

MEETING NOTES
Public Engagement Working Group
Water Sustainability Commission
November 2, 2011

The meeting was held on November 2, 2011 at the Law Offices of Baldwin and Callen in Concord, NH.

Commission members present: Denise Hart, Amy Manzelli, Marcy Lyman

Guests: Paul Susca/DES staff, Rebecca from Baldwin & Callen and Shelagh Connolly from the NH Water Pollution Control Association

Items discussed:

1) Leadership NH: Concern was expressed that as of 10/18 only one volunteer from LNH corps had indicated interest in working with Commission on public outreach sessions. It was noted, however, that if the Commission collaborates with NH Listens, there is an existing relationship between LNH and NH Listens.

Noted that one can sign up on the NH Listens website if anyone is interested in training to be a facilitator for NH Listens.

ACTION: Denise will follow up with the LNH Alum who expressed interest.

Issue of working with LNH on curriculum and place for the January Environment/Sustainability session:

Curriculum for LNH Sustainability session was discussed specifically as it relates to question of how to talk to lay people about sustainability. Several ideas for visual presentations included: developing a graphic presentation of issues, presentations such as Bruch Montviles's "Groundwater Guy" from the middle school Groundwater Guardians program that uses the Enviroscope model. We would like to plan on using Enviroscope at our public engagement meetings around the state; Paul said that DES also has one.

2) Outreach lists: Rebecca is working on list of groups/organizations in an Excel spreadsheet to be used for the public engagement/outreach for public sessions. Paul offered a DES list of lists that Jen put together. DES cannot share lists but can distribute invitations to their lists.

ACTION: Denise will work with Jen to create Google Docs for lists so Commission members can add information' it will have column that shows lists of events over next six months.

3) Draft Talking Points: Draft talking points for the Governor were reviewed. It was determined that we need to get regionalized examples for the Governor to highlight. Denise will ask Commission members as part of her report; Paul will gather examples. Also suggested that the groups look at examples of other talking points for Governor for guidance such as DES' newsletter (available online). We want the talking points to discuss:

- Why the Commission exists
- Examples/stories that show what's working in the state about water at the regional level

- We will ask Commissioners to please look at the area where they live and share a water story about it.
- Shelagh Connelly also said she would send a story to Amy.

3) Shelagh Connolly from the NH Water Pollution Control Association (NHWPCA) presented issues of concern to her organization including waste water, clean water, aging infrastructure as well as issues related to energy and water such as the fact that the greatest electricity users in a municipality are for waste water treatment. Energy recovery credits under REGGI might be applicable to municipalities such as Nashua that captures methane. Sheila also discussed the legislative breakfast that they are hosting on February 15 and invited the Commission's participation. Committee discussed how WSC could be involved and agreed to see if we could encourage Governor to speak, and work with Leadership New Hampshire (LNH) to get current class to attend and bring a legislator. We also discussed having an Enviroscape exhibit there as part of the Commission's outreach.

ACTION: Marcy will contact Governor's staff /scheduler to see if he is available and willing to speak at the NHWPCA legislative breakfast 2/15 and contact Steve Reno at LNH to see if the breakfast could be incorporated into the Environment and Sustainability session as follow-up assignment.

4) Other Events/opportunities for public engagement:

- Denise briefly discussed the NH Water Table conference, a one-day event that took place about five years ago with great success; it attracted more than 100 grassroots participants from around the state for a day of workshops.
- Paul discussed the DES Water/Watershed Conference scheduled for March 23, 2012 - Plymouth State University – planning underway for program so we will need to be involved to secure WSC/Governor involvement. The deadline for proposals is 12/15. Various organizations sponsor events such as a poster and essay contests. We may want to consider offering a two-hour workshop.
 - DES – Has a half-time Youth Education Coordinator – need to compile all public education opportunities – May Children's Water Festival
 - NH Water Works – conference every fall
 - Posters – mapping possibility/vision of sustainability – bringing people together in conversation.
 - National Drinking Water Week is the first week of May.

ACTION: Paul will provide information on the March DES Water Conference so we can see where/how to be involved – design workshop. Sheila and Amy will communicate about legislative breakfast.

Final Actions:

It was decided to delay any further planning for the North Country public session until we have a better sense of funding/opportunities with NH Listens and to cancel the reservation for the room at White Mountain Community College.

Next meeting will be held on November 15 at Fish and Game at 1 p.m. prior to the full Commission meeting.

