

Municipality/Organization: Town of Abington

EPA NPDES Permit Number: MA041026

MaDEP Transmittal Number: W-040557

**Annual Report Number
& Reporting Period:** No. 12: April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015

NPDES PII Small MS4 General Permit Annual Report

Part I. General Information

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Certification:

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Signature: 

Printed Name: Richard J. LaFond

Title: Town Manager

Date: April 29, 2015

Part II. Self-Assessment

The Town of Abington has completed the required self-assessment and has determined that our municipality is in compliance with all permit conditions. We anticipate focusing on updates and refinements to existing documentation and programming until such time as the new permit, and modified conditions of operation under the permit, have been finalized. The Town recognizes responsibilities related to the pathogen TMDL approved for the Taunton River and its tributaries, several of which are within the Town of Abington. Specifically, Beaver Brook, Cleveland Pond and the Shumatuscacant River have demonstrated pathogen impairments (fecal coliform) for which intensified educational efforts and BMPs will be evaluated.

Part III. Summary of Minimum Control Measures

1. Public Education and Outreach

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./ Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 12 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 13
1	Create a Stormwater Program	Highway Department Planning Board Conservation Commission Board of Health Board of Selectmen	Abington will present to the public at a public meeting Abington's draft Comprehensive Stormwater Management Program.	The Stormwater Program is currently managed through the Town Manager's Office, with support from the Highway Department, Sewer Commission and advisory assistance from specific Town Departments as necessary. The Town submitted comments to US EPA on the Draft 2014 Small MS4 General Permit.	Based on information provided by US EPA, a final permit is expected to be published within the next calendar year. The Town will continue to conduct stormwater program activities in accordance with the existing permit conditions until such time as the draft permit is finalized.

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2	Create a Stormwater Program	Highway Department Parks & Recreation Board of Health	Abington will identify appropriate sources of funding assistance (SRF, 319 Grant Program, 604(b) Grant Program, Lakes & Ponds Grant Program, Source Water Protection Grant Program, Recycling Grant Program) and apply for assistance in implementing portions of Abington's Comprehensive Stormwater Management Program, including public education and outreach.	The Town is a member of an 18-member consortium of communities (Southeastern Massachusetts Stormwater Collaborative) that united to apply for a community innovation challenge grant to regionalize certain portions of the stormwater program, particularly related to education and training. The grant was awarded for certain of the proposed tasks and the funded elements of the program were completed during the reporting period. Subsequent phases of the project have been postponed until such time as additional funding is identified.	A website associated with the efforts on behalf of the collaborative was established and provides general information for the public as well as tools for use by municipal members. New content development will be delayed until additional funding is available, but the site has achieved the goals established in the grant application. These goals are consistent with MS4 General Permit conditions related to public outreach activities.

1. Public Education and Outreach (contd.)

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./ Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 12 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 13
3	Address specific groups	Highway Department Conservation Commission	Distribute EPA and other relevant educational brochures to targeted audiences. Distribution points include Town Hall, Library, and Transfer Station.	The South Shore Recycling Cooperative distributes their annual newsletter on Household Hazardous Product Collection Schedule to Abington residents, which includes recycling contact information and details of the recycling program. The Town has also received educational brochures related to stormwater runoff and management from the EPA, which would be available for distribution to Abington residents.	The Town will continue to distribute the Household Hazardous Product Collection brochure. Efforts will also be focused on distributing and making available stormwater related educational brochures at different Town locations.
4	Target groups likely to impact stormwater	Highway Department Board of Health Conservation Commission	Brochures targeting specific audiences and activities will be available. These target groups include homeowner and lawn maintenance activities, disposal of household waste, and pet maintenance.	See BMP #3.	Brochures will continue to be distributed and made available to the public. In addition, the Town will augment as appropriate from information derived through the challenge grant effort, and update materials to address pathogen issues related to TMDLs.

