

Meeting Notes
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
Deliverable Working Session

August 14, 2012
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Concord, NH

Commissioners in attendance:

John Boisvert
Thomas Burack
John Gilbert, Chair
Denise Hart
Cliff Sinnott
Chuck Souther

Public in attendance:

Jennifer Rowden, NHDES
William Housell, CDM Smith

I. Public Engagement Overview

Denise and John gave an overview of the work of the Public Engagement Subcommittee and discussed how to incorporate the public comments from the New Hampshire Listens sessions, the online questionnaire, e-mailed and mail comments, and comments received during meetings into the final Commission report. The group was provided copies of all the comments provided to date (with exception of the NH Listens materials) and asked to look it over for common themes and large or creative solutions. It was noted that many of the themes fall into the basic goal categories the Commission has developed. John G. explained that the goal was not to address specific comments that had been received, but to give an overview of the comments. The group discussed whether to address the topic of water rights. The general consensus was to acknowledge concerns had been raised, however, it is beyond the scope of the Commission's work and timeframe to address. It is a topic that should perhaps be addressed in the future. All comments received are planned to be included either as an appendix or available online.

II. Draft Report Outline

John G. presented an outline for the final report for consideration; it drew from multiple ideas that had been discussed to date. The group liked the general flow from large concepts to more specific details, but acknowledged that the detail needed would not allow for a very short report. For example, Tom would like to see information about various water quality issues: non-point source pollution, chlorides, arsenic, radon, nutrients, etc. Minimizing printing and utilizing a website would allow for more linkage to other documents to allow those interested in various topics to explore more in depth. It was noted that using visuals would also help to highlight the complexity of the issues.

Comments about the outline included the following:

- Need to make sure the following are found within the current goals/ recommendations/actions:
 - Land use planning.
 - The notion that different regions have different issues and may need different solutions.
 - The questions of whether the state's current laws and regulations are adequate for the 21st century.
- The goals are currently worded as vision statements and need to be written more as objectives.
- The findings need to be very clear as they overlap with the goals. The findings should be as factual as possible, though the Commission should be careful not to exclude information that is not convenient to its findings.
- The topic of funding is not strong in the outline as presented (with exception of infrastructure). Perhaps a sixth goal needs to be added to state in a general way, all the aspects of water that require funding. These include: monitoring, data and mapping management, infrastructure, technical support, and program management. The group discussed emphasizing the connection between funding these items and the benefits. For example, how monitoring and data analysis allow for better decision making for everyone

- For infrastructure the recommendations and actions need to be very clear, but can point to the work of others for more detailed recommendations, such as the Water Infrastructure Funding Commission's report due out in the fall. (John B. volunteered to work with the current recommendations under the infrastructure goal to clarify this.)
- For the section "what can X do" to help meet the Commission goals, the group decided to include individuals, businesses, homeowners, legislators, utilities, communities, etc., and to see which groups the full Commission would like to include.
- To the extent possible, the goals/ recommendations/actions need to go back to the concept of sustainability and the impact of the environment, society and economy.

III. Next Steps

For the August 21st meeting, John will present the outline with the additions discussed today and bring in the current list of goals, recommendations and actions. The following findings areas were divided amongst the group, with the goal of trying to present a few initial bulleted statements at the August 21st meeting.

Findings areas

Group A - Chuck, Denise, DES

- Management - how water is not regulated/permitted with regards to watershed/aquifer boundaries.
- Legal - general question of if existing water laws meet the needs of today.
- Regional variability of water issues and conditions that exist around the state.

Group B - Cliff, Denise, DES

- Water quality
- Water quantity
- Land use
- Changing weather patterns

Group C - John B., John G.

- Public health
- Education/public awareness
- Infrastructure
- Funding

The general report assignments are as follows, with additional work to be discussed at the next content meeting on August 29th:

- Chairman's Overview - John G.
- Why is water important? - Denise and Marcy
- Vision of New Hampshire's future - John G. and Marcy
- Findings - see above
- Goals/Recommendations - John G. (Addition of goal 6 for funding)
- What you can do - DES (To compile a list of available resources for consideration.)

III. Upcoming Meetings

The following dates and times were proposed for upcoming Commission meetings:

- **8/21** – Regular WSC Meeting
- **8/29** - Content team
- **9/6** – Deliverable Teams Meeting
- **9/11** – Tentative Regular WSC Meeting
- **9/18** -Tentative Regular WSC meeting

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 21, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m, at the Department of Environmental Services

