



What needs to be done to have enough clean water for future generations?

A gathering for people whose work and expertise depends on water

Compiled by NH *Listens* for the New Hampshire Water Sustainability Commission
www.nhlistens.org

Bringing people together for engaged conversations and informed community solutions

Welcome - Thank you for joining today's conversation!

We look forward to your questions, concerns, ideas and hopes for the future of water in the state of NH and we welcome all perspectives. The New Hampshire Water Sustainability Commission (NHWSC) has asked NH Listens to create this opportunity for people who are more engaged with water issues than the average citizen – be it through work, research, organizations or business. Your input will be compiled by the NHWSC and shared with all of you. NH Listens works at the state and local level to help convene conversations about complex issues. We don't take a position on issues but work to create a fair and open process for everyone. Unlike the conversations which took place on May 8th, this conversation *assumes some knowledge of water issues in NH*.

The New Hampshire Water Sustainability Commission was formed by an Executive Order signed by Governor Lynch in 2011 and is working to identify strategies and management measures for ensuring that the quality and quantity of New Hampshire's water in 25 years is as good as or better than they are now.

Here is a general outline of our afternoon:

1:30 – 2:00 PM	Registration begins
2:00	Welcome and purpose
2:20	Small group conversations
4:15	Large group reporting out
4:55	Next steps and closing
5:00 PM	Informal networking encouraged

This guide is the same for all participants. The large group facilitators will help guide the conversation but we are all responsible for making sure the group is productive. Thank you!

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Detailed Outline

1:30 - 2:00 Registration begins

- Welcome and sign in at registration table
- Please join your small group circle for the introduction and to start the dialogue immediately thereafter.

2:00 - 2:20 Welcome

- Welcome from the New Hampshire Water Sustainability Commission
Chair of the Commission, John Gilbert
- NH Listens facilitators: Michele Holt-Shannon and Bruce Mallory
 - Background of this event
 - ***The goal of this conversation is to:***
 - To bring people together across water interests, specialties and sectors.
 - To preview initial GWSC findings and identify gaps and critical action steps.
 - To identify what needs to happen in order for NH's water to be as good or better in 25 years.
- About the process: This conversation is...
 - Designed to take advantage of expertise related to water interests across sectors.
 - Designed for participants to be here the whole time (please do what you need to do to be most present: phones, breaks, restrooms).
 - About a constructive focus – not about looking back at how things might have been done differently but about looking forward to desired actions and solutions.
- Group agreements for a productive conversation...
 - Share “air time”
 - If you disagree, consider asking a question rather than arguing to prove your point
 - It's OK to disagree, but don't personalize it. Stick to the issue, not the person who is disagreeing with you
 - Speak up if the process doesn't seem fair
 - Speak for yourself, not for others and not for an entire group (use “I” statements)
 - Personal stories stay in the group unless we all agree we can share them outside of the group
 - We all share responsibility for making the group productive
 - Be respectful and use respectful language
 - Respect the facilitator's role
 - Listen first...

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2:20 - 2:40 Introductions in small groups

- Your small group is **self-facilitated**. Bruce and Michele will check in to see that things are going smoothly in order to:
 - help with the process
 - serve as a reminder of our agreements to be fair and respectful, and
 - make sure everyone gets a chance to participate

- Reminder: your group will need someone to **report out** to the large group at the end.

- A member of the NHWSC will **chart notes** for your group on the flip charts (headings are provided to help guide you). Your group is self-facilitated so they are not there to direct the group, only help keep information and ideas charted – and otherwise observe and listen to the issues you raise.

- Participants introduce yourself: Please share your...
 - Name, hometown, and focus of your work or water involvement
 - One thing that has happened in the last 5 years that impacted your water-related work in a positive way...
 - One of the biggest challenges that impacts your water-related work...

After these stories, consider any commonalities or differences you hear.

 **Chart:** *List the positive impacts and biggest challenges*

2:40 - 3:10 Review of NHWSC Report Summary

Take the time to look over the NHWSC summary. This is an *initial draft* of areas for action prioritized by the NHWSC. Take a few minutes to read and allow for clarifying questions.

- Knowing there is much to be determined in the details, is the GWSC on the right track? Where are the gaps?
- An overarching finding of the GWSC reinforces the need for public awareness and education for all ages. Is there a role in your work for education? In what ways would a water wise public impact your work? What role might you have in raising awareness and engaging the public?
- Are the major water challenges addressed by the NHWSC?

Challenge 1: Changing patterns of land use and water use

Challenge 2: Changing precipitation and temperature patterns

Challenge 3: Aging and inadequate water infrastructure

Challenge 4: Need to manage water differently in a new era

Challenge 5: Financial and Political Limitations

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Chart: *Finalize a list of the key topics raised by your group in answer to the questions above (the direction of the NHWS, the role of education, addressing challenges).*

3:10 - 4:00

Next steps and moving forward on the 25 year goal

Next, consider the framing question: *What needs to be done to have enough clean water for future generations?* Given your priorities when you came in and the information we have just reviewed, what are the **most important challenges to address?**

We are especially interested in your thoughts on these questions:

- Are there actions that if not taken in the near term, would lead to irreversible consequences for water and water systems in NH?
- What organization, policy or practice is needed to advance this goal?
- Given who has gathered, what, if anything, could this group find as common cause?
- How does coordination and collaboration get done from your perspective? What is needed?
- What would an effective coordinating body look like? Is one needed? Does one or more already exist?

