

**Municipality/Organization:** Town of Freetown, Massachusetts

**EPA NPDES Permit Number:** MAR041118

**MassDEP Transmittal Number:** W-X274821

**Annual Report Number** Year 15  
**& Reporting Period:** April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018

## NPDES PII Small MS4 General Permit Annual Report (Due: May 1, 2018)

### Part I. General Information

Contact Person: David DeManche Title: Town Administrator

Telephone: (508) 644-2202 x1 Email: townadministrator@freetownma.gov

Mailing Address: PO Box 438 Assonet, MA 02702

Certification:

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Signature: 

Printed Name: DAVID DE MANCHE

Title: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Date: 6/26/18

**Part II. Self-Assessment**

The Town of Freetown has completed the required self-assessment and has determined that, based on available information, our municipality is in compliance with the conditions of the permit. Any minor exceptions to this statement are noted in Part III, below.

### Part III. Summary of Minimum Control Measures

#### 1. Public Education and Outreach

| BMP ID # | BMP Description   | Responsible Dept./Person Name                           | Measurable Goal(s)  | Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 15<br>(Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)   | Planned Activities  |
|----------|---|---|---|--|---|
| 1        | Creation of Stormwater Program                                  | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | Public education and stimulating awareness  | Stormwater posters hung in schools, library, and town offices January 2012 and March 2015. Bylaws, and pollution prevention information materials developed by the EPA are posted on the Town website. A residential pollution prevention factsheet was shared on the Town’s Facebook page on 2/1/17. The Town also shared a graphic with tips on reducing pollution from pet waste on the Freetown Animal Control Office’s Facebook page on 2/16/17. Town has added “do not dump” stenciling during catch basin cleaning in pertinent areas as needed. Taunton River Watershed Association TRWA 5 year action plan is posted on the town’s website. | Continue ongoing efforts.   |
| Revised  |   |   |   |  |   |
| 2        | Presentations to groups likely to impact the town’s stormwater. | Boards and Commissions                                  | Discussion at public meetings and publicity.  | Presentations have been made in prior years to educate Town Boards and Commissions regarding the importance of proper stormwater management practices.   | In 2018, Town officials will continue participating in educational and informational workshop sessions. |
| Revised  |   |   |   |  |   |
| 3        | Presentations to local students                                 | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | Team up with local students and regional school system to educate regarding stormwater management | 4 <sup>th</sup> graders and educators attended four-day overnight trip to “Natures Classroom.” Freetown State Forest “Friends of the Forest” hosts an annual family day in October.  | Continue on going educational efforts on the importance of proper stormwater management.                |
| Revised  |   |   |   |  |   |

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| 4       | Promotion of hazardous waste recycling for local residences | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | Scheduling of hazardous waste town-wide collection days    | Town accepts most materials at the transfer station Thursday through Sunday throughout the year. Transfer Station information is made available on town website.   | Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse District will hold a household hazardous waste collection day on June 2, 2018, and plans to hold (2) every year thereafter for (9) years. Flyers were posted at Town Hall and information was posted on the Town website. |
| Revised |   |   |  |  |   |
| 5       | Use local cable channel to stimulate public awareness       | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | Posting stormwater management information on cable access. | DVD from EPA entitled 'Reduce Runoff: Slow it Down, Spread it Out, Soak it In' in regular weekly rotation on local public access.  | Continue ongoing efforts.   |
| Revised |   |   |  |  |   |
| 6       | Update website  | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | Posting storm water mgmt. info on website                  | 'Stormwater Pollution Prevention' section has been added to the website news and Conservation Commission page. Information on BMPs for contractors has been posted to the Building Department's webpage. | Continue ongoing efforts.   |

## 2. Public Involvement and Participation

| BMP ID # | BMP Description                          | Responsible Dept./Person Name                           | Measurable Goal(s)  | Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 15 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)  | Planned Activities  |
|----------|--|---|---|--|---|
| 1        | Public meetings & distribution of flyers | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | Become more involved with local groups monitoring water                         | The Town posts Taunton River Watershed Alliance (TRWA) activities and events on the news section of the Town website. The Town posted the TRWA's call for volunteers and information about their water quality monitoring program. Town residents were active in volunteer monitoring for the TRWA. Freetown also has a Town resident representative to the Assawompsett Pond Complex quarterly working task group, as well as a representative to the Taunton River Stewardship Council (TRSC). | Continue participation with watershed/waterbody associations. Meetings for watershed groups will continue to be posted on the website.                                  |
| Revised  |  |   |   |  |   |
| 2        | Cleanups of various community areas      | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | Form cleanup committees with local volunteers                                   | The Town did not partner with Assonet Bay Shores Association this year to host a beach clean-up.   | Continue to support annual cleanups. Roads are swept at least annually and more often as needed in the more densely populated areas of Town.                            |
| Revised  |  |   |   |  |   |
| 3        | Hazardous waste cleanup days             | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | Organize waste collection days for Freetown homes                               | Town accepts most materials at the transfer station Thursday through Sunday throughout the year. Transfer Station information is made available on town website.   | Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for June 2, 2018, with (2) collection days planned per year for (9) subsequent years.                                       |
| Revised  |  |   |   |  |   |
| 4        | Water monitoring by volunteers           | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | Develop sense of responsibility in Freetown residents for the Town's watersheds | Taunton River Watershed Alliance did not utilize a Town resident volunteer to take water monitoring samples from the 4 corners dam this year.  | Information on website to encourage participation in water monitoring activities. The Town has put up on the website and Facebook page information regarding the TRWA's |