1. Public Education and Outreach (contd.)

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./ Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 12 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 13
5	Identify alternative information sources	Highway Department MIS Department	Abington will post links to stormwater BMPs and other water quality education resources, including EPA and DEP on its website. http://www.abingtonmass.gov/	A new educational website devoted exclusively to stormwater issues was developed under the collaborative grant effort.	The new website is active and has content developed explicitly for communities, children, businesses and others. The website has some original material specific to the community and links to a variety of resources developed by others, including EPA, DEP or non-profits.
6	Identify alternative information sources	MIS Department	Abington will post links on its website to the Taunton River Watershed Alliance. http://www.tauntonriver.org/	Based on engagement with the stormwater collaborative over the past two reporting periods, establishing a relationship with TRWA has been postponed indefinitely.	The Town will re-evaluate web links and other avenues for information distribution on the basis of success from the new website recently completed.
7	Utilize local website	Board of Selectmen	Public meeting notice and the meeting reviewing Abington's Comprehensive Stormwater Management Program will be posted on Abington's local access channel.	The Town has utilized the local access channel for notification of stormwater information. The meeting minutes for all the Board of Selectmen meetings in Permit Year 12 have been posted on the Town's website.	The Town of Abington will continue to utilize the local access channel for notification of stormwater information, and also continue to post minutes of the public meetings.

1. Public Education and Outreach (contd.)

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./ Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 12 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 13
8	Develop, conduct and document educational programs	TRW Liaison	The Town of Abington will appoint a liaison to the Taunton River Watershed Alliance to disseminate information to the Town on TRW programs and activities.	No liaison has yet been identified or nominated. The Town reached out to the Alliance to explore means through which the two organizations could work together on stormwater issues. The SEMSW Collaborative effort has been more effective and will continue to be focus of the Town's collaboration efforts.	Opportunities for teaming with non-profit partners will continue to be sought.
9	Promote Household Waste Recycling	Board of Health	The Town of Abington will work with the Town's contracted waste hauler and the Board of Health to continue to sponsor Regional Hazardous Waste Collection Days.	The Town of Abington currently works in partnership with the South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC) to sponsor Household Hazardous Product Collection. In 2014, Abington participated in the regional collection day in early Autumn. Flyers were sent to the Town of Abington residents regarding the Household Hazardous Product Collection event.	The Town of Abington will continue to work with the SSRC. Flyers will continue to be sent to Abington residents regarding the Household Hazardous Product Collection event.

2. Public Involvement and Participation

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./ Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 12 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 13
10	Storm drain stenciling	Highway Department Town Planner	Abington will work with local Scout groups to develop a stenciling program. Stenciling will target Abington's subwatersheds.	The Town of Abington Highway Department paints arrows on the pavement locating drainage flow on a yearly basis as part of routine operations and maintenance procedures.	The Town of Abington will pursue efforts to involve the Scouts group and have the storm drains in the Town appropriately stenciled.

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11	Community clean-ups	Highway Department Conservation Commission Plymouth County Mosquito Control	Town of Abington will encourage local stream team cleanups, such as those performed at Island Grove Pond, with local residents and area Scout groups. Town will provide notice of event on local access channel and website.	The Parks and Recreation Department supports a program titled “Take Pride in Abington” where the public is encouraged to adopt an island and provide the required maintenance. The Town conducted an e-waste day in Spring 2015 in which “anything with a plug” was accepted for appropriate disposal. The event was well attended. The Save Abington with Green Energy (SAGE) committee meets monthly to discuss ways in which the Town can reduce energy consumption and engage strategies to protect the environment. The committee works with Town Departments with the goal to have Abington designated a “Green Community.” They are a source for public education on stormwater programs.	The Town of Abington will continue to support local clean-up efforts and committees or volunteer groups engaged in “greening” Abington.

2. Public Involvement and Participation (contd.)

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./ Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 12 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 13
12	Community clean-ups	Highway Department Board of Health	The Town of Abington Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for emptying all trash containers at local parks and at the grammar school. The Town will provide trucks and other material to support cleanup efforts and disposal of materials.	Program continued as described in prior reporting periods.	The Town of Abington will continue to support local cleanup efforts.

