

The following summary was sent to participants on Friday May 11, 2012

Dear Participants of the Water Conversation,

Thank you all for your time and thoughtful participation on Tuesday evening. Over 160 people attended across the five locations and we are looking forward to compiling a full report of the results for you and for the Governor's Water Sustainability Commission. In the meantime, we've assembled a list of key issues and recommendations raised in common across sites and small groups. This is not a complete list and is not in an order of priority. The final wording of the themes and recommendations will be more fully developed in the full report to follow in a few weeks.

Again, thank you for engaging in this conversation.

Best regards on behalf of NH Listens,
Michele Holt-Shannon

Key Issues and Recommendations from May 8th Water Conversation

Education and Public Awareness of Water Issues

- * The need for public education and awareness on water issues was noted repeatedly across groups and sites.
- * Participants emphasized education for all ages and residents, including tourists.
- * Informative PSAs could help raise awareness across the state
- * Give decision makers access to experts
- * Emphasize conservation in education efforts

Management, Coordination and Protection of Water Resources

- * Move toward watershed-based water management (across political boundaries)
- * Create a statewide water plan based on quality information
- * State and local entities need to work together
- * Address and plan for concerns about water security and water ownership
- * Share data broadly
- * Support innovation: e.g., wastewater reuse,

Regulation and Incentives for Conservation

- * Focus regulation on the common good
- * Keep in mind that one size does not fit all (differences in northern and southern NH, for example)
- * Need regulation that considers the long term and that incentivizes conservation and responsibility of property owners
- * Support and reward research and innovation
- * Update legal and political infrastructures for conservation and long term planning

Create a Funding Structure for Long Term and Proactive Investments

- * Charge a price for water that is reflective of the cost, including infrastructure maintenance
- * Create funding stream for capitol repairs
- * Consider long term funding needs and begin to address resource issues
- * Need to invest proactively

Compiled by NH Listens for the Governor's Water Sustainability Commission

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