

## **New Hampshire Water Sustainability Commission Implementation Subcommittee**

April 10, 2012  
Meeting Notes

Attendees: Virginia Battles-Raffa, Kris Blomback, John Boisvert, John Gilbert, Glenn Normandeau and Cliff Sinnott.

Guests: Sarah Pillsbury and Jennifer Rowden (DES), and Bill Housell.

### **I. Implementation work to date and next steps**

Virginia opened to meeting by asking if subcommittee members want to continue to frame the Commission's recommendations and ongoing work as a campaign/ initiative. General consensus was that the approach should be used. However, there was acknowledgement that the recommendations need to be presented in a nonpartisan manner. Using the examples Alison Watts provided related to the visions can be part of marketing for what is working or what is needed without getting bogged down in the funding issue. It was noted that the visions are largely agreed upon, however, the actual recommendations still have not been fully discussed or agreed upon.

The subcommittee discussed possibilities for logo development for the campaign/initiative. Sarah Pillsbury indicated that the Department of Resources and Economics had been contacted and may be able to help with the development of a logo. She also suggested that if a campaign/ initiative is the route the Commission is going, a simple, graphic report that outlines why water is important, a graphic about the interaction of the environment, society and the economy, the Commission's visions, and a list of the most important recommendations may be one approach.

### **II. Draft Recommendations**

Cliff indicated that it would be helpful to walk through the list of recommendations from the other water related commissions to see how and if they fit with the Commission's draft vision statements. Sarah Pillsbury offered to have DES compile the recommendations from the other water-related commissions' work, the *N.H. Water Primer*, and today's draft recommendations into a table.

The subcommittee brainstormed key recommendations they felt were related to each draft vision, with the understanding that many of these recommendations are related to several visions. Discussion regarding how to include the vision related to education is actually an overarching vision, and will need to be part of all the recommendations of the Commission.

**Public Education Vision** - People have an in-depth understanding of water issues and place great value on water and water services.

**Vision 1** - Integrated watershed management and planning is occurring at appropriate levels (e.g. state and subwatershed).

- State regulations (permitting and enforcement) are coordinated at the watershed-level within state agencies and between agencies.
- Allow/encourage municipalities to enter into cooperative agreements to address (proactively) water resource and water infrastructure issues.
- Allow/encourage municipalities to adopt uniform regulations to protect water resources across municipal boundaries.

**Vision 2** - Stormwater and non-point source pollution is effectively treated.

- Promote the limiting of impervious surfaces related to land use change and encourage low impact development (LID).
- Alter design criteria for stormwater treatment systems to require more treatment than just infiltration.
- Elimination of combined sewer overflow infrastructure.
- Adopt septic systems design standards or regulations that minimize nutrients and other pollutants from entering surface water or groundwater.

**Vision 3** - Drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and dams are adequately maintained and improved as necessary to protect human health and the environment and water services are affordable.

- Reduce the demand for capital costs associated with water infrastructure replacement or upgrades.
- Allow/encourage water infrastructure systems to form cooperative agreements to reduce operational and management costs, and where possible, to interconnect to further reduce costs.
- Require asset management plans for all water infrastructure receiving state or federal funds

**Vision 4** - There is effective adaptation to address changing climate trends, specifically more frequent flooding and droughts and changes in water occurrence and quality with temperature increases.

- Ensure that during drought conditions, water resources and use are allocated under a prioritized system.

**Vision 5** - There is an adequate quantity of water to support human and other ecological needs.

- Promote water planning efforts such as instream flow protection that ensure a balance of water use between human consumption and ecological demands.
- Promote water efficiency and water conservation.

**Action item:** Prior to the full Commission meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup>, DES will compile the list of recommendations as outlined above.