



### **Web Forum 3: Stormwater Program Organizational Structure Summary**

March 17, 2016, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm (EST)

A web forum was held for Departments of Transportation (DOT) stormwater practitioners to discuss the organizational attributes that are key to promoting surface water quality protection, including insights into the practice of these attributes and the integration of stormwater program requirements into day-to-day business practices of the DOT organization. This was the third of three planned web forums on topics that are relevant to the implementation of DOT NPDES Programs. The following is a brief summary of the main points discussed by each of the presenters.

- Wendy Terlizzi, CMS4S, Environmental Programs Manager, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), ***DOT Stormwater Program Organization Background***

A discussion of the DOT stormwater program organization background that maintains an effective program was provided. The keys are customizing the program for each DOT, structuring the program by permit requirements, establishing the program early, organizing it around funding, and focusing staff at a Headquarters office. Polling data from the July 2014 American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) National Practitioner's meeting indicates that 70% of respondents felt that their DOT needs organizational change to more effectively implement their stormwater program, and 65% of respondents indicated that their stormwater program has zero to five stormwater program staff. Reorganizing an existing stormwater program could cause a change in financial or staff resources, which may lead to a reevaluation of the stormwater program and ultimately improve effectiveness.

- David Gaskin, P.E., Deputy Director, Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), ***Nevada Department of Transportation Stormwater Program***

An overview of NDOT's Stormwater Program was presented, as well as its response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) audit in 2012 and the status of its implementation. The primary result of the USEPA audit was a lack of resources to implement an effective stormwater program. In response, the Nevada legislature approved a budget amendment for 59 new positions (half are filled) and \$13 million in stormwater equipment (this year's order has been placed). To further improve effectiveness, NDOT is developing databases and asset management systems, expanding its training and public information programs, finalizing program manuals and guidance, and developing compliance, enforcement policies, and procedures. Future projects include additional electronic asset management tools (for inspection records and reporting), intergovernmental cooperation, and national coordination.

- Nick Tiedeken, Hydrologist, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), ***Minnesota DOT Stormwater Organization Challenges and Innovations***

An overview of the MnDOT Stormwater Program's challenges and innovations was presented. MnDOT must comply with construction and municipal NPDES permits, as well as requirements from Watershed Districts and Watershed Management Organizations. To address multiple layers of requirements and the varied needs of urban versus rural environments, MnDOT has overcome these challenges by building relationships with each organization, reviewing proposed rules, and developing area specific Metro Water Resource Engineering Squads to improve local knowledge of each watershed. Furthermore, MnDOT has conducted or assisted with research into innovative solutions to address these challenges, such as the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) baffle

insert for manholes, the Swales Infiltration Performance Calculator (under development), and the Clear Roads Project that evaluated the toxicity of deicing materials.

- Fred Noble, P.E., State NPDES Administrator, Office of Maintenance, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), *Stormwater Program Collaboration with Maintenance*

FDOT presented an overview of its Stormwater Program and its collaboration with the Maintenance department to implement the program. Florida's regulatory framework consists of two separate programs, the Environmental Resource Permitting (state program) and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) (US EPA program). FDOT is a co-permittee or is covered by 26 Phase I and Phase II permits, and is named in 937 Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) (mostly for nutrients and bacteria). A Task Team was developed to address TMDLs and stormwater implementation requirements. Implementation compliance was moved from Environmental Management (planning) to the Office of Maintenance to better align their Central Office and District Office structures since a majority of compliance activities involve maintenance. As a result, FDOT has been successful in more effectively implementing source controls, such as eliminating routine maintenance fertilization and performing regular street sweeping, and ultimately reducing the nutrient and phosphorus loads significantly.

After the presentations, the panelists addressed the questions submitted by the attendees.