Meeting Notes
Institutionalizing Stormwater Education
Thursday June 3, 2010
RIDEM, Providence, RI, Room 280
Meeting Time: 2:00 – 3:30 pm

Discussion Points:

1. Purpose:
   a. First permit term – Outreach and Education
      o Identify consistent messages to educate public
      o NEMO developed educational materials and delivery methods for municipal education, training, outreach
      o Municipalities were only required to participate in NEMO training programs
   b. Next permit term 2010
      o Educating children will be a basic requirement
      o Many programs exist already
      o Need to find the gaps where there is no support

2. Obstacles:
   a. Funding
   b. Meeting needs of all students with different abilities
   c. Reasonable class sizes to reach all, not just small groups
   d. Access to materials
   e. No statewide standardized curriculum
   f. One and done professional development is not enough for teachers to implement

3. Brainstorm ideas and opportunities:
   a. School improvement team – investigate priorities of schools to help align program
   b. Professional Development – get teachers involved to help brainstorm; ask them to identify how they can incorporate concepts into their classroom situation.
   c. Launching activity – have professional come in/teleconference start of program and be a contact for students to report back to and teachers to use as support
   d. Teacher point person / teacher leader – helpful for program success, possibility as “sustainability” contact.
   e. Municipality participation – bring municipal official into school for program
   f. Use the librarian as a resource and the library period as a point of entry
      o Books that go with topic – *All the Way to the Ocean* by Joel Harper
   g. University teacher education resource
h. Give students something flashy to take home
   o Activity based homework assignment (ex. clean half tub with baking soda and water and half with normal cleaner)

i. Target multiple GSE standards
   o Civic action least addressed and would fit stormwater concepts.
   o Consider GSE standard for maps and mapping. More teachers are using GIS and incorporating more technically advanced mapping with watersheds

j. Data Analysis and Collection
   o Accessible water quality data can be used to graph data
   o Narragansett Bay Research Reserve has 4 permanent water quality stations accessible for data analysis
   o USGS real time data
   o Website data that can be manipulated for graphs and games

k. Explore 3-Tiered program strategy – classroom, hands-on activity and field component. Engage students focusing on pollution prevention.
   o Schools that are not doing anything get enviroscape or other basic classroom activity
   o School doing something would get the next phase

l. Stewardship component – preventing pollution

m. Keep the stormwater education solutions-based with Low Impact Design (LID) and pollution prevention prominent.

n. High school components:
   o Senior project
   o Environmental clubs teaching elementary kids
   o Development of online land use models

o. Stormwater Certification (see below)

4. Next Steps:
   a. Survey schools and programs providing outreach, beginning with those here today.
      o What schools have programs
      o What schools are in need
         ▪ Target 4, 5, 6th grade
      o Maximize current resources and determine where gaps exist
         ▪ How consistent is the message
         ▪ How are goals being achieved
   b. Integrate standard concepts to current programs
      o Every student is exposed to land terrain model or enviroscape
      o Leave resource package with teacher for further exploration
c. Develop Stormwater Certification
   o Schools contract with organization that is “Know Where it Goes” certified
     ▪ Establish uniform concepts to be a component of program
   o Central statewide online reporting of programs
   o Identify contacts and programs for schools and municipalities
   o Municipal officials/town managers can look online at programs and participants

d. Investigate Funding:
   o Corporate sponsorship
   o Community Block Grants