communities fall under Small MS4
- Also, MA Wetlands Protection Act



Stormwater in Massachusetts

- Currently, 260 communities are in year two of Phase 2 Small MS4 Permit
 - Bylaws on post construction stormwater management
 - SWPPP for municipally owned facilities
 - Phase I of system mapping
 - Begin work on problem outfalls
 - etc.
- All 351 communities enact Wetlands Protection Act.

WPA and MS4 Jurisdiction in MA



-  Urbanized Area Regulated in MS4 Communities
-  MS4 Regulated Communities
-  Communities not Regulated under MS4

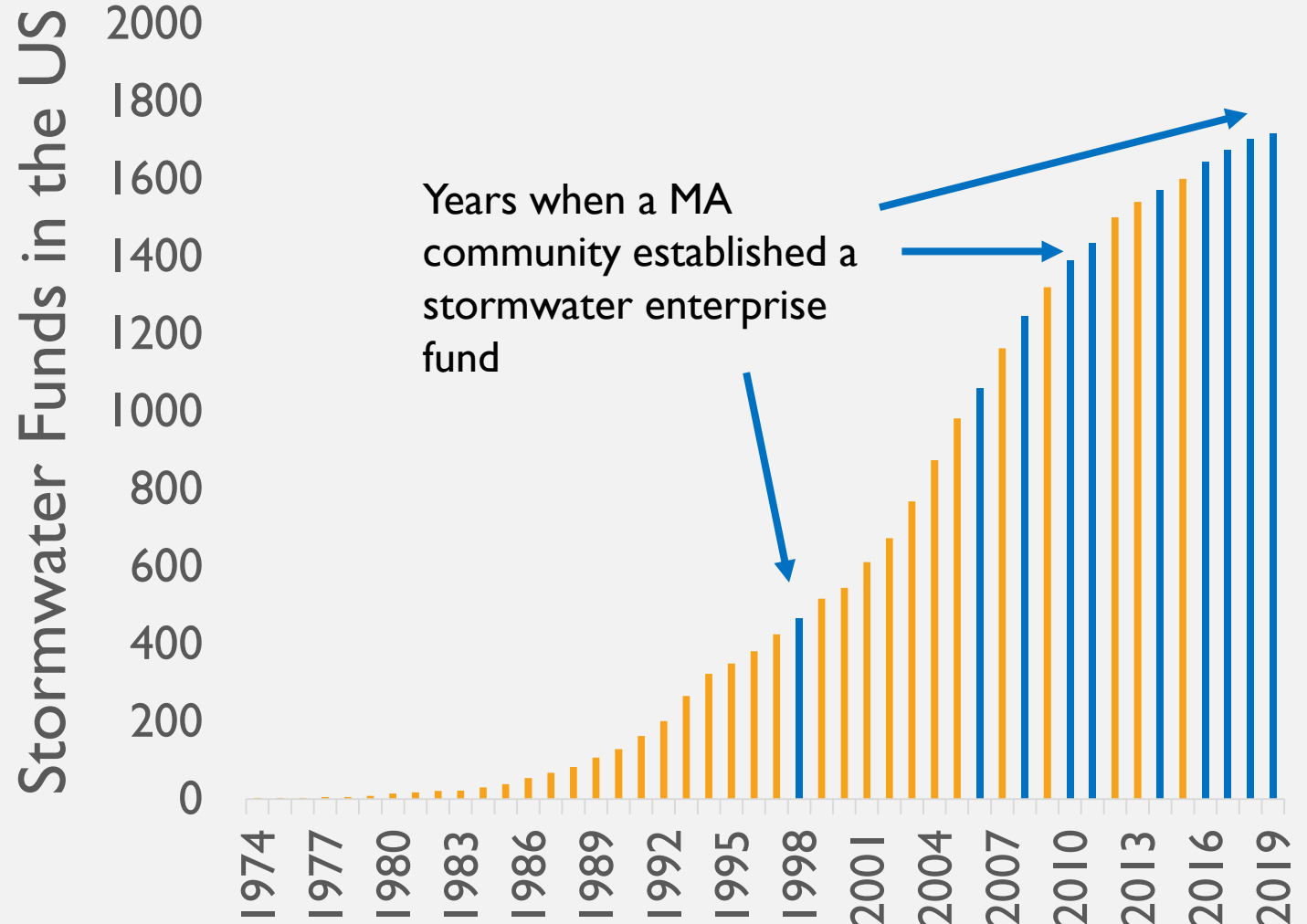
How do MA cities and towns finance stormwater work?

