

EPA NPDES Permit Number : MA041007  
Annual Report Number 12  
Date : 3/17/15

## Town of Granby

# NPDES PII Small MS4 General Permit Annual Report

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**Self Assessment:**

The Town of Granby has initiated several projects to improve the quality of Stormwater runoff in our community. First, the Town has passed a tax override to fund a curbside solid waste collection program. We have worked with the MaDEP to establish this program and encourage recycling. Last year, we have also repaired or reconstructed several roads. The reconstruction and repair projects utilized grass swales to detain stormwater wherever possible. Several of the roads that were repaired last year were in very poor condition and susceptible to chronic pothole formation and erosion. In addition, a new resident salt/sand storage facility was constructed. The new salt storage area is much larger allowing us to keep more material under cover.

The Town of Granby has also maintained its membership in the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee. We believe this membership is a crucial component of our education and outreach program. The Town continues to provide significant investment in the operation and maintenance of our Stormdrainage system. We perform annual outfall inspections. We sweep roads and remove winter road sand as soon as possible after winter. Catch basins are cleaned regularly.

In light of the above, The Town of Granby is honoring its commitments under the current Stormwater Phase II permit requirements.

**Appropriateness of BMPs:**

The Town of Granby continues to make improvements and investments into stormwater management. As mentioned in previous reports, the Town of Granby has mapped not only its stormwater infrastructure; it has mapped all infrastructure including sanitary sewer systems and roadway components with GIS. Acknowledging the importance of maintaining this data, this year the Town has invested in a new Trimble GIS data collector. The new data collector is capable of decimeter accuracy. We strongly believe that mapping and collection of inventory data has been an essential part of our stormwater management program. Proper maintenance cannot be achieved unless your assets are cataloged and accurately located. GIS is enables us to accomplish this.

Once again we continue to support and maintain our membership in the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee. We feel that the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has done an outstanding job assisting all members of the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee in pooling our resources to create and effective public education and outreach component of our program.

As we have discussed in previous annual reports, the majority of our storm drainage system consists of small isolated systems with a few catchbasins discharging to a nearby low area, wetland or stream. Illicit discharges to a small isolated system such as this would be readily apparent and easily tracked to a source. Over the past few years, our outfall inspections have yielded only a few suspect discharges. Because of this we do not believe that illicit discharges are a significant problem within our system. In light of the above, it is our opinion that most of the bmp's outlined in our stormwater program are reasonable and appropriate for our system.

**Progress Toward Achievable Goals:**

Last year, we experienced a cold snowy winter which required the use of increased amounts of road sand and deicing chemicals. In order to remove as much of this material from the roadways as possible, we commenced street sweeping operations very early in the spring. A considerable amount of material was removed before the heavy spring rains were able to wash the sands into the basins.

We completed our dry weather inspections of outfalls. This year almost 370 catch basins were cleaned.

The Town of Granby continues to work on a sanitary sewer extension project. We are hoping to acquire grants and funding to extend the sanitary sewer system through the center of town and out to the high school and possibly to MacDuffie School.

In addition to the above, we continue to invest in continuing education and training for our employees. We try to stay current with the latest technology by attending seminars and continuing education courses as time allows.

Specific achievements toward the various BMP's are detailed below and grouped under the individual BMP I. D. number:

