

# **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**

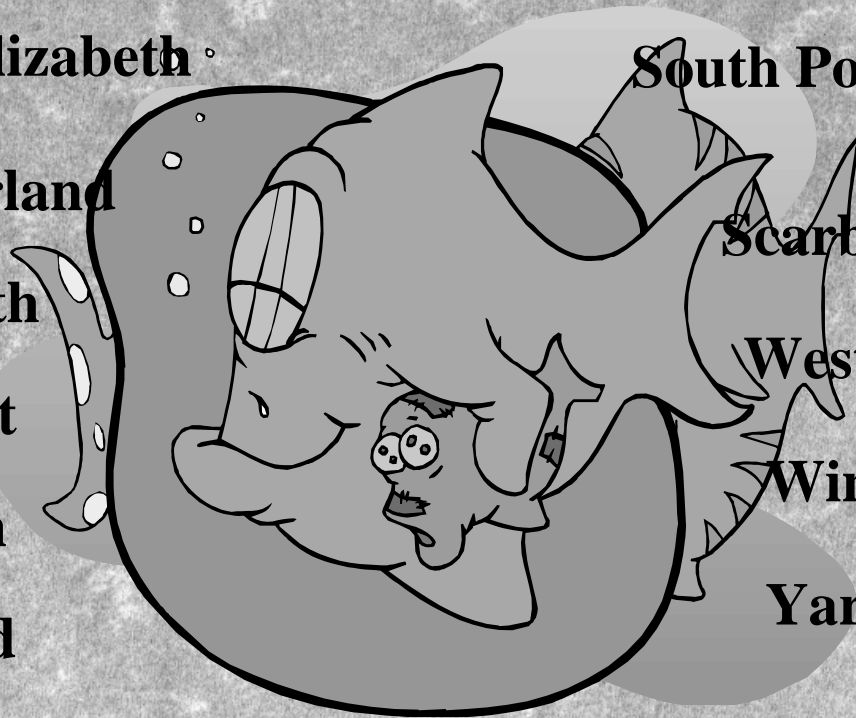
**Freeport**

**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**

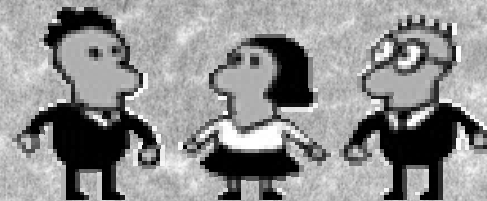
- Problem-based
- Neutral Help
- Funding