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| Revised |   |  |                              |  | 2018 Water Quality Monitor Training opportunities and the recruitment of additional volunteers for water monitoring efforts. |
| 5       | Solicit volunteers to assist in creating stormwater awareness and practices | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator John F. Healey | Adopting a town-wide program | The Town was again unable to secure a grant to sponsor the 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade water poster contest this year. | Town staff will attempt to re-establish the poster contest in-house by soliciting sponsorships from local businesses.        |
| Revised |   |  |                              |  |  |

### 3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

| BMP ID # | BMP Description   | Responsible Dept./Person Name                           | Measurable Goal(s)  | Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 15<br>(Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)  | Planned Activities  |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1        | Review of current by-laws                                   | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | Submit town meeting articles to update by-laws if needed.   | By-laws reviewed. Amendments adopted November 20, 2006  | No further action required at this time.  |
| Revised  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2        | Map local outfalls  | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | Working with an engineer, Highway Surveyor, Assessors, Planner and Conservation Commission to have receiving waters and outfalls mapped | GIS Mapping of Stormwater infrastructure was completed in 2007, including catch basins, pipelines, and outfalls.  | The Highway Department will inform Planning when new features are installed. Planning will work in conjunction with the Town's GIS consultants to add these features to the existing mapping. |
| Revised  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3        | Map Town's Infrastructure                                   | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | Map storm drainage system of Freetown   | GIS Mapping of stormwater infrastructure was completed in 2007, including catch basins, pipelines, and outfalls. New subdivisions were added to the Town's GIS mapping system this Permit Year. | The Highway Department will inform Planning when new features are installed. Planning will work in conjunction with the Town's GIS consultants to add these features to the existing mapping. |
| Revised  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4        | Develop procedure for non-stormwater discharge              | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | To search out and prosecute any illegal dumping found in Freetown   | Legal authority, enforcement, penalties, and responsibility for administration of the program to address non-stormwater discharges were established in by-law amendments of 2006.               | Take enforcement actions when appropriate.  |
| Revised  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5        | Stimulate public awareness for reporting of illegal dumping | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | Publicize local and state contacts in Public Notices and Annual Town Reports  | A presentation on stormwater management, pollution and illicit discharges was done at Town Meeting in 2006. "Report Illegal Dumping"  | Continue to provide public contact information. Update information as indicated.  |

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| Revised |  |  |  | link with contact information has been added to the Town's website. Catch basins in Town are marked with yellow arrows and repainted each Fall. |  |
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### 3a. Additions

|    |   |   |                          |   |                            |
|----|---|---|--------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 5a | Minimize contamination of drainage system from failing septic systems | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | Failing systems replaced | Town has no sewer service, so IDDE focus is on failing septic. Town program is stricter than Title V, such as requiring removal of old systems and replacement with clean fill (vs. abandonment). Town encourages resident participation in Water Pollution Abatement Trust loan program. There were no violations to the Permit due to failing septic systems this year. | Continue existing program. |
|    |   |   |                          |   |                            |

#### 4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

| BMP ID # | BMP Description                 | Responsible Dept./Person Name                           | Measurable Goal(s)   | Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 15<br>(Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any) | Planned Activities                       |
|----------|---------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| 1        | Review of local current by-laws | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | Submit Town Meeting articles to update if needed                         | By-laws reviewed. Amendments adopted November 20, 2006   | No further action required at this time. |
| Revised  |                                 |   |  |  |  |
| 2        | Publicize and adopt changes     | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | To conform with best management practices and stimulate public awareness | A presentation was done at Town Meeting in 2006 in support of the proposed changes.            | No further action required at this time. |
| Revised  |                                 |   |  |  |  |