- 1) The Local Storm Water regulations are in place. The proposed regulations have been reviewed by Town Counsel and the Sewer Commissioners. The sewer commissioners have incorporated the proposed regulations into the sewer regulations.
- 3) Troubled Waters brochures and posters are available at Town Hall. Posters are displayed at the Highway Department. Public outreach is also being accomplished through the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee advertising and presentations.
- 4) The Town of Granby is a member of The Connecticut River Stormwater Committee. This committee is providing outreach towards targeted groups. The DPW opened a waste oil collection center.
- 5) The Connecticut River Storm Committee has been very effective in providing public education and outreach in numerous venues. See attached report in appendix A
- 8) The Selectboard is looking for volunteers to appoint to the Connecticut and Chicopee River Watershed Councils. We have joined the Connecticut River Storm Phase II Committee. The Highway Superintendent is representing the Town on this Committee.
- 9) Household waste recycling days are held annually.
- 10) The DPW has previously enlisted the help of the local Girl Scout troop to stencil the catch basins. Their participation in this program seems to be declining therefore we will have to try to find another organizations to continue this effort.
- 11) We have also accepted community service volunteers that have been provided through the court system to pick up roadside trash and clean up at the parks. We have always encouraged and assisted any concerned residents and members of the Conservation Commission in coordinating roadside cleaning.
- 12) The Highway Department has always provided assistance for community cleanups. Also, we promptly try to pick up all large items that are dumped along the roadsides. We try not to let any accumulation occur in order to discourage and mitigate future dumping.

- 13) The Highway Department has purchased a hand held GPS unit and has mapped all storm drains and sanitary sewer systems. Data collection is complete. We have shared this data with the Conservation Commission and assisted them in establishing a GIS database for their use.
- 14) We have delivered paper maps of the stormdrain system to the Police and Fire Departments. We are continuing to work on mapping and organizing the data. We have purchased ArcGIS software. Our staff has made significant progress incorporating this data into a GIS system.
- 15) We are continuing to perform annual inspections of the storm outfalls.
- 16) The proposed illicit discharge regulations have been adopted into our sewer regulations. As mentioned previously, we do not believe that the illicit discharge is a significant problem in our system, based on the information currently available.
- 19) As mentioned above, the town is working on a comprehensive wastewater management plan and a source water protection plan.
- 20) Same as above.
- 23) The Town has constructed a new DPW building. The new facility has enabled us to greatly improve our maintenance and housekeeping. We hope to begin working on a municipal operation plan in the near future as time allows.
- 24) We have purchased a catch basin cleaner. We have also created a database to better manage the maintenance of the stormdrain system. This has enabled us to substantially increase the number of catch basins that are cleaned each year.
- 25) We are planning to support training seminars for employees as time allows.
- 26) All ongoing road maintenance projects incorporate deep sump catchbasins and grass swales at a minimum.

**Next Cycle:**

We are still working under our previously issued NPDES MS4 permit. At the present time, we plan to continue along the same course until a new permit is issued by the EPA. We do not foresee any need to make significant changes in the next cycle. We are planning to continue our involvement with the Connecticut River Storm Committee. Our street sweeping operations will begin soon. We are a little delayed this year due to the weather. We are planning to begin catch basin cleaning as soon as the sweeping operations are complete.

We are already looking at and planning a few repairs to catch basins that will be needed this year. We hope to begin this work as soon as the weather permits.

The DPW representatives will continue to perform dry weather inspections of stormwater outfalls and continually monitor our system for sources of illicit discharges.

**Changes:**

We do not anticipate any significant changes to our stormwater program in the upcoming year. We believe that the overall stormwater program appears to be effective and appropriate for our community; therefore, no significant changes are planned for the next cycle.

### **Reliance on Others:**

Once again we have just been through another long hard winter. The extreme cold temperatures and severe weather took a severe toll on our roadways last year. The spring thaw brought out such damage to the pavements that Governor Patrick released an extra \$40 Million Dollars in assistance to the cities and Towns for roadway repairs. Although this additional funding did help, it is far less than what is needed to maintain local roadways in good condition across the state. Fortunately, Governor Baker has recognized the need for additional funds and has released an additional \$100 million dollars into the "Chapter 90" program this year. He has also committed to try to increase this in the future.

As we have mentioned in our reports over the past few years, roadway maintenance budgets have not kept pace with inflation. The result is that our local roads are falling into a severe state of disrepair. Pavement condition indexes continue to decline. This all leads to crumbling roads. We believe that the crumbling roads will become a very significant factor contributing to increased erosion and sedimentation within our storm-drainage system and watersheds in the future.

