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# **Town of Ashland, Stormwater Advisory Committee**

## **Stormwater Advisory Committee Minutes February 3, 2026, Meeting**

Location: Virtual meeting on Google Meet

**Members Present:** Jeanne Walker, Robert St. Germain, Jill Vernes, Elizabeth Byrnes, Becca Solomon (ex-officio), Sofia Chrisafideis (ex-officio), Claudia Bennett (guest, Select Board Member), Doug Small (guest, DPW, Head of Storm Water Division).

**Members Absent:** Preethi Sreeraj

**Call to order at 6:35 pm.**

**Recording started at 6:35 pm.**

### **Review of Minutes.**

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes of December 2, 2025.  
The minutes were approved on a 4-0-0 vote.

### **New MS4 Permit updates.**

The draft MS4 Permit remains unapproved by EPA. When EPA releases the final version of the new MS4 Permit, the town will have 90 days to prepare and submit a Notice of Intent (NOI), which will detail how the town plans to comply with the new MS4 Permit requirements.

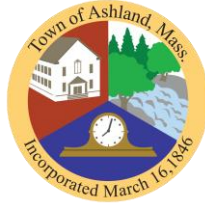
Wauhakum Pond is identified by EPA as a Water Quality Limited Body for phosphorus impairment, which means storm water structures around Wauhakum will need to be prioritized.

The committee discussed that EPA has fined other towns for non-compliance in the past, and that the fine can be over \$5,000 per violation per day.

### **Status report on YTD stormwater activities and monthly reporting.**

Sofia Chrisafideis, Conservation and Stormwater Assistant, presented current actions for stormwater management in Ashland. She has created a tracking sheet for several actions including street sweeping, catch basin repairs and cleaning, culvert maintenance, catch basin investigations, catchment investigations, construction inspections, dry weather outfall screening, detention/infiltration basin inspections, preconstruction meetings, staff trainings related to storm water, and ongoing GIS management. 600 (25%) of Ashland's stormwater catch basins have been cleaned so far in FY2026.

Catchment investigations continue. Investigations include mapping, identifying "deep-sump" catch basins, and monitoring for illicit discharge. Deep-sump catch basins are defined as catch basins that have



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a sump pit that extends at least 4 feet below the level of the outflow pipe, which allows for more effective capture of coarse sediment, trash, and debris.

Sofia has applied for a grant through the new Massachusetts ECO One Stop, which may be able to cover several environmentally related projects in Ashland, including culvert replacement projects.

The Stormwater Monthly Updates tracking sheet will be updated monthly and will be available on the Ashland Storm Water website. Read-only access to this tracking sheet can be accessed [HERE](#).

### **Discussion of budget, fees, and Select Board presentation.**

Budget information was presented by Doug Small. Budget process for Ashland's FY2027 is beginning. Doug has drafted 3 budget options for DPW storm water related positions, projects and expenses. The Committee discussed several possible storm water projects that could be added to the FY2027 budget.

The Committee discussed the DPW staff who are currently allocated to spend a percentage of their work time on storm water projects.

Budget votes for FY2027 will occur in May 2026. The storm water enterprise fund is managed by the DPW and appears in the town budget to be presented and voted on at a town meeting. A storm water revolving fund is managed by the Conservation Commission, outside of the regular budget.

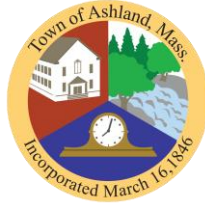
Claudia agreed that it would be helpful for the committee to present to the Select Board prior to the May 2026 town meeting.

### **Stormwater operational planning.**

The committee discussed the draft 10-year capital plan for storm water that has been created by the DPW, including estimated values for replacing catch basins, which will likely be required when the new EPA MS4 Permit goes into effect.

### **Public education and outreach.**

- AHS environmental club efforts.
  - o Catch basin painting – Was approved by the School Committee but could not get that scheduled before the weather got too cold. Planning on completing the catch basin painting in the spring.
  - o The club collected surface water at the Ashland Reservoir on November 11.
- School programs.
  - o Jeanne plans to follow up with APS to determine which grades have curriculum that connects best with storm water topics.
- Stormwater ads.
  - o Ads have run in the local Town Pages, which are distributed to about 6000 addresses.
- Messaging update.



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- Ashland has a new communications coordinator, who can help with creating and posting new Storm Water ads.
- Engineers Without Borders.
  - The Connecticut chapter who helped with Ashland Day has been in contact with a chapter at WPI and they are interested in helping Ashland with storm water projects.

### **Next Meeting.**

The committee plans to meet next Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:30pm.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The motion passed on a 4-0-0 vote.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.**