

DRAFT

**MEETING NOTES
Public Engagement Subcommittee
Water Sustainability Commission
March 20, 2012**

The meeting was held at the Fish and Game Department in Concord, NH.

Commission members present: Denise Hart, John Gilbert, Marcy Lyman
Regrets: Amy Manzelli
Guests: Paul Susca and Jennifer Rowden/DES staff,

The notes from the February 27, 2012 meeting were approved.

Slide Show: Jennifer Rowden presented a slide show that she had developed for possible use at the NH Water/Watershed Conference and to run as background at the 5/8 public engagement sessions across the state. Everyone thought it had great value for multiple purposes and offered the following suggestions:

- 1) Add slide on the water cycle
- 2) Add slide (s) on groundwater and prime wetlands maps
- 3) Provide data on important water events (showing potential impacts of climate change)
- 4) Look at WSC vision/principles to see if any text can/should be added

We asked Jenn and Paul if they would look into developing some maps for slides that would show groundwater protection districts, prime wetlands and designated rivers (3 maps/slides) for each region where there will be a public engagement session.

ACTIONS: Work with Jenn to create public version of slide show and determine how to make it available to public through the website and/or DVD. Jenn and Paul will look into the three maps/slides requested and report back at the next meeting.

Events: The group discussed a number of imminent and future water-related events including:

- 1) NH Water/Watershed Conference, March 23: The Governor was confirmed to speak at noon. John will be presenting at plenary session and Denise at a workshop on the Commission's public engagement sessions and NH Listens. We discussed having handout on WSC and Listening Sessions and all agreed this was a good idea. Denise will check with NH Listens on times/towns. Paul/Jenn will work with Molly at NH Listens to get copies made and distribute at conference. John will get talking points to Governor's office.
- 2) World Water Day, March 22: John to get language to Governor's office for proclamation
- 3) Earth Day, April 22: To mark the first anniversary since the Governor created the Commission, it was suggested that Governor announce the partnership with NH Listens and the scheduling of the 5/8 public engagement listening sessions.
- 4) Wild and Scenic River Festival, March 31: It was suggested that we see if the WSC flyer about the listening session can be distributed at the Festival in the Red River Theatre in Concord and Music Hall in Portsmouth. Jenn will follow-up on this.
- 5) Other Events: Source Water Protection Workshop (May 2) and Sustainable Development event (June).

ACTION: List all water-related events with links on the WSC website. Jenn and Paul will follow-up with Molly about flyers for the 3/23 conference and Jenn will follow-up with the NH Rivers Council about having flyers available at the film festival.

NH Listens: The meeting then turned to discussion and updates on the NH Listens/Water Listening Sessions.

1) The sessions will all be held on May 8 with 4 out of the 5 sites selected: Berlin, Keene, Manchester and Greenland. Site selection for the Concord area had not been confirmed [subsequent decision made to hold the fifth session in New London].

2) Outreach: NH Listens has requested lists from the Commission, the working group will ask Commissioners for additional contacts. The group discussed the need for more than 1 announcement of the sessions. Denise will follow up with Molly about how many announcements NH Listens typically makes and also discusses whether/how to employ social media.

3) Participants' Guide and questions: The group reviewed the questions and suggested that Molly review Maureen Hart's presentation (Denise provided this to Michele and Molly at NH Listens at their 3/21 meeting). Molly requested feedback on the questions by Monday.

4) NH Listens Report: The group discussed confirming with Molly that all participants will receive an electronic version at least of the report. Also discussed was the group's interest in gathering information from the listening sessions that informs the implementation strategy and final report of the WSC.

5) The group also discussed whether/how to directly engage student/youth, both through the NH Listens format, but also through other mechanisms such as: NH Environmental Literacy Plan, Project WET etc.

Public Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Schedule:

April 9: 2:00-3:30, Baldwin and Callen, Concord, NH – focus on May 8 public engagement sessions; Molly/ NH Listens will be invited to participate

April 25: 2:00-3:30, Baldwin and Callen, Concord, NH – Possible joint meeting with Implementation subcommittee. Focus on strategies for the future.

May 15: 12:00-2:00, Department of Environmental Services, Concord, NH

May 29: 2:00-3:30, Baldwin and Callen, Concord, NH – Dr. Judy Silverberg from NH Fish and Game will join our meeting with a focus on youth engagement and the NH Environmental Literacy Plan, etc.

One final note: At the meeting following of the full Commission the following volunteered to attend the NH Listens sessions:

Keene: Alison

Manchester: Bob (Amy- backup)

Greenland: Dave, Glenn, John, Denise

Berlin: Marcy

Concord area: Virginia, Chuck

The meeting adjourned at 2p.m.