Small towns are heavily dependent on state assistance in the form of "chapter 90" money, to fund road maintenance budgets. The inability to raise local revenues coupled with budget constraints in other areas leaves us with little other options than to rely almost solely on the Chapter 90 assistance. The chapter 90 program must be increased significantly in order to preclude further degradation of our local transportation systems. The Massachusetts Municipal Association has studied this issue and has determined that the statewide allotment would need to be tripled from its current \$200 million dollars just to maintain our existing infrastructure. The longer we wait to deal with this issue, the more expensive it will become. It is a well-documented fact that is much more cost effective to maintain pavements than to wait until they are totally destroyed and need complete reconstruction.

Again we would like to see the EPA or DEP assist the local government with tools and forms to help us manage the Stormwater Phase II requirements. It is especially important to try to help the smaller towns such as ours before implementation of new regulations that place even more of a financial burden upon us. It seems that a lot more could be accomplished if a more supportive and less adversarial approach is embraced by the EPA.

In light of the above, it is critical that increased State and Federal assistance be provided to the cities and towns. Without outside sources of revenue, the infrastructure will continue to deteriorate and will negatively impact water quality and become a serious impediment to the storm phase II program in the future.

### **Program Summary:**

See chart attached

**STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SUMMARY**

Mass. Transmittal No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 EPA No. \_\_041007\_\_

Name: Town Of Granby  
 Date: 3-17-15

BMP ID.	BMP	Responsible Dept./Person	Status	Measurable Goal
<b>Minimum Control Measure 1 Public Education /Outreach</b>				
1	Create a Stormwater Program	Selectmen/DPW/Planning/Health	Stormwater regulations adopted	Present to public draft stormwater management plan
2	Create a Stormwater Program	Selectmen/DPW/Planning/Health	Stormwater Regulations adopted	Identify sources of assistance to implement plan
3	Address specific groups	DPW	Brochures available at town hall	Distribute EPA and other relevant educational brochures.
4	Target groups likely to impact stormwater	DPW	Joined Conn. River Storm Committee/ Ongoing	Brochures targeting specific audiences and activities will be available.
5	Identify alternate information	Administrative Assistant/DPW	Stormwater Regulations adopted	Present to public draft of Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan
6	Identify alternate information	Administrative Assistant/DPW	Ongoing through Conn. River Storm Comm.	Identify funding sources and apply for assistance to implement plan including education and outreach
7	Utilize local public access channel	DPW	In process/ when appropriate	Public meeting notices and reviewing SMP
8	Develop, conduct and document educational programs	Liaison/DPW	Looking for Volunteers Joined Conn. River Storm Committee	Town will appoint a liaison to Conn. And Chicopee river watershed councils
9	Promote household waste recycling	Board of Health/ DPW	On going annually	Sponsor hazardous waste collection days
<b>Minimum Control Measure 2 Public Participation</b>				
10	Storm drain stenciling	DPW	Looking for group to assist Girl Scouts	Develop a stencil program.
11	Community clean ups	Conservation commission/DPW	ongoing	Encourage stream team cleanups
12	Community clean ups	DPW	Always available on request	Provide trucks and support efforts
<b>Minimum Control Measure 3 IDDE</b>				
13	Inventory and Mapping storm drain system	DPW	GIS Data Collected in – house	Identify funding and obtain assistance
14	Mapping and identification of outfalls and	DPW/Assessors	GIS Data Collected in –	Develop and implement a plan to map outfalls to receiving waters

**STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SUMMARY**

Mass. Transmittal No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 EPA No. \_\_041007\_\_