4:00-4:15

Final Priorities

Based on your group conversation, “Are there any common ground recommendations or key ideas in this group? If so, what do we want to say at the end of the day? If not, what diverse points of view do we want to convey?” A single consensus is not required, but if one emerges, or perhaps if the group wants to put forward two or three primary points of view, that is fine. These will represent your key recommendations and comments for the NHWSC and for participants in other small groups.



Chart: *What are your group’s specific recommendations for collaboration and coordination across sectors? What is most needed from the NHWSC in order for your work to move forward?*

Your group will need to prioritize their top insights, etc. to report out to large group and *select someone to speak*. The reporting out should include **two or three** specific action statements. To arrive at this point, the group should take a step back and look for *both the unique ideas and those that seemed to recur*. Group ideas together that seem to be related, but don’t lose track of the unique ones.

If you have time...



Chart: *Please add any additional information that your group feels is important to pass along to the New Hampshire Water Sustainability Commission.*

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4:15 – 4:50 Reporting Out

Each group will be asked to provide a brief summary of their most important findings, concerns or recommendations. If asked to speak for your group, please be brief and share what has been compiled *by your group*. Please refrain from editorial comment as your views should be representing the group results.

4:50 – 5:00 Wrap up comments –

Michele Holt-Shannon and Bruce Mallory

- Themes
- Please fill out the evaluation – it matters to us! We read these and always work to incorporate your feedback. Thank you!

Final Thoughts from the NHWSC

- Thank you
- Next steps
- If you want to be involved – sign ups on NHWSC table

After words: Please feel free to remain and connect with others informally.

New Hampshire Water Sustainability Commission

<http://www.nh.gov/water-sustainability/>

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The New Hampshire Water Sustainability Commission was formed in April 2011 by Executive Order of the Governor of New Hampshire. It held its first meeting in May 2011, which was largely organizational in nature. Our charge is best summed up by this sentence of the executive order: "...to identify and prioritize actions necessary to ensure that the state's water resources are managed in a sustainable manner so as to protect New Hampshire's economy and quality of life." The Commission has since met monthly to receive briefings from experts in various aspects of water resources management and related issues and reviewed reports prepared by other Commissions and entities engaged in managing water resources. Topics addressed in the Commission's meetings include:

- Overview of water issues in New Hampshire;
- Systems thinking on public policy issues;
- Overview of sustainability as a concept and a management framework;
- Debriefing commissioners from other New Hampshire water-related commissions;
- Water-related infrastructure and related funding issues;
- Dams;
- Extreme weather events and implications for water and watershed science;
- New Hampshire water rights and access law;
- Regional and national policy trends relative to water resources management;
- Water resources management efforts that cross political boundaries; and
- The relationship between land use decisions made at the local level and the implications for water resources at the watershed level.

In addition, smaller working groups of Commission members have been working on public engagement and input and on implementation planning for the Commission's findings. The Public Engagement Working Group focused on both including the public in the process and strategizing how to engage the public in the long-term effort to implement the strategic recommendations developed by the Commission. The Implementation Working Group focused on wrestling with how to accomplish the longer-term needs and structuring a framework to support these efforts.

In May 2012, the Commission partnered with the NH Listens project of the Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire to hold public input meetings in the five Executive Council districts in the State. These meetings were designed to obtain input from New Hampshire residents regarding their perspectives and concerns about water issues.

Based upon this work, the Commission is in the process of developing recommendations for action in five specific areas that include:

- Establishing integrated watershed management and planning for both water quality and quantity;
- Minimizing and effectively managing runoff of rain and snow-melt and non-point source pollution;

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- Adequately maintaining and improving drinking water, wastewater, storm water and dam infrastructures to protect human health and the environment in a manner that is affordable and sustainable;
- Developing appropriate responses to changing factors (e.g., weather patterns and population demographics) to ensure adequate water supply and to protect water and wastewater infrastructure from natural hazards; and
- Developing a flexible and coordinated strategy for fair and equitable access to and management of water to ensure adequate water quantity and quality to support ecological health, human needs and economic activity.

Effective implementation of the strategic recommendations in these areas will require substantial efforts to educate the residents of New Hampshire regarding the value and importance of water to the economy and quality of life in the State and to connect individual and community decisions regarding the use of water to the larger issues affecting the entire State. This effort will have to encompass residents of all ages, including requiring a concerted effort to improve environmental education for school-age children who will be the decision-makers as future New Hampshire adults.

Additional information on the New Hampshire Water Sustainability Commission website:
<http://www.nh.gov/water-sustainability/publications/index.htm>