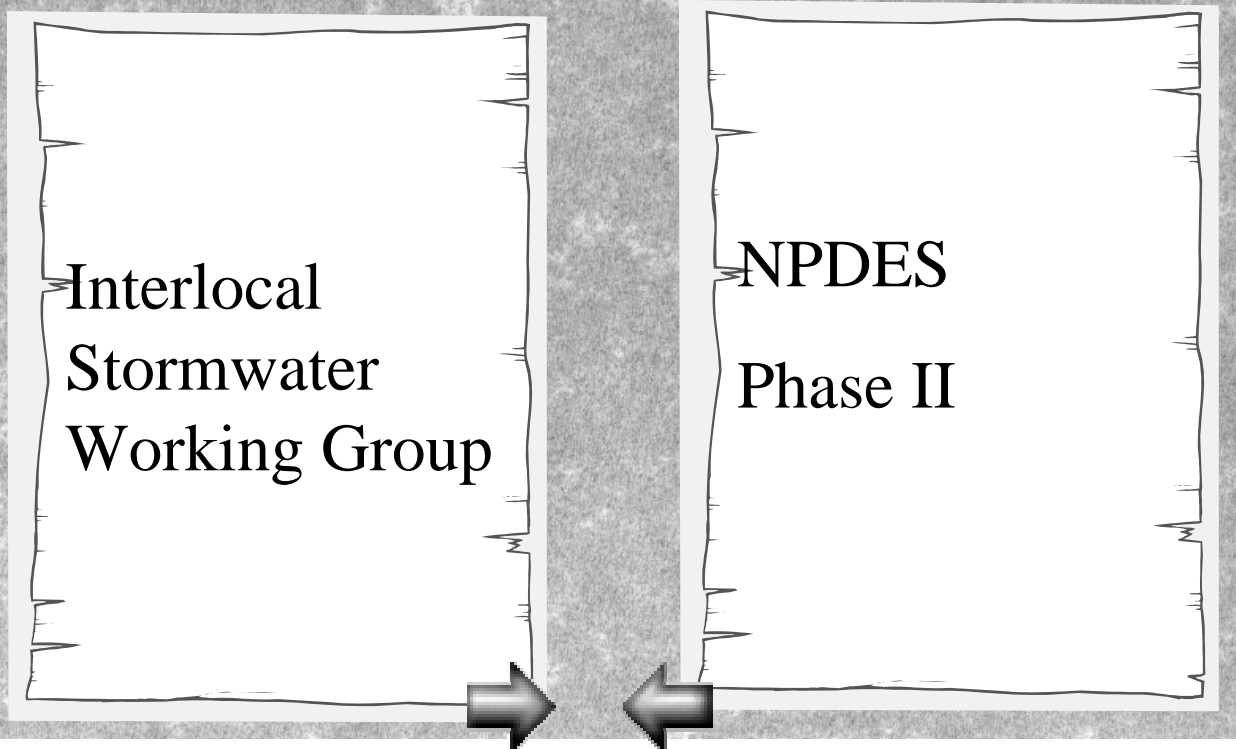
**“The End”...**

**...Not Really!!**

# How Did We Get There?

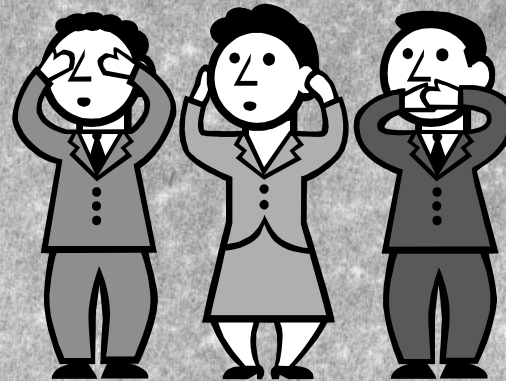


# Converging Processes



# 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)

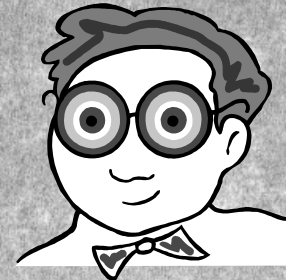
- 2001 – Grant Funds Approved
  - Funders: EPA and Cumberland County Commissioner
  - Recipient: CBEP/CCSWCD (partner)
  - Purpose: Develop Inter-municipal Stormwater Management

## **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)**

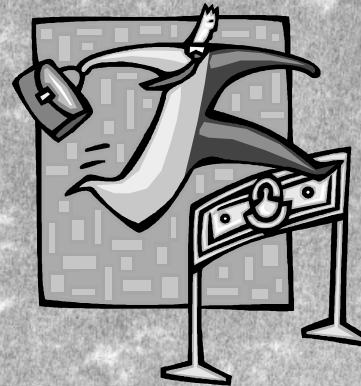
- Group 'Solved' Its First Problem
  - June 2003, Completed Five-Year Work Plan
  - June-September, Formal Local Approval Process
  - September 2003, Submitted Work Plans to MeDEP

# **Guiding Principles**

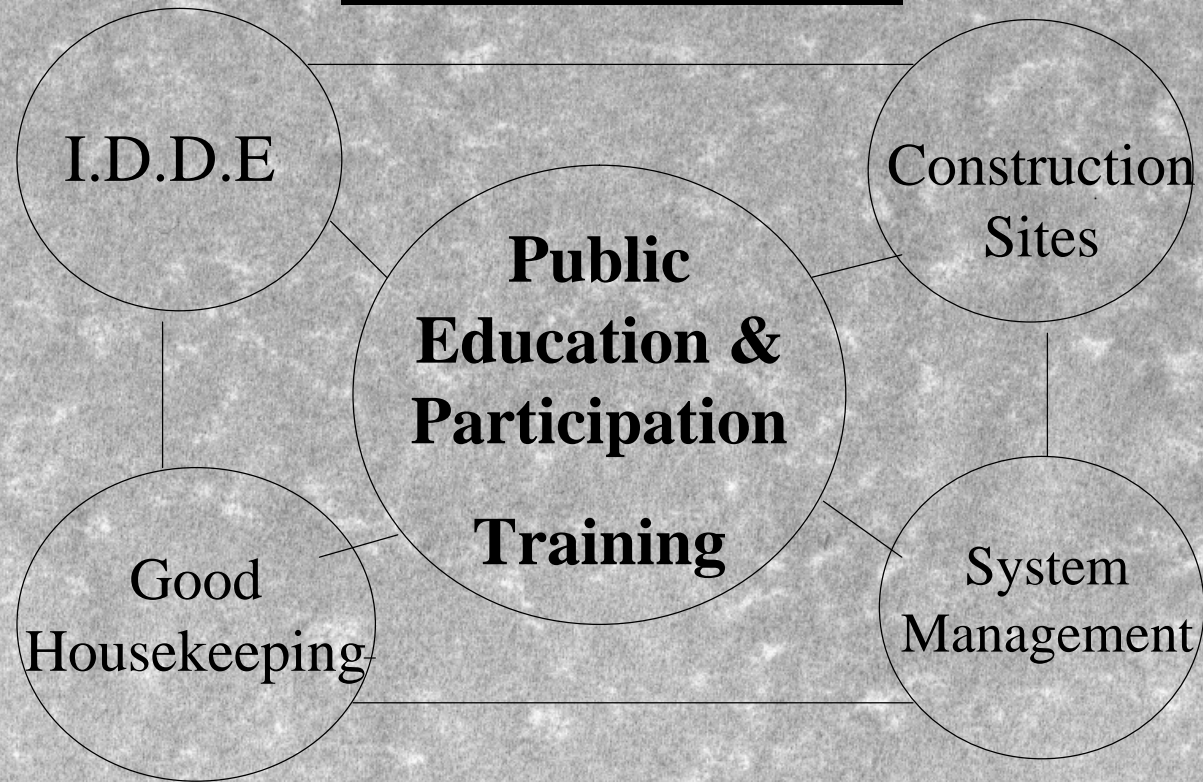
- Problem-based
- Neutral Help
- Funding

# 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