Name: Town Of Granby  
 Date: 3-17-15

	receiving waters		house	
15	Identification/description of problem areas	DPW	annual inspections ongoing	Develop and implement an IDDE plan
16	Enforcement procedures addressing illicit discharges	Planning/Building/Town Council/Board of health	Ongoing	Review whether local authority is appropriate and able to respond to illicit discharges.
17	Public information program regarding hazardous waste and dumping	Board of Health/DPW	Ongoing by Board of Health	Provide educational brochures to residents promoting proper disposal of household hazardous wastes and conditions for regional collections.
18	Initiation of recycling programs	Board of Health/DPW	Ongoing By Board of Health	Apply for funding assistance in public education and recycling materials
19	Watershed assessments and studies	Board of Health/DPW/Conservation		Identify opportunities for assistance to support watershed assessment and implementation activities.
20	Watershed assessments and studies	Board of Health/DPW/Conservation		Encourage cooperation with public drinking water suppliers to develop wellhead protection plans
<b>Minimum Control Measure 4</b>		<b>Construction Runoff Control</b>		
21	Bylaw: Storm water management regulations for construction sites 1 acre or larger	Planning/Conservation/Town Council/Board of health/ZBA	Regulations adopted, Purchased software to manage permits	By law adopted
<b>Minimum Control Measure 5</b>		<b>Post Construction Runoff Control</b>		
22	Bylaw: Require post-construction runoff controls	Planning/Conservation/Town Council/Board of health/ZBA DPW	Regulations adopted	By law Adopted
<b>Minimum Control Measure 6</b>		<b>Municipal Good Houskeeping</b>		
23	Develop a municipal operations and Maintenance Plan	DPW	Proceeding as funding allows	Develop and update an operations plan

**STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SUMMARY**

Mass. Transmittal No. \_\_\_\_\_  
EPA No. \_\_041007\_\_\_\_\_

Name: Town Of Granby  
Date: 3-17-15

24	Develop a municipal operations and Maintenance Plan	DPW	Created Maintenance Database	Implement a formal inspection program
25	Develop and implement training programs for municipal employees	DPW	Ongoing	Send employees for training seminars
26	Review Storm drain infrastructure	DPW	On going	Review infrastructure in chapter 90 utilization



# **APPENDIX A**

**Connecticut River Stormwater Committee  
Annual Report  
January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015**

**The Connecticut River Stormwater Committee**

The Connecticut River Stormwater Committee is an intergovernmental compact of 13 municipalities organized to collaborate on education and outreach about stormwater impacts on the Connecticut River. Facilitated and staffed by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, committee work helps NPDES MS4 regulated member communities meet stormwater education and outreach permit requirements. Based on the Memorandum of Agreement under which the committee was formed in 2008, work also helps member communities with related bylaws/ordinances and other compliance measures. Member communities are shown in Table 1 below. The City of Northampton joined the committee in this past year.

**Table 1: Connecticut River Stormwater Committee Member Communities**

<b>Member Community</b>	<b>Committee Representative and Department</b>
Agawam	Tracey DeMaio, Department of Public Works
Chicopee	Joe Kietner, Department of Public Works
Easthampton	Jim Gracia, Department of Public Works
Granby	Dave Derosiers, Highway Department
Holyoke	Matthew Sokop, Department of Public Works
Longmeadow	Yem Lip, Department of Public Works
Ludlow	JT Gaucher, Department of Public Works
Northampton	Doug McDonald, Department of Public Works
Southwick	Richard Grannells, Department of Public Works
South Hadley	Jim Reidy, Department of Public Works
Springfield	Kevin Chaffee, Conservation Commission
West Springfield	Jim Lyons, Department of Public Works
Westfield	Casey Berube, Department of Public Works

**Education and Outreach over the Past Year**

To challenge individual behaviors that negatively impact the health of the Connecticut River, the Stormwater Committee continued to use a variety of strategies over the past year. The bulk of work has been focused on promoting green infrastructure stormwater management practices, though the Committee continued its collaboration with the Greenscapes program and began to respond to forthcoming requirements with some initial research toward developing outreach on bacterial contamination in stormwater.

The following is a summary of the work of the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee during the 2014 reporting year. This includes part of the 2014 calendar year as well because the Committee is transitioning from a calendar year reporting timeline to make these reports better line up with permit timelines:

### **Continued collaboration with the Greenscapes Program [www.Greenscapes.org](http://www.Greenscapes.org)**

The committee continues to participate in Greenscapes coalition to advance the Greenscapes program. The program's website and publications promote understanding about the connection between better lawn and garden care practices and reduced impacts on water resources and human and environmental health. On the coalition's website, there are clear instruction and links to resources about how to make these important changes in practice. Links to this website are on all member community stormwater web pages.

