

The Casco Bay Interlocal Stormwater Working Group:

A Case Study in Regionalism

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Estuary Project

Supporter Acknowledgement

Environmental Protection Agency Region 1

Cumberland County Commissioners

Supporter Acknowledgement
(Continued)

Casco Bay Estuary Project (CBEP)

Cumberland County Soil and Water
Conservation District (CCSWCD)

Cumberland County Emergency
Management Agency (CCEMA)

Local Municipalities

Supporter Acknowledgement
(Continued)

Maine Department of Environmental
Protection

State Planning Office/Coastal Programs

Portland Area Comprehensive
Transportation System (PACTS)

“How We Got Along”

Cape Elizabeth

South Portland

Cumberland

Scarborough

Falmouth

Westbrook

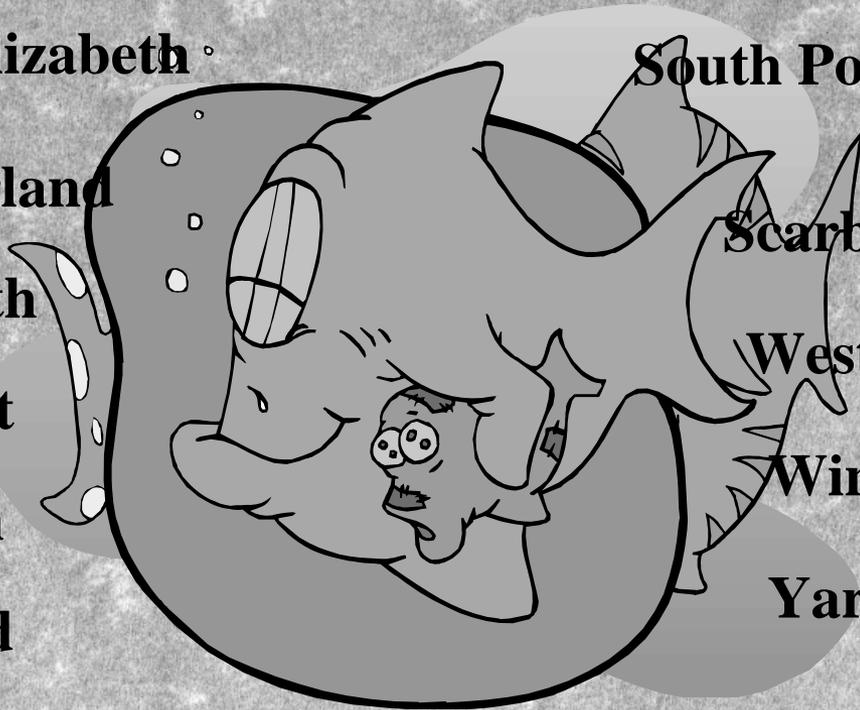
Freeport

Windham

Gorham

Yarmouth

Portland



Agenda

- Guiding Principles
- History of Interlocal Group
- Challenges Ahead
- Research Findings
- Lessons Learned

Overall Views

"Exemplary"

**"Got the
Job Done"**

**"This
Worked"**

"A Standard for the State"

"Definitely Worthwhile"

"A Model"

"Super"