3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./ Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 12 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 13
13	Inventory and mapping of storm drain system	Grant Writer Planning Board Board of Health	Abington will identify appropriate sources of funding assistance (SRF, 319 Grant Program, 604(b) Grant Program, Lakes & Ponds Grant Program, Source Water Protection Grant Program, Recycling Grant Program) and apply for assistance in implementing portions of Abington's Comprehensive Stormwater Management Program, including public education and outreach.	An Innovation Challenge grant funded the development of public education and tools/resources website current available to public access.	The Innovation Challenge grant program under which the collaborative effort was initiated was unfunded for this fiscal year at the state level. The Town has not identified an immediate replacement for that funding, but continues to seek creative financing for program activities.
14	Mapping and identification of outfalls and receiving waters	Highway Department Board of Assessors Board of Selectmen	Abington will develop and implement a plan to map all outfalls and receiving bodies of water, contingent on Town Meeting approval of funding.	Based on the outcomes of the January 2014 recommendations, the Town is preparing to undertake a comprehensive outfall inventory in summer 2015 to assess condition of remaining outfalls.	The Town has completed paper mapping of outfalls and will continue to pursue GPS survey and condition assessment for the remaining lower priority catchments/outfalls.

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15	Identification/ description of problem areas	Highway Department Board of Selectmen	Abington will develop and implement an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) plan, contingent on Town Meeting approval of funding.	The initial priority catchments identified in the community have been surveyed. Proposed activity to complete outfall physical inventory and condition assessment could not be completed due to funding issues.	The Town will continue to promote projects that disconnect illegal connections to the storm drain system. The Town anticipates reviewing the IDDE program for compliance with requirements of the new permit when issued. Outfalls where dry weather flow or impacted vegetation/evidence of discharge was identified during previous inventory will be further investigated.

3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (contd.)

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./ Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 12 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 13
16	Enforcement procedures addressing illicit discharges	Planning Board Town Counsel Board of Health Bylaw Review Committee Zoning Board of Appeals	Abington will review whether local authority is appropriate and able to respond to potential illicit discharges. New by-laws, if necessary, will be proposed to Town Meeting.	By-law completed and in place.	The Town will enforce the by-law as stipulated.
17	Public information program regarding hazardous wastes and dumping	Board of Health	Abington will provide educational brochures to residents within the member communities promoting proper disposal of household hazardous wastes and conditions for regional collections.	The South Shore Recycling Cooperative distributed the "Household Hazardous Product Collection Schedule" to Abington residents. This newsletter includes recycling contact information and details of the mandatory recycling program. The Town Hall has several educational brochures/informational resources including "Are You Troubled by Toxics? Bring Them to a Household Hazardous Product Collection" and Notices regarding the Abington recycling program, the Compost Site/CRT Center, and an example letter of failed Title V waiver are available at the Board of Health.	Hazardous waste and dumping brochures will continue to be distributed and made available to the public.

3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (contd.)

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./ Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 12 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 13
18	Initiation of recycling programs	Board of Health Grant Writer	Abington will apply for funding assistance from DEP's Recycling Grant Program for assistance in public education and the purchase of recycling materials.	The Town continues to seek funding on a periodic basis.	The Town of Abington will continue to monitor funding sources for applicability for recycling.
19	Watershed assessments and studies	Conservation Commission Board of Health Park & Recreation Grant Writer	Abington will identify opportunities for funding assistance from DEP's 604(b) and 319 grant programs and the Department of Environmental Management's Lakes and Ponds Grant Program to support watershed assessment and implementation activities. Tasks can include design and installation of stormwater BMPs and public outreach including storm drain stenciling. Emphasis will be on assessments and remediation of stormwater related problems impacting water quality in Cleveland Pond, Cushing Pond, and Island Grove Pond. These water bodies have been identified as impaired and are on DEP's 303(d) list.	The Town of Abington has not yet identified funding sources for watershed assessment.	The Town will continue to monitor funding sources for applicability for watershed assessment as affected by stormwater related problems.