### **Initiated research to develop effective messaging on bacterial contamination**

The committee defined goals and objectives relative to the forthcoming stormwater permit and other regulatory requirements and local needs. Beginning with the goals and objectives relative to bacteria, the committee began its effort to develop effective messaging with the creation of a survey that will be distributed in spring-summer 2015 to pet owners. The survey will collect information about this target audience and help to define messaging going forward that is aimed at helping to reduce bacterial contamination in the Connecticut River. At the same time, the survey itself should elevate awareness about practices and the possibility of making changes to practices that promote improved water quality.

### **Promoted "Soak up the Rain" stormwater education campaign**

The Connecticut River Stormwater Committee continued to devote time to developing and promoting the "Pioneer Valley Soak up the Rain" education campaign (a local version of the EPA's New England campaign). The campaign — a call to action for property owners to reduce stormwater runoff through strategies that soak up the rain — involved several outreach efforts for the Connecticut River this year.

- ***Demonstration workshops and event tabling for homeowners and businesses***  
September 20, Central High School Springfield - Led by staff from PVPC and the Regenerative Design Group, this workshop described the nature of stormwater impacts on the Connecticut River and covered a range of techniques appropriate for residential and commercial sites, including rain barrels and cisterns, porous pavers, rain gutter downspout diversion, and rain gardens. In a post-workshop evaluation, the event's 18 participants gave the event high marks. Promoting the workshop entailed reaching out to: Springfield's neighborhood associations, Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association, Ecological Landscape Alliance, local public libraries, and notice placements with area newspapers and social media resources. This was the second of two half-day workshops supported with \$7,000 in funding from EPA. (See program flyer next page.)

# Soak up the Rain: Benefits for Your Home and Business

*Save Money • Beautify Your Landscape •  
Prevent Pollution • Reduce Flooding*

## Demonstration Workshop for Homeowners and Businesses

Saturday, September 20, 8:30 am – 1 pm  
Central High School, 1840 Roosevelt Ave., Springfield, MA

Come learn how to better manage rainfall at your home or business at a demonstration workshop. Presenters include Landscape Architect Thomas Benjamin, Ecological Designer Keith Zaltzberg, and Stormwater Specialist Patty Gambarini. The workshop will cover a range of techniques appropriate for residential and commercial sites, including:

rain gardens • cisterns • rain barrels • drywells •  
porous pavers • rain gutter downspout diversion

The workshop is part of "Soak up the Rain Pioneer Valley," a campaign to encourage and showcase the use of green infrastructure stormwater management practices around the region. It is brought to you by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Connecticut River Stormwater Committee under contract with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1.

Registration is required by September 16<sup>th</sup> to Patty Gambarini at [pgambarini@pvpc.org](mailto:pgambarini@pvpc.org) or (413) 781-6045. Visit [soakuptherain.pvpc.org](http://soakuptherain.pvpc.org) to see the workshop agenda and learn more about green infrastructure stormwater management practices in the Pioneer Valley.



Cistern - Center Peppin Elementary  
School, Easthampton



Rain garden - Northampton VA

*(photo courtesy Thomas Benjamin)*

**Flyer that was widely distributed for Soak up the Rain program in September 2014.**

November 8, Holyoke Public Library, Holyoke – PVPC joined the Enchanted Circle Theater and other organizations for a stormwater education and advocacy event that included the unveiling of stormdrain art created by students. PVPC's table at the event highlighted ways to Soak up the Rain on residential properties with an interactive model showing the differences between impermeable and permeable surfaces in a typical neighborhood. The model will be further developed for future events.

