

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services 2022-2023 BIENNIAL REPORT

Ended June 30, 2023
Pursuant to RSA 20:7



Cover photo: Walker Pond
Steve Landry; June 2023



New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services
2022-2023 Biennial Report
Ended June 30, 2023

Pursuant to RSA 20:7

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Table of Contents

From the Commissioner	iv
Mission and Strategic Goals	vi
FY 2022-2023 In Review	1
Funding and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 22-23	15

From the Commissioner



I am pleased to provide you with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services' (NHDES) Biennial Report to the Legislature for the 2022 and 2023 Fiscal Years. Over this period, I am proud of the NHDES employees who have worked tirelessly to fulfill our mission of sustaining a high quality of life for all citizens by protecting and restoring the environment and public health in New Hampshire. The agency's involvement in preserving our public health and environment has become especially prominent with recent issues like flooding from excessive rainfall and poor air quality from wildfire. Whether it's through water sampling, testing air quality, handling waste, or any multitude of environmental management practices, NHDES continues to demonstrate our commitment to New Hampshire's environment and community.

Some NHDES highlights over the biennium include:

In 2021, the United States Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into law. ARPA is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill to speed up the United States' recovery from the economic health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant recession. The Act defines eligible uses of the state and local funding, including responding to public health emergencies, responding to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 emergency, providing revenue relief to states and making investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. Through this legislation and with the approval of Governor Chris Sununu and the Executive Council, NHDES has been able to help New Hampshire communities by providing funding for necessary infrastructure improvements. As of June 2023, NHDES allocated \$175 million for 369 projects. New Hampshire towns and cities received funding for wastewater improvements, drinking water infrastructure, critical flood risk infrastructure, PFAS remediation, cybersecurity upgrades and other important projects. NHDES is proud to have been a part of this relief funding and looks forward to seeing positive change come from these improvements. This funding provides great opportunities for communities to improve their environment, as well as better the lives of New Hampshire residents.

Even though drought persisted in New Hampshire throughout much of the biennium, NHDES helped alleviate burdens caused by the drought for private well owners in New Hampshire through the Drought Rebate Program funded through the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund. During the biennium, the Drought Rebate Program funded 112 replacement well projects, two well modification projects and one public water connection at low income residences whose wells had failed and were no longer resilient due to drought. A little more than a third of the newly installed wells needed treatment for at least one contaminant exceeding state drinking water standards, with arsenic being the most likely to be found elevated. The total amount of program dollars spent or budgeted for approved projects in the biennium is approximately \$1,570,000 or about \$14,000 per project on average. This includes funding not yet disbursed for projects which are still ongoing. This funding provided New Hampshire well owners with relief in the midst of a drought and allowed them to have clean drinking water despite the ongoing conditions. By protecting New Hampshire's drinking water sources, NHDES continues to prioritize public health and the environment.

While many areas in New Hampshire have struggled with Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS),

NHDES made efforts to help remediate PFAS in New Hampshire's water supply through starting a PFAS Removal Rebate Program for Private Wells in June of 2021. This program provides rebates to private well users for up to \$5,000 for the installation of PFAS treatment or up to \$10,000 for a service connection to a public water system. The innovative PFAS Removal Rebate Program provides helpful funding for homeowners burdened with the costs of treating wells contaminated with PFAS above New Hampshire's drinking water standards. Governor Chris Sununu also praised the program, saying, "New Hampshire leads the country in identifying PFAS contamination and acting on those findings. These rebates will go a long way to help hundreds of homeowners affected by PFAS contamination to connect to clean drinking water sources or install treatment systems for their homes." I am pleased that NHDES has helped New Hampshire residents facing PFAS difficulties and that NHDES is continuing to improve the environment and public health through these measures.

One of our central goals is to engage with and educate our community. We've continued our timely expansion of online services, hosted multiple workshops, released several educational publications and connected with the community through social media. NHDES encourages numerous educational efforts to guarantee that we, as citizens of the State, work together to maintain a clean environment and maximize public health.

Beyond the few examples I listed above, the following pages of the Biennial Report provide only a glimpse of the diverse and multi-faceted work NHDES has completed during this biennium. With your support, and that of our partner agencies and organizations and other stakeholders, we can continue to uphold the NHDES mission of protecting and restoring the environment and public health of New Hampshire to provide our citizens with the utmost quality of life. I encourage you to visit our website at www.des.nh.gov to gain a greater look into what we do here at NHDES.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more prominent than the last name "Scott".

Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

Mission and Strategic Goals

MISSION

The mission of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services is to help sustain a high quality of life for all citizens by protecting and restoring the environment and public health in New Hampshire.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We provide timely and consistent high quality customer service.
- We promote mutual respect and effective straightforward communications.
- We consider quality of life, public health and safety, economic vitality and the concerns of our citizens while pursuing our responsibilities under the law.
- We strive for excellence in all of NHDES' operations, are committed to continuous improvement and consider innovative approaches.
- We are committed to scientifically and technically sound, cost-effective and environmentally appropriate solutions.
- We provide leadership on environmental and sustainability issues.
- We consider the long-term, cumulative and cross-media effects of our policies, programs and decisions.
- We foster environmental awareness and stewardship through communication, education, outreach and assistance.
- We afford fair and equitable treatment of all individuals and groups in the implementation of federal and state environmental laws, rules, programs and policies and in the management of the agency.
- We maintain a work environment that attracts and retains the most dedicated and talented staff.



JULY

2021

SEPTEMBER

FY 2022-2023 In Review

2021

JULY

Outdoor Water Use Restrictions. During the summer drought, NHDES urged water systems to implement outdoor water use restrictions and encouraged residents to use water wisely. Voluntary restrictions were helpful in spreading the conservation message and preparing the public for more stringent restrictions, while implementing mandatory restrictions were also prudent in areas experiencing moderate drought, particularly in areas that experienced a significant increase in outdoor water use in the summer. Residential and other private well owners were also encouraged to use water wisely; for example, giving wells time to replenish by spacing out usage helped with drought efforts.