**"Big Bang for the
Buck"**

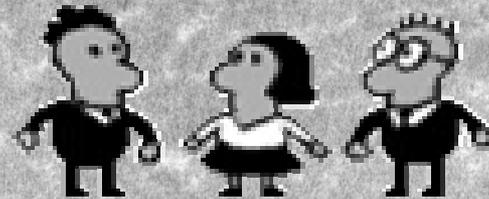
Guiding Principles

- Problem-based
- Neutral Help
- Funding

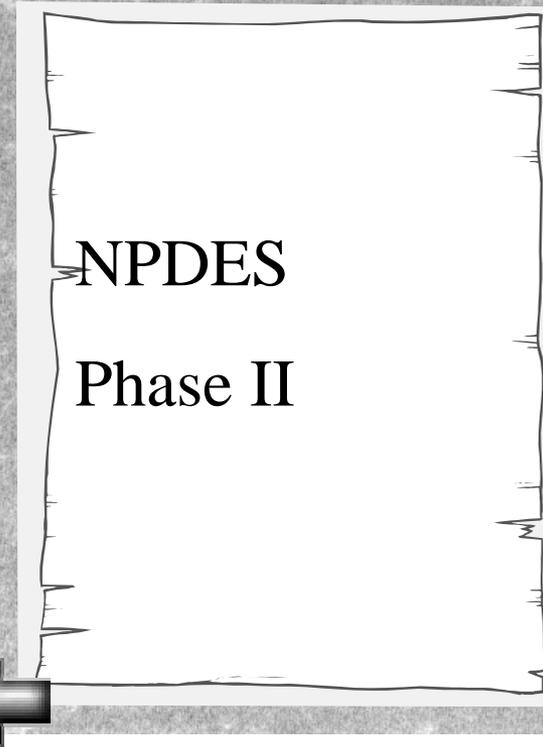
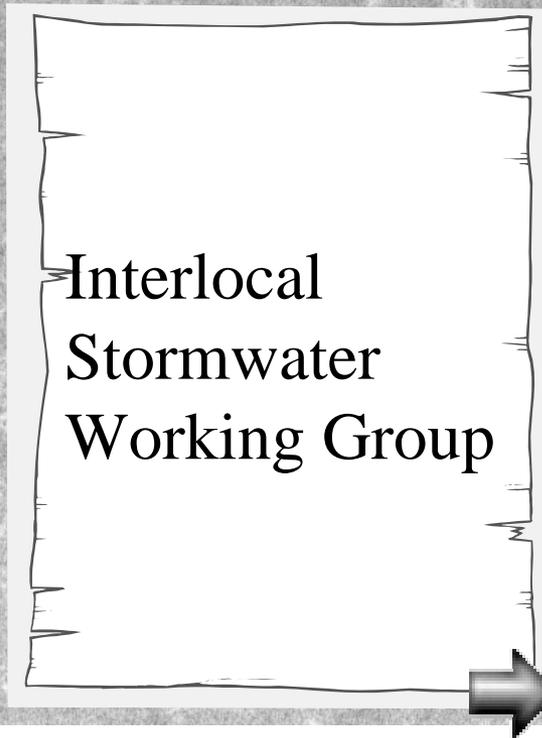
“The End”...

...Not Really!!

How Did We Get There?

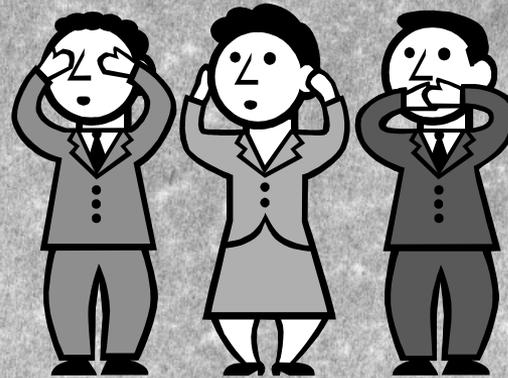


Converging Processes



History

- Phase II/Environmental Protection Agency Mandate (December 1999)



History (Continued)

- In 2000, Three Agencies Initiatives Converged:
 - CBEP – Casco Bay Plan
 - CCEMA – Flooding
 - CCSWCD – Soil and Water
Protection

History (Continued)

- Problem-based:
 - Cross-boundary issue
 - Lot-by-lot SW management has shortcomings
 - Limited history of municipalities working together

History (Continued)

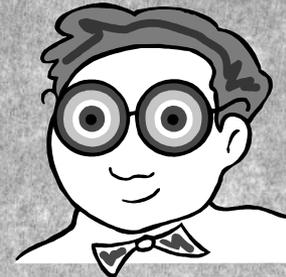
- 2001 – Grant Funds Approved
 - Funders: EPA and Cumberland County Commissioner
 - Recipient: CBEP/CCSWCD (partner)
 - Purpose: Develop Inter-municipal Stormwater Management

History (Continued)

- In November 2001, MeDEP Began Statewide Stakeholder Process to Develop Phase II Permits

History (Continued)

- In January 2002, CCSWCD Began Process with 6 Communities
- Brought facilitator onto team
- Conducted One-on-One Interviews
- Began Meetings



