

Appendix I -Commission Meeting Schedule and Minutes

* All meeting minutes are available online at: www.nh.gov/water-sustainability/

Commission Meetings

Date	Presentations/Presenters (if applicable)
May 26, 2011	
June 7, 2011	Overview of water issues in New Hampshire based upon the 2008 <i>New Hampshire Water Resources Primer</i> - Paul Susca, NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau. Systems thinking on public policy issues and demographic projections - Stephen Norton, Director of the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies.
June 21, 2011	
July 12, 2011	Overview of sustainability as a concept and a management framework - Maureen Hart, President of Sustainable Measures.
August 16, 2011	
September 20, 2011	
October 18, 2011	Overview of findings and recommendations of water-related legislative commissions. Stormwater Commission (HB 1295) – David Cedarholm, Commission Chair (Town of Durham Engineer representing New Hampshire Public Works Association) Water Infrastructure Sustainability Funding Commission (SB 60) – John Boisvert, Commission Member (Pennichuck Water Works representing NH Water Works Association) Land Use Commission (HB 1579) – James Gove, Commission Member (representing Association of General Contractors of New Hampshire) and Peter Walker, Commission Member (representing New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists) Groundwater Commission (SB 155) – Rep. Judith Spang, Commission Chair (representing New Hampshire House).
November 15, 2011	Dams in New Hampshire - James Gallagher, NHDES Dam Bureau. Water Infrastructure Issues – Sarah Pillsbury, NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau
December 13, 2011	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.
January 17, 2012	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.

New Hampshire Lives on Water

New Hampshire Water Sustainability Commission Final Report

February 14, 2012	
March 20, 2012	
April 17, 2012	
May 15, 2012	
June 19, 2012	
July 17, 2012	
August 21, 2012	
September 27, 2012	
October 16, 2012	
November 7, 2012	
November 28, 2012	
December 5, 2012	

Public Engagement Working Group Meetings

October 5, 2011	April 9, 2012
October 18, 2011	April 17, 2012
November 2, 2011	April 25, 2012
November 15, 2011	May 15, 2012
January 17, 2012	June 4, 2012
January 30, 2012	June 13, 2012
February 14, 2012	June 27, 2012
February 27, 2012	July 26, 2012
March 20, 2012	August 13, 2012

Implementation Working Group Meetings

January 3, 2012	March 7, 2012
January 24, 2012	April 10, 2012
February 7, 2012	May 24, 2012

Deliverable Content and Rollout Working Groups Meetings

July 10, 2012	August 29, 2012
July 24, 2012	September 6, 2012
August 14, 2012	October 9, 2012

Public Listening Sessions

May 8, 2012 - Greenland, Berlin, Manchester, Keene, and New London, N.H.
July 9, 2012 - Concord, N.H.

MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
May 26, 2011

Commissioners in Attendance:

Chuck Souther	Glenn Normandeau
Alison Watts	Tom Burack
Martha Lyman	Kris Blomback
Cliff Sinnott	Michael Licata
Denise Hart	Dave Allen
Amy Manzelli	Bob Beaurivage
John Gilbert	

The meeting opened with self-introductions and a brief discussion by Governor John Lynch of his objectives for the Commission's work and some of his thoughts and concerns about the future quality of the State's water resource. Fundamentally, the Governor noted that he is seeking a plan to ensure that the quality and quantity of New Hampshire's water resources is the same or better in 25 years than it is currently. He stated his view that the quality of life in New Hampshire, currently rated as one of the most livable states in the country, is closely tied to the quality of its water resources and that it is critical to protect that quality. He noted that it is a key factor for the tourism sector, as an example. The Governor emphasized that the work of the Commission was to be focused on a State-wide scale and that it was to be non-partisan in its approach and findings.

After the Governor's departure, the Commission turned to a discussion of organizational, operational, and process issues. It was agreed that the framework within which the Commission will work is that of the numerous water-related studies and commissions that have been completed within the State; there is not sufficient time to undertake data gathering efforts. Chairs or members of other commissions will be invited to speak to the Commission regarding the findings of their work. It was suggested that the New Hampshire Citizens Trade Policy Commission be invited to present because it is addressing international trade in water. The National Governors Association prepared a memorandum that will be circulated to the Commission summarizing water sustainability activities, reports, and plans developed in other states. It was agreed that the education component of the Commission's work needs to be included as part of the process to begin developing interest in water issues and inspiring commitment to its protection among New Hampshire's citizens. Effective education models need to be identified.

The Commission elected to start its work by generating a collective vision of the conditions in the State in 25 years, assuming that the work of the Commission is successful. The vision will set a context within which information reviewed and analyzed by the Commission will be evaluated. It is likely that the vision will be iteratively modified as new information is obtained and new understanding is attained.

The Commission decided that it should complete its initial steps as a group, everyone hearing the same information. After the initial vision is developed, the Commission will begin hearing from prior commissions. Part of the process will be to arrive at a common definition of “quality” as it relates to New Hampshire’s water resources, as well as a definition of “sustainability.”

To accomplish its work, the Commission decided that it will need a web site that can serve as a public reference for meeting schedules, minutes, and documents, reports, etc., that are consulted or used by the Commission. The services of an administrative support person to deal with minutes, public notices, and general coordination will be necessary at an estimated time commitment of at least 10 hours per week. A report writer to prepare the final report of the Commission will likely be necessary. Fundraising to defray expenses for these and other ancillary administrative needs will be focused around the visionary elements of the process.

It was agreed that the next meeting will include a presentation by a representative of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services of an overview of water issues in the State to provide a baseline of information for the vision development process. The discussion of the vision will follow this presentation. Chairs of other water-related commissions will be invited to subsequent meetings to present and discuss the findings of their work. The Commission set meeting dates for June 7, June 21, July 12, August 16, September 13, September 27, and October 18, acknowledging that some dates may be dropped depending upon progress and processes that the Commission adopts as its work progresses.

Following discussion of the work process, members of the Commission offered comments regarding aspects of water-related issues in the State that they deemed important for consideration. The definition of sustainability relative to water needs to address carrying capacity and access issues. It was noted that there is a current general assumption that the water resource is inexhaustible, which must be challenged. Land use and management is closely connected to water availability and quality. A sustainability study of the seacoast ground water supply indicated a high level of uncertainty in the findings.

A brief discussion of the need to transcend political boundaries to formulate solutions prompted observations that there is not a watershed-level oversight or regulatory mechanism governing development. It was noted that lake advisory associations and river local advisory committees have been having some success at bridging political boundaries on water-related issues and might offer models for consideration. The US Fish & Wildlife Service is using landscape cooperatives concepts at the State-wide and regional level. The Connecticut River Joint Commission may also have experience that is relevant to this issue.

Allocation of the resource is likely to become an issue to be addressed. Watershed-wide analyses of ground water resources have been found to generate disputes about allocation. Allocation models developed around protecting in-stream flows in surface

water have been used in water management plans that address such factors as drinking water quality and use, irrigation flows, and wastewater dilution.

Members of the public in attendance at the meeting were offered the opportunity to provide input to the Commission. It was suggested that the Commission focus on highly practical approaches that can be implemented, giving the example of a State-wide ban on phosphorous as a relatively simple step that would have a significant impact on nutrient issues in surface water. Balancing limited funding with the level of impact that can be achieved in the public interest should be a key focus. These comments prompted an observation by one Commission member that solutions that employ long-term implementation will provide municipalities and the public time to respond and manage costs on a reasonable schedule.

A member of another water-related commission observed that it got stuck in the details of the issues it was to address and urged the Commission to focus on a realistic vision and how to achieve the vision. Attention should be paid to good land use planning, i.e., promoting development on land and in areas where they can be supported by local resources. Arsenic in ground water supplies, particularly in the southern part of the State, is an important concern.

Another commenter noted that the Commission must be very attentive to the economic impacts of its recommendations. The water-related work done at Monadnock Paper Mills was offered as a success story for consideration by the Commission.

A member of the Ground Water Commission noted that it dealt with allocation concepts and issues, receiving comments and input from stakeholders State-wide. The film “Liquid Assets” was recommended to the Commission as a useful background reference.

The final public commenter noted that a successful program needs to be affordable and that there needs to be a return to funding partnerships with the federal and State government. Federal mandates need to be funded. It will be important educate the people of New Hampshire to collaborate on putting money into regional solutions, focused on matching federal monies. Allocated funds will need to be separated from the General Fund, perhaps employing the concept of an infrastructure bank.

Chairman Gilbert thanked the members of the public present for their comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
June 7, 2011**

Commissioners in Attendance:

Chuck Souther	Glenn Normandeau
Alison Watts	Tom Burack
Martha Lyman	Kris Blomback
Cliff Sinnott	Michael Licata
Denise Hart	Dave Allen
Amy Manzelli	Bob Beaurivage
John Gilbert	

The meeting opened with a discussion of the minutes from the prior meeting. Commission members requested that the minutes be revised to provide more description of the content of the Governor's remarks with regard to his objectives for the Commission and his rationale for its establishment. Because of the changes requested, action on the minutes of the meeting of May 26, 2011 was tabled.

Paul Susca of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) presented a summary description of the status of water issues in the State based on the 2008 Water Resources Primer document. A copy of the presentation will be made available to the public. Following the presentation, there was a brief period of questions and answers. In response to a question regarding experience with bridging of local political boundaries to address water issues, Mr. Susca noted that a pilot project is currently in progress to develop a Water Management Plan for the Souhegan and Lamprey Rivers that involves several towns in cooperation. In response to a question about identifying required stream flows, Mr. Susca noted that it is a highly complex issue; for example, differing forms of aquatic life require different amounts of water flow at various times of the year to survive. A brief discussion of hierarchies of use for water resource allocation vs. riparian law followed. Mr. Susca noted that the Ground Water Commission had attempted to address the hierarchies of use question, but had not reached a resolution. In response to a question regarding surface water quality monitoring, Mr. Susca replied that it is limited and currently heavily reliant on the work of volunteers. In response to a question regarding coordination with other states, Mr. Susca stated that there are not typically major conflicts among states regarding quality issues in shared rivers.

Steve Norton, Director of the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies, presented to the Commission regarding approaches to systems analysis of public policy issues, using the New Hampshire Gaming Commission as an example. A copy of his presentation materials will be made available to the public. For the work of the Commission, Mr. Norton suggested that there are several key elements to be considered:

- future changes in the demographics of the State, which must address both the New Hampshire resident population and visitors to the State and is likely to be complex (e.g., simple projections of a compounded population growth rate may be oversimplified and tend to overestimate);
- clearly and fully identifying costs vs. benefits and positives vs. negatives of options for managing water resources;
- employing the findings of other water-related commissions, particularly with regard to economic analyses that they have completed; and
- careful assessment of social impacts and costs associated with management options.

With regard to demographics, Mr. Norton suggested that New Hampshire's population is still growing, but at slower rates than in the past. He suggested that population changes be evaluated on watershed-specific data and that the data be focused on housing units rather than on numbers of people. Anticipated demographic changes will be affected by the retirement of the "baby boomers" over the next 25 years, potentially affecting "amenities" areas of the State (e.g., the Lakes Region) more than current population centers.

In developing a model for managing water in the State, Mr. Norton suggested that there are several key questions to ask:

- What will the state look like in 25 years?
- What are the primary drivers of questions about water needs and use?
- What can be expected for technical innovation over the 25-year period?
- What other, indirect factors will affect the State's ability to manage the quantity and quality of its water resources?
- What information is critical to the Commission's work that is not currently available?
- Who are other, outside actors in water management issues, and what leverage does the State have in dealing with them?

Mr. Norton suggested that the work of the Commission focus on identifying a set of principles and goals to guide management of the State's water resources over the next 25 years. Development of this model should focus on understanding the points of greatest leverage; for example, is it possible that local zoning and planning boards provide the greatest leverage in managing potential impacts on water quality?

The Commission then turned to a discussion of its next steps. Several members noted that they felt it important to develop a consensus definition of key terms, e.g.,

“sustainability” and “quality.” Others noted that they felt it was critical to develop a common vision within the Commission and that it would help the Commission to focus on the larger picture and put the pieces together. Commission members noted that the process is innately political in the sense that it will likely require additional regulation, for example, which will trigger the question as to why it is necessary. Education will, therefore, be a key to accomplishing the goals. Fundamentally, water is not a local resource issue, but rather a State-wide issue, and New Hampshire’s citizens need to understand this point in order to bridge local political boundaries and mind-sets. It will be important to bring together towns on a watershed basis and make it a community focus that people can rally around. How do we frame the issues in a way that ideological differences and issues are not a consideration? Points that Commission members suggested we needed to embrace included:

- everyone uses water;
- we will always need it;
- global issue with sometimes severe consequences in areas with climates different from New Hampshire’s, indicating the need to do something before it becomes a problem;
- water as a connector for all the people in the State;
- articulate both the interesting and not-so-interesting aspects of water issues in a public campaign; and
- invoke the community service ethic in addressing water-related issues, i.e., drawing parallels to donating to food banks, helping the homeless and elderly, etc.

Members of the Commission noted that there is a need for better information regarding water quality and that it may be necessary to look at laws that require revision to address a watershed-based approach to management. A Commission member suggested that perhaps we already know much of what needs to be done to accomplish the Governor’s goal and that the focus of the work should be directed more toward how to get change made, asking why haven’t we accomplished the things that we know need to be done.

Discussion of land use and development issues ensued. Commission members noted that sprawl development continues because the costs for impacts on water associated with it (e.g., non-point pollution) are not assessed to the people creating them. Instead, they are lumped into a general category without assignment of specific responsibility. Commission members noted that the current local regulatory efforts regarding development are constrained by existing policy approaches that are weighted in favor of findings reasons and ways to get projects done as a consequence of 1) historical perceptions of individual rights to use properties as the individual sees fit and 2) impetus to increase the local property tax base and revenue. In projects with regional impacts, there are processes for including other affected communities, but the host town controls

the process, invitations for input, and decisions, often with the local tax base incentive previously noted. Commission members noted that there are some initial efforts at cross-border collaboration in progress that warrant examination in more detail, particularly efforts of some sub-regional groups. Activities that involve commercial uses of water, including international entities, add another pressure on the State's water resources and are a special case of these concerns. In general, the State's land use laws and institutions may not be designed to support doing what needs to be done to protect the State's water resources.

Commission members then participated in an initial vision conversation. Key aspects of a "working hypothesis" for a vision were preliminarily identified including:

- NHDES regulatory programs should be organized by watersheds rather than by other policy or political districts;
- New Hampshire's citizens should recognize their mutual co-dependence and accountability for protecting the water resources of the State, recognizing that we are all in this together;
- fewer water quality impairments - water quality should be no less than it is now for wastewater discharges and significantly better for non-point pollution;
- there would be an adequate volume of safe, affordable drinking water for New Hampshire's citizens;
- all wastewater in the State should be adequately and affordably treated, including septic systems, within then-existing technological constraints;
- water use should be efficient, i.e., conservation should be widely practiced in the State; and
- the State's aquatic and wildlife communities and ecosystems should be healthy.

After this discussion, members of the Commission agreed that a more focused, facilitated vision process was important to develop a working vision that can then be tested against the findings of other commissions and studies and revised as appropriate. The Commission agreed that a discussion of at least 30 to 60 minutes at the next meeting was a good next step. Kate Hansen at UNH was identified as a potential facilitator, as was Beth Henner of New Directions. The Chair requested suggestions for facilitators to be made to him by the close of business on June 8 to allow adequate time to identify and brief a facilitator. The Commission agreed that the initial vision effort should then be followed by briefings from members of other water-related commissions.

Members of the public in attendance at the meeting were offered the opportunity to provide input to the Commission. Keith Robinson of the U.S. Geological Survey noted that New Hampshire is, in general, a water-rich state, but that it will be important to

manage seasonal availability, suggesting impoundments as a concept to consider. In so doing, he suggested using natural features rather than engineered structures, to the degree practicable. He also recommended focusing on an overarching structure to get where we want the State to be in 25 years.

Jim Ryan of the Northwood Conservation Commission recommended Tom Ballesteros of UNH as a potential resource to the Commission. He also noted the existence of a Lamprey River source water protection effort (from runoff) and that a watershed commission was applying for recognition by the State.

Boyd Smith of the Newfound Lake Region Association urged the Commission to consider storm water conveyance infrastructure in its work and to work toward a cohesive water resource management structure that addresses the current bifurcation of the State controlling water and towns controlling the land, which in turn affects the water. He offered to describe the Association's watershed management experience with the Commission, if it would be helpful.

Steve Norton of the Center for Public Policy Studies, who noted that costs for a detailed evaluation of State demographic patterns and trends could be substantial and offered to work with the Commission on this aspect and to assist in identifying funding sources for it.

Paul Susca of NHDES noted that Sarah Pillsbury of NHDES should be credited for preparing the presentation that he made to the Commission.

Chairman Gilbert thanked the members of the public present for their comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Attachments:

New Hampshire Water Sustainability Commission Meeting Agenda - June 7, 2011
Sign-In Sheets – June 7, 2011

MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
June 21, 2011

Commissioners in Attendance:

Kris Blomback	Chuck Souther
Amy Manzelli	Tom Burack
Bob Beaurivage	David Allen
John Gilbert	Glen Normandeau
Marcy Lyman	Alison Watts
Denise Hart	

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm with approval of the minutes. Tom Burack made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 26 meeting as revised. Bob Beaurivage seconded the motion and, with discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously. Bob Beaurivage made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 7 meeting, Chuck Souther seconded the motion followed by discussion. Revisions were offered and will be incorporated into a revised draft that will be presented for approval at the July 12 meeting.

The Chair circulated a draft budget for the work of the Water Sustainability Commission (WSC) offering that, though the budget for the Gaming Commission was used as a template, the categories and figures were revised for relevance to WSC. The budget was presented for review to get feedback on both the categories of anticipated cost, as well as the actual figures. A revised draft will be circulated electronically for discussion and approval at the next meeting.

The Chair introduced Judy Stokes from Fish and Game who joined the meeting to facilitate a visioning exercise. The objective of the exercise was to develop a “working hypothesis” vision of water resource and its management that the Commission could use in the public arena, testing, revising, and refining it over the coming months into a set of guiding principles that can accommodate uncertainty, as well as guide specific actions.

Judy began the exercise by explaining her role as one of a “meeting chauffer” to help the group work through issues. She introduced the framework for the meeting as a structure that would look at *drivers of change*, *constraining forces* and *key assumptions* with the goal of expanding the drivers and minimizing the impacts of the constraints. The group also expressed an interest in trying to reach common understanding and definition of such terms as “quality” that would lead to the development of a vision statement or working hypothesis. Notes from the visioning effort are attached.

General discussion about vision statements. Judy handed out an overview of the characteristics of a good vision. The group discussed generally that this vision statement needed to incorporate concepts of sustainability, be broad (i.e., “writ large”), and be a catalyst to a process to test and refine through public discussions that would ultimately

lead to an implementable plan. Some general comments about the vision statement included:

- 1) recognition of the critical need for involvement by the citizens of the state on water issues;
- 2) need for a preamble that states why people should be interested.;
- 3) need to create sense of urgency – but create positive message; and
- 4) need to promote stories – everyone who lives in NH should know some piece of the story about water.

Summary of discussions during exercise This section of the minutes is an effort to summarize the comments, questions and issues that surfaced during the exercise. Many of the ideas in the paragraph that follow may be duplicated in the attached notes that Judy Stokes prepared following the exercise.

There were a number of words that surfaced frequently, including concepts of value and cost (of water), access to water, affordability, ownership, international trade, interbasin transfer, instream flows, permitting, and privatization. In addition there were a number of big picture issues and questions that were offered including:

- 1) What do we mean by “quality;” is it referenced primarily to human consumption or to meet ecological needs? Comments in response offered that what constitutes quality is related to use, that standards of quality evolve over time with scientific knowledge and increasingly sophisticated monitoring/testing technology, that regulatory frameworks have very specific definitions of quality (e.g. Clean Water Act is “fishable, swimmable, drinkable”).
- 2) Decision-making and public policy need to be science-based, flexible, and able to support concepts of adaptive management
- 3) Do we have a good handle on water usage in the state? DES staff indicated that they have a “good ball-park” estimate of water use through the various monitoring systems/programs.
- 4) What are the gaps in the regulatory framework? For example, there is no triggering mechanism to review impacts either individually or cumulative from existing uses that have been grandfathered. There are examples (e.g., Safe Drinking Water Act) of framework that recognizes link between groundwater and surface water; however, there is not a comprehensive regulatory scheme that is fully cognizant of this link.
- 5) Variability in rules and regulations. Specific examples include differences between municipalities in rules related to aquifer protection, variability in local building, zoning, and planning regulations, and role of grandfathering and the absence of a mechanism to address its cumulative impacts.
- 6) Valuing water – there was much discussion about need to challenge basic assumptions about the cost vs. value of water – is it a commodity or right? Does it incorporate investment in delivery/waste water systems? Does it incorporate external costs?
- 7) Are regulatory programs/policies drivers or constraints? There was a recognition by the group that they can serve in both capacities.