March 21, Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Symposium, Frontier Regional High School, Deerfield – Invited to this event to talk about Soak up the Rain strategies for around the home and garden, PVPC gave a slide-show presentation that covered drainage analysis of a property, soil evaluation techniques, and several strategies to improve stormwater management, including rain gutter downspout diversions, trees, rain barrels and cisterns, rain gardens, and porous paving. While the event was held in Deerfield, a show of hands in the workshop revealed that all but one participant was from Hampshire or Hampden County, where the stormwater committee is active. The presentation is posted on the Pioneer Valley Soak up the Rain website and will be adapted for use at other events in stormwater committee communities.

- ***Design of Soak up the Rain porous paving and rain garden signs***

PVPC completed its work with EPA in September 2014 to develop sign templates for use at rain garden and porous paving stormwater locations. This work was supported with \$3,000 in funding from EPA. The designs for the signs have since been revised based on feedback from workshop participants and stormwater committee members to be more legible and more instructive about how a system functions. Each of the signs have two different sides to them, giving property owners the option to display a message that connotes pride in having such a facility or a more involved message that describes what the system does. Signs are currently being fabricated for use at residential, business, and municipal sites throughout the region. *See sign design on next page.*

- ***Pioneer Valley Soak up the Rain website***      [www.pvpc.org/soakuptherain/](http://www.pvpc.org/soakuptherain/)

The Pioneer Valley Soak up the Rain website promotes a range of practices, including tree plantings, rain gardens, permeable pavements, dry wells, and green roofs. An occasional blog that includes photos and video provides examples from the region. Property owners throughout the Pioneer Valley are also invited to submit projects that they know of to feature on the website. A "Cool resources" heading provides connection to the latest information and a "resources" menu item links to a library of informational resources. Links to this website are on all member community stormwater web pages.

Keep our rivers clean

Soak up  
the rain

## Rain garden



Connecticut River Stormwater Committee  
[soakuptherain.pvpc.org](http://soakuptherain.pvpc.org)

Rain garden

This garden is designed to let rainfall or snowmelt soak into the ground...

- reducing flooding
- replenishing groundwater drinking sources; and
- eliminating flows that carry pollutants to nearby rivers



Connecticut River Stormwater Committee  
[soakuptherain.pvpc.org](http://soakuptherain.pvpc.org)

### *Rain garden signs – both sides*

Keep our rivers clean

Soak up  
the rain

## Porous paving



Connecticut River Stormwater Committee  
[soakuptherain.pvpc.org](http://soakuptherain.pvpc.org)

Porous paving

This paving is designed to let rainfall or snowmelt soak into the ground...

- reducing flooding
- replenishing groundwater drinking sources; and
- eliminating flows that carry pollutants to nearby rivers



Connecticut River Stormwater Committee  
[soakuptherain.pvpc.org](http://soakuptherain.pvpc.org)

### *Porous paving signs – both sides*

## Rain gardens design and installation project

PVPC is working with Springfield officials and a hired consultant, the Regenerative Design Group, to design and build up to 10 rain gardens in the City. To date, 3 sites have been selected where the equivalent of 5 gardens will be constructed. These sites include the Springfield Museums, Gardening the Community's new site on Walnut and James Street, and a private residence in the northern part of the City. A hands-on training session has been scheduled to teach people how to construct rain gardens, using the Springfield Museums site. From these trainees a corps of volunteers will be deployed to work with the consultant and PVPC in building the other gardens in the City. This work is made possible through a settlement agreement reached by Clean Water Action. It is hoped that based on the materials, contracts,

and know-how developed through this work in Springfield, that the project can be easily duplicated in other stormwater committee member communities for the future.