Sustainable Solutions for Craft Beverage Producers. NHDES' Pollution Prevention Program, EPA's Region 1 Pollution Prevention Program and EPA's ENERGY STAR Program offered a free, three-part Sustainable Solutions for Craft Beverage Producers Webinar Series. The first webinar featured Energy Treasure Hunts for Microbreweries, and the second webinar explored an innovative solution: CO2 capture technology. Lastly, the webinar, "How to Cultivate a Culture of Sustainability at Your Facility," featured three New England breweries who are leaders in crafting beer and protecting the environment, including New Hampshire's own Nicole Carrier from Throwback Brewery in North Hampton, New Hampshire.

Saint-Gobain RTO. In February 2021, NHDES filed suit and entered into a Consent Decree with Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics that required the installation of a regenerative thermal oxidizer (RTO) designed to control air emissions of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from their fabric coating and film manufacturing

operations. On July 14, Saint-Gobain notified NHDES that the RTO was fully operational, and comprehensive stack testing to confirm that the controls are operating in compliance with the air permit took place September 7-10.

AUGUST

Mark Sanborn named Assistant Commissioner. Mark Sanborn was approved to be NHDES' Assistant Commissioner on August 18. Sanborn offered a wide range of experience in public service at both the federal and state, having previously served in the New Hampshire Department of Energy, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, US Department of Agricultural Development and NH Department of Transportation.

SEPTEMBER

Level 2 EV Charging Stations in Concord. New Level 2 EV charging stations were installed in the public, State-owned parking lot at 33 Green Street in downtown Concord. These charging stations are available for use by visitors, residents and employees, and the battery charging stations can provide up to 35 miles of range per hour of charge. Investments in EV charging infrastructure by states, utilities, EV charging equipment providers and others continue to grow with projects such as this.

Brownfields Program Success in Laconia. NHDES Brownfields Program celebrated a success story at the grand opening of the newly renovated Colonial Theatre in Laconia. NHDES helped with the early stages of the redevelopment project by providing a grant for technical assistance, as well as providing environmental work to evaluate the risk associated with redevelopment. After reopening, the theater became one of the largest historic preservation projects in state history, while



OCTOBER

2021

NOVEMBER

also being a key economic development initiative to increase cultural arts opportunities and community development in Laconia.

New Hampshire Salt Symposium. NHDES, in partnership with the Snow and Ice Management Association, held a specific Municipal Track at the New Hampshire Salt Symposium at Pats Peak Ski Area in Henniker. This session gave municipalities the opportunity to help shape the Green SnowPro Municipal Certification process.

Electric Vehicle Charger Funding Opportunity. NHDES released a Request for Proposals for a funding opportunity that seeks proposals to install direct current fast charging and co-located Level 2 electric vehicle supply equipment. Funding was provided through New Hampshire's Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust and was consistent with the New Hampshire Beneficiary Mitigation Plan.

Plymouth State University (PSU) Environmental Science and Policy Majors Field Trip. NHDES staff supported the studies of PSU Environmental Science and Policy majors in Dr. Lisa Doner's Environmental Field Studies class. PSU students conducted typical environmental field studies and learned how to use some valuable tools of the trade while also applying their knowledge in the field. NHDES staff helped the students pick suitable cross sections and measure stream flow parameters.

New Hampshire Pollution Prevention Program (NHPPP) Celebrates 30th anniversary. The NHPPP celebrated its 30th anniversary during Pollution Prevention Week. NHPPP has worked with hundreds of New Hampshire's citizens, helping them save millions of dollars on everything from materials purchased to water and energy savings, and from hazardous and solid waste management to disposal costs. This program provides assistance in the form of educational outreach, site assessments, technical research and compliance assistance.

Outreach During SepticSmart Week. During EPA's SepticSmart Week, which is designed to encourage homeowners and communities to care for and maintain their septic systems, NHDES distributed outreach resources to help educate residents about their septic systems. Septic systems in New Hampshire are critical for protecting the state's water resources. Failure to maintain a septic system can lead to backups and overflows, causing costly repairs as well as health and water quality issues.

Instream Flow Study of the Cold River. NHDES completed a study of the designated Cold River to determine the flows needed to protect the river's biological integrity and its instream uses. The study evaluated the timing, duration, frequency and magnitude of flows that will support aquatic habitat for fish and support vegetation and wildlife on the rivers banks. Flows that will support recreational uses of the river were also evaluated. NHDES held an informational meeting and asked for public comments on water quality criteria for the river.

Public Information Session on Proposed Granite State Landfill project. NHDES held a public information session to provide details and answer questions about the NHDES permits required for the proposed Granite State Landfill project in Dalton. This public information session included a description of the project and the permitting process for each permit required.

NOVEMBER

Rule Changes for the Public Pool and Spa Program. NHDES announced rule changes requiring public bathing facilities to complete a new registration form. The mandatory registration collects up-to-date establishment and contact information as well as basic physical specifications and circulation system details for each facility. This requirement ensures pool owners are aware of the specifics of their facility, and it provides a baseline for NHDES to make sure that existing pools are treated fairly. NHDES requested that all year-round fa-



cilities complete the registration by January 1, 2022.

Rick Skarinka Receives EPA Lifetime Achievement Award. Skarinka, who retired from his job as manager of the Engineering and Survey Section of the NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau in June 2021, received the EPA Lifetime Achievement Award in November. Rick worked at NHDES for 31 years. In his position, Rick managed drinking water engineers, sanitary surveyors and the operator certification program and was also responsible for overseeing 2,500 public water systems in New Hampshire. Rick's lifetime achievements at NHDES have and will continue to improve and protect the health of New Hampshire citizens by ensuring an adequate quantity and quality of drinking water.

Great Bay Living Shoreline Project. Four locations were selected for living shoreline projects, where teams of professional engineers, landscape architects and ecologists developed living shoreline designs. Living shoreline techniques use plants, stone, sand fill and other organic material to stabilize shorelines and enhance coastal habitats. These nature-based techniques can help protect shorelines as seas rise and erosion increases. The projects included: Schanda Park, Newmarket; Moody Point, Newmarket; Chapman's Landing, Stratham; and Spur Road, Dover.