- 8) Vesting of regulatory authority – Enforcement authority of some Federal laws is delegated to states, but (because of the absence of federal funding to support delegated authority) NH does not assume responsibility for enforcement of CWA for industrial permits, storm water systems, though USEPA recognizes and employs NH standards.
- 9) Population – where/how is population growing or not? How do we think about water? Are we entitled to all we want and in the locations that we want, regardless of the its availability in those locations?
- 10) Do we have systems in place to address issues related to external demands on our water resources from international trade, interbasin transfers, and privatization?
- 11) Leverage points – building codes were offered as one leveraging mechanism and the example of building codes that prohibit reuse of grey water was offered.

Finally the group was asked to articulate some guiding principles and listed the following:

- 1) People must take personal responsibility for protecting and conserving the state's water resources.
- 2) Costs need to be aligned with value of water (not just value expressed as commodity, but incorporating issues such as scarcity, real cost of resources including recognition of external costs).
- 3) Ensuring access to water – what are rights and where are they embedded?
- 4) Water is state resource – needs to be managed at state level, which implies transcending traditional municipal boundaries and operating from a scientific watershed basis.
- 5) Fair allocation of the resource without depleting it.
- 6) Adaptive management approach – must be prepared to address scientific knowledge, what's available, changing client, variable economic conditions, etc.
- 7) Cumulative impacts – watershed-wide impacts over time, including grandfathered uses.

Summary of comments from public in attendance:

There were a number of questions/issues related to cost and value of water that included the question of whether water should be priced as a commodity or something available to all. In addition, there were comments related to creating some system for accounting for the true cost of water - "we have been renting water systems for nothing." The City of Keene was offered as an example where the cost of the water system was viewed as a whole that was paid out of a single source within the town – not in "stove pipes" for waste water, transportation, solid waste, etc.

The question of the term "quality" was addressed in the public comments and included the following: water providers have very specific standards for and meaning of the word "quality"; maybe we need to look and see from an affordability standpoint what is "good enough." Is there an opportunity to divide water flows to recycle water for ski areas, agricultural use, though the point was made that to meet standards for organic agriculture the water must meet drinking water standards. The issue of economics in determining quality was raised – the notion of quality can be viewed independently from costs, but attainment is directly related to costs.

There were several comments that underscored the value/need to look beyond town boundaries. The town-by-town approach was seen as a constraint. First, there are benefits in cooperation; municipalities may be able to save money by inter-town cooperation and retain control of water resources. If there continues to be town-by-town allocation/development of water resources, we will continue to see issues of inequity and distribution and redistribution of wealth. One suggestion was to connect state/watershed-wide partnerships with affordability and to offer examples of what works by enabling municipalities to come together such as in the Southeast Watershed Alliance. A recommendation was made to create enabling legislation for watershed alliances.

One member of the public, however, argued for the importance of local/home rule, rather than a constraint, as an incremental ingredient of a driver – the constraint is the mindset, but the driver is engagement.

Recommendations included that the Commission look at common themes coming out of the work of the other water-related commissions, the need for decision-making systems that are flexible as science and public policy changes, and finally to create a message, e.g., “Water Words that Work,” to talk to the “other” constituencies in the state.

The Commission members thanked Judy Stokes for her facilitation and the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

-Approved-

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
July 21, 2011**

Commissioners in Attendance:

Cliff Sinnott	Marcy Lyman
Denise Hart	Chuck Souther
Kris Blomback	Tom Burack
Glenn Normandeau	Robert Beaurivage
Amy Manzelli	John Gilbert
Alison Watts	
WSC	

Public in attendance:

John Boisvert
David Bernier
Bill Hounsell
Sarah Pillsbury
Virginia Battles-Raffer
Paul Basiliere

The meeting of the Commission was convened at 2:15pm. The minutes of the June 7 meeting were presented for approval as amended. Tom Burack made a motion to approve, seconded by Amy Manzelli and the minutes were approved unanimously. The minutes for the June 21 meeting as amended were offered for approval. Glenn Normandeau made a motion to approve seconded by Amy Manzelli and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Other issues that came before the Commission included:

Budget: John Gilbert discussed the status of the budget, announced a meeting with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, requested Commission members to look through the budget for opportunities to donate in-kind services and to identify potential source of funding. Comments from Commission member raised concern that budget called for greater expenses than may be necessary. The Commission Chair and Vice-chair to review the budget with attention to the cost.

Commission members: The Commission is short one Commission member and needs representation from North Country. Chairman Gilbert indicated he was in discussion with Governor's office to fill the slot.

Commission meetings: When a question was raised about who was at the table and how to distinguish between Commission members and members of the public, name cards for the Commissioners were recommended and Cliff Sinnott offered to have them made for the next meeting.

Chairman Gilbert offered a review of the previous months' meetings suggesting that the facilitated meeting with Judy Stokes resulted in some good outcomes by identifying some principles, issues and draft language for a vision and suggested that we let the information and work from previous meetings settle as we start to think about where to go from here. He introduced Maureen Hart who gave a presentation on sustainability (see attached power point) and facilitated an exercise for Commission members that was offered as a potential model to use for outreach/public engagement for the 5 Commission sessions in the Council Districts.

Summary of Maureen Hart's presentation (see attached power point):

1) Points made during the presentation included the following:

- Need to develop common language of sustainability: "maintain what we have but still improve, change".
- Need to get people to a table and make decisions about what they mean when they say sustainability. In terms of the work of the Commission one of the questions is "what matters to you about NH's waters?"
- Need to develop a collective sense of accountability for a resource so that people comprehend that sustainability can only be achieved with all working together.

2) Concepts that Maureen introduced:

Measuring: using the example of companies that work on responsibly production they ask the question of how do companies measure so they can manage what they measure? (Energy use, carbon output, benefits to communities)

Trying to figure out what sustainability is: asked question do we want to live off interest or principle of our community capital? Noted that Oregon had spent years figuring out how to implement sustainability and now exporting experiences to China in consulting services.

We can look at green infrastructure: watersheds, farms, forests, aquifers, lakes, parks, etc. What are those systems that we need to have in place to make sure our water infrastructure is sustained? Example: If 20% or more of a watershed has impervious water surfaces there will be a decline in water quality.

Concepts:

- Precautionary principle
- Adaptive management
- Green infrastructure
- Resilience

Discussion:

We are water rich state – can/how do we apply precautionary principle?

How do we build a sense of collective responsibility? For example, we have talked a lot about watersheds, but in order for there to be a collective response people need to understand what a watershed is, what their relationship to a watershed is (watershed address) and relationships between watersheds. What if my watershed is in your town and you local zoning allows uses that impact my water? How do we address watersheds across local/state/federal boundaries?

How do we address time-frames: short versus long – floods vs storage, when does water get there – flow and relationship of contaminants to flow? How do we accommodate storage and release – incremental change? Do we need more reservoir capacity or do we need to manage reservoirs within a watershed more effectively, expand capacity at local level to increase capture locally through better management of forests/wetlands?

How do we address carrying capacity of watersheds? This question led to a discussion about water consumption and how we measure capacity/demand (Daily water use/person).

- 1) What do we want to use water for?
- 2) How do we want to use it?
- 3) Do we want any left over to sell outside the state?

4) What is the demand going to look like 50 years from now?

Final issue related to capacity is that it is not just about green infrastructure but also about water systems, replacement costs of existing systems, cost allocation and cost structure.

Final question related to how we organize ourselves to manage and make connections – the example of regional planning commissions was offered – the boundaries of these institutions are not relevant to the economy, society or the environment. The question was asked do we organize ourselves around a single purpose or around complex systems>?

Maureen prepared Commission members for an exercise. Commission members were broken up into four groups and stationed at a flip chart. Each group would work for 15 minutes to:

- 1) Identify a problem
- 2) Identify who needs to be at the table – key actors
- 3) Describe barriers to solving the problem
- 4) Identify who should know about the problem

The groups then would rotate to all the other flip charts and add their thoughts to the responses.

[See attached summary]

After the exercise there were several general comments and then some suggestions for moving forward:

1. Need to view water as a whole entity rather than whether it comes from a public system or private well.
2. Need a bigger picture accounting of water systems: capital and operating budgets
3. Need to think differently about accounting – what do people currently measure – how could they measure? Need for indicators.

NEXT STEPS:

There was a consensus that we need some “synthesizing time” – to sit with what we have learned and discussed around vision/drivers of change exercise, sustainability and to come up with a list of questions to ask of people to be invited in to present to the Commission.

A suggestion was made that we need to develop a model of what we think the water resource is. The USGS mapping with an overlay with demographic information was suggested, similar to what was done in Seacoast Groundwater study – offers a methodology for forecasting demand. Ask for a summary of the method they developed.

Following were suggestions on what needed to be done:

- 1) Next meeting: process for synthesizing/refining vision, developing model, identifying questions we want asked of others coming to present to
Denise Hart, Tom Burack, Sarah Pillsbury and Marcy Lyman offered to design agenda for next meeting.
- 2) Public sessions: Cliff Sinnott, Alison Watts and Bob Beaurivage offered to begin the design of public session: identifying other groups with which to partner.

Public Comments:

Comments from the public included the need to look at how we currently manage our water supply and look at the stress factors, how to address individual landowner withdrawals, look at SB60 and issues related to capital reserves for reconstruction/investment/expansion of infrastructure, and finally to address tipping points (impervious surfaces – incentives to look at incremental problems).

The next meeting was scheduled for August 16 at the Higher Education Foundation conference room.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Martha West Lyman

Approved
MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
August 16, 2011

Commissioners in Attendance:

Dave Allen
Robert Beaurivage
Kris Blomback
John Gilbert, Chair
Denise Hart Mike Licata
Martha Lyman, Vice Chair
Glenn Normandeau
Chuck Souther

Public in Attendance:

Rep. Judith Spang
Bill Hounsell
Paul Susca
Jennifer Rowden
Stacy Herbold
Tim Fortier
Tyler King
Dave McClean
Bob Morency

Commissioners not in Attendance:

Thomas Burack
Amy Manzelli
John Palermo
Cliff Sinnott
Alison Watts

Chairman Gilbert called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

I. July 12th Meeting Minutes, Commission Website and Draft Budget

Minutes: The minutes of the July 12, 2011 meeting were presented to the Commission for approval. Glenn Normandeau made a motion to approve, seconded by Dave Allen. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Website: The Water Sustainability Commission's website is now live and available at: <http://www.nh.gov/water-sustainability/>. It will include the Commission's meeting schedule, agendas, minutes, and reference materials for both Commissioners and the public. Martha Lyman asked if there was a capability within the website for the public to submit comments and feedback. Chairman John Gilbert noted that Commissioners' e-mail addresses are available on the site for the public to send comments, however, other means can be explored.

Budget: A draft of budget was circulated with revisions based on comments from Commission members. Potential sources of funding include the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the Endowment for Health, McIntosh and the Switzer Foundations.

As stated by Governor Lynch, there is very little to no money to fund this Commission's work, so much of it will need to be done on a volunteer basis. The in-kind contributions of Commission members' time, along with in-kind administrative support from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) and other entities have been included in the draft budget. Chairman Gilbert reiterated that the budget is only a draft and that the in-kind and income amounts will change – the final budget will determine what the Commission can and wants to

accomplish. It was suggested that the budget line item “report” be changed to “reporting” in case the Commission does not specifically develop a report.

II. Commissioners’ Comments

Chairman Gilbert asked each Commission member to offer comments on where their thinking has come based on the presentations that have been made and the exercises that have occurred to date related to the charge of the Commission. Some of the common themes in the comments included the following:

- Need to apply the watershed concept.
- Need to coordinate/determine most effective local, state, regional and federal roles.
- Need for good forecasting including demographics and modeling.
- Information gaps.
- Calculating and applying the true cost/value of delivering clean water in sufficient quantity to individuals, communities and businesses while preserving ecological systems.

Specific comments included the following:

- We have done a good job and there is a lot of good news. When we look at the issues, though there are problems in southeastern New Hampshire (groundwater), grey infrastructure is aging, and we do not have projections on future water needs – cannot plan without demographics.
- We know WHAT to do, but do not know HOW to do it.
- Regional differences (southeast corner more stressed than northern regions) suggest a need to set priorities to address most troubled watersheds.
- Control of water is fragmented from a policy perspective and not done on a watershed basis.
- From a business perspective, there is the issue of keeping control of water at the state level and not the local level. Having control at the state level makes it easier for businesses to plan for and deal with regulations, etc.
- The watershed approach is being used within DES; it brings players together, gets at the quantity issue, and has the ability to address variability throughout state in needs, issues and stresses.
- Resources and funding is needed to address water infrastructure needs.
- Issues cannot be dealt with on a town by town basis- it needs to be on a watershed or state level and may need a single entity to implement.
- City of Portsmouth is living the watershed approach. Portsmouth is working with four other communities testing and modeling appropriate levels of discharge and experiencing the kinds of pressures on communities if one community backs out of the process. Support from state has been important to keep communities together – applying upper level pressure.
- The regulation structure needs to allow for more lead time when implementing new regulations to allow communities time to prepare for them. Policy and regulatory structures need to be aligned and sensitive to economic and environmental imperatives.
- What does water sustainability mean and how does it get translated into policy?

- Policies need to ensure water quality and quantity meet future needs in a holistic manner.
- There is a need for forecasting population and ecosystem needs.
- Watershed-based land use decision making is needed.
- Local and state involvement in managing water resources is needed: local involvement because of local knowledge and impact, and state involvement for broader consistency and support. Need for mutually supported decision-making.
- There is a wide variety and amount of work to be done to ensure sustainable water resource for the state.
- Permit decisions need to be based on science and not because people object to having something in their backyards.
- Concern about what can be accomplished in this Commission's remaining time (10 months).
- Explaining how key water is to the state economy.
- Challenges of actually implementing changes and recommendations to protect water resources.
- There is a need to set up a kind of water infrastructure dedicated fund, perhaps similar to Rhode Islands' program.

III. Working Vision and Principles

Commissioners discussed the draft vision statement and management principles the members plan to use as the basis for developing the state water plan. *See attachment.*

Regarding the *Vision Statement*, Commission members requested the term public trust be more clearly defined or changing the term to read "public interest", and that "water use" be changed to "water management." For the *Management Principles*, Commission members requested water conservation be inserted into the mix and that Commissioners look at the other states' water plans principles.

The Commission discussed the need to be better informed about the regulatory structure surrounding water in the state before proceeding and what decisions are made at the state level. (This will be discussed at a future meeting.) Getting local backing for state and federal action is key. The Southeast Watershed Alliance was established by the Legislature to address a specific issue for the coastal watershed and may be a good model for other watersheds in the state.

IV. Key Issues and Information Gaps

Commission members identified the following as key information gaps the group needs to understand further:

- Understand the differences between public trust versus riparian rights in the state.
- Current and future projections of the state's demographics.
- Water rates, rate structure and water use: what is the true cost of supplying clean water and treating wastewater?
- Trends of various businesses and industries in the state and their water usage.
- Water quantity: what are the current and future needs of people and the ecosystem?

- What effects climate change will have on the state's water resources, specifically on flooding and dam management?
- What are examples of what is working in New Hampshire? Suggestions included: Southeast Watershed Alliance, Mount Washington Alliance, and Instream Flow Advisory Committees for the Souhegan and Lamprey Rivers.

V. Work Product

Commission members discussed what the end product of the group will be. The Commission is charged with developing a state water plan that will ensure the state's water resources are sustainability, however, the Commission must deliver its report by June 1, 2012.

Using the *Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework*, as a template for developing a New Hampshire water plan was suggested, and the executive summary was distributed to Commission members. Commissioners indicated liking the structure and outline the Minnesota plan gives, specifically the easy to understand layout that outlines the long-term goals, actions and parties responsible for implementation in a way that can be tracked over time. It was cautioned that the Minnesota plan required tremendous amounts of funding and did not include public engagement in its creation.

Discussion on how the Commission can accomplish its charter by next June included suggestions to develop a task list, timing of how the Commission will involve the public through the require public hearings in each Executive Council District, and how the Commission's work product needs to specify goals and identify responsible entities. Commissioners expressed the need to use indicators or measures to help engage the public and track the plan that is developed. Commission members suggested the use of a watershed map that characterizes each district's water resources and seeking input on the Commission's *Vision and Management Principles* was suggested as a first step.

VI. Work Assignment

Commission members choose the divide up into three subcommittees to handle various tasks, including: gathering key information needs and identifying information gaps, developing a public engagement strategy, and development of an implementation plan for the Commission's findings and recommendations. Subcommittee work will be the focus of the next Commission meeting.

Subcommittees:

- 1) Information Gathering: Chuck Souther, Dave Allen
- 2) Public Engagement: Martha Lyman, John Gilbert, and Denise Hart
- 3) Implementation Plan: Glen Normandeau, Kris Blomback, Bob Beaurivage.

VII. Public Comments

- Suggesting the Commission utilize the work and recommendations of all the other water related legislative commissions, specifically by calling in the chairs of those commissions.

- The challenge is implementation - who is going to take action and how? The other legislative commissions were largely not able to do this because they ran out of time and because of political and budgetary constraints.
- Hope that this Commission is bold enough to look at the need for funding, specifically how to leverage local and state funds with federal funding opportunities.
- Other entities out there are currently working on promoting more water sustainability efforts for water utilities, including recently signed MOA between EPA and the US Department of Agriculture - Rural Development Rural Utilities Service to promote sustainable rural water and wastewater systems.
- Additional resources the Commission may wish to look into include:
 - Research in social marketing and municipal promotion of water conservation DES is exploring.
 - Climate change modeling being conducted at UNH.
 - Utilizing the UNH Sea Grant Marine Docents Program for conducting public outreach on water resources.
 - Working with Granite State Rural Water Association.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2011 from 2:00 to 5:00pm at the New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation in Concord, NH.

Approved
MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
September 20, 2011

Commissioners in attendance:

Dave Allen
Virginia Battles-Raffa
Robert Beaurivage
Kris Blomback
John Gilbert, Chair
Denise Hart
Martha Lyman, Vice Chair
Amy Manzelli
Glenn Normandeau
Cliff Sinnott
Alison Watts

Public in attendance:

John Boisvert
Tim Fortier
Robert Morency
Sarah Pillsbury
Jennifer Rowden
Rep. Judith Spang
Paul Susca

Commissioners not in attendance:

Thomas Burack
Mike Licata
John Palermo
Chuck Souther

Chairman John Gilbert called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm.

I. Welcome New Commissioner and Introductions

Chairman Gilbert introduced and welcomed Virginia Battles-Raff, the newest member of the Commission. Virginia will be serving as the North Country representative for the Commission.

II. August 16th Meeting Minutes and Budget Update

Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the August 16th meeting minutes was made by Glenn Normandeau and seconded by David Allen. The motion passed unanimously, with Cliff Sinnott, Virginia Battles-Raffa and Amy Manzelli abstaining.

Budget Update: The budget has not yet been finalized. John Gilbert and Marcy Lyman are continuing to work with the Switzer Foundation to look into other available funds through various charitable foundations.

III. Implications of Governor's Announcement

Following Governor Lynch's announcement that he will not be seeking re-election, John Gilbert sought the Commissioners' thoughts as to what this might mean for the Commission's work. The following thoughts and concerns were expressed by Commission members:

- Implementation of the recommendations this Commission develops may be more difficult with a change in leadership.
- This commission was intended to be non-partisan.
- Public involvement will be key no matter who is in office.
- It will be challenging dealing with Governor Lynch not seeking re-election to push any items through, but he still has time in office.
- Water commissions have been going on for years. No matter what this Commission proposed there was inevitably going to be leadership change over the 25-year period the Commission is charged with looking at.
- The issue of sustainability does not change; it is a bipartisan issue. There is risk in linking this Commission's work and/or report to any political administration or elections; the political landscape is irrelevant.
- The solutions to water issues are, however, political.
- Suggestions included inviting key members of the House and Senate to Commission meetings and surveying candidates (an approach used by Save Our Groundwater) in order to inform them and gauge their stance on water issues.
- The Commission has a long way to go before Governor Lynch not seeking re-election is an issue.

VI. Working Group Session

Chairman Gilbert requested each working group (Public Engagement, Information Needs and Implementation) identify a chair, note taker, and then identify what tasks must be accomplished by when to recommend to the full Commission. It is expected that the working groups to conduct most of their work in-between Commission meetings to then bring forward updates and recommendations at the full Commission meetings.

See Appendix A for work group meeting notes.

VII. Working Group Summary Reports

A. Public Engagement

Denise Hart will serve as chair for this subcommittee with Marcy Lyman serving as note taker. The subcommittee's first priority is to plan the 5 public meetings mandated by the Executive Order. The Committee has recommended that the Commission hold the meetings within major watershed areas as well as fulfilling the requirement that one meeting be held in each Executive Councilor district. The first two meetings will be held in the Seacoast region and the North Country, and are tentatively planned for late October/ early November. John, Denise and Marcy will be meeting with representatives from Leadership New Hampshire next week to discuss strategies for the meetings' content to best solicit input from the public. Use of a facilitator such as Judy Stokes (NH Fish & Game Department) may be a good approach. The full content of the forum will be discussed at the next subcommittee meeting on October 5th. Denise passed out a preliminary list of organizations and groups the Commission may want to reach out to in order to solicit input; she will be asking Commissioners to add to this list.