### **Green infrastructure workshop and vendor's fair**

A survey from last year's stormwater workshop events identified two of the more significant barriers to greater use of green infrastructure stormwater management as being the need for better understanding of:

1. Proper design, construction, and oversight of green infrastructure stormwater management facilities; and
2. Where to acquire materials needed for building green infrastructure facilities

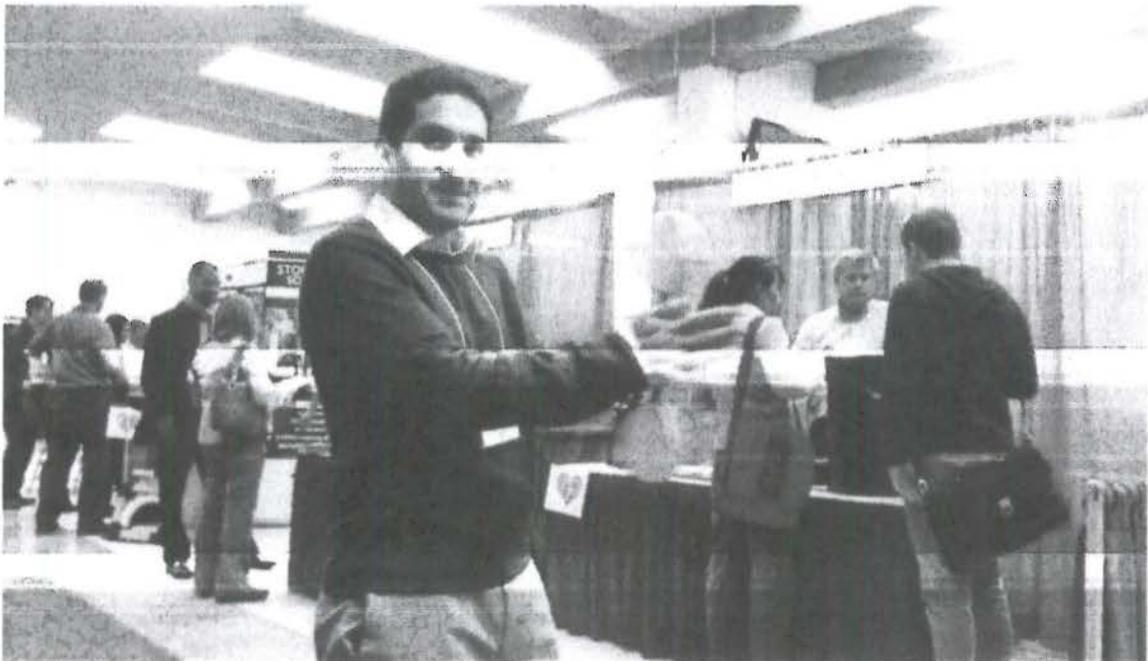
As such, PVPC partnered with EPA region 1, EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD), and the University of Massachusetts Water Resources Research Center to co-hold a workshop entitled "Nuts & Bolts of Green Infrastructure Design and Construction for Developers, Designers, Contractors, and Municipal Officials." Held on March 17, 2014, at Holyoke Community College's Kittredge Center, the day-long event drew 47 participants, including 15 engineers, 10 planners, 6 architects and designers, and 6 regulatory officials. This number does not include the 17 vendors or 10 workshop organizers also in attendance. Morning sessions included:

- Design and construction considerations and process on green infrastructure BMPs, a session led by Engineer Richard Claytor of Horsley Witten Group
- The nitty gritty of design and construction on three green infrastructure projects
  - Streetside Bioretention in a Downtown (*Douglas Clark, P.E., City of Pittsfield and Jon Dietrich, Fuss & O'Neill*)
  - Porous Paving and Bioretention on a University Campus (*Edward Marshall, ASLA, Stephen Stimson Associates*)
  - Gravel Wetlands in a Municipal Park (*Michael F. Clark, Polaris Consultants LLC*)

The afternoon involved a fair with vendors and contractors representing the range of materials and services used for stormwater green infrastructure projects. Participants were divided into groups to "speed date" with the vendors, a technique used to promote learning about the full breadth of New England's network of materials, resources, and contractors involved in green infrastructure.