NHDES Holds a Landscaping for Water Quality Workshop. The University of New Hampshire Extension, landscape designer/educator Lauren Chase-Rowell and the Town of Derry collaborated in a two-day Landscaping for Water Quality Workshop to showcase how ecological designs and landscape features can be used to protect water bodies. Attendees took what they learned and applied the concepts to make recommendations to meet the needs of Derry's Hood Park and Pond.

New and More Restrictive Fish Consumption Limits. NHDES announced new and more restrictive fish consumption limits in five lakes as a result of elevated levels of Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) detected

in fish tissue samples. These advisories are the result of a study conducted across 14 lakes in south central New Hampshire. The lake-specific advisories include the following:

2021 Rising Tides Photo Contest. The New Hampshire Coastal Adaptation Workgroup invited New Hampshire residents to participate in the 2021 Rising Tides Photo Contest. The annual contest strives to raise awareness about the local impacts of coastal flooding.

DECEMBER

Assessing the Impacts of Developed Offshore Wind Projects. NHDES and the New Hampshire Department of Energy held an online information session regarding a Request for Proposals from qualified firms or individuals to assess the potential environmental, economic and energy impacts of developed offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine.

NHDES Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund Program Awards Grants. The grants total \$1,866,306, for seven projects in the Salmon Falls-Piscataqua River Service Area. The projects that received funding were in Rochester, Lee, Milton, Portsmouth, Barrington, Durham and Milton.

NHDES Creates Sustainable Craft Beverage Recognition Program. The NHDES Pollution Prevention Program, with help from the New Hampshire Brewers Association, created a new program that recognizes environmental leaders in the craft beverage industry. The Sustainable Craft Beverage Recognition Program was created with the goal of reducing the environmental impact of the craft beverage industry by improving energy efficiency, conserving water, minimizing waste and reducing the volume and strength of wastewater. The program publicly recognizes craft beverage producers that implement sustainable practices to prevent pollution and conserve resources, while simultaneously encouraging other producers to follow suit.



DECEMBER

2021

FEBRUARY

Report on high Tide Flooding in Hampton. NHDES' Coastal Program, along with its partners, released a report entitled, "A Summary of High Flooding Recorded by the Hampton, New Hampshire Tide Gauge: 2013-2020." This report describes the frequency of high tide flooding in Hampton, New Hampshire, based on an analysis of a tide gauge Hampton Harbor, which was installed in December of 2012. The report findings confirm that residents, visitors, local decision-makers and emergency management officials should refer to the Hampton Harbor tide gauge 3-day forecast and real-time information which factor in weather conditions in addition to the more commonly used annual National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration tide prediction tables to improve understanding of and responses to coastal flood risk.

Erin Holmes, Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund Administrator, was awarded the 2021 NHDES Employee of the Year. Erin has worked on the Southern New Hampshire Regional Interconnection drinking water project and has coordinated NHDES' activities relating to the federal American Rescue Plan Act. Erin was also tasked with creating a new program to help low-income residents whose wells were impacted by the drought. Erin's work at NHDES has helped many New Hampshire families get safe and reliable drinking water.

Chris Nash, Shellfish Program Manager, recognized as the winner of the 2021 David S. Chase Award for Extraordinary Achievements in Science. Chris' innovative approaches helped to ensure public health protection for shellfish consumers, as well as facilitate the rapid development of a growing commercial shellfish industry in New Hampshire. Chris developed rigorous studies to test the effects of conditions or pollution sources on shellfish.

2022

JANUARY

NHDES celebrated 35 years as an organization protecting the environment. While NHDES is busy working

to address the environmental challenges of today and tomorrow, it is important to stop and to recognize the wide-ranging accomplishments of the past 35 years of environmental and public health protection, as well as the dedicated, professional staff and our many partners in our communities, businesses and nonprofits who have helped bring these successes about.

NHDES presented the 2021 Asset Management Award. The City of Dover and their Community Services Utilities Division Asset Management Team was awarded for developing an Asset Management Program (AMP) specific to Dover's needs using its current software. This award was created to encourage communities to implement AMPs, with the hope of developing more sustainable water, wastewater and storm water systems in New Hampshire communities. Dover was a leader in the field by incorporating valuable institutional knowledge from their personnel in their AMP. Dover also participated in NHDES' annual Asset Management Workshop to share the lessons they learned with other communities.

Rene Pelletier was named the new NHDES Water Division Director. Rene had 48 years of experience at NHDES prior to stepping into the position and previously held the position of Assistant Director of the Water Division for the past 10 years.

FEBRUARY

Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund. The ARM fund began accepting proposals for a 2022 Grant Round for wetland and stream preservation and restoration projects across the state. This program provides wetlands permit applicants the option to contribute payments to this fund in lieu of implementing a permittee-responsible mitigation alternative.

Deployment of offshore wind. NHDES, along with the Department of Business and Economic Affairs and Department of Energy, announced the release of a report relating to the deployment of offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine and in other parts of the Northeast.



FEBRUARY

2022

APRIL

These reports provided objective data and information to New Hampshire's elected officials, businesses and residents. Governor Sununu asked for information on the greenhouse gas reduction potential involved in offshore wind, the status of New Hampshire's existing port and coastal transmission infrastructure, and opportunities for New Hampshire to attract offshore wind supply chain operations.

Critical Flood Risk Infrastructure Grant (CFRING).

NHDES' Coastal Program and Watershed Assistance Section started accepting CFRING applications for flood resilience and stormwater management projects located within New Hampshire's Coastal Watershed. This grant was created to support coastal communities with planning and implementing projects that reduced flood risk and addressed stormwater management challenges. Projects were required to take place within one or more of New Hampshire's 42 Coastal Watershed communities, and the total anticipated funding included \$4,500,000.

MARCH

Revised rules for composting facilities. NHDES adopted revised rules intended to clarify and simplify requirements for operating a composting facility in New Hampshire. The new rules make it possible for permit-by-notification composting facilities to compost all food scraps, including meat and dairy. Previously, composting of meat and dairy required a more complicated permitting process. The new rules simplify the permitting process, which encourage entities seeking to start composting facilities in New Hampshire.