3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (contd.)

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./ Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 12 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 13
20	Watershed assessments and studies	Board of Selectmen Water Department	The Town of Abington will encourage the Rockland Abington Joint Water Works to apply for funding assistance from DEP's Source Water Protection Program for grant assistance to develop wellhead protection plans and stormwater management plans within Zones II.	The Town continues to work closely with the RAJWW.	The Town of Abington will ascertain the availability of funds from DEP's Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program in Permit Year 13. Since stormwater discharges have been identified as one of the five potential threats to public water sources in the SWAP Program, the Town will continue to monitor stormwater discharges as part of protecting their drinking water sources.

4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./ Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 12 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 13
21	By-law: Storm water management regulations for construction sites 1 acre or larger	Planning Board Conservation Commission Town Counsel Board of Health Zoning Board of Appeals	Abington will review model bylaw developed by DEP in consultation with the Attorney General's Office.	Construction site stormwater controls are required per the Town's stormwater by-law. The Town's planning consultant reviews submittals for conformance with NPDES Phase II requirements. Policy and guidelines for development have allowed practical application of Phase II goals. The Building Inspector is responsible for enforcing construction phase sedimentation and erosion controls during construction activity.	Abington will enforce requirements of the by-law as described.

5. Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./ Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 12 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 13
22	Bylaw: Require post-construction runoff controls	Planning Board Conservation Commission Town Counsel Board of Health Zoning Board of Appeals	Abington will review model by-law developed by DEP in consultation with the Attorney General's Office.	The Town's Subdivision Rules and Regulations incorporate drainage and stormwater management requirements, including adherence to DEP Best Management Practices for stormwater. Appendix B of the Rules and Regulations specifically establish design and performance standards.	The Town will continue to enforce development standards as administered by the Planning Board. Further, the Town recognizes that the draft MS4 permit requires additional modifications. These will be addressed when the permit is published Final.

6. Municipal Good Housekeeping

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./ Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 12 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 13
23	Develop a municipal Operations and Maintenance Plan	Highway Department	Using regulations and recommendations from DEP and EPA, Abington will develop and update an operations and maintenance plan to include proper disposal of street sweepings, catchbasin cleanout, snow disposal, roadway deicing procedures, vehicle washing, and outside storage of materials.	The Town of Abington Highway Department cleans catch basins and drainage swales on an as-need basis, and sweeps all streets and sidewalks once per year. Personnel maintain records of operational problems with the stormwater system. Some O&M BMPs were included in the collaborative web site development, and the Town has reviewed the BMPs for possible integration in to operational protocols.	The Town of Abington Highway Department will continue to review sample maintenance plans and incorporate any relevant practices for Permit Year 13.

6. Municipal Good Housekeeping (contd.)

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./ Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 12 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 13
24	Develop a municipal Operations and Maintenance Plan	Highway Department	Abington will implement a formal inspection program, including maintenance logs and scheduling, for catchbasin cleaning, repairs, and new installation.	The Town typically conducts periodic catch basin clean-outs on a routine basis. Due to staffing changes in the past reporting period, the Town did not achieve the same frequency of clean-outs. They did, however, clean basins on a situational basis when evidence of operational impacts was observed.	The Town expects to resume typical cleaning schedules in the upcoming reporting period.
25	Develop and implement training programs for municipal employees	Highway Department	Abington will send a minimum of 5 public works employees annually to training seminars sponsored by Mass Highway.	Part of the recent challenge grant was devoted to developing training programs for management and operational personnel within the Town. The Town participated in two training programs conducted by the Collaborative's consultant partners.	Training sessions and/or seminars will continue to be conducted for the Town's Highway personnel. The new training materials will be incorporated into routine and periodic training for all personnel involved in stormwater management activities.
26	Review storm drainage infrastructure needs	Highway Department	Abington will incorporate storm drain infrastructure review in Abington's Chapter 90 project utilizations.	The Town of Abington Highway Department provided storm drain improvements during road construction projects.	The Town of Abington will continue to provide storm drain system improvements.