

# Watershed-Based MS4 Pilot Permit Stakeholder Meeting

NMED District 1 Offices • May 23, 2012 • 8:30 a.m.-Noon

## Summary of Agreements/Actions

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The May 23, 2012 meeting was attended by 31 representatives of local federal, tribal, state, county, municipal, flood control authority, and private consulting agencies. Agenda items included two presentations:

1. Emerging Draft Permit
  2. Cost-Sharing Algorithm Proposal
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### *Discussion Points/Agreements/Actions*

#### **1) Re: Emerging Draft Permit**

Nelly Smith made a detailed presentation of the outlines of the draft watershed-based MS4 permit. The presentation included:

- The sections of the permit and their principal points;
- The process for complying with the permit;
- Key concepts and requirements under each of the six minimum measures;
- Monitoring guidelines; and
- A timeline for issuing the Draft Permit and Fact Sheet, and for getting feedback and finally issuing the permit.

The presentation was well-received. Participants appreciated the level of detail provided in the presentation, the guidance offered, and the attempt to incorporate many of the ideas developed by the local stakeholder group.

An additional idea was presented that caught participants' attention: the possibility of getting credits for certain activities. Nelly did not have details; however, EPA seems open to having local jurisdictions receive credit for certain activities or levels of activity. In the discussion, participants emphasized that "credit" implies obtaining some practical benefit. This may take the form of a) reduced costs; b) extended time frames; c) both; and/or d) additional benefits. "Credit" should not merely imply being recognized for doing extra work, as in "extra credit" for schoolwork. It should lead to reduced workloads, lower costs, extra compliance time, etc.

#### **2) Re: Cost-Sharing Algorithm**

Jessica Bennett presented a draft formula for sharing costs for joint activities under the watershed-based permit. The principal variables being considered are

- Population density
- Impervious surface
- Slope
- Area
- Distance from the river.

Principal data sources being used include: 2010 Census; National Land Cover Database; and the National Elevation Dataset. Considerable time has also been spent on eliminating overlaps between data blocs and jurisdictional lines based on sensible criteria. Scores were developed placing jurisdictions in various

“bins” of percentile categories, and were weighted, principally by the relative surface area covered by each jurisdiction. Initial rankings were created.

Discussion was fairly lively, as participants clarified the scoring and the ranking, as well as how to refine the way overlaps were eliminated. Participants expressed their appreciation for Jessica’s initial work; Jessica took extensive notes, and indicated that she intended to contact more jurisdictions to better understand their questions and concerns.

Jessica’s presentation from the June meeting (a later draft) accompanies this summary as an attachment.

### **3) Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for **Wednesday, June 20 from 8:30-Noon at the NMED District 1 offices.**