APRIL

New guidance to protect riparian buffer areas. New guidance became available to help revise local zoning to better protect critical riparian buffer areas adjacent to surface water used as a source of drinking water. Preserving vegetated buffer areas can significantly limit non-point source pollutants, like phosphorous and nitrogen, from entering lakes, reservoirs and rivers. The

New Hampshire Drinking Water Quality Buffer Model Ordinance (2021) recommended a minimum 100-foot natural buffer measured from the reference line of the surface water source. The guidance also recommended the same buffer protection for wetlands that are contiguous and discharge into a drinking water source.

The New Hampshire Geological Survey (NHGS) hosted the annual Mapper's Workshop. The workshop included an update from the US Geological Survey (USGS) on a New England Top of Bedrock mapping project, a presentation from the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum, a second presentation from USGS on preliminary geochronology data from the Maine-New Hampshire region and mapping updates from NHGS' geologic mappers.

Northeast Science of PFAS Conference. More than 500 individuals, including NHDES staff, government officials, scientists, consultants, business owners, vendors and non-governmental organization workers gathered for a conference about polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination. The conference discussed the effects of PFAS on both public health and the environment, including through contaminating drinking water, ground water, surface water and soil in the Northeast.

New Hampshire Environmental Councils (NHEC) website redesign. The NHEC website moved to the new, statewide website template. New features included meeting minutes and agendas consolidated in the Events Calendar and quick help links from the home page.

Discover Wild New Hampshire. New Hampshire Fish and Game Department put on Discover Wild New Hampshire. NHDES, along with other state agencies, participated in this free, family event and hosted displays with hands-on activities, including recycled crafts for kids such as making paper tube binoculars and turning an old t-shirt into a shopping bag.

Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics (SGPP) alternate drinking water. NHDES reached an agreement with SGPP on the provision of alternate drinking water. This



agreement stated that SGPP must provide safe drinking water to approximately 1,000 properties located in parts of Bedford, Hudson, Litchfield, Londonderry and Merrimack. Under this agreement, SGPP had to make reasonable efforts to ensure that design work was initiated within 30 days and that applications for regulatory approvals were completed or obtained by June 30.

Celebrating 35 years. To express staff appreciation in our 35th year as an agency, Commissioner Bob Scott and the Senior Leadership Team handed out Balsam fir saplings as staff arrived for work.

MAY

Drinking Water Week. NHDES celebrated the professionals and partner organizations who ensure that we have safe drinking water every day. New Hampshire's public water systems serve more than half of homes, schools, business and public spaces in the state. Meeting that challenge takes an army of water professionals to ensure clean and safe water.

Small Business Week. NHDES celebrated small businesses, recognizing the integral part they play in New Hampshire's prosperity. During this week, NHDES highlighted the Small Business Technical Assistance Program (SBTAP). Established in 1992, SBTAP provides small business owners and operators with free assistance to help them understand and comply with environmental regulations.

Water Science Fair and Poetry Contest. Hosted by the New Hampshire Drinking Water Coalition in conjunction with NHDES, the Water Science Fair encourages future leaders and scientists to learn more about one of the world's most precious resources: water. Students who participated in the Fourth Grade State Water Science Fair explored a wide variety of topics, including erosion, ocean salinity, water science and water and energy conservation solutions. The Water Poetry Contest included third through fifth grade students, and focused on the theme "Water and Me."

Coastal Program's Resilience Planning Grant Program.

The City of Dover, in collaboration with the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, received funding through the Coastal Program's Resilience Planning Grant Program to implement several actions identified in the city's 2018 Climate Adaption Master Plan. Dover also partnered with the NHDES Coastal Program and Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership to establish and support an Ad Hoc Committee to study stormwater and flood resilience funding. The Committee presented their findings to City Council in February 2022, who voted in favor of accepting their recommendations to pursue the adoption of stormwater and flood resilience utility.

Culvert Flood Risk Assistance Grant applications.

NHDES began accepting grant applications for the replacement of outdated, undersized, perched and/or degraded culverts that are highly susceptible to flooding. The purpose of this funding opportunity was to encourage the replacement of high-risk culverts with better designed crossings that meet improved structural and environmental design standards and flood resiliency criteria. Funds were made available to NHDES through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Instream Flow outreach sessions. NHDES Instream Flow staff held outreach sessions to meet with people interested in the Ashuelot River, the Instream Flow Program, and NHDES' ongoing studies. NHDES staff showed the equipment that they use to collect environmental data and described the program's approach to designated river protection.

Atlantic coastal waters closed to harvesting shellfish.

Officials from NHDES and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department closed New Hampshire's Atlantic coastal waters to the taking of all species of molluscan shellfish (mussels, clams, oysters). This action was in response to elevated levels of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning, commonly known as "red tide," detected in blue mussels and was done to protect the public from the



JUNE

2022

JULY

possible consumption of contaminated shellfish.

Granite State Clean Cities Coalition (GSCCC) celebrates 20 years. The GSCCC celebrated 20 years of service to New Hampshire. GSCCC provides connections, tools and resources for those who manage or operate fleet vehicles, allowing them to implement fuel efficient strategies and adopt affordable clean transportation fuel and technology. With 150 stakeholders and partners, GSCCC continues its mission of vehicle efficiency through the implementation of various projects and programs.

JUNE

Sara J. Johnson, Small Business Technical Assistance Program Manager, recognized as the 2022 winner of the Karen V. Brown Leadership Award. This award acknowledges the long-term accomplishments of an individual who promotes small business compliance assistance, sustainability, advocacy and collaboration nationwide.

Source Water Protection Workshop. NHDES presented several awards to New Hampshire organizations and residents helping protect water sources at this annual workshop. The 2022 recipient of the Source Water Protection Award was the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SELT), an organization that protects valuable water supply lands affecting 52 towns. Emerald Lake Village District Commissioners and Aquamen Water Solutions were presented the 2022 Source Sustainability Award for providing drinking water to several residents in New Hampshire and for repairing and replacing 64 leaking water mains. The final reward recipient – NHDES’ Paul Susca – was awarded with a recognition plaque for retiring after 28 years of public service.

