

New Hampshire Water Sustainability Commission  
Implementation Subcommittee

January 3, 2012  
Meeting Notes

Participants: Virginia Battles-Raffa, John Gilbert, Marcy Lyman, Robert Beurivage, Cliff Sinnott, and Jennifer Rowden.

Handouts - Implementation Process Template Matrix (Virginia)  
Implementation Structural Components draft (Marcy)  
WSC Conceptual Report Outline draft (John)

### 1) Organizing and Prioritizing Recommendations

Discussion included integrating aspects of the implementation process template drafted by Virginia and John's draft outline of topic areas the Commission may include in its final report. Specific comments are as follows:

- There is a need to filter the recommendations for the other commissions. We need to determine which ones are key and not get into the details.
- We need to prioritize and provide political justification for the recommendations we make.
- Do we know what the status of the other commissions' recommendations are?
- One objective of this Commission is to find the leverage points to help guide the state towards sustainability.
- We need to not have too many recommendations so that they do not overwhelm one another. Our recommendation should be specific to the overall vision of water sustainability –those key issues identified and may encompass the recommendations of other commissions but should not be a reiteration of recommendations already put forth.
- The implementation priority for each recommendation needs to be included.

Using Virginia's template, the group discussed possible revisions to help organize and prioritize issues as follows:

- Issue (including details)
- Recommendation
- Desired outcome
- Implementation
- Responsible party for implementation
- Level of benefit: economic, social, environmental
- Evaluation criteria

A discussion about how to deal with the issue of funding in the Commission's work included the following comments:

- The Governor does not want this Commission to get tied into funding. There is a goal of not politicizing this Commission's work by recommending the need to tax or fee items; funding solutions should not be included.
- Most the issues the Commission is dealing with are political simply because of the fact they almost all require funding.
- Is it worth making recommendations such as the need for water/wastewater rates to include investment standards to keep up with infrastructure needs?
- The Commission could address the funding issue by making the case for why investing in items in the near-term will save significantly in the long-term. A cost-to-benefit analysis without specific recommendations for funding or trying to suggest funding sources.

### 2) General issues for Water Sustainability Commission to address

The subcommittee discussed the general issue areas listed in John's draft outline of the final report and offered the following suggestions for how to divide items.

**Suggestions**

1) Infrastructure 2) Water quality (pollutants) 3) Water ownership 4) Education and outreach 5) Adaptation and climate change 6) Water quantity	1) Water quality and quantity 2) Watershed management and protection 3) Infrastructure 4) Stormwater management 5) Flood and drought management 6) Education and outreach	1) Infrastructure 2) Land-based water quality issues 3) Water ownership 4) Climate change 5) Adequacy of water supply.
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- Main differences are how to deal with water quality and quantity, and where stormwater fits in because it is related to various topics.
- The Commission needs to consider how the public will see the issues.
- Is education and outreach actually a topic or a tool to address the topic?
- Each issue may also have overlapping umbrella areas to address such as:
  - Value of the water
  - Educational and outreach needs
  - How to decisions for that area are made
  - Existing policies and laws
  - Monitoring being done.

Based on discussion the subcommittee chose to move forward with the following topic areas:

Watershed Management and Planning (Virginia)
Water Ownership and Value of Water (Marcy)
Water Infrastructure - Drinking Water, Wastewater, Dams and Stormwater (Bob)
Non-point Source Pollution - Stormwater Runoff and Water Quality (Cliff)
Floods, Drought, and Climate Change - Adaptive Management (John)
Adequacy of Water Supply - Water Quantity (Cliff)
Water Quality (John)

**Action Item:** Have subcommittee members outline priority issues and recommendations under each area listed above. At the next subcommittee meeting the group will narrow down the list to then bring to the full committee meeting in February. A Google spreadsheet will be created so everyone can view everyone's items as they are being added.

3) Additional items:

- The Commission still has a June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, however, John has discusses having it extended to October 1<sup>st</sup> with the Governor's Office. He will follow-up with them.
- The NH Charitable Foundation grant for \$15,000 has come through and Marcy will discuss with NH Listens if they can move forward with that amount for the public engagement sessions. The grant from the Bean Foundation for \$7,500 is still pending.

**The next Implementation Subcommittee meeting will be January 24 from 1:00 to 3:00 at DES.**