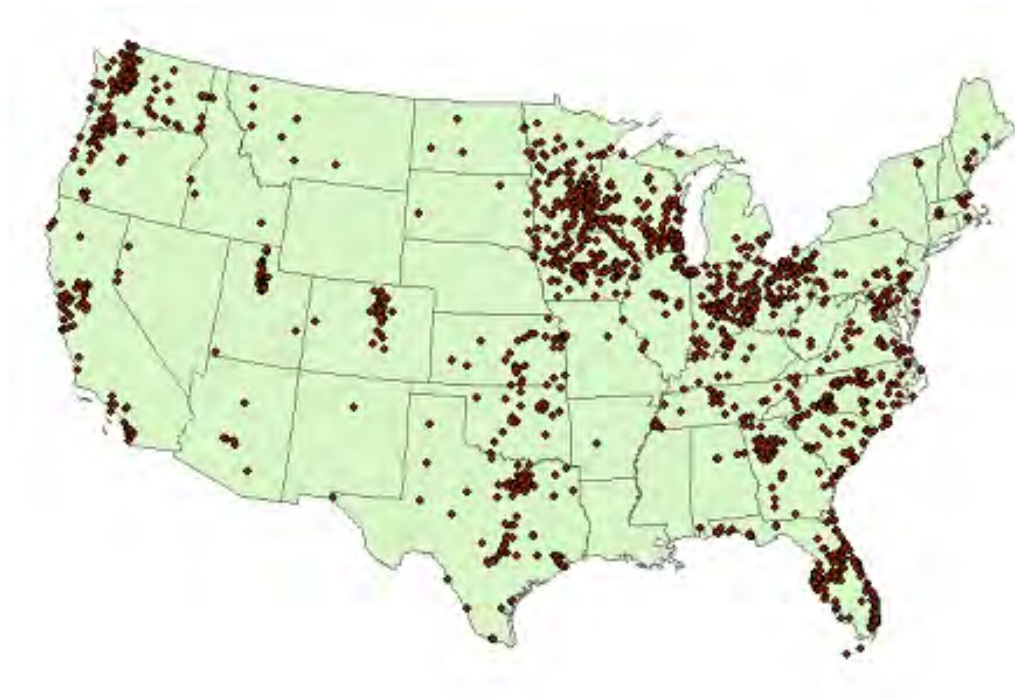
- Everyone is subject to the same MS4, but not all communities are equal
 - Size of MS4 regulated area
 - Tax base
 - Population
 - Town staffing
 - etc.
- Water quality protection costs communities a lot of money
- What resources exist for stormwater management?
 1. Stormwater enterprise funds
 2. Stormwater coalitions

Stormwater Enterprise Funds

Stormwater enterprise funds

- Town or city fund dedicated **only** to stormwater work
- Do not have to rely on general fund for stormwater funds each year
- No community is too small or too large





Stormwater enterprise funds

As of 2019, ~1717 stormwater utilities existed in the US and ~29 in Canada

In 2019, Massachusetts had 21 stormwater enterprise funds and more are to come

Stormwater enterprise funds – how does this work?

- Quarterly charge to residential, commercial, industrial properties
- Charge is calculated in various ways
 - Residential equivalent unit (avg. impervious area of a residential parcel)
 - Tiered fee (impervious surface)
 - Flat fee
- Some exemptions, e.g. municipal, state, or federal land; open space
- Revenue can support staff, equipment, projects, etc.

Stormwater Coalitions

My dirt is not always different from your dirt...

- Municipal boundaries \neq watershed boundaries
- Waterbodies and water infrastructure connect communities
- Most communities (nearly $\frac{3}{4}$) are subject to the MS4 Permit in MA

There are opportunities to collaborate

Cost-sharing and stormwater coalitions

- Cities and towns can share costs on stormwater work
 - Can't share staff, but
 - Can share equipment, training sessions, templates
 - Can apply for grants together
- In Massachusetts, 14 stormwater coalitions exist
 - Run by towns, watershed associations, planning associations

Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition

Greenscapes North Shore Coalition

Southeast Regional Stormwater Coalition

Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative

Mystic River Watershed Stormwater Collaborative

Neponset Stormwater Partnership

Charles River Stormwater Collaborative

Merrimack Valley Stormwater Collaborative

North and South Rivers Watershed Association

Buzzards Bay Stormwater Collaborative

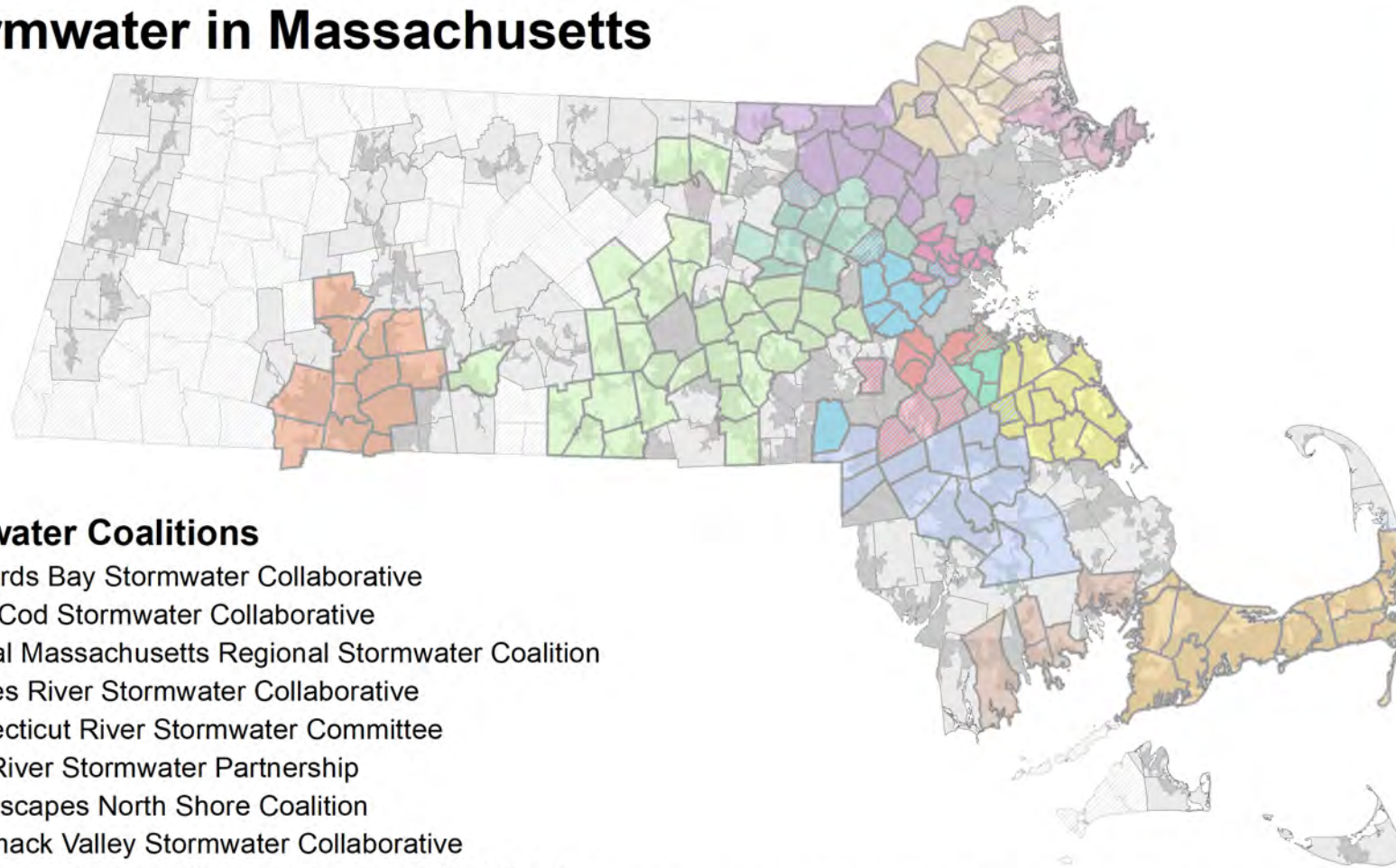
Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination

Fore River Stormwater Partnership

Connecticut River Stormwater Collaborative

Cape Cod Stormwater Collaborative




Stormwater in Massachusetts



Stormwater Coalitions

-  Buzzards Bay Stormwater Collaborative
-  Cape Cod Stormwater Collaborative
-  Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition
-  Charles River Stormwater Collaborative
-  Connecticut River Stormwater Committee
-  Fore River Stormwater Partnership
-  Greenscapes North Shore Coalition
-  Merrimack Valley Stormwater Collaborative
-  Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination
-  Mystic River Watershed Collaborative
-  Neponset Stormwater Partnership
-  North & South Rivers Watershed Association
-  Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative
-  Southeast Regional Stormwater Coalition