\$35 million of ARPA funding to State-owned dams. NHDES announced \$35 million of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funding has been approved for necessary repairs to state-owned dams and to fund the creation of a Dam Rehabilitation/Removal Grant Program for municipally owned high-hazard dams. NHDES’

Dam Bureau identified 11 state-owned dams, accounting for \$30 million, which have known deficiencies. The remaining \$5 million funded the new Dam Rehabilitation/Removal Grant Program, which was established to encourage the rehabilitation or removal of municipally owned high-hazard dams considered to be in poor or unsatisfactory condition.

JULY

Several NHDES employees attended the 2022 Lakes Congress hosted by New Hampshire Lakes Association (NH LAKES). The Lakes Congress featured panels and presentations led by scholars and in-field experts that explored the problems facing our lakes here in New Hampshire. NHDES’ Kate Hastings, Director of the NHDES Harmful Algal Bloom Program (HAB), gave a presentation on the harmful effects of cyanotoxins and the presence of cyanobacteria here in New Hampshire. Additionally, NHDES Toxicologist Jonathan Petali co-hosted a presentation on microplastics and PFAS.

The New Hampshire APPLETREE Program developed training resources. The APPLETREE (Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry’s Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposures) team – run jointly between NHDES, the Division of Public Health Services and the Dartmouth Cancer Center’s Community Outreach and Engagement team – identified training topic areas and assembled the New Hampshire Environmental Health Guide to help legislators, city and town health officers, municipal officials, administrators and other stakeholders find the appropriate State resource or agency to address environmental concerns raised by their community.

The Gulf of Maine Council announced their award winners for the 2022 Award Ceremony. Several New Hampshire residents were recognized, including NHDES’ Water Division Director Rene Pelletier, who was presented with the Distinguished Service Award. The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions toward protecting and conserving natural resources in the Gulf of Maine. Two additional

New Hampshire recipients included Bryce Stenson, a coastal research volunteer with the New Hampshire Sea Grant Extension Program, and Gretchen Young, Environmental Projects Manager for the City of Dover.

First annual Northeast aquatic invasive species (AIS) Landing Blitz. Hundreds of organizations across the region worked together to educate the public about AIS. NH LAKES and NHDES partnered to bring this event to over 100 public access sites in the state, and on some of the busiest lakes. Both staff and volunteer boat launch inspectors showed boaters how to prevent the spread of AIS, ways to identify AIS and how to report AIS.

NHDES announced moderate drought across New Hampshire. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, “moderate drought” conditions developed across New Hampshire and “significant drought” developed along most of the state’s border with Massachusetts. To protect public water supplies and residential well supplies, NHDES urged the public, community water systems and municipalities to implement outdoor water use restrictions.

NHDES launches the Get the Lead Out if Drinking Water Program. In collaboration with House Bill 1421 that reduces allowable lead in drinking water at schools and licensed childcare facilities, NHDES launched the program, which provides resources and technical support to schools and childcare facilities testing for and correcting sources of lead in drinking water. Over 550 schools and childcare facilities were contacted to collect outstanding sampling and remediation data and to prepare facilities for the changes of HB 1421.

Solid Waste Management Plan open for public comment. The Solid Waste Management Plan is a 10-year, high-level plan outlining goals, strategies and actions intended to reduce generation of solid waste, increase diversion from disposal, achieve the state’s solid waste disposal reduction goal, support the state’s solid waste management hierarchy and maintain adequate capacity for management of waste generated in New Hamp-

shire.

PFAS Removal Rebate Program. NHDES announced the opening of applications for the Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Removal Rebate Program for Private Wells. The program provided rebates to private well users for up to \$5,000 for the installation of PFAS treatment or up to \$10,000 for a service connection to a public water system.

NEIWPC hosted its first National State Revolving Fund (SRF) Workshop. The workshop focused on relevant programmatic, financial and technical aspects of SRFs in EPA Region 1 and 2, and beyond. It included environmental justice, PFAS, climate resilience and source water protection, including several NHDES speakers from the Wastewater Engineering Bureau, Stormwater Management Program and more.

AUGUST

NHDES hosted an annual summer food drive with a CANstruction competition. The four divisions- Waste Management, Water, Air Resources and the Commissioner’s Office- competed against each other to design and build a 3D structure of their choosing. For one week in August, the four teams took over a section of the NHDES lobby, building up their structures and adding some finishing touches. The finished structures were then on display for all staff, the public and the judges to view before being broken down and donated to the Friendly Kitchen. In total, NHDES raised about \$4,000 in canned goods and monetary donations!

NHDES announced the Water Assistance for Natural Disaster program. The program provides short-term relief and financial assistance for low-income residential well owners experiencing irreversible deterioration of water supply quantity or water quality caused by droughts or other types of natural disasters. It is funded by a \$500,000 grant from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund.

Drought impacts New Hampshire. NHDES and the New Hampshire Drought Management Team hosted



SEPTEMBER

2022

NOVEMBER

a meeting to discuss drought conditions and impacts in the state. At the meeting, media sources, public officials, key representatives and residents discussed the drought and concerns with the ongoing conditions.

Throwback Brewery in North Hampton receives the first New Hampshire Sustainable Craft Beverage Recognition Program Award. NHDES' Sustainable Craft Beverage Recognition Program publicly recognizes craft beverage producers who are making sustainable choices, preventing pollution and conserving resources, while also encouraging other producers to implement these practices.

The Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Interconnection Project was completed. The Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission and NHDES celebrated the completion of water mains throughout the monumental project and initialization of water service connections in Plaistow.

SEPTEMBER

The Portsmouth Oil Spill Response Workgroup sponsored an oil spill exercise. The exercise provided participants with an opportunity to assess capabilities, plans, policies and procedures and focused on decision making, coordination and integration with other organizations during a significant coastal oil spill.

NHDES announced the publication of the 2022 New Hampshire Solid Waste Management Plan. The Solid Waste Management Plan is a ten-year, high-level plan outlining goals, strategies and actions to improve solid waste management in New Hampshire. During the public comment period for this plan, NHDES received input from 74 individuals and organizations. The Plan incorporates suggestions received through these public comments and from the New Hampshire Solid Waste Working Group.