*Mike Clark from Polaris Consulting talks about the details of design and construction of a gravel wetlands he built at a park in Leominster, Massachusetts.*



*Sounding the drums was the signal for “speed daters” to proceed to the next vendor. This method gave workshop participants the opportunity to spend 5 minutes with each vendor, but also get to every vendor to learn about the full breadth of New England’s network of materials, resources, and contractors involved in green infrastructure*

## **Stormwater financing workshop**

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) collaborated with EPA-New England staff to develop and present a one-day workshop on funding municipal stormwater management programs. Work in developing and presenting the workshop was supported with \$6,000 in funding from EPA. The workshop, held on September 24, 2014 at Holyoke Community College's Kittredge Center, drew 36 participants, representing 11 municipalities from throughout the region. Participants included 9 "decision makers" (DPW directors, city councilors, selectboard member), 2 private consultants, with the balance representing municipal public works and engineering staff.

The morning program was designed with municipal decision makers in mind and included:

- Annie Kitchell, Senior Planner for the Horsley Witten Group, who described stormwater management requirements and realistic funding options
- Richard Niles of AMEC who described stormwater utilities and provided pointers for moving forward
- Four municipal officials - City of Westfield DPW Superintendent David Billips; Northampton Chair of Board of Public Works Terry Culhane; Portland City Councilor Edward Suslovic; and City of Chicopee DPW Project Supervisor Tom Hamel—who all provided good information about their personal experiences with stormwater funding from their municipalities.

The afternoon program went into more detail with a program to suit interested decision makers, as well as providing more "how to" information for stormwater managers. The program included:

- Carri Hulet, Senior Associate with The Consensus Building Institute, talked about the importance of community engagement and how to design and implement a collaborative process
- Virginia Roach, Vice President of CDM Smith, and Jim Laurila, Northampton City Engineer, drew from Northampton's recent experience in developing a stormwater utility to talk about how to evaluate your community's stormwater management funding needs
- All workshop presenters, plus the addition of City of Westfield Deputy DPW Superintendent Casey Berube, then came together as a panel for a conversation about making the case for stormwater program funding

## **Pioneer Valley Green Infrastructure Plan and Toolkit**

Working with an advisory committee that included members from six stormwater committee municipalities, PVPC finalized the "Pioneer Valley Green Infrastructure Plan: Promoting Clean Water, Greening our Streets and Neighborhoods." The plan is meant to assist communities in the region as they continue the journey toward a more environmentally sustainable stormwater management program. The plan identifies the three existing infrastructures

(stormwater, combined sewers, and roads) where green infrastructure might best be integrated; describes useful criteria for mapping potential green infrastructure facility locations; explores important opportunities and challenges; and proposes workable strategies for local and regional actions that will help to address polluted stormwater flows and meet forthcoming stormwater permit requirements. An executive summary of the plan has been widely distributed throughout the region. A companion toolkit for the plan includes fact sheets on 16 pertinent topics, including best management practices, model regulations and policies, and financing. The plan and toolkit were part of a larger regional sustainability initiative funded through a Sustainable Communities Initiative grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

## **Grants**

### **Community Innovation Challenge Grant**

PVPC prepared and submitted a grant for the Massachusetts Community Innovation Grant program, requesting \$193,000 to develop three stormwater permit compliance tools and to help several communities explore establishment of local stormwater utilities. Chief elected officials from all 13 Connecticut River Stormwater Committee member communities signed on to the application. Unfortunately, the grant program was eliminated by the governor as part of mid-year cuts to close a \$329 million state budget deficit.

### **State and Private Forestry FY15 Northeastern Area Landscape Scale Restoration Program**

PVPC has received a \$239,000 grant award to coordinate a project to implement tree planting as part of a green infrastructure stormwater management approach. Funded under the State and Private Forestry FY15 Northeastern Area Landscape Scale Restoration Program, the project involves the municipalities of Chicopee, Holyoke, and Springfield, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and a number of local grassroots organizations. The project includes: outreach and education to better inform local residents about the stormwater benefits of trees in streetscapes; development of green street design templates for use by public works departments in street construction projects; engineering design for tree box filter installations at nine locations; installation of 1,220 trees in street reconstruction projects; and development of a stormwater street tree model ordinance.