



Partnership Meeting Minutes  
February 27, 2025

Attendees: See attached sign in sheet

The meeting began at 10:01 am.

1. Introductions
  - a. Lori Laster (Papio NRD) facilitated introductions.
2. MS4 Permit Updates
  - a. Patrick Ducey and Phillip Halstead from Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) provided updates regarding staffing at NDEE and status of various permits issued by NDEE.
  - b. Jesse Bradely is acting as the interim director for NDEE and Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. There has been discussions about combining the two agencies, but no information about that process is available at this time.
  - c. After the 2020 Census, no new communities were required to join the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program. The new MS4 permits have been drafted and NDEE is working to finalize the drafts. There are no regulatory changes to the new permit.
  - d. Implementation of electronic reporting rules is delaying issuance of the new permit. This is a requirement to use the NET system through EPA. The system is used for other permits and the MS4 permit is supposed to be implemented in the system by December 31, 2025.
  - e. Lori Laster noted that the annual report for the current MS4 permit is due to NDEE by April 1, 2025. Report templates will be available by mid-March.
3. Next Meeting Date
  - a. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2025
4. Adjourn
  - a. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.



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## Stormwater Management Discussion Overview April 28, 2025

Attendees: See attached sign in sheet

The meeting began at 10:00 am.

1. Introductions
  - a. Lori Laster (Papio NRD) facilitated introductions.
2. MOBA/Build Omaha Correspondence
  - a. MOBA and Build Omaha began communicating with the City of Omaha in August 2024 regarding stormwater management requirements modifications.
  - b. The Partnership members met on April 2, 2025 to discuss a letter that was sent to the City about specific items with regard to stormwater permitting, construction standards, and inspection requirements. At the April 2 Partnership representatives agreed that a meeting with MOBA/Build Omaha and NDEE would be beneficial in addressing the concerns.
3. Discussion
  - a. Jerry Torczon, representing Build Omaha, provided an overview of the concerns in the correspondence.
  - b. Jim Theiler (Omaha) stated that the Partnership wants to improve the process where we can but are bound to enforce rules delegated by EPA and NDEE.
  - c. The development community has concerns regarding the increasing cost of compliance with rules. Their correspondence suggested several ways to improve the design of sediment and erosion control elements. Mark Westergard, representing MOBA, stated that much of the design elements need to be addressed with the engineering firms.
  - d. Partnership members addressed some of the design alternatives presented. Many of the suggestions are already allowed under current design guidelines. Others, such as the use of plastic pipe for storm sewer lines, would need to be reviewed by each jurisdiction on whether they would accept alternative materials.
  - e. Reuel Anderson (NDEE) stated that the state Construction Stormwater Permit (CSW) expires in 2026. NDEE would like to have input from



developers, engineers, and contractors to clarify language in that permit to reduce the burden of compliance.

- f. Other issues addressed were phasing of subdivision projects. Often the developer has the initial grading permit and is not able to close the permit until the entire development is constructed. Currently, grading permits are not transferred from the developer to the SID and then to the individual contractors who build homes. This leaves the developer responsible for work they aren't doing themselves. Solutions involve addressing stormwater management in lot sale contracts.
  - g. The developer is also often required to provide ongoing inspections and often use engineering firms for that purpose. A solution for that is to have developer site staff trained to do those inspections as they are not required to be performed by an engineer.
4. Next Steps
    - a. MOBA/Build Omaha will be working with the engineering firms their members use for design to educate them on alternative designs that would be more cost effective. The Partnership can assist with this effort as requested.
    - b. NDEE will work with the Partnership as the next CSW is drafted to have input from multiple viewpoints on the new permit.
    - c. MOBA/Build Omaha will reach out this summer to discuss progress on work addressing these concerns.
  5. Adjourn
    - a. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.



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