B. Information Needs

Dave Allen will serve as chair for this subcommittee with Alison Watts serving as note taker. A summary of the other recent, major water-related legislative commissions is needed and the subcommittee plans to organize a panel of the chairs of those commissions at an upcoming meeting. The two areas the subcommittee felt more information was specifically needed are demographic projections overlaid with information regarding existing water-related infrastructure, and the implications of climate change. The subcommittee will solicit experts in these areas to attend a Commission meeting or provide information.

C. Implementation

Virginia Battles-Raffa will serve as chair for this subcommittee; Jennifer Rowden served as note taker for the subcommittee today. The subcommittee discussed that the first major task that needs to be accomplished is developing a framework for how recommendations will be implemented. The *Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework* will be used as template for the subcommittee. Major components of the template will include identifying the issue, current status, recommendation, cost/benefit, and measures. The subcommittee may try to test a few example issues to ensure the template can capture the needed information.

VIII. Public Comments and Next Meetings

The following comments were offered by members of the public in attendance:

- The Commission should consider that some of the recommendations or implementation strategies that have been discussed already exist in legislation (both state and federal).
- The *New Hampshire Water Primer* was produced in 2008 identifies the stressor, but are the issues and stressors the same in 2011? What will they be in 25 years? This question could be used to engage the audience at the public meetings.
- If this Commission is going to collect information, i.e. public meetings, what is going to be done with it? Will it be used to foster political support for recommendations, legislation or funding? A lot of information has already been gathered on this topic, so the Commission should avoid collecting data just for the sake of collecting data. The question of “who should pay” is always important. It is important to know what communities have aquifer protection, prime wetlands, local river advisory committees, etc.

The next few Commission meetings are scheduled for the following dates from 2:00pm to 5:00 pm with locations to be determined.

- October 18, 2011
- November 15, 2011
- December 18, 2011

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18, 2011 from 2:00 to 5:00pm at the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, 7 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.

Appendix A - Working Groups Session Notes

Public Engagement Subcommittee

Commission Participants: Denise Hart (Subcommittee Chair), Amy Manzelli, and Marcy Lyman.
Additional Participants: Paul Susca (DES) and Jim Ryan

- 1) Discussion about which group would handle finalizing language of vision statement and principles. Amy Manzelli wanted to be in whatever group was handling that. Determined that Public Engagement Working Group would handle that responsibility and Amy joined the group.
- 2) Denise Hart was asked if she would serve as chair and she agreed with caveats that she had a number of deadlines, but would serve if supported by other members of the Group. Marcy Lyman will serve as scribe.
- 3) Paul described outreach efforts for the *New Hampshire Water Resources Primer* (also described in the New Hampshire State Water Planning Process Outreach to Business Community and Rotary Clubs 2010 – 2011 Status Report prepared by DES on April 28, 2011 and updated on September 20, 2011).
- 4) The working group focused on two outreach efforts: the five public sessions directed by Governor's Executive Order and gathering lists and groups with which to engage. Jennifer Rowden will be asked to create a Google document from Denise's draft list of groups to engage and potential survey questions, so that all Commissioners can participate in expanding the list.

Required five Executive Council public sessions comments:

- Reinforced Commission's interest in holding them on watershed basis. Paul Susca will provide an overlay map with Executive Council districts and watersheds.
- Suggestions around opportunities to tap into distance learning/internet/New Hampshire Public Television/Community Colleges to provide greater public participation.
- Suggestion to have key pad polling as part of public session program and as way to engage all participants initially.
- Suggestion to employ the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and others to have one big day of sessions around the state.
- Discussed role of UNH: lay groundwork, provide facilities/solicit in-kind donations, etc.
- Need to contact Executive Councilors – how do they get in touch with their constituency? Initial one-on-one contact with each of the five Councilors suggested.
- Determined that we will plan two initial meetings (3rd week in October/2nd Week November): one on the Seacoast and one in the North Country.
- Connect with Steve Reno to organize relationship with Leadership New Hampshire (John Gilbert to schedule; Denise will attend and possibly Marcy). We envision Leadership New Hampshire as assisting in general with organizing the outreach meetings: arranging for the meeting place, conducting personal outreach to local Conservation Commissions, Zoning Board of Adjustments, Planning Boards, Board of Selectmen, Chamber of Commerce, etc., and helping with identifying community contacts, media outreach. We discussed options for professional facilitation, which all agreed would be essential to the success of the event.
- Identify people to invite and how to invite them.

- Identify and secure venue (White Mountain Community College in Berlin and Hugh Gregg facility at Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Greenland were offered as possibilities).
- Identify facilitator and determined need for facilitator for each session. Glenn Normandeau will see about availability of Judy Stokes (good town moderators were also recommended to tap for facilitators).
- Design meeting: Denise to meet/discuss with Bruce Mallory at UNH who headed up Critical Conversations project.

Outreach:

- Denise circulated early draft of list of organizations/constituencies for Commission members to add too.
- Opportunities for outreach beyond the five public sessions: annual meetings such as New Hampshire Municipal Association (November in Manchester), New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (November), New Hampshire Water Works Association (March), and New Hampshire Water and Watershed Conference (March).
- Request Commission members identify organizations and events for Commission outreach/public engagement and add to list.

Information Needs Subcommittee

Commission Participants: John Gilbert, Alison Watts, and Dave Allen (Subcommittee Chair)
Additional Participants: Sarah Pillsbury (DES) and John Boisvert

Issues that should be considered:

- Demographics: (Ken Johnson, University of New Hampshire) Has a full demographics analysis been done? Is there more information than we've seen in the presentation? Alison Watts will check with Ken to see what analyses have been done.
- Water infrastructure: Are there maps of existing water infrastructure (wastewater and water supply). Sarah Pillsbury thinks so, will look into.
- Dams: Can be used to control flow (low and high flows), and have been good and bad attributes. Many are well past their design life. Current basin analyses do not consider small dams; these may contribute to flood hazards, and human health risks. Floodplains should be considered as hazards; e.g. Suncook River change of course, and recent flood damage in Vermont.
- Existing local storm water controls: Massachusetts has a "keep it local" policy, several Seacoast towns have regulations, e.g. Portsmouth requires no increase in runoff.

Need to draw on the experience of other commissions: flood, groundwater, land use, storm water, infrastructure funding, shoreland protection. The subcommittee will invite representatives from each commission to speak at next meeting (October). Presentations in a panel format with a

brief summary from each speaker covering key recommendations and major challenges.

It would be helpful to identify resources that are already stressed: impaired water bodies, decreased flow in wells, flood hazard. A summary of existing problems should be developed, then overlay expected changes in demand (climate and demographics), and identify resources which will be stressed in the future.

Note that "enough water" is defined by expectations; how much water is need to sustain the expected quality of life.

Malcom Smith (UNH) works with behavior science and could be a resource.

Action items:

- Set up presentations from other commissions. Possible questions to address: what was your charge? What solutions did you propose, what challenges did you encounter, and what further recommendations do you have?
- Set up demographic/climate change presentations. Alison Watts to ask Ken Johnson and Cameron Wake to speak at the December meeting.
- Develop list of existing stresses resources.

Infrastructure considerations should include the true costs (e.g. replacement) not just operating costs. (Note: The Infrastructure Commission, SB47, is currently not staffed.) When considering costs, note that the design life of a distribution system is much longer (70ish years) than the life of a treatment plant (20 years).

Implementation Subcommittee

Commission Participants: Virginia Battles-Raffa (Subcommittee Chair), Robert Beaurivage, Glenn Normandeau, Cliff Sinnott, Kris Blomback

Additional Participants: Jennifer Rowden (DES) and Rep. Judith Spang

The subcommittee's tasks were identified as the following:

- Identify a framework for conveying how this Commission and other legislative commissions' recommendations.
- Determine how the recommendations could be implemented and prioritized.
- Identify what steps different stakeholder groups (municipalities, volunteer organizations, individuals, etc.) can do now to promote long-term sustainability.
- Determine how progress towards the vision and recommendations from this Commission should be measured.

The overarching needs for successfully implementing the recommendations the Commission develops requires identification of the following:

- What are the issues, what work has been done and who is implementing it? (This work will largely fall to the information needs subcommittee.)
- What are the costs if an issue is resolved or not resolved relative to social, economic and/or environmental factors? What are the risks involved?
- Who is responsible for implementing a recommendation and at what level (individual, local, state, federal)?
- What is the timeframe for implementation?
- What measures or indicators should be used to track progress of implementation?

The suggested hierarchy of information needed was identified as:

- Issue
- Responsible party/Impacted party
- Current status of existing efforts
- Desired outcome
- Recommendation
- Responsible party for implementation
- Required action for implementation
- Timeframe
- Level of benefit (economic, social, environmental)
- Cost
- Indicator for measuring progress
- Evaluation responsibility

Virginia will develop a draft implementation table based on the *Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework* example, but modified per the subcommittee's discussion and will circulate the draft prior to the next Commission meeting.

Approved
MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
October 18, 2011

Commissioners in attendance:

Virginia Battles-Raffa
Robert Beaurivage
Kris Blomback
Thomas Burack
John Gilbert, Chair
Denise Hart
Mike Licata
Martha Lyman, Vice Chair
Amy Manzelli
Glenn Normandeau
Cliff Sinnott
Alison Watts

Commissioners not in attendance:

Dave Allen
John Palermo
Chuck Souther

Public in attendance:

John Boisvert
David Cedarholm
James Gove
Jennifer Rowden
Judith Spang
Peter Walker

Chairman John Gilbert called the meeting to order at 2:15 pm

I. September 20th Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the September 20th meeting minutes was made by Glenn Normandeau and seconded by Kris Blomback. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Other Water-Related Commission Representatives Panel and Presentations

John Gilbert explained that the representatives from other water-related legislative commissions were invited to speak to the Commission regarding a summary of their commission's work and to address the following questions:

- What are the key issues identified by your commission that are particularly relevant to achieving water sustainability?
- What are the key recommended measures and actions identified by your commission?
- Which of these measures and actions have been implemented?
- What have been the outcomes of the measures and actions that have been implemented?
- What changes, if any, would you make to improve the effectiveness of these measures and actions that have been implemented?
- What are key hurdles to implementation of measures that have not yet been acted upon?
- Which of the key issues identified by your commission do you see as interconnected with or related to the work of other commissions?
- What measures should be taken in coordination to address these interconnections?
- What gaps do you see in available information assessed by your commission that need to be addressed?

- Who is your constituency and where have you looked for support for your recommendations?
- How can the work of the Water Sustainability Commission help advance the work of your commission?

A. Stormwater Commission (HB 1295) – David Cedarholm, Commission Chair (Town of Durham Engineer representing New Hampshire Public Works Association)

The summary of the Stormwater Commission was handed out to the Water Sustainability Commission. The major recommendations put forth by the legislative commission to address stormwater issue were:

- Define the term “stormwater” in state law.
- Inclusion of the concept in state statute that property owners are responsible for stormwater that originates on and discharges from their property.
- Creation of a statewide stormwater utility program (involving multiple recommendations for implementation).
- Clearly enabling municipalities to regulate stormwater within their boundaries.
- Dealing with additional issues related to municipal authority to regulate stormwater.

To date, no municipality has implemented a stormwater utility. The updated MS4 permit that will affect 32 New Hampshire communities may be the catalyst that forces some communities to adopt these utilities. The MS4 permit requires municipalities with certain population densities or areas of density (mainly urban) to manage their stormwater, and the 2008 permit (which has not yet been issued) will have stricter requirements than the 2005 permit under which municipalities are currently operating.

B. Infrastructure Funding Commission (SB 60) – John Boisvert, Commission Member (Pennichuck Water Works representing NH Water Works Association)

This commission was reauthorized this year; however, it has not yet met. The final report is due in November 2012. Some recommendations or suggestions from the commission have been accomplished.

Commission duties:

- Conduct “an assessment of the state’s need to construct and maintain infrastructure to protect its water resources, taking into consideration public health issues, ecosystem and habitat protection, and economic factors including tourism.”
- To “consider the information, conclusions, and recommendations presented in the New Hampshire water resources primer published in December 2008, which evaluates how to improve the long-term sustainability of New Hampshire’s water infrastructure and its funding.”

The Infrastructure Commission looked at three main items: water and wastewater infrastructure, dams and stormwater infrastructure. The following were major findings or issues identified by the commission:

- The short-term and long-term funding needs of dam maintenance given the dwindling state funding for such work and the aging infrastructure.
- The question of whether the State should continue to acquire dams and the associated cost of maintenance, even if they are not wanted.
- Stormwater infrastructure needs, and possible solutions, aligned with the Stormwater Commission's recommendations of the creation of stormwater utilities.
- Water and wastewater systems will require billions over the next ten years just to maintain. For water systems, this cost is mainly for replacing the aging infrastructure, and, for wastewater systems, it is mainly upgrading treatment for nutrient removal. The Commission estimated 2.3 billion dollars will be needed just to maintain the water infrastructure over the next ten years (including dams, water utilities and stormwater).
- There is a lack of available funding, and the funding that exists is often too targeted.
- The rate structure for water systems and that the rates should be member-driven.
- Small systems often have disproportional maintenance costs. The possibility of allowing small systems to form cooperatives as a way to spread out costs (infrastructure and personnel).

C. Land Use Commission (HB 1579) – James Gove, Commission Member (representing Association of General Contractors of New Hampshire) and Peter Walker, Commission Member (representing New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists)

The Land Use Commission was tasked with multiple duties; however, to date no implementation related to legislation has been accomplished.

The commission was tasked with studying and identifying the following:

- The effects of land development on surface and ground water quality and quantity, and terrestrial and aquatic habitat.
- The adequacy and consistency of local, state and federal programs as they relate to the regulation and management of land development, including regulations of wetland buffers and setbacks, stormwater management, and cumulative effects of development.
- The opportunities for integration of land use controls, open space protection techniques, and environmental and public health protection laws to promote land development patterns that maintain ecosystem health and integrity while providing desirable communities in which to live and work. This shall include study of any programs of this kind underway in other states or nations.
- The potential legal, fiscal, regulatory and technical obstacles for creating an integrated approach to land development.
- Legislation that may be necessary to implement the recommendations of the commission.

Commission recommendations:

- Utilization of the *Method for the Evaluation of Freshwater Wetlands in New Hampshire* (revised New Hampshire Method) for determining wetland buffer distance (between 50 and 100 feet). Buffer distances should be reviewed as more scientific data and study results become available.
- Define “wetland buffers” and “indirect impacts” to wetlands.

- Compilation of data on wetlands functional value as it becomes available in order to evaluate the effectiveness of recommendation 1 (above).
- Encourage municipalities to implement wetland buffer ordinances utilizing the method proposed in recommendation to promote consistency across municipal boundaries.
- Enhance existing education and outreach programs to promote smarter growth and protect natural resources, specifically municipal boards.
- Consider new legislation to provide alternative, integrated land development permits (e.g. wetlands, stormwater, etc.) to address multiple issues in coordination. (Note that DES is already starting the process of doing this type of integration.)
- Establish incentive-based programs to promote smart growth patterns of development in the state.
- Develop and implement a statewide ecological connectivity plan to maintain and restore wildlife mobility among habitats and across the landscape.

D. Groundwater Commission (SB 155) – Rep. Judith Spang, Commission Chair
(representing New Hampshire House).

This commission was originally formed in 2003, largely in reaction to the concern over the USA Springs project. The major focuses of the commission were to assess the ability to protect groundwater quantity by protecting water quality, to understand who has the right to control water and to evaluate the need for more groundwater data. The commission held nine public hearings in each of the regional planning commission regions seeking input surrounding groundwater from the local level.

The major accomplishments of the commission are:

- Establishing legislation that created the Water User Registration and Reporting Program.
- Establishing enabling legislation to allow municipalities to restrict outdoor residential lawn watering during federal or state drought declarations.
- Establishing legislation requiring accurate construction and location data for newly constructed wells.
- Establishing legislation to allow DES to develop administrative rules to regulate certain types of geothermal processes to protect water quality.
- Establishing legislation that clarified municipal authority to regulate land use that is not pre-empted by the state's large groundwater withdrawal permit.
- Establishing legislative requirements for back-up, emergency and short-term usage of large groundwater withdrawals.
- Inclusion of funding for the groundwater level monitoring network to be included in the state budget.

Additional recommendations included:

- Require private well testing for new wells and when existing homes are sold.
- Expanding the state's groundwater monitoring network.

The biggest obstacle the commission faced in implementing recommendations, besides the lack of political will, was the lack of data. The commission also looked at water conservation and the hierarchy of water users; if there is not enough water then what needs should be given priority

access to the water. Tying a fee or tax to water was also explored, though it did not get very far. It was thought that the fee should not be overly burdensome on the public or impede economic growth, but that everyone should pay something for the water they use.

E. Panel Question and Answer Session

Question: In hearing from the other commissions today, did any of you see overlap or similarity amongst the commissions?

Answer: It keeps getting back to land use and how the state is growing. Poor land use planning leads to poor infrastructure planning. As the state grows, we need to consider if we can afford to “grow” in certain places. The development of the state should be encouraged to be concentrated in areas that are already developed, that already have the infrastructure. However, there is the recognition that this cannot be overly burdensome or it will stifle the state’s economy.

Question: Regional land use planning in New Hampshire is generally considered pretty weak. Would the Regional Planning Commissions be a better place to try to implement more of these items?

Answer: New Hampshire plans town by town, so there is not much connection on land use planning between towns. There is a need to plan on a more regional/watershed level. Due to the disparity between towns, it should be done at the state level.

Question: If it needs to be at the state level, then how do we do it?

Answers: No one wants to see state-wide planning, except perhaps for developers who want consistency in the regulations.

What is being talked about is smart growth, which has been done elsewhere; New Hampshire does not need to reinvent the wheel.

We forget that in New Hampshire there is another layer of government that we do not utilize: county-level. If we are looking at a middle ground between state-level versus town-level control then perhaps we need to focus more on the regional-scale solutions. There would be a need to explore the potential costs and potential savings. Based on what the other commissions experience it seems the biggest problem is implementation. Loss of local control, property rights and impeded economic development are the biggest obstacles this Commission will need to overcome.

Comment was made that there may be a “sweet spot” for action between the state and local levels – county or inter-municipality (e.g., Southeast Watershed Alliance).

Question: Towns often struggle with a lack of technical expertise. Would the state taking control of some of the burdens mentioned actually be a relief to the towns?

Answer: The burden on towns is there, but not the main issue. Consistency and repeatability in regulations is a greater issue than making some areas easier to develop.

Question: Does the scientific rational that goes into a state standard help to dissolve the political trepidation of these towns feeling that a state standard is not strict enough or is overly strict and thus encourages more uniformity?

Answers: The science on these standards is not always cut and dried; at some point a policy decision will need to be made about balancing the competing needs and interests.

This group needs to look at what issues can be addressed at the regional level in the state, as it seems to be the point where implementation may best be achieved.

One item Governor Lynch specifically mentioned is that this Commission should try not to get caught up on cost at this point. Several Commission members expressed their understanding of the Governor's point; however, there is a need for the Commission to frame the context/relationship between costs/valuation and sustainability and perhaps to assign real dollars to some items since addressing issues down the road will only become more costly.

A summary of the big picture, cross-cutting issues for all the water-related commissions include:

- Valuation/costs – fee structures and how we value scarcity.
- Appropriate scale for action.
- Access and rights to water resources.
- Constituency – need for people to listen to each other, change behavior.
- Science-based decision-making though recognizing that we will likely never know everything there is to be known.

III. Working Group Updates

On October 17th, John and Marcy met with Governor Lynch who reaffirmed his interest in the Commission's work and his commitment to be involved in the public outreach sessions if possible. He also indicated his willingness to reference the Commission's work in talks he gives. John and Marcy will work with the Governor's Office to develop some regionally specific talking points for him (to be discussed at the November Commission meeting) and to see if his schedule will allow for him to attend one or more of the public sessions.

A. Public Engagement Subcommittee

Denise met with Bruce Mallory of the UNH Carsey Institute to discuss possibly working with the group to help facilitate and organize the public outreach sessions using a technique called "deliberative democracy". This is the group and technique used by the Department of Resources and Economic Development to develop the updated State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan. The sessions would be held simultaneously in each Executive Council district to improve the sessions' reach; these would be held in the January/ February/March timeframe. Utilizing New Hampshire Listens and Leadership New Hampshire for some of the facilitation, organization, etc., of the public sessions may be possible. The Carsey Institute could cost approximately \$20,000, and they could have a report to us on the public sessions' outcome by May.

Denise submitted a letter of intent to a private foundation for \$10,000 that could be used to help fund the Carsey Institute work. Due to the foundation's deadline, the application was submitted prior to this Commission meeting. She requested the Commission's support to move forward with the foundation. The Commission encouraged her to continue to move forward with the potential funding and with the Carsey Institute.

The subcommittee met just prior to today's Commission meeting to discuss the content of the public listening sessions and the outreach list that was sent out to the Commission.

