

Neponset Stormwater Partnership

SUMMARY MEETING NOTES

Data Management Workshop

Tuesday, October 28, 2 pm

Norwood Civic Center

The meeting came to order at approximately 2pm with about a dozen people in attendance (refer to sign in sheet).

Aubrey Strause of Fuss & O'Neil gave a powerpoint presentation that provided an overview of some of the data management requirements of the draft MS4 permit. The presentation included a significant discussion of how the Central Mass Regional Stormwater Coalition collaborated on data management issues, by using PeopleGIS. This platform provided the communities with both an online mapping platform and, perhaps more importantly for MS4 permitting purposes, a way for various staff, including those with no GIS proficiency, to enter form data for field inspection of various sorts, greatly streamlining the overall data management process.

Aubrey provided a live demonstration of the system and some of the forms they had created and how the forms can be changed as needed.

One of the unique features of the effort in Central MA is that all the communities have implemented PeopleGIS as a regional project with shared access to at least view the data for all the communities. Furthermore, Aubrey has served as a shared resource for the region helping communities standardize their existing data, get it loaded into the system, and develop a shared set of forms and processes towns can use to track their information for various tasks that apply to all the communities.

A wide ranging discussion ensued among the participating towns, including a round robin update from each participant in the room. Some of the highlights of that discussion included:

- A significant number of the communities are already using People GIS in some capacity, and some are experimenting with using it for field data collection with rank and file staff.
- Other communities indicated that they are using other systems (viewworks? Cartography works?), while still others have no existing online GIS capability
- It might be beneficial to check with each community to see what systems they are currently using for in house and online GIS and compile a list
- Aubrey indicated that if you contact People GIS they can enable access to all the forms and templates that the central mass group has created, and you are welcome to use them as you see fit.

- There was discussion of the ability of towns to see the data from other towns in People GIS for the Central MA group. Attendees seemed to see some benefit to this but no one indicated a strong interest in trying this approach locally.
- General interest was also expressed in the idea of having a central or shared staff person to help standardize data and prepare forms and templates and do training, but again, no one indicated a strong interest in trying this approach locally.
- The fact that the Neponset communities all seem to be farther along than the Central MA towns were in terms of having existing GIS programs and even their own People GIS accounts seemed to reduce the appeal of trying to integrate the data after the fact.
- One community in particular expressed an interest in at least establishing an overall data standard for how GIS stormwater information should be organized (what data structure, fields and attributes) as a first step toward making it easier to collaborate in the future and suggested this might be a useful undertaking for MAPC
- Aubrey indicated the Central MA group would be happy to share their forms and data structure, and said she would try to do this by exporting their forms as PDFs

Aubrey encourage anyone who has questions to feel free to contact her directly at