OCTOBER

NHDES employees honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards. Two longtime NHDES employees were

recognized at the 2022 Annual EPA New England Environmental Merit Awards. These recently retired employees were: Paul Susca, who was an administrator in the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau and oversaw the Source Water Protection Program, the Environmental Lab Accreditation Program and state private well initiatives. And Dr. Jeffrey Underhill, a chief air quality scientist for 25 years at NHDES, who gained an understanding of regional air quality and transported air pollution that allowed him to develop strategic approaches to reducing emissions and making major improvements in air quality in New Hampshire and beyond.

Long-term dataset of water levels developed on Beaver Brook in Keene. NHDES and the New Hampshire Silver Jackets, a state-federal interagency flood risk management team, partnered with the City of Keene to establish a long-term dataset of water levels on Beaver Brook. A readily accessible staff gage was installed, and volunteers were able to read the water level on the gage from the sidewalk. Data from these submissions was added to a long-term database and made available live online. This site was the first of its kind in New Hampshire, and data collected during rain events were valuable for flood forecasting and response.

NOVEMBER

\$2 million in grant funding for brownfields cleanups for both the assessment and development of brownfields sites. This funding will help revitalize brownfields sites and move them toward beneficial reuse opportunities. Along with the financial assistance, NHDES staff will focus on helping underserved communities with cleaning up the contamination and will evaluate redevelopment projects.

2022 Asset Management Award goes to the Plymouth Village Water and Sewer District (PVWSD). The Asset Management Award was established to encourage communities to develop and implement Asset Management Programs (AMPs), as well as to recognize communities that have implemented exemplary AMPs. NHDES



DECEMBER

2022

JANUARY

recognized PVWSD with this award in acknowledgment of the work related to development of their AMP and in their willingness to communicate the value of that AMP to the public.

DECEMBER

Operation Santa Claus (OSC). The NHDES OSC Team raised over \$2,500 from a bake sale, basket raffles, Crock-Pot cook-off and 50/50 drawings. These donations efforts provided Christmas presents for 61 children in New Hampshire facing challenging conditions during the holidays.

NHDES employees raised \$3,167 in one month to help the Capital Region Food Program's (CRFP) Holiday Food Basket Project. The CRFP's mission is to help to reduce hunger in the greater Concord area through distribution of food to individuals, families and local agencies. Instead of the traditional food drive, NHDES collected donations electronically and inspired giving through some spirited challenges and a focus on the need in our communities.

NHDES Coastal Program announced the start of four new grant projects. These included \$121,279 in federal grant funds and \$47,250 in local funds to enhance resilience of New Hampshire coastal communities, build local capacity and increase resilience of site-specific assets and coastal ecosystems. The project recipients of these grants include the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, the Rockingham County Conservation District, the Town of Exeter and the Robinwood Center.

NHDES hosted a technical listening session to discuss establishing Soil Remediation Standards (SRS) for PFAS. During the session, stakeholders could provide input on establishing SRS for the four per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) currently regulated in groundwater and drinking water. The session included a brief presentation on the technical challenges involved with establishing PFAS SRS, followed by an opportunity for stakeholders to provide oral comments to NHDES.

Jana Ford, Communications Specialist, named as

NHDES Employee of the Year. The Employee of the Year Award highlights the outstanding work performed by NHDES staff throughout the year. Jana was recognized for her internal and external communication efforts through projects like website design, promotional campaigns, video and social media content and press releases. For these achievements and many more Jana was recognized as the 2022 NHDES Employee of the Year Award!

NHDES recognized Lori Sommer, Aquatic Resources Mitigation Fund Program Manager, as the recipient of the David S. Chase Award for Extraordinary Achievements in Science. This prestigious award is presented to a deserving NHDES scientist who possesses the special skills and dedication necessary to continue the pursuit of scientific discovery at the agency. Lori has successfully used the current science on ecological integrity, wildlife habitat, wetlands science, and landscape ecology to strategically guide permitting decisions on wetlands loss and steer compensation in areas of high-ecological significance. For these achievements and many more, Lori has been recognized as the recipient of the 2022 David S. Chase Award!

NHDES provided grants to over 130 projects in the year through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). ARPA is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill to speed up the United States' recovery from the economic health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant recession. The Act defines eligible uses of the state and local funding, including responding to public health emergencies, responding to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 emergency, providing revenue relief to states and making investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. This funding allows communities to address needed water and wastewater system improvements.

2023

JANUARY

The NHDES Air Resources Division began the Citizen



JANUARY

2023

APRIL

Air Monitoring Program (CAMP). NHDES has structured the new CAMP around one popular citizen monitoring option, a fine particulate matter monitor from PurpleAir. Through this program, private PurpleAir owners can register their outdoor sensor(s) into a network of units that are quality assured by NHDES air pollution scientists. The program provides installation guidance, quality assured data and a live air quality map to citizen scientists throughout New Hampshire.

New Dam Bureau web portal. NHDES Dam Bureau announced the release of its new and much improved web portal for real-time data and information for Watersheds. In the new web portal, users are greeted with a more dynamic map interface and interactive plot interfaces.

NHDES employees recognized at the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) Annual Conference. Sharon Nall received the Energy Management Achievement Award for her achievements in advancing energy awareness and reductions at New Hampshire's wastewater treatment facilities; Anthony Drouin received a US EPA – Region 1 New England Wastewater Trainer of the Year Award for his dedication and commitment to providing outstanding training opportunities for New Hampshire's wastewater community; and Mark Corliss received the New Hampshire Operator of the Year Award, which is given annually to an individual who has shown a high interest and performance in wastewater operations and has made a significant contribution to the wastewater field.

Appolo Vineyard recognized as the first winery in the New Hampshire Sustainable Craft Recognition Program. Appolo Vineyard in Derry consider sustainability through several steps in the wine-making processing, including through composting unwanted grape materials, growing grapes without pesticides, developing recyclable packaging and containers and becoming LEED Green Building certified with installed solar power.

The Coastal Adaption Workgroup announced the annual New Hampshire Rising Tides Photo Contest. The

Rising Tides Photo Contest aims to raise awareness about the increasing frequency of high tide flooding and sea-level rise and showcase resilient ecosystems, economies, infrastructure and communities in New Hampshire.