B. Implementation Subcommittee

Virginia and Kris met briefly before this Commission meeting to try the draft template the subcommittee developed using a specific case, i.e., phosphorous in fertilizer entering waterways. In working through the template, they found that they did not have all the information they needed, and that without knowing what the Commission recommendations are going to be they could not get very far without the entire Commission. It was requested that at an upcoming Commission meeting the agenda focus on the recommendations the Commission is going to make. It was suggested the subcommittee start with those recommendations of the water-related legislative commissions and those findings from the *New Hampshire Water Resources Primer*.

Several Commission members pointed out the need to create higher-level, long-term recommendations that will not just be reiterations of the other commissions' work. The plan and recommendations that come out of this Commission should not just sit on a shelf, but need to be utilized. The plan needs to include long term goals accompanied ways to measure progress towards sustainability, indicators/benchmarks/measures to ensure that the implementation and impacts of recommendations can be tracked with regard to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the state's water resources.

The implementation template draft was requested to be sent to the entire Commission.

C. Information Needs Subcommittee

The subcommittee has not met since the last Commission meeting; however, the panel discussion for today's meeting was arranged. Cameron Wake from UNH is not able to attend the November meeting to discuss climate change impacts, but will be able to attend the December meeting. Alison will see if Ken Johnson may be able to speak to the Commission at the November meeting.

Request was made for informational sessions in two areas:

1. Water policy and law: briefing on existing principles, policies and laws that govern ownership, access and rights as well as strategies that might require different approaches to achieve sustainability
2. Water valuation: how is water currently valued (rate structures), costs covered etc. – what are some strategies/other approaches that promote sustainability?

IV. Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 2011 from 2:00 to 5:00pm at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.

MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
November 15, 2011

Commissioners in attendance:

David Allen
Virginia Battles-Raffa
Robert Beaurivage
Kris Blomback
Thomas Burack
John Gilbert, Chair
Denise Hart
Martha Lyman, Vice Chair
Amy Manzelli
Glenn Normandeau
Cliff Sinnott
Chuck Souther

Commissioners not in attendance:

Michael Licata
Alison Watts

Public in attendance:

Ted Diers
Jim Ryan
Arthur Cunningham
James Gallagher
Bill Hounsell
Sarah Pillsbury
Paul Susca

Vice Chair Martha Lyman called the meeting to order at 2:08 pm

I. October 18th Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the October 18th meeting minutes was made by Robert Beaurivage and seconded by Kris Blomback. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Updates from working groups

There were no updates from the Implementation or Information working groups.

Public Engagement

Denise Hart reported that a Letter of Interest for a grant request to fund the Carsey Institute's (N.H. Listens) involvement in the public engagement process has gone to the Park Foundation. Martha Lyman met with Dick Ober at N.H. Charitable Foundation and was given the green light to submit a grant proposal to NHCF, which she will do later this week or early next week. Denise asked for the Commission's approval to go ahead with these and similar grant requests with the Chair's and Vice Chair's approval rather than the approval of the full Commission. There were no objections. Amy Manzelli raised the question as to whether there are any state fundraising guidelines that apply to the Commission's efforts. Denise said that although a fiscal sponsor such as a 501(c)(3) organization might be needed in some instances, it would not be needed for an Park Foundation grant. Members of the Public Engagement Working Group will meet with Bruce Mallory at the Carsey Institute on November 22nd.

John Gilbert joined the meeting at 2:14 and took the chair.

Denise Hart reported that a list of organizations and contacts we might work with on public engagement is nearly ready to share with the full Commission so that more contacts can be added.

The Public Engagement group is working with the N.H. Water Pollution Control Association and N.H. Water Works Association to incorporate the Commission's public engagement efforts into the NHWPCA/NHWWA Legislative Breakfast on February 15, 2012.

Paul Susca provided the following handouts from the Public Engagement group:

- List of events that present opportunities for outreach and/or engagement regarding the Water Sustainability Commission
- Map showing Executive Council districts and major watersheds
- 2-page draft overview of the Commission's work – to be distributed at the LGC Annual Conference on November 16.

The next meeting of the Public Engagement group will be held on December 9th at 2:30 at Baldwin and Callen in Concord.

III. Presentations

Sarah Pillsbury, Administrator, Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau, N.H. Department of Environmental Services (DES), gave a presentation on water infrastructure funding needs. She distributed two handouts: a table summarizing the water infrastructure funding needs as estimated by the (SB 60) Commission to Study Water Infrastructure Sustainability Funding and a set of three maps (public water systems, water and sewer infrastructure, and active dams) from the *N.H. Water Resources Primer*. She noted that the estimated 10-year need for \$92 million for stormwater infrastructure could be off by an order of magnitude because it only includes the component due to aging and not the need due to inadequately sized structures. It is also reflective of the larger communities that fall under EPA regulation and not the universe of municipalities.

Category	Est. Need (\$ Millions)*
Water Supply	\$857
Wastewater	\$1,300
Stormwater*	\$92*
Dams – State	\$18
Dams- Municipal	\$40
Total	\$2,307

The following points were made during the discussion following Sarah's presentation:

- We do not have data on the value of green infrastructure (natural landscapes such as riparian buffers, wetlands, floodplains) to avoid costs associated with grey infrastructure because DES has not had staff available to look at that (Tom Burack). Work is underway in the Crooked River watershed in Maine to find ways to pay for green infrastructure (Lyman). A great deal of research has been done on the value of vegetated buffers to mitigate nonpoint pollution/stormwater (Sinnott). Research is also available on the avoided treatment costs associated with leaving forested water supply watersheds intact (Pillsbury).
- Current annual subsidized spending to address water infrastructure needs includes about \$8 million/year in drinking water state revolving fund (SRF) loans and \$20 million/year in clean water (wastewater) SRF loans (Pillsbury). There is also subsidized funding available annually from the Rural Development Agency and occasionally from Community Block Grants. Additional amounts are invested by municipalities outside the SRF programs.
- Virginia Battles-Raffa requested information about DES's partnerships with other organizations on water-related outreach. Tom Burack and Sarah Pillsbury indicated that this could be provided, and we can add to the list of outreach events.
- Water infrastructure funding is a national issue, and we should look at programs such as Rhode Island's penny-per-hundred program and other states' efforts to collect revenues needed (Hart).
- To put the issue of aging water infrastructure in perspective, Manchester Water Works has about 500 miles of pipe in the ground, but they only replace 2-3 miles per year, at a cost of about \$1 million per mile; this is all paid by customers through current rates, not through loans (Beaurivage).
- The current political climate does not allow for utilities or the state to build up a reserve against future capital needs (Normandeau). The Stormwater Commission found that following past Clean Water Act grants for wastewater plants, etc., rate structures were not created to maintain the infrastructure. Customers are not paying the true cost of supplying water services (Sinnott). It could be a recommendation to enable towns to have sinking funds for water infrastructure (Battles-Raffa). We should look at what the Infrastructure Commission comes up with in this regard – one idea they are considering is a bank concept to which towns could voluntarily contribute (Burack).
- Commission members are interested in the costs of water services (water supply, wastewater management) and what people pay for these services, as well as what people pay for bottled water and utilities such as phone, internet, and cable (Lyman, Battles-Raffa, Manzelli). It would also be interesting to look at the extent to which the federal government subsidizes each of these services. DES can provide information on what households pay for various utilities and services (Tom Burack).
- John Gilbert requested that the three map handouts be prepared at a watershed scale so that the information can be seen more clearly.

Jim Gallagher, Chief Water Resources Engineer, Water Division, NHDES, presented "Municipal, Private and State-Owned Dams Repair and Funding Issues". The following points were made during the discussion following Jim's presentation (see Appendix A for presentation slides):

- Releases to maintain in-stream flows are controversial due to their impact on lakefront owners.
- The Dam Bureau uses real-time flood forecasting models based on historical operations; these assumptions need to be re-examined in light of climate change, e.g. earlier melting of snow pack, less snow pack, etc.
- DES has recently contracted with UNH to revise the State's Drought Management Plan, this will include climate change predictions.
- What is the likelihood that new reservoirs would be created in the future for water supply? (Sinnott) Jim Gallagher suggested that the environmental impacts would probably be too great; the first step would be to repurpose existing reservoirs.

IV. Discussion of demographics report

Kenneth M. Johnson (2007). *The Changing Faces of New Hampshire*. Carsey Institute, UNH.
http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/Report_NH_Demographics.pdf

John Gilbert noted that Johnson's report seems to be at odds with a report by Peter Francese and Lorraine Stuart Merrill, *Communities & Consequences: The Unbalancing of New Hampshire's Human Ecology, and What We Can Do About It* (2008) (<http://perpublisher.com/per114.html>) with respect to the out-migration of young adults. Martha Lyman noted that since Johnson is updating his analysis, it will be interesting to hear from him at a meeting early next year. John Gilbert has been working on a list of questions to ask Johnson to address.

Cliff Sinnott said it would be interesting to hear from USGS's Marilee Horn (mention by Sarah Pillsbury) with respect to different water demand by households with different ages. Several members agreed that Horn would be interesting to bring in as a speaker.

Robert Beaurivage mentioned that water use per housing unit has been falling in Manchester. Tom Burack and Glenn Normandeau, respectively, noted increased use of closed-loop water systems in industry and car washes in particular.

V. Upcoming meetings

The Commission hopes to have UNH Professor Cameron Wake speak about climate change at the December 13th meeting. The Information subcommittee will scope what the Commission hopes to learn from his talk.

Amy Manzellis brought up the question of whether the Commission wants to hire someone to write its report. Martha Lyman posed the question of whether an extension should be requested. John Gilbert said that the Governor's staff has indicated that the Governor is open to considering such a request. Manzelli suggested it may be premature to ask for an extension at this point. Martha and John will discuss the need for an extension.

Cliff Sinnott suggested presenting information at the Public Engagement meetings regarding the Commission's findings, including the finding of the other related commissions, sticking to the big issues. Denis Hart asked Commission members to send ideas to her regarding what we should try to address at the PE meetings.

Martha Lyman asked whether we should consider hiring Maureen Hart to continue to work with the Commission, particularly in relation to planning for the public outreach meetings on issues related to sustainability, indicators and measures. John Gilbert indicated that it is probably too soon. Tom Burack suggested using Maureen's time to develop measures of water sustainability.

VI. Public comments

Jim Ryan, Fish & Game Commissioner: coming to the Commission's meetings has been instructive. It would be good to compile the information presented. He wonders how much the Public Engagement meetings will add to the Commission's work.

Arthur Cunningham: He hopes the Commission will address issues in an integrated fashion rather than piecemeal.

Bill Hounsell: The SB 60 Commission as re-established represents the current political leadership. With regard to infrastructure funding recommendations, he thinks the Water Sustainability Commission should be bipartisan, and not be bound by the SB 60 Commission's recommendations

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, 2011 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH. Meetings are also scheduled for January 17, 2012; February 14, 2012; and March 20, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Appendix A - Presentation Slides “Municipal, Private and State-Owned Dams Repair and Funding Issues” - Jim Gallagher, Chief Water Resources Engineer, Water Division, NHDES.

DRAFT

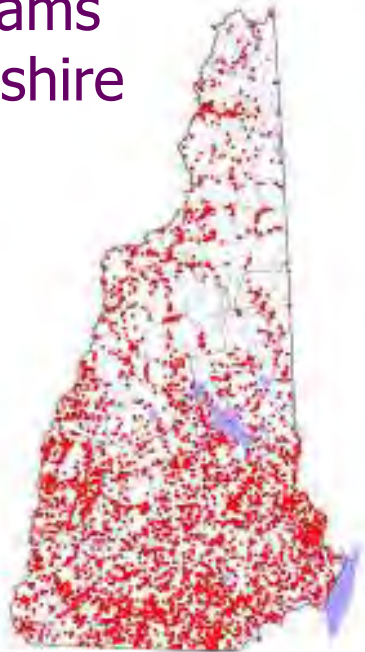
MUNICIPAL, PRIVATE AND STATE-OWNED DAMS REPAIR AND FUNDING ISSUES

**WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 15, 2011**

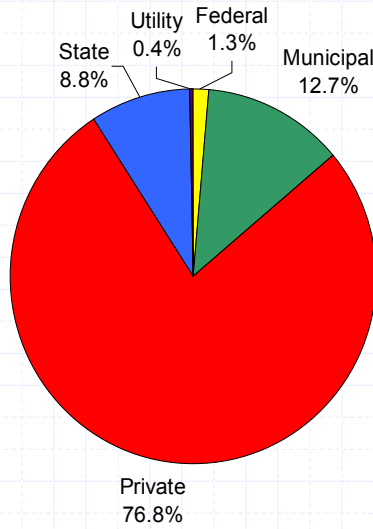


James W. Gallagher, Jr., P.E
Chief Engineer
Dam Bureau
271-1961
James.Gallagher@des.nh.gov

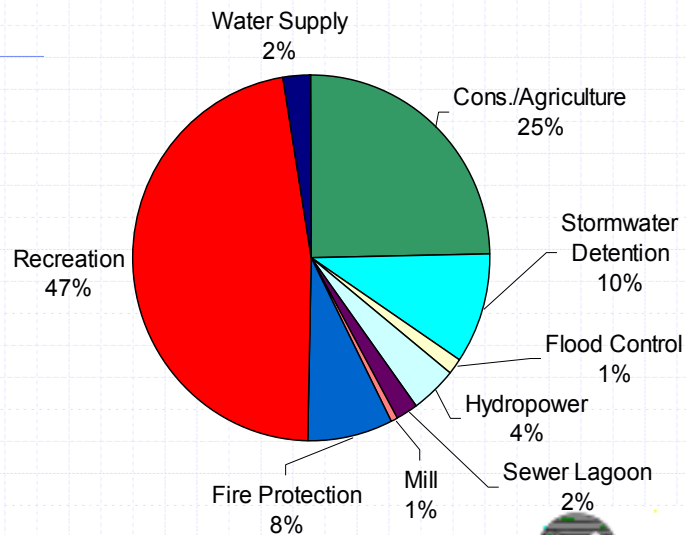
Location of Dams in New Hampshire



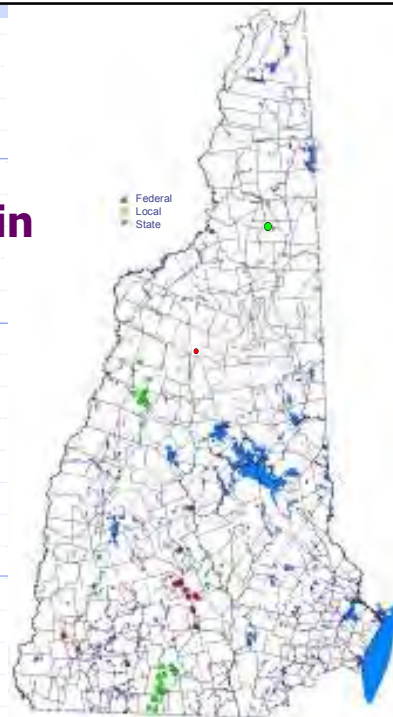
Dam Ownership in New Hampshire

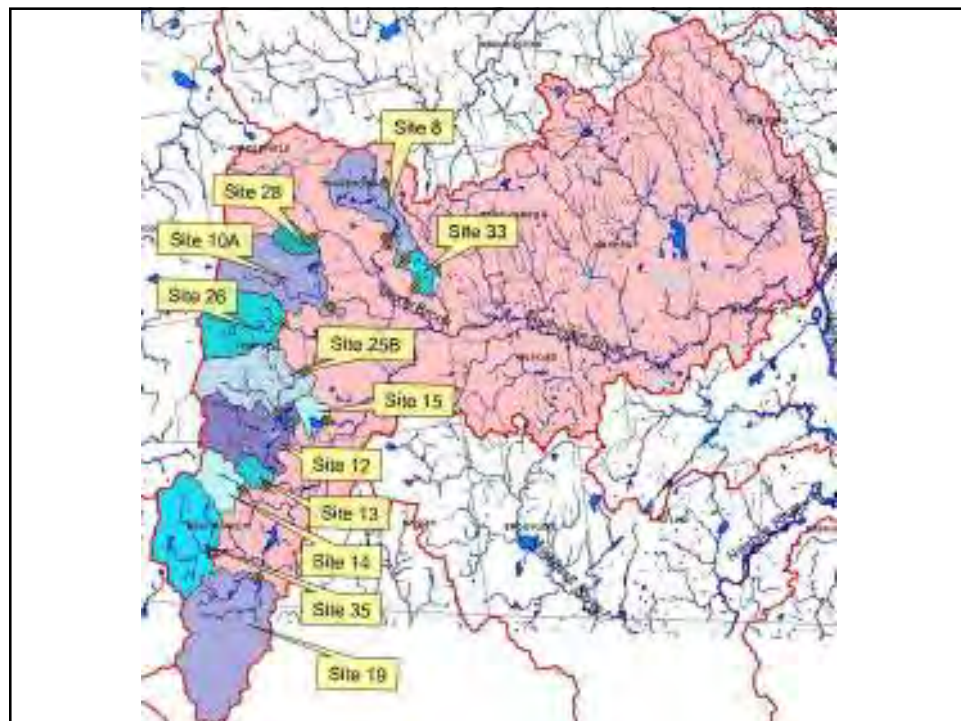
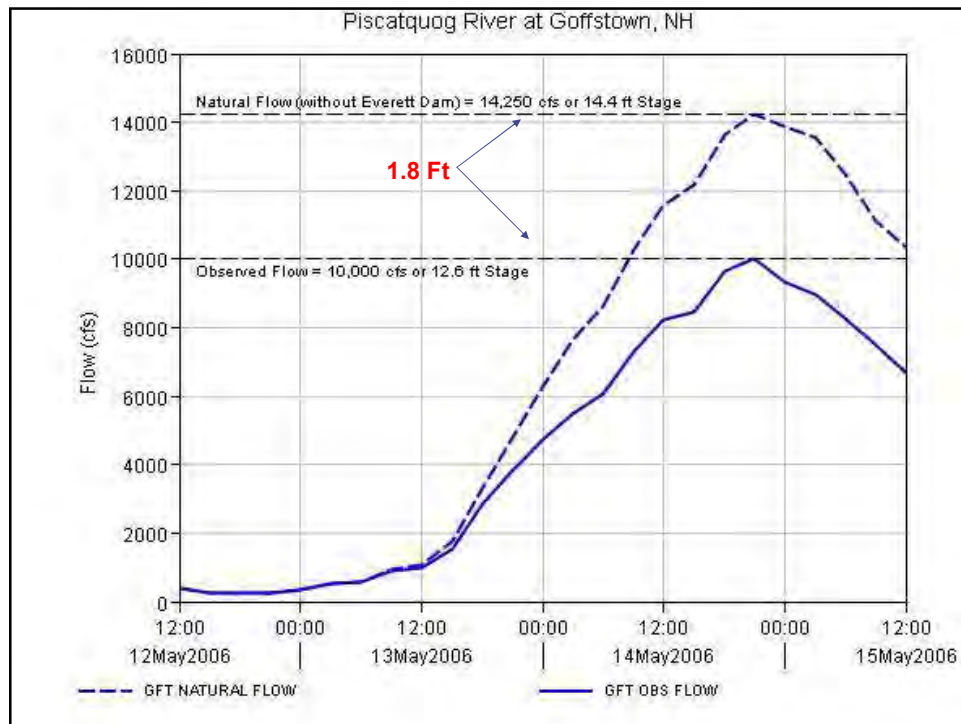