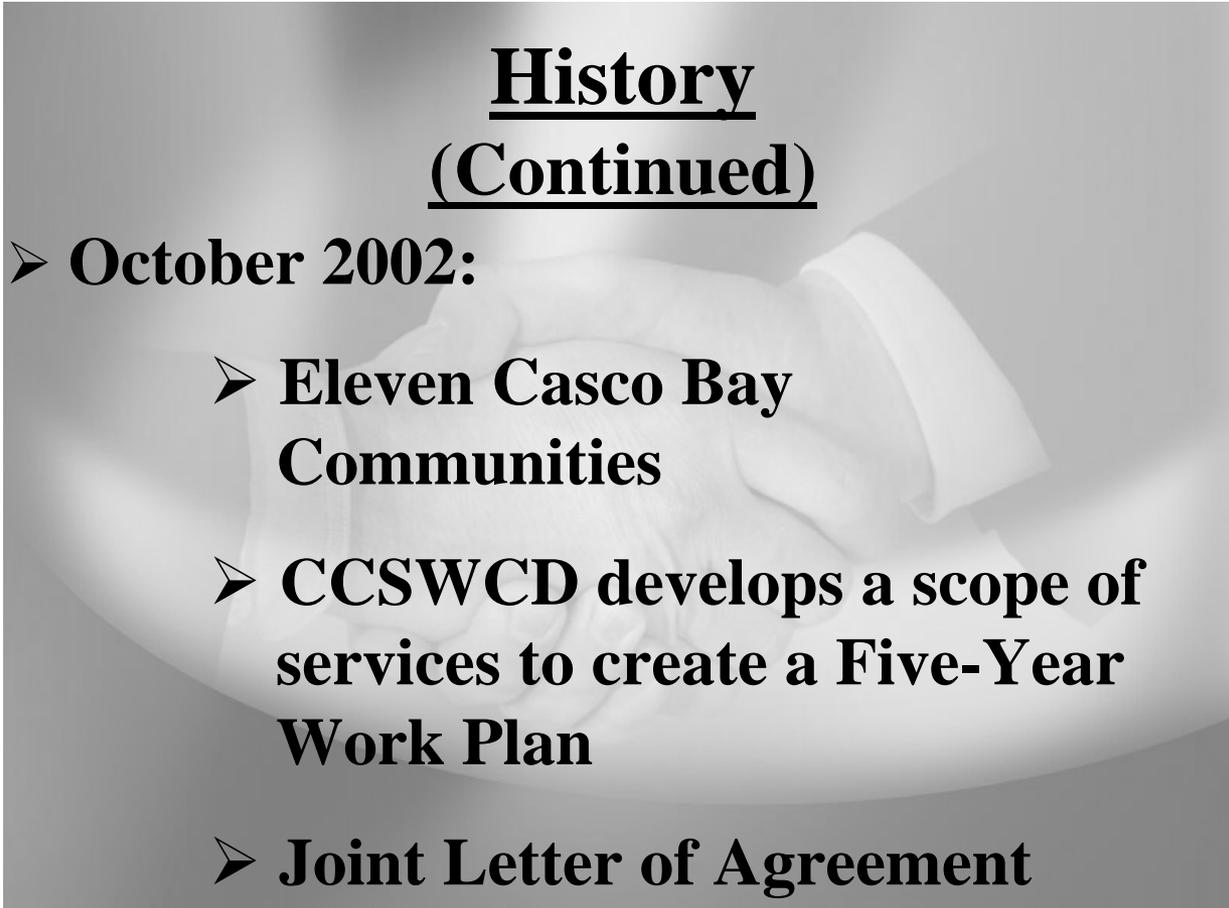
History (Continued)

➤ Through August 2002, Initial Group of Six Worked On:

- FEMA Hazard Mitigation
- National Flood Insurance Program/Flood Plain Management
- **NPDES Phase II**

History (Continued)

- August 2002, Five Additional Casco Bay MS4's Identified By 2000 Census Data
- DEP ramps up Phase II outreach to municipalities



History **(Continued)**

- **October 2002:**
 - **Eleven Casco Bay Communities**
 - **CCSWCD develops a scope of services to create a Five-Year Work Plan**
 - **Joint Letter of Agreement**

History (Continued)

November 2002:
Group Begins
Five-Year Work
Plan

Group Works
With MeDEP
on MS4 Permit
Language



History (Continued)

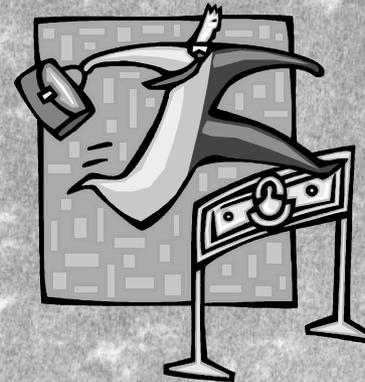
- Group ‘Solved’ Its First Problem
 - June 2003, Completed Five-Year Work Plan
 - June-September, Formal Local Approval Process
 - September 2003, Submitted Work Plans to MeDEP