FEBRUARY

Instream Flow Program requests for proposals.

NHDES' Instream Flow Program started requests for proposals to conduct a study for the Pemigewasset River. This is done in an effort to determine protected instream flow criteria and present them to the public.

The Sustainable Craft Beverage Program recognized Vulgar Brewing Company. The microbrewery in Franklin made sustainability a part of the brewing process by utilizing an age-old process called spunding, where carbon dioxide is captured to provide natural carbonation to the beer. Through this process, among others, Vulgar Brewing Company has been able to cut back on their carbon emissions and embrace more sustainable practices.

Wetland and stream restoration projects. NHDES Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund started accepting grant award pre-proposals for wetland and stream restoration projects. These funds help to restore, enhance and preserve aquatic resources and associated upland buffers across nine watersheds, also called service areas. The goal is to meet federal "no net loss" goals for functions and values of waters and wetlands nationwide.

MARCH

NHDES Coastal Program started accepting Coastal Resilience Grant (CRG) applications. The CRG funding opportunity was provided to support projects that build capacity, advance planning and develop designs to increase coastal resilience, with specific focus on community and/or habitat resilience.

APRIL

Streamflow stations. NHDES' Instream Flow Program



APRIL

2023

MAY

has deployed 11 streamflow stations. NHDES added descriptive signs at each station that include information about the data collection and a QR Code for an online dashboard showing the past 30 days of data for each station. The stream discharge data from these stations will contribute to the development of protected instream flows for these designated rivers.

The Seacoast Private Well Initiative offered educational workshops and free well water testing. Households using private wells in 12 coastal communities were offered these educational workshops and water testing. Water was analyzed for a list of contaminants common in New Hampshire's groundwater and drinking water, including bacteria, radon, arsenic, lead, uranium, manganese and four PFAS compounds.

Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund projects totaling more than \$275,000. One of these grants was given to Trout Unlimited in Concord for the purpose of replacing a deficient culvert on West Bath Road in Bath. The other project that was approved for funding was for Moose Mountains Regional Greenways in Union for the purpose of conserving a 22.8-acre parcel of land in Tuftonboro.

NHDES participates in Discover Wild New Hampshire. Hosted by New Hampshire Fish and Game, NHDES, along with other state agencies, participated in this fun, family-oriented event and hosted displays with hands-on activities.

North Country Hard Cider (NCHC) became the first cidery recognized in the Sustainable Craft Beverage Program. NCHC purchases nearly all its cider fruit from local orchards whose agricultural methods they trust to ensure quality and guardianship of the environment. Additionally, the cidery keeps 46 metric tons of CO2 emissions from being released to the atmosphere by using energy-efficient equipment and solar power, which demonstrates their commitment to sustainability in the production of their cider.

Watershed Assistance Grants. NHDES Watershed As-

sistance Section awarded several Watershed Assistance Grants for watershed protection and restoration projects, which totaled \$510,000 in funding. The following projects were selected in 2022 based on the results of the ranking process and available federal grant funding levels: The Nature Conservancy, County Pond Lake Association, Winnisquam Watershed Network, Lake Winnepesaukee Association, Acton Wakefield Watershed Alliance, New Hampshire Rivers Council and the Town of Exeter.

Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund project approved in Londonderry. The grant funds, totalling \$500,000 were approved with the purpose of acquiring and permanently protecting 54 acres of habitat on Nesenkeag Brook in southwest Londonderry.

MAY

Small Business Week. In honor of Small Business Week, NHDES highlighted the Small Business Technical Assistance Program (SBTAP), as well as encouraged New Hampshire residents to shop local, share on social media and post reviews to support small businesses. NHDES continues to provide small businesses with free and confidential services through the SBTAP, including by helping small business owners and operators understand and comply with environmental regulations.

Small Business Awards. In celebration of Small Business Week, the National Steering Committee of Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs and Small Business Ombudsmen recognized Nefab Packaging Northeast with the 2023 Small Business Environmental Stewardship Award and Andrea O'Brien for Business Assistance Provider Leadership Award.

Annual Drinking Water Festival. Over 275 students from 14 different schools across New Hampshire gathered to learn about keeping water clean at the 30th Annual New Hampshire Fourth Grade Drinking Water Festival, State Science Fair and Poetry Contest. The annual event is sponsored by the New Hampshire Drinking Water Coalition in conjunction with NHDES to encour-



age future leaders and scientists to learn about one of the world's most precious resources – water.

Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund project approved in Goffstown. The Piscataquog Land Conservancy received ARM funding totaling \$300,000. These grant funds were approved with the purpose of purchasing a 42-acre conservation easement in the town of Goffstown. The easement also protects prime wetlands and wildlife habitat and conserves important agricultural and forest soils.