Functions of Dams in New Hampshire



Flood Control Dams in New Hampshire







CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE'S DAM SECTOR										
TIER I DAMS										
DAM NO.	DAM NAME	OWNER	TOWN	PURPOSE	POPULATION AT RISK			POWER		WATER SUPPLY
					HOUSES	STATE ROADS	TOWN ROADS	CAPACITY (KW)	ENERGY (MWH)	
140.17	MOORE RESERVOIR DAM	TRANSCANADA HYDRO NORTHEAST	LITTLETON	Power	4,370			190,000	302,600	N/A
162.01	COMERFORD STORAGE DAM	TRANSCANADA HYDRO NORTHEAST	MONROE	Power	2,185			140,400	344,800	N/A
184.12	MURPHY DAM AKA LAKE FRANCIS	NH DES WATER DIVISION	PITTSBURG	Multi-Purpose	1,058	21	161	N/A	N/A	N/A
134.15	WILDER DAM	TRANSCANADA HYDRO NORTHEAST	LEBANON	Power	1,017	150	11	35,500	170,400	N/A
209.05	ARLINGTON MILLS RES WHEELER DAM	TOWN OF SALEM	SALEM	Water Supply	862	14	42	N/A	N/A	18,000
150.06	MASSABESIC LAKE DAM	MANCHESTER WATER WORKS	MANCHESTER	Water Supply	126	6	20	N/A	N/A	133,000
13.01	TOWER HILL POND DAM	MANCHESTER WATER WORKS	AUBURN	Water Supply	28	4	30	N/A	N/A	133,000
165.04	BOWERS DAM	PENNHUCK WATER WORKS INC	NASHUA	Water Supply	8	2	8	N/A	N/A	90,000
165.05	HARRIS POND DAM	PENNHUCK WATER WORKS INC	NASHUA	Water Supply	4	0	4	N/A	N/A	90,000
165.06	SUPPLY POND DAM	PENNHUCK WATER WORKS INC	NASHUA	Water Supply	3	0	3	N/A	N/A	90,000
TIER II DAMS										
DAM NO.	DAM NAME	OWNER	TOWN	PURPOSE	POPULATION AT RISK			POWER		WATER SUPPLY
					HOUSES	STATE ROADS	TOWN ROADS	CAPACITY (KW)	ENERGY (MWH)	
51.13	PENACOOK LAKE DAM	CITY OF CONCORD	CONCORD	Water Supply	33	1	4	N/A	N/A	43,000
148.13	BELLAMY RESERVOIR DAM	CITY OF PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC WORKS DEPT	MADBURY	Water Supply	128	4	18	N/A	N/A	33,000
209.01	WOODWARD POND DAM	CITY OF KEENE PUBLIC WORKS DEPT	ROXBURY	Water Supply				N/A	N/A	25,000
206.03	BABBIDGE RESERVOIR DAM	CITY OF KEENE PUBLIC WORKS DEPT	ROXBURY	Water Supply				N/A	N/A	26,000
82.02	EXETER RESERVOIR DAM	TOWN OF EXETER PUBLIC WORKS	EXETER	Water Supply	7	1	1	N/A	N/A	11,000
47.14	RICE RESERVOIR DAM	CITY OF CLAREMONT	CLAREMONT	Water Supply	35	10	2	N/A	N/A	9,000
47.30	WHITEWATER BROOK DAM	CITY OF CLAREMONT	CLAREMONT	Water Supply	62	2	20	N/A	N/A	9,000
108.05	LOWER RESERVOIR DAM	HANOVER WATER WORKS CO	HANOVER	Water Supply	1	1	2	N/A	N/A	8,500
108.06	UPPER RESERVOIR DAM	HANOVER WATER WORKS CO	HANOVER	Water Supply	3	0	4	N/A	N/A	8,500
108.14	HANOVER CENTER RESERVOIR DAM	HANOVER WATER WORKS CO	HANOVER	Water Supply	27	0	8	N/A	N/A	8,500
117.01	VERNON DAM	TRANSCANADA HYDRO NORTHEAST	HINSDALE	Power				28,000	122,300	N/A
160.01	AKOISGAG DAM	PSNH	MANCHESTER	Power				16,000	83,000	N/A
24.04	SMITH DAM	PSNH	BERLIN	Power	18	0	3	13,000	104,261	N/A
27.12	GARVINS FALLS DAM	PSNH	BOW	Power	53	1	18	12,100	53,000	N/A
162.02	MONROES RESERVOIR DAM	TRANSCANADA HYDRO NORTHEAST	MONROE	Power				10,560	51,000	N/A
163.01	GREGG FALLS DAM	NH DES WATER DIVISION	COFFSTOWN	Power	258	2	32	3,620	6,733	N/A
116.04	JACKMAN RESERVOIR DAM	PSNH	HILLSBOROUGH	Power	163	2	22	3,200	9,340	N/A
121.19	HOPKINTON FLOOD CTRL DAM	US ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS	HOPKINTON	Flood Control	282	3	44	N/A	N/A	N/A





Hazard Classification of Dams in New Hampshire

High Hazard	134
Significant Hazard	164
Low Hazard	544
Non-Menace	1,773
TOTAL	2,615



[illegible]

- ◆ More than 26,000 houses
- ◆ More than 560 State Road Crossings
- ◆ More than 2,500 Town Road Crossings





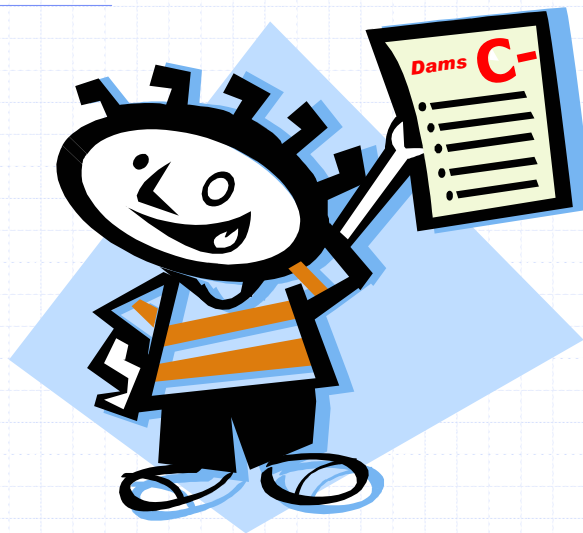
Periodic Inspection Schedule

Hazard Potential Classification	Number of Structures	Inspection interval	Scheduled Inspections Per Year	Scheduled Inspections Per Month
High	99	1 yrs	99	14
Significant	147	2 yrs	49	7
Low	485	5 yrs	97	14

7 month average inspection year, May through November



NH ASCE 2011 Report Card





NH ASCE 2011 Report Card

- ◆ Growing and aging inventory of dams
- ◆ Increased number of deficiencies
- ◆ Lack of resources to maintain private and municipally-owned dams



Outstanding Letters of Deficiency

	Municipal	Private
High Hazard	23	19
Significant Hazard	27	14
Low Hazard	33	78
TOTAL	83	93



ESTIMATE OF NEEDS

- ◆ Approximately 50% of dams with outstanding letters of deficiency require major structural reconstruction
- ◆ Per project cost estimate = \$750k



SUMMARY OF DAM INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS MUNICIPAL AND PRIVATELY-OWNED DAMS

Owner	Estimated No. of Projects	Estimated Total Present Costs
Municipal	40	\$30,000,000
Private	45	\$33,750,000
TOTAL	85	\$63,750,000



STATE DAM LOAN/GRANT FUNDING PROGRAM SUMMARY

STATE	PROGRAM NAME	SOURCE OF FUNDS	ELIGIBILITY	LOAN/GRANT AMOUNT	TERM OF LOAN	EVALUATION CRITERIA	PERMITTING/INSPECTION STANDARDS
AZ	Loan or grant	Dam Repair	Legislature, Lien fund, Inspection fees, filing fees, principle and interest from previous loans	State engineer determines dam to be dangerous to life, non-emergency	Loan - cost of project Grant - portion of cost of project	Up to 20 years at 3-6% interest, depending on length	Determined by State Engineer
MD	Loan and planning assistance	Maryland Environmental Service	Councils, utilities and private groups. Need to have established service district for water supply, resource reclamation, dredging or stormwater				
MA	Grants	Funding through DEM. In past \$5 million. No new appropriation.	Local communities for repairs or removal	75% of the project, local share can be in-kind contributions			
NJ	Revolving loan fund	Dam Restoration and Clean Water Trust Fund	Total units of governments, private owners can be co-applicants	Cost of project for loans Up to 100% for grants	Up to 20 years @2% assessed against real estate benefited	Priority ranking system for type/size of dam/impoundment, hazard, magnitude of problem, etc.	Must be compliant with all state dam safety requirements
NV	grants	Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act	Municipality for dam safety projects	75% of eligible project (20% local match) \$300,000 cap per project			
OH	Revolving loan fund	Ohio Water Development Authority	Owner must under mandate from ODNR: Dam Safety Loan Program - Local units of gov., state, districts Dam Safety Linked Deposit Program - private ownership	Cost of project	5-25 years at lower than market rate	Applicant merits user charges or revenues to cover loan payment	Must have inspection report and approval of plans from ODNR
PA	Revolving loan fund	Pennvest	Revolving loan fund, \$2 billion from state general purpose funds	Up to cost of project	20-30 years at low interest		
UT	Loans or grants	Utah Board of Water Resources	\$4.5 from general revenue and U-R coal sales tax (created originally to deal with flood control problems)	High hazard dam owners. Mandated repairs	80-95% grant for irrigation or water supply dams, loans or grants for other owners	Ranking by state engineer based on severity of deficiencies and population at risk	Can be used for non-structural alternatives.
WI	grants	DNR Municipal Dam Grant Program	\$11.6 M of bonding over 10 years. Currently fully subscribed	Local units of government and Lake Districts	50-50 grants up to a \$200,000 maximum for	Ranking by code criteria based on hazard, financial need and size	Must be under order or directive of DNR for dam safety deficiencies.

Chapter 272:5 Laws of 2008

◆ Established Dam Maintenance Revolving Loan Fund in RSA 482:5-a to provide low interest loans for repair of privately-owned dams.

◆ No loans until fund balance >\$25,000

◆ DES must establish rules for disbursement and repayment of loans



DES River Restoration and Dam Removal Program

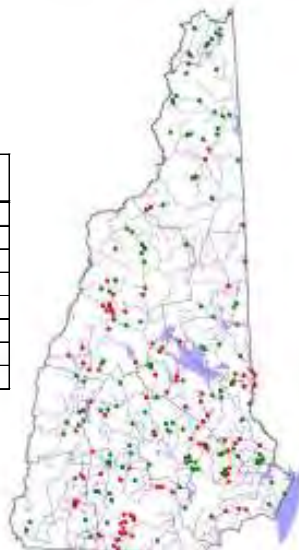


- ◆ We assist
 - Dam owners
 - General public
 - Government agencies
 - Consultants
- ◆ Information about dam removal as an option
- ◆ Help in obtaining funds to offset costs
- ◆ Guidance throughout the permitting process



State Dams

AGENCY	Hazard Classification				TOTALS
	HIGH	SIG.	LOW	NM	
DES	40	24	43	6	113
NHFG	4	7	45	46	102
DRED	2	3	9	14	28
DOT	0	4	3	16	23
UNH	1	1	0	2	4
Glenclyff	0	0	0	2	2
Veterans Home	0	0	0	2	2
TOTAL	47	39	100	88	274



Recreational Resources



Newfound Lake



Ossipee Lake



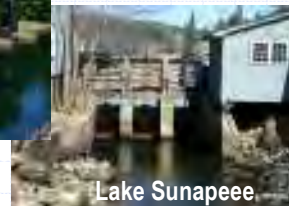
Squam Lake



Winnisquam Lake



Lake Winnepesaukee



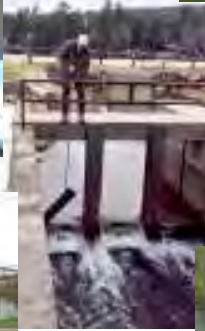
Lake Sunapee

Population At Risk Downstream of State Owned High and Significant Hazard Dams

- ◆ More than 4,000 houses
- ◆ More than 130 State Road Crossings
- ◆ More than 800 Town Road Crossings



Dam Operations



Back Lake
Before



Back Lake
After



Emergency Operations



Dam Maintenance Crew



Recently Completed Projects

Big Bog Brook



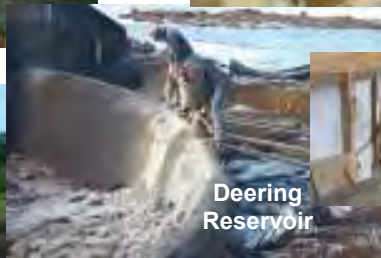
Melvin Pope



Pittsfield Mill



Deering Reservoir



Dams in Need of Repair



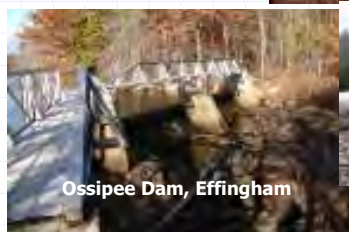
Mendums Dam, Nottingham



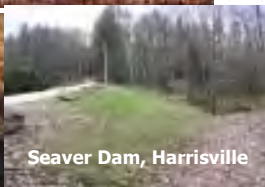
Souhegan #15 Dam, Wilton



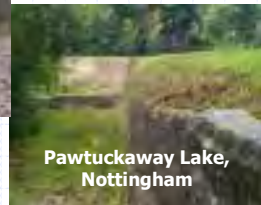
Pittsfield Mill Dam, Pittsfield



Ossipee Dam, Effingham

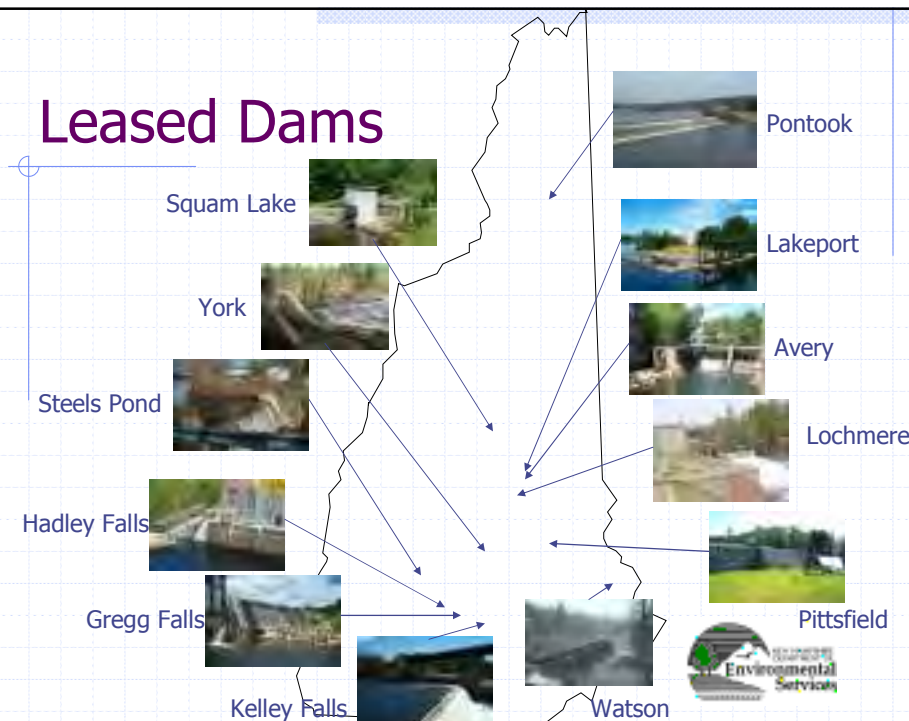


Seaver Dam, Harrisville



Pawtuckaway Lake,
Nottingham

Leased Dams



Lease Terms

Dam	Lease Terms	Power Purchaser	Purchase Rate (\$/kwh)
Steels Pond	20% of Gross Revenue	PSNH	0.1077 to 0.1443
Squam Lake	20% of Adjusted Gross Revenue	PSNH	0.10 to 0.11
Lochmere	26% of Adjusted Gross Revenue	PSNH	0.09
York (Briar Hydro)	3.5% of Adjusted Gross Revenue	PSNH	0.10 to 0.11
Watson-Waldron	11% of Gross Revenue	PSNH	0.1077 to 0.1443
Pontook	19.5 % of Gross Revenue	USGen NE	0.06
Gregg Falls	25-38.5% of Adjusted Gross Revenue	PSNH	0.1166 to 0.1274
Hadley Falls	6% of Adjusted Gross Revenue	PSNH	0.0761 to 0.1035
Lakeport	4% of Adjusted Gross Revenue	PSNH	0.1283
Avery	20% of Adjusted Gross Revenue	PSNH	0.1248 to 0.1678
Kelley Falls	5% of Adjusted Gross Revenue	PSNH	0.09
Pittsfield Mill	10% of Adjusted Gross Revenue	PSNH	0.1442



RSA 374-F Electric Utility Restructuring

Utilities must take all reasonable measures to mitigate stranded costs, including renegotiation of power purchase contracts



New Power Purchase Rates

Dam	Power Purchaser	Rate (\$/kwh)	Rate (\$/kwh)
Steels Pond	PSNH	0.1077 to 0.1443	0.05
Squam Lake	PSNH	0.10 to 0.11	0.10 to 0.11
Lochmere	PSNH	0.09	Market
York (Briar Hydro)	PSNH	0.10 to 0.11	0.10 to 0.11
Watson-Waldron	PSNH	0.1077 to 0.1443	0.1077 to 0.1443
Pontook	Brascan	0.06	0.036
Gregg Falls	PSNH	0.1166 to 0.1274	Market
Hadley Falls	PSNH	0.0761 to 0.1035	Market
Lakeport	PSNH	0.1283	Market
Avery	PSNH	0.1248 to 0.1678	Market
Kelley Falls	PSNH	0.09	0.09



Dam Maintenance Fund Revenue

	Original Projection	Revised Projection
Steels Pond	\$74,000	\$23,500
Squam Lake	\$3,500	\$1,000
Lochmere	\$35,000	\$5,000
York (Briar Hydro)	\$88,400	\$98,400
Watson-Waldron	\$14,700	\$13,200
Pontook	\$745,000	\$414,200
Gregg Falls	\$430,000	\$125,000
Hadley Falls	\$3,000	\$3,000
Lakeport	\$13,000	\$4,000
Avery	\$33,000	\$14,100
Kelley Falls	\$27,400	\$4,000
Pittsfield Mill	\$9,800	\$0
TOTALS	\$1,476,800	\$705,400



State Legislative Actions

- ◆ SB 488 committee to study the effects of electric utility restructuring on state dams and the alternatives for funding the operation and maintenance of state-owned dams
 - Final Report submitted December 1, 2004
 - Proposed recommendations for alternative funding sources
 - ◆ Unrefunded gas tax
 - ◆ Shoreland assessment fees



State Owned Dams in Need of Repair

- ◆ Average capital cost is approximately \$365,000 per project
- ◆ 48 dams, given the 6/yr. completion rate, results in meeting the identified dam infrastructure needs by the close of 2017
- ◆ In reality, an additional demand of 3 to 5 dams can be expected to be added to the list of 48 each year – increasing the annual infrastructure funding need by over \$2M





**MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
December 13, 2011**

Commissioners in attendance:

Dave Allen
Virginia Battles-Raffa
Kris Blomback
Thomas Burack
John Gilbert, Chair
Denise Hart
Martha Lyman, Vice Chair
Cliff Sinnott
Chuck Souther
Alison Watts

Public in attendance:

Mark Green
Cameron Wake
Robert Morency
James Ryan
Jeremy Tomkiewicz
Dean Peschel
Bill Housell
Tom Bucu
Sarah Pillsbury
Paul Susca
Jennifer Rowden

Commissioners not in attendance:

Robert Beaurivage
Mike Licata
Amy Manzelli
Glenn Normandeau

Chairman John Gilbert called the meeting to order at 2:09 pm

I. November 15th Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the November 15th meeting minutes was made by Dave Allen and seconded by Kris Blomback. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Updates

A. Budgets/ Grants/ Fiscal Sponsor

Marcy Lyman presented a revised draft budget to the Commission, which included potential income from grant requests and in-kind contributions from Commission members, the Department of Environmental Services (DES) and Governor's Office. The New Hampshire Rivers Council has tentatively agreed to serve as the Commission's fiscal agent pending board approval. The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation grant is pending, and if requested, can be turned into a match grant to help the Commission leverage more funds. A grant request has also been submitted to the Bean Foundation. The Bean Foundation funds can only be used for work in the Manchester/Amherst area, and would be used for the public outreach session in that Executive Council district. If both grants are awarded, the Commission will have raised \$22,500 in funds; however, the estimated need is approximately \$50,000. If any Commission members have ideas for potential matching grants and funding sources, please let Marcy or John know.

B. New Hampshire Listens and Leadership New Hampshire

On December 3rd, Denise Hart and Paul Susca attended a New Hampshire Listens' training to get a better sense of the method and whether it will be a good technique to use at the public engagement sessions. The consensus was that the technique seems like it will be a good fit; however, Denise and Paul quickly learned that they, and anyone else, close to the project will not be able to facilitate the sessions.

Leadership New Hampshire is designing its "Environment & Sustainability" in concert with the work of the Water Sustainability Commission and highlighting some of the key issues with which the Commission is grappling.. The session will start with a panel discussion to the class, in which John Gilbert will be participating, and the session will then lead into a New Hampshire Listens style exercise. It was suggested Commission members not attend due to space limitations.

C. Outreach Opportunities

On December 7th, John Gilbert presented an overview of the Commission's work to the New Hampshire Society for Professional Engineers. A list of upcoming potential outreach events for the Commission was distributed along with a draft abstract to submit for the 2012 Water and Watershed Conference at Plymouth State University in March. Commissioners were encouraged to add to the outreach list if they know of any upcoming events.

Denise Hart reported that the Public Engagement working group has been in discussion with Bruce Mallory from the Carsey Institute at University of New Hampshire to develop a budget and timeframe for conducting the public outreach sessions. Prior to today's meeting, Denise e-mailed the Commission a full report of the Public Engagement working group activities (Appendix A). To summarize, the Carsey Institute would be able to have a report to the Commission by May and will cost approximately \$20,000. The public listening sessions would take place in each of the Executive Councilor Districts. The working group is hoping to hold the sessions in Berlin, Conway, Plymouth, Concord, Keene, Manchester and Greenland to maximize the reach of the sessions.

The Governor's Office has requested the Commission provide some talking points about water that Governor Lynch can weave into future talks and speeches. Commissioners were asked to provide stories related to water relative to the interests they represent on the Commission and to e-mail these to Denise before the January meeting.