Guiding Principles

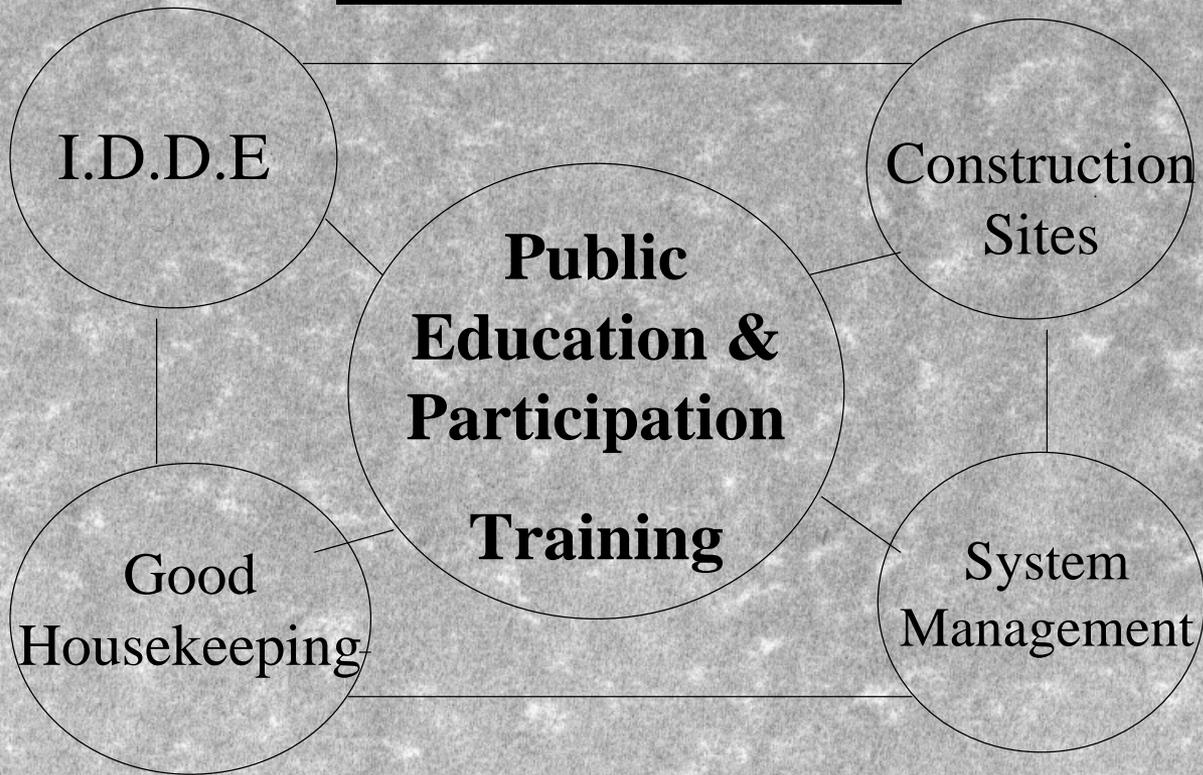
- Problem-based
- Neutral Help
- Funding

Challenges Ahead

- Implementation (Variety of Needs)
- Regional Coordination
- Funding



Implementation



Regional Coordination

- Coordinator Job Description I
 - *Accepting Resumes*
- Guiding Work Plan Actions
- Balance Needs



Funding

- 
- CBEP
 - Conference
 - Intern
 - Grants
 - Municipalities
 - Governor's Office
 - DEP
 - Bond Issue
 - Media Strategy
 - PACTS
 - CCEMA

Regional Boundary- Setting

- Saco Bay Working Group
- Statewide Education

“How Does This Help Me?”

Or

“So What?”



Research Findings

- Confidential Interviews Conducted with Cross-Section of Group

Participant Benefits

- Cost-sharing
- Resource Sharing – Expertise, Materials, Etc.
- Group Problem Solving
- Building Relationships Beyond SWII
- Direct Group Interaction with DEP

Participant Benefits (Continued)

- Sense of Not Being Alone With An Overwhelming Task
- Creating A Learning Process For Everyone
- A Chance For Equal Voices At the Table
- Removal of Municipal Boundaries
- Each Got Something Different Out of This

Group Challenges

- Not Knowing the State Rules Initially and Trying to Respond Individually and As A Group
- Breaking Down Municipal Barriers
- Work Speed is Slower As A Group
- Different Needs From Different Communities
- Funding Breakdown and Sustainability

Group Challenges (Continued)

- Need a Coordinator to Stay on Track As Move Forwards
- Lack of Clarity About Origins and Goals
- Whether or Not to Formalize the Organization/Process

Unique Factors

- Completely New Effort, Not Changing Anything Existing Already
- Not Political Actors At the Table
- Dealing with “Mind-boggling” Regulations
- Started with Funding in Place
- Initiated by a Third Party, But Not Government

Unique Factors (Continued)

- Started With A Facilitator in Place
- Everyone Asked Personally to Join the Group
- Willing Partners (Voluntary Participation)
- Not Yet Challenged As A Group
- Facilitator Who is Also A Leader/Coordinator

Lessons Learned

“Survey Says...”

- Base it on a Real, Not Perceived Need
- Don't Impose This on People, Has to be Voluntary
- Incentives Would Not Be A Bad Thing

Lessons Learned (Continued)

- Start Early
- Start with Funding in Hand (and a cushion)
- Have a Facilitator At the First Meeting and Throughout
- Formalize Group Only As Necessary

Lessons Learned (Continued)

- Get the Right People At the Table From the Start
- Invite People in Face-to-Face or By Phone
- Involve the Regulatory Agency

Guiding Principles

- Problem-based
- Neutral Help
- Funding

Questions & Answers