JUNE

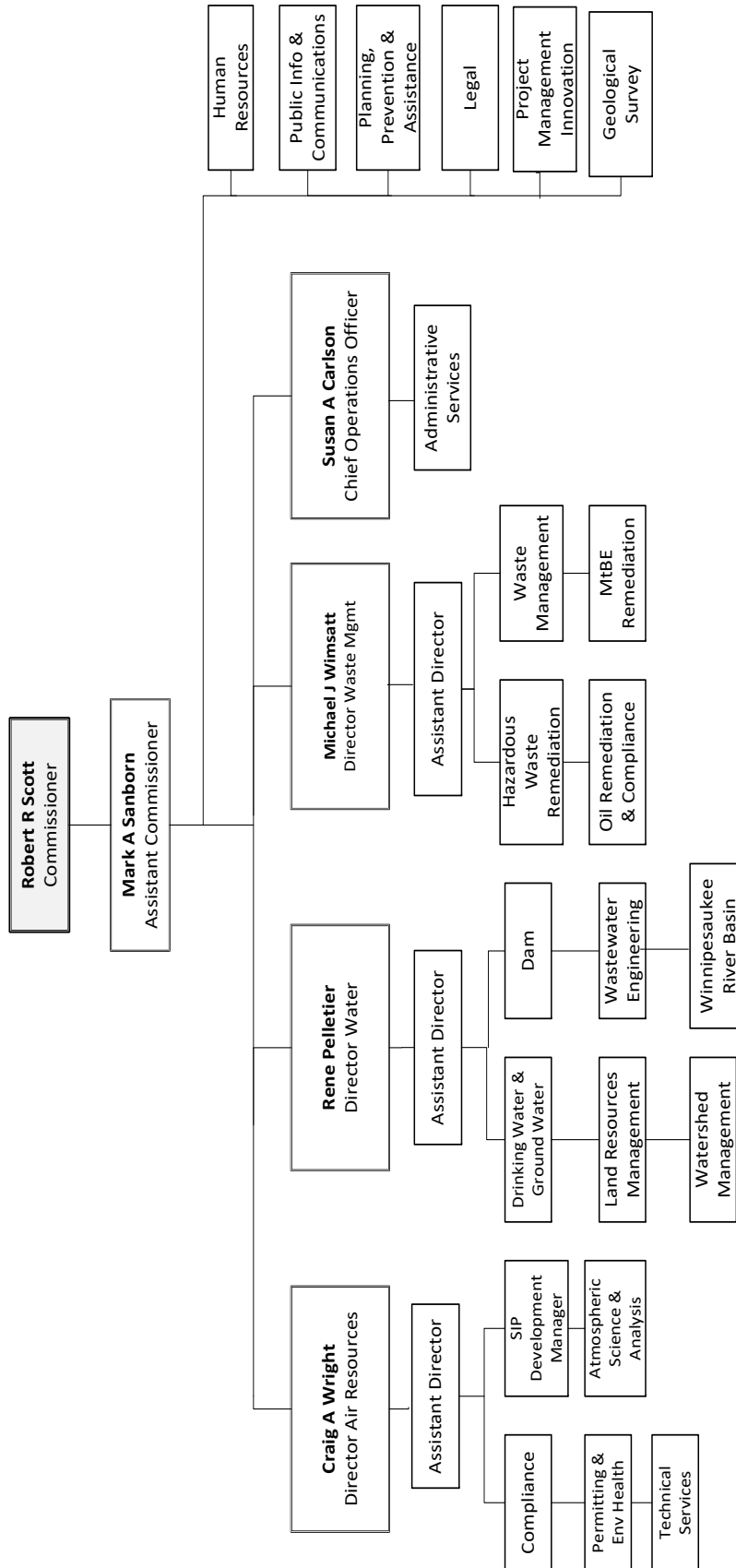
NHDES celebrated Clean Water Week. During this week, NHDES recognized the help and support of other organizations that easement also protects prime wetlands and wildlife habitat and conserves important agricultural and forest soils.

Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund project approved in Atkinson. An ARM Fund project was approved totaling \$180,000. The Conservation Fund will support the acquisition of a 15.4-acre parcel within the Town of Atkinson, and the granting of a conservation easement to Southeast Land Trust of NH. This conservation area protects high functioning vernal pools and upland buffers providing habitat for spotted salamanders, wood frogs and Blanding's turtles.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant. Grant funding totaling \$2,876,442 was approved by the Governor and Executive Council. This grant will enable the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) to replace three undersized tidal culverts on State roads in the Towns of Stratham and Rye.



**NH DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
JUNE 2023**



Funding and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 22-23

Expenditures Categories	FY2022	FY2023
Salaries	\$31,175,760	\$34,324,577
Benefits	\$16,353,244	\$18,712,626
Loans	\$59,438,762	\$54,647,028
Reimbursements	\$14,683,993	\$23,930,6036
State Aid Grants	\$9,015,172	\$13,223,322
Other Grants	\$15,792,372	\$35,991,716
Contracts	\$8,268,987	\$11,576,236
Debt Services	\$3,137,399	\$3,045,721
Current Expenses	\$2,638,810	\$3,352,063
Other Expenditures	\$1,964,587	\$1,554,553
Equipment	\$1,812,795	\$1,246,678
Disbursements to Other State Agencies		
DoIT	\$3,570,546	\$3,720,754
Administrative Services	\$3,847,005	\$4,607,244
Other Agencies	\$668,941	\$805,248
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$172,388,373	\$210,738,373

Funding Categories	FY2022	FY2023
Revolving Fund Loan Repayments	\$47,406,091	\$58,202,906
Federal Income	\$226,516,546	\$42,662,378
Fees and Registrations	\$28,790,434	\$28,115,087
Oil Fund Board Income	\$17,816,724	\$18,057,679
DWGW Trust	\$2,787,735	\$6,845,833
Emerging Contaminants	\$7,222,053	\$22,747,572
General Fund Appropriations	\$21,239,231	\$27,841,799
Other Agency Income	\$5,022,651	\$4,753,280
Unrestricted Income	\$248,606	\$294,998
TOTAL FUNDING	\$357,050,371	\$209,521,530

Summary of Loans and Grants by Category

Loans	FY2022	FY2023
Clean Water	\$43,686,576	\$33,577,594
Drinking Water	\$7,870,218	\$9,503,903
DWGW Trust	\$7,881,968	\$3,259,775
PFAS	\$0	\$8,305,757
State Aid Grants		
WasteWater	\$8,060,441	\$12,318,040
Public Water Interconnections	\$579,639	\$537,088
Landfills	\$375,092	\$368,194
Other State/Federal Grants		
ARPA	\$1,011,458	\$20,966,360
Drinking Water Groundwater Trust	\$9,370,323	\$9,535,512
Aquatic Resources Mitigation	\$516,518	\$1,747,879
Land Restoration Grants	\$613,710	\$747,483
PFAS	\$0	\$624,788
Other Grants	\$4,280,364	\$2,369,694
TOTAL	\$84,246,307	\$103,862,066

Equipment and Real Property	FY2022	FY2023
Dams and Land	\$59,681,819	\$62,071,081
Buildings	\$36,721,676	\$36,721,676
Equipment	\$11,716,262	\$12,441,991
Motor Vehicles	\$3,789,800	\$4,057,858
TOTAL	\$111,909,557	\$115,292,606

NHDES Personnel Data (Number of authorized positions as of June 30th)	FY2022	FY2023
Unclassified	6	6
Classified	473	473
Temporary	42	42
TOTAL	521	521