D. Upcoming Meetings

John Gilbert outlined the following meeting schedule and topics for the remaining meetings to help the Commission meeting its June 1, 2012 deadline:

Date	Topic	Location
January 17 th	Water rights and water laws	NH Fish and Game Dept 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH
February 14 th	Commission work session	NHHEAF 4 Barrel Court, Concord, NH

March 20 th	Value of water versus the true cost of water.	NH Fish and Game Dept. 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH
April	Examples of watershed management in action/ Power production and water.	<i>To be determined.</i>
May	Review and finalize Commission report.	<i>To be determined.</i>
June 1, 2012	Present final report to Governor	<i>To be determined.</i>

John has inquired about a possible extension for the Commission to the Governor's Office, but has not yet received a reply.

III. Water Resources and Climate Change in New Hampshire

A. Climate Change Implications for Water – Cameron Wake, University of New Hampshire

Cameron Wake is a Research Associate Professor with the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space at UNH and is the lead for research programs to assess the impact of climate change in New England. Additionally, Cameron also directs Carbon Solutions New England, a public-private partnership promoting collective action to achieve a clean, secure energy future while sustaining our unique cultural and natural resources. Cameron was asked by the Commission to speak about how climate change will impact water resources in New Hampshire.

Predicting exactly how the climate will change is difficult, but outlining what the future might be is possible. Climate change models can predict what might happen depending on what society might do; the real key is preparing and adapting for a variable future. New Hampshire's climate is already changing as shown through various indicators, but society is also already adapting whether people are aware of it or not. Examples of this early adaptation are the increase in snowmaking at ski resorts and the number of generators residents are buying due to increased power outages caused by storms. Major general challenges for the state include: increased temperatures ramifications, dealing with increased precipitation, and infrastructure adaptation.

Potential issues and implications related to climate change include:

- **Increased precipitation:** the state will likely see more precipitation in fewer events, resulting in more intense storms and increased flood risk. Whether precipitation will fall as rain or snow is difficult to model.
- **Drought:** models show more precipitation in the spring, fall and winter seasons, but the summers are likely to be drier with parts of New Hampshire experiencing at least some degree of drought.
- **Stream flows:** the states streams and rivers will likely see increased flows in winter, and in general higher high flows and lower low flows.
- **Snowmelt:** the date the snow melts will likely come earlier and earlier, impacting flooding, skiing, aquatic life, etc.
- **Winter recreation:** with warmer winters and more rain, ski resorts will be come less viable and may rely more and more on snowmaking and snowmobiling may become restricted to the northernmost parts of the state.

- **Forest type:** with a warmer climate with more precipitation, the forest type may alter towards different tree species resulting in ecological and economic impacts.
- **Sea level rise:** will increase the potential for coastal flooding and storm surge damage.

Planning for all of these changes is already happening in various forms. A recent study on flooding impacts in the Lamprey River watershed and changes to the delineation of the 100-year floodplain have brought up questions about what the legal implications are if municipalities do or do not address increased vulnerability associated with climate change. Some engineers are starting to look at the updated precipitation models when designing or replacing infrastructure rather than going by industry standard models that utilize precipitation data from 50 years ago.

Questions: What recommendations do you have for the Commission that would allow for new science and information to be incorporated into planning and decision making? What incentives does the scientific community need to be more included in the process?

Answer: The key seems to be to stop talking about the future and to start talking about adaptation and management; a good example of this is the Coastal Climate Change Adaptation Group. There is a need to get the community leaders involved, such as emergency management, and assess a community's vulnerability. Regarding getting scientists involved, it is helpful to get them involved from the beginning, and at the larger scale more input from outsiders will only increase the accuracy and research capacity of those scientists.

Question: For the drought predictions, do we know what kind of duration and the geographical extent of what these might be?

Answer: Drought is going to be more of a long-term issue, and is not going to be as big an issue as flooding in the short term. Keep in mind that the drought scenarios do not include water withdrawals, nor has it been calculated what a population shift to New Hampshire might mean if water shortages elsewhere cause people to move here. Aquifer recharge related to increased precipitation and impervious surface was also not considered.

Sarah Pillsbury pointed out that Matthew Davis at the University of New Hampshire has been contracted to update the state's Drought Management Plan.

B. Watershed Science and Implications of Climate Change - Mark Green, Plymouth State University/ U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station

Mark Green is a researcher at the U.S. Forest Service's Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, a small-scale watershed research area with various datasets related to water quality, water quantity, etc. dating back to 1947 in some cases. Mark was asked to speak to the Commission about how forestry and watersheds may be altered by climate change.

The Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest is an internationally recognized long-term ecological research site. Beginning in the late 1950's research began to study the impacts of different forest management practices on forested ecosystems. Hubbard Brook is now known for its seminal work on acid rain, nutrient cycling, its contributions to the understanding of watershed science and the interaction between landscape and water, and more recently on issues related to carbon

sequestration and climate change. Precipitation that falls on the landscape does one of two things: goes into the groundwater or streams or gets absorbed by vegetation that evapotranspires the moisture back into the atmosphere. Findings of several experiments have highlighted the relationship of forests to water quality and quantity in small watersheds:

- Complete removal of vegetation causes increased runoff, but long-term water quality impacts from nutrients recover faster when areas are allowed to re-grow.
- Early succession forest, such as the vegetation that grows after a clear-cut, uses more water than old growth forests.
- Fertilizing a forest that results in increased growth rates causes a major hydrologic response due to the trees' increased evapotranspiration. (This referenced an experiment where calcium was added to forest soil from which it been depleted due to acid rain.)

What these finding could mean over a larger area is unknown, but could be significant. The impacts of climate change over the landscape at the local scale are similar to the impact Cameron discussed at the regional scale. One area that has not been looked at is the hydrologic effect that might occur if the forests (80 percent of the state is forested) begin to evapotranspire less due to increased cloudiness, humidity or increases in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This could translate into increases of seven or eight percent of precipitation going into the ground or running off. Some of the major climate change issues related to forestry and watersheds are the impact that warmer, shorter winters will have on trees, the impact of bio-energy production, changes in the forest matrix type, and changes in the climate and atmospheric chemistry.

Question: Is the water cycle being shifted?

Answer: It is hard to tell at this point, but the hydrologic implications of forest changes are trumped by the impacts increased precipitation will have. The soils in New Hampshire are its biggest reservoir to help prevent flooding. For example, if Tropical Storm Irene had hit the state two weeks earlier when the soils were dry then roughly half of the rain that fell could have been absorbed by the soils and the flooding would have been significantly less. The increased intensity of storms is less of an issue for forested landscapes where runoff is rare, but it is a major issue in developed landscapes.

Questions: How will the forest respond to climate change specifically related to flooding and forest management and development? Does the forest matrix have implications on water? How does typically managed forest compare to the extreme scenarios studied at Hubbard Brook?

Answer: Flooding is directly tied to forest management and the development of the landscape. If the forest matrix shifts from softwoods to hardwoods there likely would be a shift in the hydrologic conditions because softwoods evapotranspire in the winter while hardwoods do not. We simply do not know how a typically managed forest responds in terms of water quality, water quantity, soil chemistry, etc. compared to Hubbard Brook's experiments.

The major take home message concerning how forests and watersheds will change in the state due to climate change is that more research is needed. Specific areas where more research is needed are the impacts of forest harvesting on hydrologic conditions, the impact of air quality to trees and water chemistry, and how forest fertilization will impact water resources in the

Northeast. Climate change is here, but the implications are not yet fully understood at the local level.

C. Commission Discussion

The following questions and statements were discussed by the Commissioners and the guest speakers:

- What do regulatory agencies and decision makers need from scientists to influence policy in a timely manner? How does DES use the latest information?
- Local communities cannot react to uncertain information/science. The issue of limiting nitrogen in Great Bay is a great example of communities being wary of the science, particularly when it will potentially cost those communities large amounts of money to upgrade their wastewater facilities.
- Flooding might be the direct issue to get the public and local officials to rally around because it is already impacting the state.
- There is a need to get civic involvement with science early on; science wants to be relevant and needs civic involvement to do so.
- Partnerships are key, particularly connecting the scientists and the decision makers.
- DES uses the latest information, but needs help filling in the gaps and being able to predict conditions on a more localized scale. For example, what are the potential flooding impacts in a given watershed given different variables such as impervious surface, precipitation amounts and intensity, etc.
- When there is uncertainty, such as with the flooding issue, communities and regulatory agencies need to plan for adaptation and conduct vulnerability assessments to plan for unknown outcomes.
- A paradigm shift is needed to change planning for concrete situations with known consequences to planning for various situations to mitigate potential consequences.
- There is a need to consider the precautionary principal.
- There is the issue that the Commission has not considered, and that is how these issues and policies may or have played out if they enter the judiciary system.
- There are two levels of public engagement that are needed: the simple understanding of the need for water and the complexity of water issues.
- An underlying truth with the climate change models is that they use current and past conditions in mathematical equations to predict that will happen, but the more civic involvement there is in developing the models the better they will be. This also provides better outcomes for communities that are planning and for the scientists conducting research. Vermont Law School worked on the 100-year flood study on the Lamprey River and the potential legal ramification for communities in that watershed did or did not implement various development and planning tools that considered changes to the 100-year floodplain.
- Is looking at flooding actually a charge of the Commission? It seems that it is, but only as a cause or consequences of the other charges related to water quality and quantity.

VI. Public Comment

Tom Bucco, former state representative and Water Infrastructure Sustainability Commission (SB 60) member: The Water Infrastructure Commission is dealing with similar issue as this Commission. The way to influence the politicians to take action is to educate the public; the legislators do listen to their constituents. Regarding the public outreach events, if only one is conducted in Executive Council District One, which covers two-thirds of the state, the outreach events will not be representative.

Sarah Pillsbury, DES: The Water Infrastructure Commission (SB 60) will be meeting on December 15th at 1:00 pm at the State House in Concord.

Jeremy Tomkiewicz, UNH: As a graduate student working on a thesis exploring the civic engagement and policy nexus surrounding water resources in New Hampshire, he would recommend the Commission have Dr. Mimi Becker from UNH come speak to the group.

Jim Ryan, New Hampshire Fish and Game Commissioner: These meetings have been instructive, but he is still not sure he knows what the definition of sustainability really is. There is also the issue of providing funding to achieve sustainability.

Robert Morency, RCAP: This Commission does need to consider flooding as it is tied directly to sustainability.

Bill Housell, North Conway Water Precinct: Funding is critical to this effort. There is a need to win over local support in order to get the legislators to providing funding for local projects. This Commission needs to be bold in its recommendations and ask what the state's role is in funding local projects. This Commission also needs to be watching the federal budget and issues; specifically, states role in water allocation. If the group is looking at getting citizens and scientist to work together then they should look at the Southeast Watershed Alliance and the Lake Winnepesaukee Basin communities seeking to be more involved in Franklin Wastewater Treatment Plant (owned by DES).

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.

Appendix A – Public Engagement Working Group Report, December 13, 2011

The Public Engagement Subcommittee met twice in November—on the 2nd and 15th. A group of us also met with Bruce Mallory of the NH Listens program at UNH on Nov. 22nd.

The Public Engagement Subcommittee members are: Denise (chair), Amy, Marcy, Paul (for Tom Burack), John Gilbert

Meeting with NH Listens/UNH – 11/22

John, Marcy and Denise met with Bruce Mallory, director of New Hampshire Listens and acting director of the Carsey Institute. Also at the meeting were Jim Nouncas from Portsmouth Listens and Sustainable Portsmouth, Charlie French from UNH Cooperative Extension.

We confirmed that the cost estimate to partner with New Hampshire Listens is approximately \$20K. Bruce distributed a budget breakdown and tentative timeline for public sessions, etc. With this timeline in mind, we would need to have funding in place as soon as possibly and

- Confirm locations - January,
- Recruit and train facilitators, collect data for discussion guide for participants and facilitators - Jan.-Feb.
- Begin publicity and participant registration – varies by site
- Conduct public engagement sessions – Feb.-Apr.
- Final report to Commission of session – May

We discussed that with a 25-year outlook for water sustainability in the state, what we really are interested in doing is building a constituency for water statewide. Water solutions bind us together, often across municipalities, counties and sometimes state boundaries. These solutions flow from the local level to the state and state to localities.

We discussed possible framing questions for the dialogue, looking at ‘what do we want to see regarding water’ or ‘how do we get there?’ No decisions were made. The Listens process begins with the personal experience and moves outward from there.

Public Outreach List

Amy and her intern Rebecca worked diligently to revise and improve on the initial public outreach list. With Jenn’s help, we now have it up as a Google doc that can be accessed at: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/ccc?key=0AnX1r_8Dsrn8dGhxUFJ4WIFEUjdhcmmhRMXE1d3pwOWc

Commissioners are asked to please review the list and to help us to expand it. Submissions can be added directly to the Google doc or sent to Jenn Rowden as an Excel spreadsheet with the same data columns.

Fund-raising

1. NHCF considering proposal for \$15,000 at December board meeting
2. Bean proposal submitted - requested \$7,500 - decision in February

3. NH Rivers Council tentatively agreed to act as fiscal sponsor pending vote of board on December 13 - Water Commission will pay fee of \$2250 (or 10% of whatever funds are received).
4. Our application for a Park Foundation grant in 2011 to support public engagement activities was turned down due to a focus on the hydrofracking issue. Denise will follow-up to see if we can apply for 2012.
5. Denise is outreaching to the Tillotson Fund at NHCF in coordination with Marcy's work there. This fund has a focus on the Coos County and the North Country and we would like to see if the Fund might assist with bringing a public session (one or more) to this region.

Outreach Events

11/16-17/11 – NH Municipal Association/ Local Government Center Annual Conference
12/7/11 - John and Paul spoke at NH Society of Professional Engineers lunch meeting about significant developments at NHDES and the Commission.

Upcoming Events:

- 1/19/12 – John and Marcy - Leadership New Hampshire Environment Day with focus on water sustainability. Paul developed a list of helpful readings, available online
- 1/19/12 – New England Waterworks Association joint monthly meeting in Nashua—will try to have Commission two-pager handed out and also information about public engagement sessions (thanks to Paul S.)
- 2/15/12 – Amy- NH Water Pollution Control Association's Legislative Breakfast - Amy is working with them on a portion of their program to include possibly having the Governor speak and involvement with Leadership New Hampshire.
- 3/23/12 – DES New Hampshire Water/Watershed Conference at Plymouth State College. We are submitting a proposal for an information table and a 2-hour workshop.
- Week of May 7 – DES' Drinking Water/Children's Water Festival

For a full list of upcoming and potential Commission outreach events, please visit the Google doc set up by Paul Susca:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FRfX7KdsUFEkzB8ckSg0ZW0tvbA7Ti9H8HSpVkfGXsc/edit>

Talking Points

The Governor's office asked us to provide some talking points about water that he can weave into future talks and speeches. We discussed what types of water stories might be helpful to illustrate water issues/sustainability in action from regions across our state.

We are turning to our colleagues on the Commission and requesting that each person send a water success story *before the January meeting* that he or she is aware of in New Hampshire. This could be a collaboration among towns to address a water issue, a watershed association story, a conservation easement story, a story about water monitoring, a business that practices sustainable water use and how this is done, etc.

Please send your stories to Denise at denisehart1000@yahoo.com. The stories can be in bullet format or full text, whatever is easiest. Please cite organizational contacts and websites where available.

Approved
MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
January 17, 2012
N.H. Fish & Game Department

Commissioners in attendance:

John Gilbert, Chair
Martha Lyman, Vice Chair
Dave Allen
Virginia Battles-Raffa
Kris Blomback
Thomas Burack
Denise Hart
Mike Licata
Amy Manzelli
Glenn Normandeau
Cliff Sinnott
Chuck Souther
Alison Watts

Commissioners not in attendance:

Robert Beaurivage

Public in attendance:

George Dana Bisbee, Devine Millimet
Ira Leighton, USEPA
Carl DeLeoi, USEPA
Danny Rodriguez, USEPA
David Bernier; No. Conway Water, SB 60,
GSRWA
John Boisvert, Pennichuck Water
Alice Chamberlin, attorney
Kenny Daher, UNH TIDES
Ted Diers, NHDES
Bill Hounsell, CDM Smith
Chris Kessler, Pelletieri Associates
Bob Morency, RCAP
Gil Rogers, consultant
Jim Ryan, Fish & Game Commission
Sarah Pillsbury, NHDES
Paul Susca, NHDES
Jeremy Tomkiewicz, UNH

Chairman John Gilbert called the meeting to order at 2:12 PM

I. December 13th Meeting Minutes

With reference to Mark Green's presentation, there was some discussion as to why Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest does not monitor the effects of common forestry practices in addition to relatively extreme practices.

The minutes were accepted without changes.

II. Updates

John Gilbert distributed a flier provided by Bob Morency regarding a webinar focusing on a Memorandum of Agreement between USDA and USEPA to promote the sustainability of rural water and wastewater systems. The webinar will be held on January 23, 2012. Contact: Anita.OBrien@wdc.usda.gov

Funding: Martha Lyman reported that N.H. Charitable Foundation has awarded the Commission a \$15,000 grant; much or all of which will be allocated to N.H. Listens. She expects to hear from the Bean Foundation in February; that grant would provide the rest of what we need for N.H.

Listens. N.H. Rivers Council will be the fiscal sponsor for the grants. Martha will also submit a funding request to the Davis Foundation, with a decision expected in May or June.

NH Listens: Denise Hart reported that she met with Bruce Mallory of NH Listens. An advisory group will be formed to develop the framing question(s) for the public engagement sessions in April-May. There will be five or six sessions, assuming that complete funding is obtained. The Commission gave its approval for Denise to proceed with plans to work with NH Listens.

Talking points: Denise reminded commissioners that their water stories are needed in order to help develop the talking points requested by the Governor's office. The stories should exemplify the value of water or demonstrate the need for sustainable management, or both.

Leadership New Hampshire: Tom Burack, Dana Bisbee, Denise Hart, and John Gilbert will be among the speakers at the Leadership NH workshop on Environment, Sustainability, and Tourism on January 19th.

Legislative Breakfast: Amy Manzelli reported that, after months of planning, the Governor's office has reported that he will not be able to speak at the NH Water Pollution Control Association's Legislative Breakfast on February 15th. Consequently, she is also concerned about whether the Governor will participate in the public engagement sessions. John Gilbert will follow up with the Governor's office.

Implementation Committee: Virginia Battles-Raffa reported that the group met and worked on the matrix; she will send out a revised version. The goal is to identify five or six categories of issues for the Commission to address, along with major issues in each category. John Gilbert noted that the Commission will devote the February meeting to the major categories, areas of focus, and key actions. Virginia noted that the Implementation Committee will meet again on January 24th to narrow down the number of categories; she asked members of the Implementation Committee to look at the list and respond to her if they are not able to attend the January 24th meeting.

III. N.H. Water Rights and Access Law – George Dana Bisbee

Dana Bisbee is the head of the Environmental Practice Group at Devine Millimet, served as Assistant Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) for seven years, including 18 months as Acting Commissioner. Before that, he was with the New Hampshire Attorney General's office for 14 years, including five years as the state's Deputy Attorney General and eight years in the Environmental Protection Bureau, including two years as the Bureau Chief. The following is a summary of his talk; there were no handouts or slides.

Mr. Bisbee began his talk with an overview: there is a hierarchy of government authorities juxtaposed with water rights: federal, state, county, municipal, and private. The types of laws that affect water include federal and state constitutions, federal and state statutes, and local ordinances.

Private water rights come from common law, going back to the British monarchy. Riparian (land along streams and rivers) and littoral (land along ponds and tidal waters)

rights are associated with ownership of land adjacent to surface waters. These give the owner the right to a wide range of beneficial uses (which may change over time) and the right to prevent other riparian/littoral owners from using the waters in a way that interferes with one's own right to reasonable use. What is considered reasonable is adjudicated by the courts.

Private rights with respect to groundwater are a little different; they are not the same but are comparable to riparian/littoral rights. The concepts of reasonable use and not being able to interfere with another person's right to reasonable use apply.

The government can not take the above rights without just compensation.

Private water rights in the eastern states are generally based on riparian rights, while water rights in western states are generally based on prior appropriation, i.e., whoever began using the water first has primacy on claims.

Municipalities have interests in water, as well. They can adopt ordinances to protect water quality, such as aquifer protection and hazardous materials ordinances. They can purchase rights to protect water. They offer water supply and wastewater services. Note that Article 28A of the N.H. Constitution prevents the State from imposing new requirements on municipalities that the State does not pay for.

State regulatory and other programs related to water are numerous; see Appendix B to the N.H. Water Resources Primer, for example. These programs have been adopted under the State's "police power," which is a reference to the State's authority under Article 5 of the N.H. Constitution to adopt "all manner of wholesome and reasonable orders, laws, statutes, ordinances, directions, and instructions." Most of what the State does to protect water is under its police power.

Under the public trust doctrine (common law rights that came to the State from the British monarchy), the State holds certain rights and responsibilities for the benefit of the public. The public trust doctrine is a two-edged sword.

