

DRAFT
New Hampshire Water Sustainability Commission
Implementation Subcommittee

May 24, 2012
Meeting Notes

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

Guests: Sarah Pillsbury and Jennifer Rowden (DES)

I. Next Steps

The subcommittee reviewed the list of recommendations the subcommittee began to draft at the last meeting and touched on the mockup report Virginia distributed as a possible template for the final report. The subcommittee focused on reviewing the recommendations and visions for any needed revisions with the intent to bring them before the full Water Sustainability Commission.

II. Review of Draft Visions and Recommendations

The following draft visions and recommendations were considered by the subcommittee with all suggested changes from the discussion indicated in italics. The term vision and recommendations were suggested to be changed to goals and actions.

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

Recommendations/ Actions

- 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. *Include incentives to help promote cooperation*
- Allow/encourage municipalities to adopt uniform regulations to protect water resources across municipal boundaries. *Include incentives.*

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

Recommendations/ Actions

- Promote the limiting of impervious surfaces related to land use change and encourage low impact development (LID). *Broaden recommendation to include green infrastructure (define term).*
- *Note the need for stormwater infrastructure to not just be built but also maintained or else it fails.*
- Alter design criteria for stormwater treatment systems to require more treatment than just infiltration. *i.e. require some level of nutrient removal?*
- Elimination of combined sewer overflow infrastructure. *Revise to "complete the separation of stormwater infrastructure from wastewater infrastructure".*
- Adopt septic systems design standards or regulations that minimize nutrients and other pollutants from entering surface water or groundwater. *Inclusion of all nutrient/ NPS pollution from homes (included fertilizer application? Should this be considered at site specific, local and state levels?)*
- *Include the need for adequate buffer protection.*

Vision/ Goal 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. *Two main categories of actions are reducing the need for capital costs and stable funding sources.*

Recommendations/ Actions

- Reduce the demand (*need*) 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 *to decrease the need for capital costs.*
- *Missing the need for innovative approaches to reduce capital costs and funding sources.*

Vision/ Goal 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. *Need to reframe this vision to address changes in climate and demographics.*

Recommendations/ *Actions*

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

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

Recommendations/ *Actions*

- 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.
- *Missing the need to address the commoditization of water*
- *Missing the need to address the location of water demand versus the location of the supply. Example, does WSC need to weigh in on inter basin transfers.*

Additional items:

- *Need to call out the issue of funding and how it is involved with long-term sustainability.*
- *Need to lay out the states role in funding, ensuring public health (particularly during emergencies), and protecting a public resource. Education is not specifically the state's responsibility.*

Action item: For each vision/goal the subcommittee members will review and revise the language based on the meeting discussion. This revised language will be sent to Jenn by June 6th and compiled for discussion at the next full Commission meeting on June 19th. The vision/goal assignments are as follows:

- Integrated Watershed management and planning etc. - Tom/Cliff
- Stormwater and non-point source pollution etc - Marcy
- Drinking water, waste water etc. - John B
- Effective Adaptation to address changing climate - Cliff
- There is adequate quantity of water etc. - Glen, Marcy, Kris