2016 Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Regulated Areas in Massachusetts

-  MS4 Regulated Community
-  Urbanized Area in MS4 Community
-  Community not Regulated under MS4

Last updated by: Laura Schifman
On: December 2, 2019

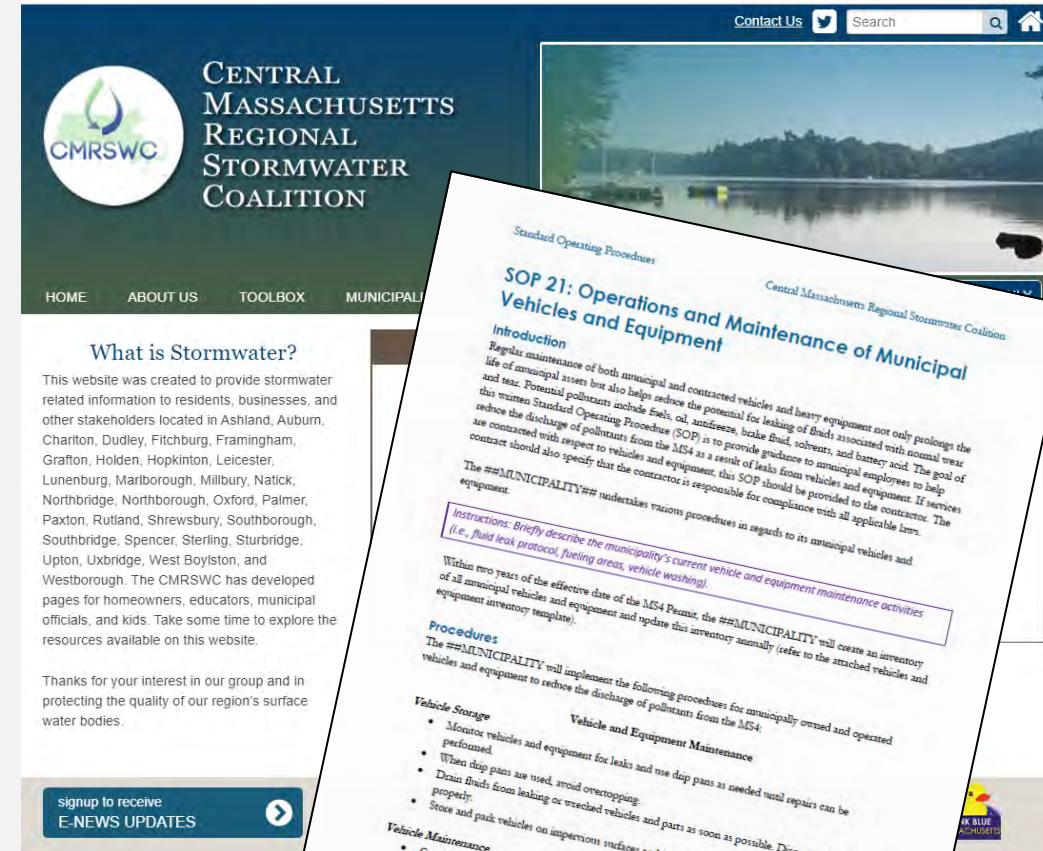
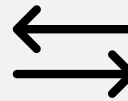
History of Stormwater Coalitions

- Began forming in 2011
 - Driver was increasing MS4 requirements & cost
- Led by municipal leaders
 - Town Administrators & DPW Directors, regional planning councils, and watershed groups
- Initially formed using Community Innovative Challenge grants from the Massachusetts Executive Office for Administration and Finance
- Currently, funded by grants, dues, or no funds (volunteer only)
- Advances through shared knowledge

Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition

Formed in 2012: 30 member communities

- Annual summary for regulatory reports
- GIS mapping and data collection support
- Equipment sharing
- Standard Operating Procedures
- WPI project sponsorship



“Provide templates, avoid paying for consultants”

Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition

Workshops/training



- Notice of Intent
- Stormwater Management Plan
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans
- Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination
- Geographic Information Systems
- Sewer-sniffing dog demonstration