State law pre-empts local law in some areas; the State can reserve some areas of law where municipalities cannot exercise authority. For example, RSA 485-C:20 in the Groundwater Protection Act, pre-empts municipalities from regulating groundwater withdrawals. Similarly, municipalities can not regulate certain aspects of landfill siting.

Pre-emption is an important concept. The U.S. Constitution's "Supremacy Clause" declares federal law as the supreme law of the land. The Federal government can delegate its authority to states in many areas, such as the permitting of pollutant discharges under the Clean Water Act; however, this is an area where New Hampshire has never requested delegation because of the cost of running the program. In some areas (e.g. wetlands and point discharges of pollutants), both a state permit and a federal permit are required.

Hypothetical example: UNH needs a large expansion of the Durham-UNH public water system, and wants to increase its withdrawals from the Lamprey River. What prevents

them from sucking the river dry? Regulations under the State's police power protect water quality. (The State Attorney General's Office might also invoke the public trust doctrine, but this probably wouldn't be necessary in light of the ability of the regulations to prevent unreasonable impact.) The in-stream flow rules (police power) that apply to the Lamprey River in the State's pilot in-stream flow program to establish and protect minimum flows would also come into play.

A discussion of the in-stream flow program ensued. A question came up about a hierarchy of water uses. The Groundwater Commission looked into this extensively; their work is summarized in Attachment D to their final report, which can be viewed at http://nhgroundwater.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Final_Report.30491045.pdf. The point was made that protecting stream flows can conflict with protecting lake levels. Mr. Bisbee discussed the complexity of how in-stream flows might be protected.

New Hampshire's program for regulating large groundwater withdrawals (under police power) is very elaborate and well-developed and probably one of the best in the country. In order to obtain a permit, a great deal of study is required to show that unacceptable impacts will be avoided, and to detect and mitigate impacts. DES has authority to require curtailment of withdrawals and require mitigation, if impact occurs.

Martha Lyman posed the question: Where are the gaps, inadequacies, and weaknesses in our laws that we need to address?

In partial answer to the question, Mr. Bisbee moved to another example: in addition to allocating withdrawals, we also need to allocate pollutant loads, such as in the case of Great Bay. At issue is whether the discharge limits need to be as low as EPA has set them, and how best should money be allocated to achieve the needed pollutant reductions? In other words, are such strict effluent limits needed and are they the most efficient way to achieve pollutant reductions, or would it be better to have a watershed-wide permitting or pollutant trading program?

IV. Water Rights and Laws – Ira Leighton, USEPA Region I – New England

Ira Leighton has been the Deputy Regional Administrator of EPA New England since 2000. With over 30 years of experience in the environmental field, he has served in numerous technical and management positions at EPA after starting his career at the state of Massachusetts, Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). Prior to becoming the DRA, Mr. Leighton directed EPA New England's Office of Environmental Stewardship, which houses the region's enforcement, compliance assistance and pollution prevention programs, and has managed several key positions in the office of Site Remediation and Restoration. The outline of the slides from Mr. Leighton's talk is attached.

When speaking of the infrastructure aging/funding issue, every state is grappling with this issue. Mr. Leighton recommends looking at the recent report of the Massachusetts Water Infrastructure Finance Commission.

NHDES has recently hired an asset management person to help water systems to deal with this issue. The cost of investing in infrastructure is less than the cost of dealing with catastrophic failures.

Mr. Leighton believes that the environment-economy connection (the fact that they are mutually reinforcing rather than in conflict) is stronger in New England than elsewhere.

The capacity to deal with interstate issues is also strong in New England due to organizations such as New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission; he discussed the example of Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay, whose watershed is mostly in Massachusetts.

Mr. Leighton touched on the fact that EPA Region I's Research and Development work is shifting from science to applications and solutions; he suggested thinking about where there might be possibilities to tap into R&D to solve environmental problems.

Other potential opportunities he suggested considering:

- Leveraging public-private investment. He cited the example of the 2010 flooding of water supply and wastewater infrastructure in Rhode Island, which presented the opportunity to rebuild water facilities such that they became much more energy efficient. He also suggested thinking about leveraging private investment to make bond interest rates more attractive to investors.

- Connecting water resources challenges to communities by building a "future generation" way of thinking. For example, start early in the education system by offering drinking water operator curricula in technical high schools and piloting volunteer programs for students in the summer.

- Transforming environmental programs – could mean investing in improving the running of state programs such as DES is doing with LEAN to improve transparency in regulatory programs while at the same time improving the state's economic competitiveness.

- Influencing national strategies and rulemaking, such as by advocating performance standards for stormwater permits, integrating municipal stormwater and wastewater planning, and addressing extreme weather events.

- Leveraging SRF money: Private investors are very interested in investing in bonds for municipal infrastructure. Many states use their SRF to leverage additional loan dollars and N.H. may want to consider such practices

- Leveraging requirements for federal facilities, such as the requirement for certain federal projects to use LEED/green infrastructure.

- Leveraging other agencies' money – for example, directing HUD money to redeveloping brownfield sites.

Taking a long-term view, the states of Connecticut and Massachusetts, at the urging of business, industry, and municipal interests, are issuing bonds to invest in infrastructure.

Discussion

Great Bay came up as an example of the challenge of devising the right mix of legal authorities and revenue-generating strategies to deal with all aspects of a problem, as did the use of models to explore the effects of various management strategies on various values/issues (water quality, recreation) in estuaries such as in Narragansett Bay.

V. Public Comments

Bill Hounsell asked where the Southeast Watershed Alliance could look for federal money to move ahead with planning. Ira Leighton responded that the trick is to not wait for money to fall from the sky; instead, maintain momentum until opportunities arise.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at NHHEAF, 4 Barrell Court, Concord, NH.

Appendix A -Ira Leighton, USEPA Region 1- Presentation Outline

1. Introduction:

I want to thank John, Dana and Tom for the opportunity to participate in today's discussion. The Governor has given the Commission an important charge, namely to identify strategies and management measures for ensuring that the quality and quantity of NH's water resources in 25 years are as good or better than they are today.

I hope to offer a few thoughts and observations on kinds of strategies and approaches that are under development at the national and regional level to shape the path forward in responding to the challenges highlighted in NH's Water Resources Primer. Specifically, the challenge of dealing with land development pressures, increasingly frequent extreme weather events, addressing infrastructure that is need of upgrade or replacement, and the information needs to make effective management decisions.

2. The New England Water Resource Challenge:

- a. Landscape Change and Increased Demand for Water Related to Economic and Population Growth
- b. Between 1990-2004, New Hampshire grew by 17.2 percent, which is twice the rate of New England. It is also projected that between 2005 and 2030 there will be 260,000 new residents in New Hampshire most of whom will live in southern New Hampshire.
- c. Increased Extreme Weather
 - i. New England is a coastal region, and it is a relatively wet region in terms of precipitation: of the 14.43 million residents in New England, 7.65 million of those (more than 50%) live in the coastal counties of our states. We also receive about 44 inches of precipitation each year. We have to pay very close attention to water: both water quality and water quantity, including when there is too much water such as the flooding that recently occurred in Vermont and Connecticut. In the 40 years that EPA has been operating, we have not seen as much devastation as we have in recent years, all due to extreme weather events. That is why water resource management, including drinking water protection, has been and will be a priority of our efforts at EPA New England.
 - ii. Projections for sea level rise are weighing heavily on our minds, particularly in light of a recent report from the Arctic Mapping and Assessment Program, which now predicts a rise of 3-5.3 feet above the 1990 level by 2100, with Arctic ice melting making a significant contribution.
 - iii. We have seen possible impacts from increasingly severe weather events. Intense storms have become more frequent, causing flooding and water quality problems. Over the past 60 years, large storms have increased faster in New England than the rest of the country and this trend is expected to continue. In fact New England has seen a 67% increase in extreme precipitation. Rhode Island tops the national list, with an 88% increase in such events, and New Hampshire is tied for a close second with Massachusetts at an 83% increase. With a growing urban population,

a large coastal population, it is tremendously important for New Englanders to prepare and adapt for a changing environment.

- d. Aging and Inadequate Water Infrastructure
 - i. Aging infrastructure across the country is in need of more intensive asset management attention and intensive repair and replacement efforts and this work doesn't account for the change in weather pattern concerns I just discussed. Planning and timing for investment is critical. The cost of replacement is always more than the cost of repair (the tradeoff of preventative maintenance vs. replacement at failure). DES has just hired someone to do asset management in DW. How can you help municipalities find the impetus to do it? Small-sized and mid-sized success stories are important Sommersworth, NH comes to mind. Beta testing, using interns, Hundreds are doing it.
 - ii. Mass. has created a financing committee that has emphasized asset management and sustainable user rates as a point of emphasis.

3. Framing the Approach:

Before I go into the details of examples of the strategies and approaches being considered I would like to offer my take on what success will look like for all of us. Around the country and in New England we hear a debate playing out between having a clean environment—clean air and water and a prospering economy.

In my opinion, New England is in a different place than many other parts of the country in how it is addressing this issue. Tom Burack as the president of ECOS is in a unique position to observe how this debate is playing out.

What makes New England different?

a. Capacity to deal with interstate issues:

New England has tight geography and strong interstate relationships. We have a history of looking at environmental and economic issues in a more holistic manner. We have the capacity to move interstate issues from a place where the focus on who should take the first step to a place where we can identify the need for incremental progress on everyone's part. For example, the issue of nitrogen in Narragansett Bay has been one where EPA and the states have invested significant time and effort to develop technical and scientific tools that will help us better understand the costs and benefits of different strategies. EPA's Research Office is committed to shifting their efforts to applied science and tools that help frame sustainable strategies and actions. New England is well positioned to take advantage of these opportunities.

b. Leveraging private and public investment:

We think New England has a great track record in doing this. Leveraging NOAA's investments in the NH stormwater center is one obvious example. But there are others, for example, the efforts to leverage DOE and FEMA actions in responding to flood risks and in responses to damage to water and waste water infrastructure.

In March of 2010, 5-10 inches of heavy rainfall lead to flooding over a 12ft berm and completely inundating and shutting down an 8 mgd WWTP in Warwick, RI. The region provided resources to get the plant partially operating within a few days, but the longer view is more important here. Energy upgrades were being made simultaneously that led to a 30% energy savings or \$167,000/ year.

c. Connecting Communities and People:

Our waste cleanup programs are cleaning up and reusing waste sites just like other parts of the country, but New England has truly taken advantage of the resources available to assess and evaluate contaminated Brownfields. New England is one of ten regions in the country and historically we've been able to land better than 15% of the national assessment, cleanup and training dollars. This and other small amounts of are helping us leverage resources where clean water is essential to economic and social prosperity.

For example:

- i. Along the Connecticut River from Hartford to Springfield we are partnering with HUD and DOT in a consortium 38 organizations toward sustainable community development and create more livable communities for the corridor's 1.6 million residents.
- ii. We developed a Drinking Water Operator's Curriculum for Technical High School and Community College teachers.
- iii. Initiated a pilot summer student volunteer program with Boston SummerWorks Program to introduce youth to green jobs at EPA, including the Drinking Water Program.
- iv. We've sponsored Water Boot Camps in New Haven, CT and Fitchburg that have generated real excitement among youth to pursue future water related careers.
- v. We're training individuals in green landscaping design techniques to help manage stormwater run-off.

d. Transforming Environmental Programs:

New England States are showing national leadership in responding to the difficult budget challenges at the state and local level. They are demonstrating how efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and competitiveness are connected. CT and MA have worked with their Economic Development Agencies to recognize that difficult times can be the "moments of important opportunity." They have joined forces with business and industry in these times of difficult budgets to develop capital investments in IT infrastructure, E-reporting, use of Lean, advancing the use of remote sensing to develop a transformation that will advance efforts to efficiently implement their programs and to provide certainty and efficiency for the regulated community.

4. National and regional regulatory strategies

- a. The Agency has begun a national rulemaking that is considering a number of regulatory changes to its existing storm water program. The original goal was to promulgate regulations by the end of 2012, but that schedule has slipped.
- b. Among the proposals being considered is the development of performance standards for development and redevelopment to protect water bodies from post construction discharges from developed sites.
- c. Rule may establish a volume retention standard; permitting authorities may impose additional requirements on dischargers, if needed, to meet wasteload allocations in a TMDL. The rule would be implemented through the current MS4 permit program that applies to municipal storm water systems.
- d. Discharges from newly developed sites would require retention of a certain percentile of a storm; would recognize site constraints and may include off-site mitigation, payment in lieu, or treat and release provisions.
 - i. Discharges for redeveloped sites would: recognize site constraints; encourage redevelopment to revitalize urban communities; and would provide incentives for smart growth and Brownfield development.
 - ii. The Agency is also developing Construction and Development effluent guidelines that would apply through the national Construction General Permit.
 - iii. On Oct 27th the Agency issued a joint memo from the enforcement office and water program on achieving water quality through integrated municipal stormwater and wastewater planning. The memo highlights the importance of maximizing infrastructure improvement benefits by the appropriate sequencing of work. EPA is developing a national framework to advance this idea. The Commission could be helpful in framing the plan for NH. The guidance creates a strong case for employing green infrastructure as part of the solution to water resource challenges. Benefits include: opportunities for greenways, multi use recreation, improving property values, saving energy and creating jobs. It is the first time the Agency has specifically framed a broader set of values as part of our regulatory agenda.

5. Strategies and approaches for addressing changes in extreme weather

- a. In 2009, President Obama convened a Climate Adaptation Task Force. From that, the Council on Environmental Quality has tasked all Federal Agencies with writing Climate Adaptation Plans that are due this coming summer. These plans will integrate Climate Adaptation activities into our every day work. In Fact, EPA will be considering Climate Adaptation projects in all of our grant reviews.
- b. In New England we are working on an adaptation plan that will address issues like flooding, sea level rise and drought. As we look at these things we are also working them into other big sustainable initiatives happening in the region.

- c. For example, we are working on initiatives to soften our watersheds and prepare our coastal ecosystems. Our ecosystems need to be able to hold excess amounts of water. We will do this by using green infrastructure to restore the natural water cycle, and reduce flooding while replenishing groundwater supplies at the same time.
- d. These practices can also address local water quality problems such as stormwater runoff.
- e. We are working with municipalities to update and prepare their water treatment and wastewater treatment facilities for a shifting climate. This means reducing their energy use. Water utilities account for approximately 3-4 percent of electric energy use in the US. They add about 45 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually and their energy costs are estimated at about \$4 billion annually. When I talked earlier about thinking sustainably—you can see that upgrading water treatment systems with greener infrastructure to reduce energy costs and lower emissions is a positive investment. It is also one that can be used to adapt to a shifting climate and prepare for increasing storms.
- f. At the national level, EPA has worked to develop the Climate Ready Water Utilities Initiative. This will provide needed tools and resources for the water sector to adapt to climate change. It also encourages the consideration of integrated water resources management planning. This sort of planning includes encouraging redundancy in supplies and incorporating adaptation planning in future facility designs.
- g. Some of the important national tools that you may be interested in include software packages which evaluate a water system's vulnerability to weather impacts and compute economic impacts and recovery costs based on a number of threats. Speaking of funding, EPA is working on rolling out a new national website tool which will spell out all federal funding opportunities available for water utilities that become damaged by various disasters.
- h. As you may know, for more than ten years, EPA New England has been actively involved with the New England states, the water associations and the water sector to prepare and respond to water emergencies. We are proud of the work that has already been accomplished in New England to plan for and mitigate impacts from water security breaches; pandemics; and natural disasters.
- i. Adaptation is just one more chapter in an all-hazards-approach. EPA New England will continue to make water emergency response a high priority, including new tools such as a Water Sampling Guide and a Flood Mitigation Fact Sheet.
- j. One effort that EPA will continue to support is working with the NE states to identify the drinking water and wastewater assets and communities at risk of flooding. Plotting those assets on a GIS map along with information on the status

of available generators provides an important tool for prioritizing planning and response work. While these maps do not provide locations of vulnerable private wells, they do identify communities at risk and in need of planning assistance. We hope to complete these GIS maps in at least 4 states by the end of the fiscal year.

6. Leveraging requirements for Federal Agencies

- a. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 established strict storm water runoff requirements for federal development and redevelopment projects. It requires that federal agencies develop and redevelop facilities (with a footprint that exceeds 5,000 square feet) in a manner that maintains or restores the pre-development site hydrology to the maximum extent technically feasible.
- b. Under an Executive Order from President Obama, EPA developed a technical guidance document to assist federal agencies in implementing these requirements. The technical assistance document is available on EPA's stormwater website.
- c. Federal agencies will likely use green infrastructure or low impact development management approaches and technologies that enhance or mimic the natural hydrologic cycle through infiltration, evapotranspiration water reuse, and practices to reduce building footprints by building up instead of out. More specifically, agencies are anticipated to use: rain gardens, bioretention, and infiltration planters; porous pavement; vegetated swales; green roofs (and we have one of those at our Boston office in Post Office Square); trees and tree boxes; pocket wetlands; reforestation/revegetation; and rainwater harvesting.

Wrap up:

So what do I hope you will consider as result of my comments?

1. You are in a unique position to develop strategies that demonstrate why maintaining environmental quality and economic competitiveness are not at odds with one another. I was in NYC last week and had the opportunity to observe how business and industry react to a degraded environment and how the business risks associated with these conditions are impacting their investment choices and business strategies.
2. There are a number of national and regional regulatory and policy developments which the Commission can use to frame a direction that will leverage the experience and unique leadership capacity that exists in New England.
3. I encourage you to take the long term view of your task. Recognizing that a long term solution may require transformation and short term investment in capacity building in order to develop a sustainable future.

In closing, I think I would be remiss to mention Great Bay, which is a New Hampshire estuary where all of these challenges are coming together to test our ability to work together at all levels to achieve a solution that works for New Hampshire.

As you probably know, EPA has a major role in NH regulating point sources (treatment plants and MS4 storm water) in NH. The state and local governments and private interests have an equally important role in deciding how and where development will occur and, maybe most importantly, figuring out how to pay for needed improvements. Over the next several years we have an opportunity to work together to get this right and lead the way in water resource management.

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
February 14, 2012
N.H. Higher Education Assistance Foundation**

Commissioners in attendance:

Virginia Battles-Raffa
Kris Blomback
Robert Beaurivage
Thomas Burack
John Gilbert, Chair
Denise Hart
Michael Licata
Marcy Lyman, Vice Chair
Amy Manzelli
Cliff Sinnott
Chuck Souther

Commissioners not in attendance:

Dave Allen
Glenn Normandeau
Alison Watts

Public in attendance:

John Boisvert, Pennichuck Water
Ted Diers, NHDES
Bill Hounsell, CDM Smith
Sarah Pillsbury, NHDES
Jennifer Rowden, NHDES
Paul Susca, NHDES

Chairman John Gilbert called the meeting to order at 2:00.p.m.

I. January 17th Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the January 17th meeting minutes was made by Marcy Lyman and seconded by Michael Licata. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Updates

Funding: A decision on the Bean Foundation grant application for \$7,500 is expected on February 15th and Marcy will notify the Commission on the results of the decision. An additional grant application may be submitted to the Davis Conservation Foundation based in Maine in April. The Public Engagement subcommittee would like to hold an additional listening session targeted at stakeholders, not just the public, in Concord; however, it will require an additional \$750 to \$1,000 to pay for New Hampshire Listens' services. Some of the increase in the need for funding is due to New Hampshire Rivers Council charging a ten percent administrative fee in order to serve as the fiscal agent for the Commission. If any Commissioners have suggestions for potential sources for raising additional funds for the stakeholder listening session, please let John, Marcy or Denise know.

Public Engagement Subcommittee: The subcommittee is continuing to work with New Hampshire Listens to develop the public listening sessions in each Executive Council district. The goal is to start to finalize the locations in the next few weeks and the target dates for the listening sessions are early May. The subcommittee is still looking for recommendations for locations, specifically something in Merrimack County that is not in Concord (since that is the hopefully going to be the location for the stakeholder session). Once the location availability is finalized, Denise will send out the list of dates and locations for the session to the Commission. The next public engagement meeting will be on February 27th from 2:00 to 3:30 at Baldwin & Callen, 3 Maple St., Concord, NH.

Outreach: Amy requested that Commission members attend the "Water Matters" legislative breakfast being held tomorrow February 15th at 7 a.m. at the Holiday Inn in Concord.

For the New Hampshire Water and Watershed Conference being held at Plymouth State University on Friday, March 23rd, John will be participating in part of the plenary session to highlight the Commission's work. There may also be an opportunity for the Public Engagement subcommittee to develop a workshop to help frame the discussion questions for the public engagement sessions.

John, Denise and Tom participated in the Leadership New Hampshire event in January, which brought leaders in New Hampshire to discuss water resources. The main take-away lessons from the event were:

- Even identified leaders in New Hampshire do not have an understanding of the issues facing water resources in New Hampshire, or at least they did not before being given materials before the event (including the Water Primer).
- There is a need for additional education and outreach for the public.
- While participants were not aware of the issues surrounding water resources in the state, they were very interested in them.

