

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
October 16, 2012**

**New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
Concord, NH**

Commissioners in attendance:

Kris Blomback
John Boisvert
Thomas Burack
John Gilbert, Chair
Denise Hart
Michael Licata
Marcy Lyman, Vice Chair
Glenn Normandeau
Cliff Sinnott
Alison Watts

Commissioners not in attendance:

Dave Allen
Virginia Battles-Raffa
Amy Manzelli
Chuck Souther

Public in attendance:

Bob Morency
Jennifer Rowden
Jim Ryan
Paul Susca

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m.

I. September 27th Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the September 27th meeting minutes was made by Glenn and seconded by Kris. The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

II. Final Deliverable Discussion

The Commission discussed each section of the latest draft report. The following are comments or discussion points made regarding the various sections.

A. Overview and Executive Summary

- There is some repetition between the overview, executive summary and why water sections.
- Add emphasis to the public engagement component in the overview.
- Punctuate the strategic framework laid out in the report, i.e., that success will require the government and the public to be engaged and to act. (Marcy will provide some suggested edits.)
- Include the seven goals in the executive summary.
- Add headings to the summary bullet points to emphasize the main needs the Commission identified: education, partnerships, policy modifications (or something similar), and better data.

B. Why Water

- Change all the beginning questions to "do you know." Page 4, third paragraph: Make it the last bullet and end the section with the second paragraph.
- Questions for consideration: Combine bullets one and four, and three and six.
- Rephrase bullet eight to clarify value and ask a question (Areas for inquiry in Goals section) about the economic benefit the state gets from having good water infrastructure.

C. Vision of New Hampshire's Water Future

- What is water sustainability: Eliminate "we need".
- Discussion over stewardship bullet and the definition. Rephrase to emphasize taking action to protect the resource for use by future generations.
- Guiding principles, third bullet: Clarify phrase "water moves across the landscape".
- Guiding principles, fourth bullet: Rephrase to "there will always be uncertainty and opportunities for innovation."
- Guiding principles, fifth bullet: Include long-term funding.
- Vision statement: remove phrase "fresh and saltwater" and shorten or break up last sentence.

D. Findings

- Include facts and citations to back-up statements, including population projections, DES data on water quality, and estimated infrastructure investment needs. For impervious surface data, include PREP illustration of Seacoast region.
- Bullet one: Revise to just include idea that water is currently regulated in a “silo” fashion by use.
- Bullet three: Add the need to test private wells regularly and statistics about percentage of wells that may have high arsenic
- Bullet six: Separate water demand and investments by commercial interests. Perhaps put the need to explore commercial investments in the additional inquiry section of one of the goals.
- Page 9, paragraph after bullets: Change to “state wide coordination” instead of statewide entity.
- Nothing in the report addresses water planning at the inter-state or international scales.

E. Goals

- Goal 1, bullet three: Rephrase to indicate there is a need for more technical assistance and communication between state and local officials.
- Goal 1, bullet four: Rephrase to promote open communication to settle differences prior to conflicts arising.
- Goal 1: Use the word watershed instead of regional.
- Goal 2: Pull out asset management as a recommendation and have full cost accounting go under areas for additional inquiry.
- Change goal order to the following; 7, 5, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6.

F. Where Do We Go From Here and Conclusion

- Discussion about whether to add benchmarks into the report and whether there is time to do so.
- Tom and Marcy will draft language about what framework for developing benchmarks could look like. The basic idea would be the creation of a single coordinating entity in the near future to develop such benchmarks that has expertise in all the components of water.
- Transition in leadership: Emphasize that the work needs to start now.

III. Next Steps and Upcoming Meetings

John G. will get a revised draft out before the next meeting. The following dates are for upcoming Commission meetings:

- Monday, October 29th from 11:00 to 3:00 at the Department of Environmental Services.
- Wednesday, November 7th from 1:00 to 5:00 at the Fish and Game Department.

IV. Public Comments

The public in attendance at the meeting provided the following comments to the Commission:

Bob Morency: Noted that the Commission has not included anything about succession planning and the drain on technical knowledge that will occur as those currently in the water infrastructure field retire in greater numbers. *The following resources were provided to the Commission by Bob Morency via e-mail immediately after the meeting:*

- Overview of Workforce Strategies: <http://www.awwa.org/files/Resources/WorkforceSolutions/OPF0408WorkforceStrategies.pdf>
- EPA Guidance: http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/ws_workforce.cfm

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The next regular Commission meeting is October 29, 2012 from 11:00 to 3:00 at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.