

Appendix H – Commission Work Process

Commission Work

In the 19 months starting in May 2011, the Commission has met at least monthly and, in some cases, twice monthly in public session. At its first meetings, the Commission developed a vision for New Hampshire's water resources in 25 years and a set of principles to guide decision making regarding water over that period. In subsequent meetings, the Commission heard from experts in various aspects of water in New Hampshire and in issues related to its sustainable management for the long-term, and then asked questions of the experts and discussed the information that it heard.

- Overview of water issues in New Hampshire (Paul Susca, NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau, based upon the 2008 *New Hampshire Water Resources Primer*).
- Systems thinking on public policy issues and demographic projections (Stephen Norton, Director of the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies).
- Overview of sustainability as a concept and a management framework (Maureen Hart, President of Sustainable Measures).
- The findings and recommendations of other New Hampshire water-related commissions including those listed in Appendix K.
- Infrastructure issues (Sarah Pillsbury, NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau).
- Dams (James Gallagher, NHDES Dam Bureau).
- Extreme weather and implications for water (Cameron Wake, University of New Hampshire).
- Watershed science and implications of extreme weather (Mark Green, Plymouth State University/ U.S. Forest Service).
- New Hampshire water rights and access law (Dana Bisbee, Esq., Devine Millimet Attorneys at Law, former NHDES Assistant Commissioner).
- Regional and national policy trends relative to water resources management (Ira Leighton, Deputy Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1).

The Commission also established three working groups to address specific aspects of its work. These working groups included:

- Information, which engaged in filling data gaps and scheduling experts for meetings to address topics identified by the Commission.
- Public engagement, which addressed both inclusion of the public in the Commission's work process and in strategizing how to engage the public in the long-term effort to ensure water sustainability in New Hampshire.
- Implementation, which focused on identifying how to accomplish the longer-term needs and structuring a framework to support these efforts.

These working groups also met at least monthly, sometimes more frequently, in public session.

To complete its work, the Commission established two additional working groups, one focused on Deliverable Content and the other on Deliverable Rollout.

Finally, the Commission established a website (www.nh.gov/water-sustainability) on which it published Commission and working group meeting agendas and minutes, as well as references that it consulted and materials used by the experts referenced above.