Neponset Stormwater Partnership

Formed in 2014: 10 communities

- Model stormwater bylaw toolkit
- IDDE sampling protocol
- BMP siting tool
- Offsite mitigation manual
- Outfall inventory and prioritization tool



The screenshot shows the website for the Neponset Stormwater Partnership. The header includes the logo and navigation links: About, Residents, Businesses, Construction, Industry, Resources, Report a Problem, and Search. The main content area is titled "NSP TOOLS" and lists various resources:

- MS4 Permit Summaries and Checklists
 - The NSP has prepared documents to summarize the upcoming MS4 permit process.
 - [NSP Year 1 MS4 Permit Checklist \(PDF\)](#) Short summary of requirements.
 - [NSP 5-year Permit Summary Simplified \(PDF\)](#) two page version.
 - [NSP 5-year Permit Summary Detailed \(PDF\)](#) More detailed summary.
 - [NSP 5-Year Planning Worksheet for printing \(PDF\)](#) Ledger size.
 - [NSP 5-Year Planning Worksheet editable \(MS Excel\)](#)
- Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) Templates
 - The NSP has created templates for SWMP sections of a permit.
 - We have also created a Regional SWMP for Outreach and Education. If participating communities adopt this SWMP "by the book," the Regional SWMP includes suggested adoption language.
 - For the Regional Public Outreach and Education, see [Public Participation SWMP Template \(MS Excel\)](#).

Overlaid on the right is a document titled "Neponset Stormwater Partnership Model Stormwater Bylaw May 2019". The document text includes:

The Neponset River Watershed Association (NSP) has developed a model stormwater bylaw and regulation to assist communities within the watershed effectively manage stormwater pollution and comply with the most recent Small MS4 General Permit (MS4). The model bylaw and regulations are largely based on those developed and adopted by Westwood in 2013, and includes suggestions by NSP to incorporate additional protections. The model is annotated to highlight decision points (and significant differences from Westwood's bylaw and regulations) for communities to consider as they tailor the model to suit their unique needs and goals.

This model aims to illustrate not only how municipalities may comply with the 2016 MS4 and the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook, but also more effectively and consistently to address stormwater discharges and successfully reduce pollution risk and protect our watershed. Together with the model regulations, the model bylaw:

- Provides a framework for regulation while leaving the details for department regulations which can be more easily amended to adapt to changing circumstances;
- Streamlines development regulations by addressing direct and indirect discharges to surface waters to consistently regulate upland and wetland projects; and
- Authorizes the conservation commission (or other qualified town board) to enforce all development and redevelopment requirements and/or conditions, in addition to stormwater permits.

This model is intended to serve as an example and be adaptable, and should be modified to fit with existing local bylaws and other relevant law. Each community is different, and the models are not intended to be a one-size-fits-all approach, but rather a template out which to build so municipalities do not have to begin from scratch.

Any municipality considering implementing it should consult with its legal counsel for consistency with applicable laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In drafting your own revised Stormwater bylaw, you may choose to circulate a more detailed set of draft regulations, as Westwood did, to all relevant town boards and departments so that they'll know what the Stormwater Permitting Authority plans to do if the bylaw is adopted.

The MS4 requires bylaws to reflect permit conditions by June 30, 2010. Westwood town staff developed the bylaw with assistance from Phil Parada of Beta Engineering and input from the Neponset River Watershed Association.

Statewide Stormwater Coalition

- Formed in 2017: 14 coalitions
- Funded by a grant from the MassDEP
- Focused on helping municipalities meet MS4 permit requirements
- Currently, representing over 170 communities (about 70% of MS4 permittees)
- Subcommittees
 - Public Education, Technical, Advocacy, Administration & Bylaws

Statewide Stormwater Coalition

- Email listserve
 - Easy communication between communities
 - Knowledge exchange, questions, etc.
- Baseline needs and budget surveys (in-progress)
 - Where do I stand compared to other communities?
 - How much does the MS4 cost MA communities?
- Think Blue Massachusetts public education campaign
 - Statewide public education campaign on stormwater



THINK BLUE
MASSACHUSETTS

What is next?

- Tackling challenges related to TMDLs
- Collaboration on disposal of street sweeping materials
- Shared resources on IDDE training
- Sharing equipment for IDDE work among towns

Thank you!

Questions?

Laura.Schifman@mass.gov

(617) 556-1157