

Birch Stream Stakeholder Meeting Notes
June 28, 2007

Introductions were made.

City Staff made a presentation that included definitions of non-point source stormwater pollution, and the need for a Stormwater Management Plan to explaining the Department of Environmental Protection

City and DEP Staff took questions and comments including the following:

DEP representatives noted that Barberry Creek to be approved soon- EPA hasn't found a better way.

Citizen statement – Soil testing hasn't been performed. Airport staff responded that sediment testing is performed 3 times per year as it is required by the General Industrial Permit.

Airport staff noted that the Bangor International Airport is in the process of conducting a stormwater drainage study and placing all the maps into GIS format.

A member of the audience asked how the TMDL will be enforced, and why do the TMDL goals need to be met? DEP staff explained that the TMDL does not have enforcement capabilities in itself, but will be referred to and enforced through existing permits. There is also a clause in the Clean Water Act called Residual Designation Authority that authorizes the EPA or the State to require permits for facilities that negatively discharge to impaired waters. The Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) is planning to petition the DEP to get the mall in South Portland to be permitted.

Another audience asked how a property owner or developer would know if they were in a watershed of an impaired stream? Staff responded that a developer may not know or be aware until they apply for a permit to develop, at which time they would be informed.

DEP noted that a heavily used parking lot receives residual pollutants from tires, exhaust, oil, salt and sand have as much pollution as an agricultural field.

Next Steps Discussion included the following:

The audience stated they would like to have more information on certain topics relating to stormwater. One citizen noted that the stakeholder meetings should be video taped and broadcast on TV.

DEP staff stated that even if the Airport did not have any de-icing residual, there would still be a problem with residual pollutants washing off all of the impervious covered areas, but with retrofits to the current system designed to remove these pollutants, the stream will improve. Airport staff inquired if there is any grant money available for this

type of improvement. DEP staff stated that they would review the drainage study to see if any of the projects would qualify for grant funding.

Similarly, the Airport Mall parking lot also needs to have stormwater treatment systems added.

City staff noted that a steering committee had been created that was looking at what type of data is needed and what management systems could be implemented to store and manage all the data from different sources. City staff noted that they were working on getting a GIS system up and running for mapping property and watershed boundaries.