

MEETING NOTES
Public Engagement Working Group
Water Sustainability Commission
January 17, 2012

The meeting was held prior to the regularly schedule Commission meeting at Fish and Game Headquarters in Concord, NH

Commission members present: Denise Hart, Amy Manzelli, Marcy Lyman
Guests: Paul Susca/DES staff

Issues discussed:

1) Funding update: Marcy and Denise gave updates on the \$15,000 grant received from the NHCF, the \$7500 request to the Bean Foundation (decision in February), an opportunity in March/April to apply to Davis Conservation Foundation (with a decision in May/June) and Denise's inquiry to Park about possibly reapplying if the Commission's lifespan were to be extended.

2) Update on NH Listens: Denise briefed on meeting with Bruce and other NH Listens staff. Need to create advisory group (Marcy, Denise, Paul/ WSC; Molly Donovan, Michelle Holt-Shannon and Bruce Mallory all of NH Listens). The potential for hosting 5 sessions for public and a separate one (either one of five or a sixth – TBD) for stakeholders was discussed. Denise will work with Molly on how to address multiple audiences.

Action: At today's Commission meeting, Denise will ask the Commission to allow the Public Engagement Subcommittee, working together with the Chair, for the authority to make decisions concerning the details of the public engagement sessions being planned with NH Listens.

The subcommittee members recommended that Denise ask the Commission for the subcommittee to have the authority to approve "framing questions" and details of planning for sessions. Denise will continue to give regular reports to the Commission.

3) Amy discussed the status of the water infrastructure professional associations' legislative breakfast scheduled for February 15. She had just learned that the Governor will not be able to attend. The subcommittee discussed this latest development and decided to bring it before the full Commission at our meeting today. We noted that Kate Peters is the Governor's environmental policy advisor and we may want to be in touch with her.

Action: The topic of the legislative breakfast will be brought forward to the Commission at today's meeting for discussion.

4) Watershed conference: Paul briefed on planning process. The conference is scheduled for March 23rd – proposal submitted to have Governor present for speech at plenary session and to have Commission's work (John?) as part of plenary session.

5) Governor: Denise emphasized importance of gathering water stories, finalizing talking points for governor and to meet with Governor's staff to work out details of having those integrated into Governor's public speeches.

Action: Request Commission members to submit comments on talking points and water stories by Friday (1.20) and schedule a meeting between Colin Manning (Governor's press secretary), Denise and Marcy to go over materials.

Meeting adjourned 2pm