#### 4a. Additions

|   |                        |                |                     |   |          |
|---|------------------------|----------------|---------------------|---|----------|
| 3 | Building Dept. Website | Building Comm. | Update as necessary | Added “How do I get Stormwater Permit Coverage for my Construction Site?” info to the Building Department’s web page. | Ongoing. |
|   |                        |                |                     |   |          |

## 5. Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment

| BMP ID # | BMP Description   | Responsible Dept./Person Name                           | Measurable Goal(s)  | Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 15<br>(Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)   | Planned Activities  |
|----------|---|---|---|--|---|
| 1        | Review Current By-laws  | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | By updating town meeting articles if needed                   | By-laws reviewed. Amendments adopted November 20, 2006   | No further action required at this time.  |
| Revised  |   |   |   |  |   |
| 2        | Work with local committees to develop a final open space plan | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | Open space plan in conjunction with plans for watershed areas | While an official Open Space Plan has not been adopted, in the years since the original NPDES permit was issued, the Town has designated a new zoning district “Open Space and Recreation” protecting the lands that the Town has identified as areas needing protection. Approximately 200 acres of additional parcels were designated as “Open Space and Recreation” at a Special Town Meeting in 2017.<br><br>In 2013, as a result of public input sessions held after Gov. Patrick’s Executive Order 525, Priority Protection Areas and Priority Development Areas were identified and mapped with assistance from the Regional Planning Agency. | Continue to implement measures that help to encourage priority open space protection. |
| Revised  |   |   |   |  |   |

**5a. Additions**

|    |  |   |               |   |                            |
|----|--|---|---------------|---|----------------------------|
| 2a | Ensure use of BMPs for development/redevelopment | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | BMPs included | Town requires relevant projects to appear before the Conservation Commission, where compliance with MADEP stormwater standards is mandated. BMP O&M Plans are also requested by the Conservation Commission. The Town's Planning Board sends out a review engineer to monitor and report on erosion controls and stormwater mitigation installations during the construction of projects in its jurisdiction throughout town. | Continue existing program. |
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## 6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping in Municipal Operations

| BMP ID # | BMP Description               | Responsible Dept./Person Name                           | Measurable Goal(s)  | Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 15<br>(Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)  | Planned Activities         |
|----------|-------------------------------|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| 1        | Review of existing town areas | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | With Highway Department, plan to conduct maintenance and repair of Town's drainage system | Catch basins (est 1,150) are scheduled to be cleaned once per year. The Highway Department has switched to salt only winter treatment on the main roads, which have lessened sand deposits going into Town catch basins.  | Continue existing efforts. |
| Revised  |                               |   |   | <p>Streets are swept by the Town at least once per year in the spring, and more often as needed in the more densely populated areas of Town. Drain lines are cleaned as needed.</p> <p>Yard wastes are accepted/composted at the transfer station. Town implemented a successful curbside recycling and “pay as you throw” trash pickup.</p> <p>Freetown has a representative participating in the Assawompset Pond Complex Committee. This Committee – a collaboration of the communities of Freetown, Lakeville, New Bedford, Taunton and Rochester – is working with the MADEP and the MADOT to evaluate and mitigate flooding concerns in the region. Recommendations made by the Committee have included maintenance and repair of existing culverts and other drainage structures in the watershed.</p> <p>The City of Fall River, through grant funding and partnership with various state, federal, and private agencies, has removed the Rattlesnake Brook Dam from Narrows Rd in Freetown, a historic flooding area. The result has been restored fish passage and risk reduction of flooding from severe storms.</p> |                            |

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| 2       | Develop a toxins' prevention plan                            | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | If needed, to coincide with the Town's drainage plan   | Town has active spill response unit in the event of a release in/around the drainage system  | No further action required at this time.  |
| Revised |  |   |  |  |   |
| 3       | Maintaining ongoing awareness on the part of local officials | Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator<br>John F. Healey | Continuing the program relative to stormwater drainage | Highway Department submits annual operating and capital improvement budgets for maintenance/improvement of the storm drain system to Town Administrator, Finance Committee, and Town Meeting as appropriate. Article passed at 2015 Annual Town Meeting appropriating monies relating to preparation for the reissuance of the NPDES General Permit. | Continue to ensure that stormwater receives appropriate attention/funding through town. |
| Revised |  |   |  |  |   |

### 6a Additions

|   |                |                  |                          |   |  |
|---|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| 4 | Record keeping | Highway Surveyor | Inspection Documentation | The highway dept. utilizes inspection cover sheets to document conditions of outfalls and catch basins. | The department has completed inspection of outfalls this year, and will be documenting catch basins as ongoing cleaning continues. |
|   |                |                  |                          |   |  |

**Part IV. Summary of Information Collected and Analyzed**

**All information collected and analyzed is presented in Part III above.**