III. Commission Extension and Member Check-in

John met with the Governor's Office staff today regarding extending this Commission from June 1st to early September 2012. The September timeline will still allow the Commission to try to work with candidates running for Governor to get them onboard with the Commission's final recommendations. The Governor's staff indicated that the revised delivery date would be acceptable.

In addition to discussing the extension with the Governor's Office, John also requested assistance in scheduling the Governor's participation in certain water-related meetings to support the work of the Commission. Discussion regarding the current status of the Commission and the outcome of the Commission's work included the following comments:

- The purpose and success of the Commission seems uncertain since Governor Lynch announced he will not be seeking another term.
- The Governor's staff has not attended meetings because they wish not to be seen as influencing the Commission's work. However, no Commission member felt as though their presence would influence the Commission's work and their absence has caused some to question their support of the Commission's work.
- A suggestion was made for a gubernatorial proclamation to be issued on Earth Day (April 22) to coincide with the one-year anniversary of the Commission's establishment to promote its purpose and the public engagement sessions.
- The Public Engagement subcommittee has been discussing how to ensure that the work of the Commission continues after the Commission itself ends. The goal is to build a water constituency that continues to promote water sustainability during the next 25 years. Some of the suggestions for doing this include:
 - Have a permanent legislative commission established during this legislative session that would take over the work of this Commission once the report is issued. (Timing with this suggestion is important and would need to be done prior to the report being issued.)
 - Development of a nonprofit that would take over this cause.
 - Have enabling legislation written to develop such a nonprofit.
- The Commission has been given a significant amount of information, but have there been any items that have not been addressed that need to be?
 - There has been perhaps too much information that it is daunting and the overwhelming nature of the Commission's purpose may be what is causing some of the stalling.
 - If part of the purpose of the Commission is to filter the recommendations of the other commissions, then we need to know why it is they think their recommendations were not implemented.

Prior to the Commission issuing a final report, the Governor's Office has requested a briefing on the contents of the report so that the Governor can be made aware of the contents and recommendations before they are made public in order to be better prepared to support them.

IV. Commissioners' Key Issues

The Commission has been presented with a large amount of information about what others feel needs to be done, but the time has come for the Commission to start to put forth what we think is needed to sustain New Hampshire's water over the next 25 years. John asked Commissioners to come to the meeting with a few of the key issues they felt must be addressed in the context of the question: what are the things that, if we do not do them within the next 25 years, will foreclose the ability to attain long-term sustainability of New Hampshire's water resource beyond that point?

John

- Education of the public about the value of water.
- Need to devise a way to foster regulations, enforcement and water management in the watershed context.

Virginia

- Communication of how we value and use water.

Michael

- Need for more information about water around the state to know if we have a problem.
- There needs to be more monitoring of water resources across the state in order for better regulations and decisions to be made about the use of those resources. Additional funding is needed to address this issue.

Bob

- The state does have good data, but the resources to continue to collect it or analyze it are not available. DES will never have enough data.
- Communicating the value of water is the key to protecting the resource and to funding ways to ensure its remains protected.
- Water infrastructure in the state is in poor condition and needs tremendous investments.

Amy

- The relationship between water resources and land use, or the connection between impervious surface cover and water quality, and the need to connect that relationship to the regulatory process.
- Addressing the process for seeing the follow-through of this Commission's recommendations; who will implement the recommendations, how will they be measured to see if they are being accomplished?

Chuck

- Infiltration and land use: the need for incentives to decrease or minimize impervious surface coverage.
- Grey infrastructure, i.e., all water infrastructures is the key and needs to be fixed.
- One remaining question though, is do we know where the populations will be in 25 years? The reports that the Commission has seen seem to conflict with one another.

Denise

- Looking at the precautionary principle to approach regulatory decisions; do we have the information we need to make decisions and should precaution be included in the regulatory framework?
- Looking into foreign companies coming into the state for water and the lack of state laws protecting state resources in the light of international trade agreements.
- Water infrastructure: it seems federal funding sources cannot be relied on anymore, so the state needs to address the funding through a mechanism like creating a trust or an account dedicated to these upgrades.
- Education about watersheds being included more in the K-12 education curriculum.

- The role of the Department of Environmental Services (DES) in carrying forward all of these recommendations and the need from communities for DES to serve as a source of technical assistance. This all would require that DES is adequately funded to serve in this role. DES can help to look at issues at a larger, watershed scale.

Kris

- Water rights and access to water as it relates to business and industry.

Cliff

- Water supply and the conflict between reasonable use and public trust.
- Water quality planning and management using a watershed approach.

Tom

- Infrastructure funding.
- Utilizing an integrated watershed planning approach.

Marcy

- Who decides on many of these issues and what are the systems that we are using to make these decisions?
- Integrated watershed planning.
- The value and cost of water (infrastructure) now and into the future as conditions, demands, populations and the climate change.

General discussion

- Water will still be available in New Hampshire in the future; however, the intensity and frequency of extreme precipitation events is going to shift recharge patterns and have other impacts. Has the Commission decided if we are addressing flooding? Specifically, the effects climate change will have on water infrastructure (stormwater specifically) and water demands in the event of droughts are of concern.
- In approaching how these topics and issues are divided should relating precautionary principle and decision making be in the same category as the lack of/need for data?

Two sets of topic areas to organize these issues /recommendations have emerged from the Implementation Subcommittee's work and were sent out to Commission members ahead of time.

Set A:

- Access to/allocation of water (quantity).
- Value/cost of water (including the foregone costs of responding to disasters that occur due to lack of preventive measures).
- Integrated watershed management and planning.
- Infrastructure design and investment.
- Adaptive management (to address increasing occurrence of extreme weather, i.e., climate change).

Set B:

- Integrated watershed management and planning.
- Water ownership and value of water.
- Water infrastructure – drinking water, wastewater, dams, and storm water.
- Non-point source pollution – storm water runoff and water quality.
- Floods, droughts, and climate change – adaptive management.
- Adequacy of water supply – water quantity
- Water quality.

Given the discussion above, there may be a need to revise these lists to better reflect the variety of key issues identified by Commissioners. John's topic/issue groupings based on Commissioner's comments are as follows:

- Need for more data about water resources in the state.
- Managing around the intrinsic value of water.
- Education of citizens regarding the value of the resource – necessary to create constituency for long-term sustainable management.
- Fostering cooperation/regulation/enforcement in regions that match the way that water organizes itself, i.e., in watersheds.
- Water infrastructure – in poor condition in State and suffering from lack of funding (tied to value vs. cost issue), and need to reconsider design principles to address future weather patterns.
- Relationship between land use and water resources, particularly the issue of increasing impermeable cover, which affects source waters protection and forest health.
- Process for acting on all these issues.
- Who makes decisions regarding water management and using what criteria? Needs to be science-based with adaptive management principles incorporated.
- Exporting of water.
- Provision of technical resources/capacity to towns grappling with water resources questions in a larger context.
- Water rights/access issues – how do we apportion water? Allocation? Hierarchy of use? Public trust vs. fair use and issues of equity. Ecosystem needs must be included in the process.
- Ensuring that all citizens have adequate access to safe drinking water at adequate level of affordability.
- Interconnecting water and wastewater systems to get to economically viable scale.

Items identified as not being on John's list or necessarily fitting into a specific category are:

- The monetary value of water.
- How available data is integrated into decisions.
- The future costs for infrastructure upgrades as demands increase.
- Water rights and water equality.
- Addressing the water issues that originate from out of the state or that are exported to other states downstream.
- Ecosystem services and impacts.
- Ensuring safe drinking water is available and affordable for both residential use and for businesses.
- The distinction between private and public drinking water sources and the associational regulations (or lack of regulations).
- Looking into regionalization or cooperative agreements for water infrastructure.
- Promotion of land conservation to protect waters supply areas and increase protection of riparian areas/headwater streams.
- Every topic or issue discussed seems to go back to watershed planning and that seems to be the key idea.
- Whatever the topics or issues that are identified, there needs to be prioritization as to what gets addressed when.
- For much of this to happen, there needs to be a paradigm shift in the approach to managing water resources in the state.

The most critical of the key issues appear to boil down to:

- Integrated watershed management and planning – many of the issues are subsumed in this category;
- Balancing of fair use with public trust doctrine – addresses access and quantity management issues; and

- Education of citizenry – a critical precursor to accomplishing any of the necessary strategic management functions.

V. Recommendations Process

The original intention for the meeting was for the Implementation Subcommittee to verify with the full Commission that the general topic areas for framing the implementation process are correct. The reaction of Commission members during the last discussion indicates there is general consensus on what the issues are, but that how to group them in order to develop recommendations that reflect sustainability may need to be reworked. The second goal for today's meeting was to walk through the proposed process for identifying those recommendations that the Commission can make to help add value to addressing the known issues. The comment was made that all of the issues the Commission has been discussing seems to fall under the topic of watershed management. Discussion about watershed management efforts in the state included the following:

- The question was asked if the Instream Flow pilot project on the Lamprey and Souhegan Rivers had resulted in any lessons learned from trying to implement a planning effort that is designed to consider varying conditions. The basic lesson is that it is doable, but is not without controversy and the process to get there is not easy.
- The Southeast Watershed Alliance (SWA) was mentioned as a good example of allowing these watershed planning efforts to be adaptable and allowed to evolve. SWA was established by enabling legislation and while its focus right now is getting all the towns to address nitrogen getting into Great Bay, it may eventually be able to turn into the facilitator to get the towns and regulators to work cooperatively. This kind of regulatory evolution cannot be mandated by the federal or state government, it needs to be allowed to work from the bottom up and be led by the municipalities themselves.

Both of these management efforts will be presented at a Commission meeting this spring. One suggested reworking of the grouping of issues included: integrated watershed management and planning, education and outreach, and the organizational and regulatory processes.

Tom suggested that if the Commission is looking to address these issues using a different approach, then the fundamental way that the issues are looked at and recommendations are made needs to be fundamentally different. The process outlined is the standard model that has been used by the other commissions and a majority of their recommendations have not been implemented. If we compare the list of issues to the list we developed last summer with the help of Maureen Hart regarding what sustainability is and how to address it, we might see the similarities to the issues that have been outlined, but that perhaps we need to address them using a different framework.

If the goal of the Commission is to look at sustainability of water in the state then perhaps a sustainability framework is needed. It is a different way to organize the issues and may help to identify the areas of overlap and which issues or recommendations are more of a priority. Two suggestions were made to look again at are the *Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework* and the example presented by Maureen Hart. Using the sustainability lenses presented by Maureen Hart that the environment supports society which in turn supports the economy as illustrated below the recommendations the Commission develops may become clearer.



Discussion included questions about if the prioritizing and presenting process for the Commission's recommendations to address issues switches to using this approach should it be tackled by the Implementation Subcommittee or the Commission as a whole. Concern was expressed about the need to still present the information in a direct fashion that gets to question of what needs to be done, by whom, by when and what is needed to accomplish it.

For the next meeting, the Implementation Subcommittee will attempt to use Tom's suggested framework process prior to the next Commission meeting. The next Commission meeting will be changed to another working session with this approach being the main focus.

VI. Upcoming Meetings

Due to the extension of the Commission, the meeting schedule was extended to include the following dates and additional dates may be added if necessary:

- March 20th
- April 17th
- May 15th
- June 19th
- July 17th
- August 21st

VII. Public Comments

Bill Hounsell: Asking the questions of where mandates come from and then who actually implements/pays for those changes is important. There is a need to consider a local perspective when looking at these problems and how they can be addressed from the bottom-up as well as from the top-down. The bottom line is that everyone needs to share in the responsibility and cost for addressing these issues. There needs to be integration in the regulations, organizations and management of these resources. The first step toward this is addressing funding, particularly fulfilling the state's obligation to towns on the State Aid Grants for infrastructure projects. In addressing this issue, the long-term result may be a sustainable mechanism for funding infrastructure needs across the state, paid for by local, state and federal sources.

The Water Infrastructure Commission (SB 60) is interested in coming before this Commission and perhaps dovetailing efforts by coordinating reports and recommendations.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
March 20, 2012**

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

Commissioners in attendance:

Dave Allen
Virginia Battles-Raffa
Kris Blomback
Robert Beaurivage
John Gilbert, Chair
Denise Hart
Marcy Lyman, Vice Chair
Glenn Normandeau
Amy Manzelli
Cliff Sinnott
Chuck Souther
Alison Watts

Commissioners not in attendance:

Thomas Burack
Michael Licata

Public in attendance:

John Boisvert, Pennichuck Water Works
Bill Hounsell, CDM Smith
Sarah Pillsbury, NHDES
Gil Rogers, PE Consultant
Kenneth Pelletier, Water Depot of NH
Jennifer Rowden, NHDES
Jim Ryan, NH Fish and Game Commission
Paul Susca, NHD

Chairman John Gilbert called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

I. February 14th Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the February 14th meeting minutes was made by Cliff Sinnott and seconded by Glenn Normandeau. The motion passed unanimously with Dave Allen abstaining.

II. Updates

Public Engagement Subcommittee: On May 8th, the public engagement sessions the subcommittee has been working with New Hampshire Listens on will occur at five locations around the state simultaneously from 5:30 to 8:30. The simultaneous session will help to maximize the publicity of the sessions. Registration will be required for participants prior to the sessions and New Hampshire Listens will be providing the session facilitators. The subcommittee would like at least one Commission member at each of the session locations. The flyer advertising the sessions will be sent to the Commission members once finalized. A press release is scheduled to go out March 30th and then again in April.

The following Commissioners are planning to attend at the various locations:

- Concord: Virginia and Chuck
- Greenland: Glenn, Dave and John
- Manchester: Bob and Amy (tentative)
- Keene: Alison
- Berlin: Marcy

New Hampshire Listens expects to have a report back to the Commission about a month after the sessions summarizing the results.

Outreach: On Friday, March 23rd, John will be speaking during the plenary session of the New Hampshire Water and Watershed Conference at Plymouth State University. Denise will be presenting during an afternoon session with Molly Donovan (NH Listens) about the Commission's work and about gaining public input on water sustainability. Governor Lynch will be the keynote speaker at noon and will be speaking about the Commission. Alison will also be speaking about the integrated watershed work occurring on the Seacoast.

Additional out reach efforts coming up include a gubernatorial proclamation either for World Water Day or for Earth Day about the Commission. We will also begin posting water events round the state on the Commission's website.

III. Implementation Process

As a follow-up to the Commission's discussion at the February meeting, the Implementation Subcommittee took another look at how to design an implementation plan and recommendations that reflects the Commission's mandate around sustainability. At the subcommittee meeting, the group brainstormed an approach that would design a "campaign" or initiative. The Commission would create a slogan that could present a unifying message as a step in building a constituency for water in the state. Virginia explained that the subcommittee gravitated towards the slogan "New Hampshire lives on water – planning for today and tomorrow" because of its simplicity and the second half of the slogan could be changed out to address more specific issues or audiences.

The subcommittee also revamped the matrix and decided to use a series of questions as a way to introduce each of the general issues the Commission has identified. The following visions for the Commission's general issues/ topic areas and with questions related to the subcommittee discussion were drafted by Tom:

Visions:

1. Integrated watershed management and planning is occurring at appropriate levels (e.g. state or sub-watershed).
2. People have an in-depth understanding of water issues and placing great value on water and water services.
3. Stormwater and nonpoint source pollution is effectively treated.
4. Drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and dams are adequately maintained and improved as necessary to protect human health and the environment, and water services are affordable.
5. There is effective adaptation to address changing climate trends, specifically more frequent flooding and droughts and changing water occurrences and quality with increase temperatures.
6. There is an adequate quantity of water to support human and other ecological needs.

Questions:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| • Is water very valuable to you? | • Will it support out (future) economy? |
| • Will I be safe from flooding? | • Will it be enough? |
| • Will it be clean? | • Can it support fish and wildlife? |
| • Will it be available? | • Can it support families? |
| • Will it be affordable? | • Can it support businesses? |
| • Will it be accessible? | • Can it support recreation? |
| • Will it be safe? | • Can it support food production? |

Commission members' feedback on this approach included:

- Yes is the automatic answer to all of them. However, the real issues are actually in found in the detail of these topics.
- The questions help to highlight the threats so that we can describe what will be lost if nothing is done to help back up the recommendations.
- This framework almost needs to be three dimensional.
- The questions are the entry point for stakeholders to dig deeper into the sustainability framework.
- Yes to the questions is the purpose of the questions because it can lead people to look at what the issues are, what needs to be done and how they affect them individually.
- The questions are rhetorical, to get the reader to think about what if the answer is no?

- There does need to be the negativity included in the report to answer the question if nothing is done what will water in the state look like in 25 years.
- The message that the Commission sends out needs to be able to be framed differently for different audiences.
- In order to get the public on board with water issues, or any issue, you need to tell them about the problem, show them how it can be solved and provide them with an action they can do to help solve the problem. The questions start to frame the case for an initiative to build a constituency for water.

The Commission discussed the need to highlight what action is being taken around the state to address these topics, including examples of what the other water-related Commissions have accomplished. The Commission's time is limited due to the September deadline, so in order for the work to continue into the future the recommendation process needs to include a mechanism to implement the recommendations. Part of the Commission's purpose is the further the recommendations of the other water-related commissions that overlap with one another or to make recommendations that help ensure. This could be in the form of a permanent legislative commission, establishing a non-profit, working with existing institutions to form a "campaign" etc.

There was general consensus that the six visions outlined above were well defined, but the second one related to education and outreach may need to be pulled out and broadened. There was discussion about the need to emphasize the importance educating the public, legislatures, and decision-makers about water if there is going to be a paradigm shift. It was suggested that, at some point, there be joint meetings of the working groups – specifically the Implementation Working Group and the Public Engagement Working Group,

IV. Other Business

John and Marcy met with Steve Norton, Director of the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies, to update them of the work of the Commission and to learn about the Center's interest and work in water. The Center plans to submit a proposal to the McIninch Foundation to support their work related to water. The proposal is due before the next Commission meeting in April. The exact nature of their work and proposal has not been finalized. John and Marcy were seeking the Commission member's thoughts as to whether this was something that the Center could do to inform/support the work of the Commission and to seek approval to provide a letter of support or interest in the work they would be doing should the center request it. No Commissioner expressed any reservations with John and Marcy continuing to discuss a possible partnership with the Center.

V. Public Comments

Kenneth Pelletier: Ken indicated he hoped the Commission would include consideration of water use and reuse as one of its strategies to help reduce the costs related to pumping and treating water. For example, it does not make sense to use drinking water for irrigation; water reuse can be part of the solution. There is also an economic aspect in that there are several small-businesses in New Hampshire, including his own, are also positive for job creation in the state.

Bill Hounsell: A big question regarding the discussion of water sustainability for the towns is whether the state has a responsibility to be a partner in funding some of this infrastructure. There are examples of where the state has taken the lead in the infrastructure needs with the Lake Winnepesaukee Basin Program and others where the towns have aligned themselves regarding the infrastructure with the current work around Great Bay and nitrogen. The need for funding will always be more than is available. Having something like a watershed implementation plan to help address the funding needs across a watershed may help and would be a good way for the state to partner with communities.

Gil Rogers: Emphasized that in order to make sustainability happen there is a need to get the "movers and shakers" on board. This includes the legislators, but there needs to be a hook to get them to focus on the issue.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
April 17, 2012**

**New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Concord, NH**

Commissioners in attendance:

Dave Allen
Virginia Battles-Raffa
Kris Blomback
John Boisvert
Thomas Burack
John Gilbert, Chair
Denise Hart
Michael Licata
Marcy Lyman, Vice Chair
Amy Manzelli
Cliff Sinnott
Chuck Souther
Alison Watts

Commissioners not in attendance:

Glenn Normandeau

Public in attendance:

Mark Cave, concerned citizen
Henry Deboer, Epping Well & Pump
Molly Donovan, NH Listens
Michele Holt-Shannon, NH Listens
Bill Hounsell, CDM Smith
Robert Morency, RCAP Solutions
Sarah Pillsbury, NHDES
Gil Rogers, PE Consultant
Jennifer Rowden, NHDES
Paul Susca, NHDES

Chairman John Gilbert called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

John Gilbert introduced John Boisvert, Chief Engineer for Pennichuck Water Works, who will be replacing Bob Beaurivage on the Water Sustainability Commission due to Bob's retirement.

I. March 20th Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the March 20th meeting minutes was made by Kris Blomback and seconded by Marcy Lyman. The motion passed unanimously with John Boisvert and Amy Manzelli abstaining.

II. NH Listens and May 8th Public Sessions

John Gilbert welcomed Molly Donovan and Michele Holt-Shannon from NH Listens who will be coordinating the five May 8th public listening sessions for the Commission. Michele gave an overview of what the participants will experience in the facilitated, small group sessions. She explained that the general goal is to get participants to talk as individuals and to feel that they have an equal say in the conversation. Participants will be sent a packet ahead of time with some basic background information (drafted with NH Listens and the Public Engagement subcommittee); the packet is largely based on the *New Hampshire Water Primer*. The conversation in the sessions will flow from an introduction, to asking participants to take a look at the information they were given, asking them what they value or what their priorities are regarding water, and then to draft some recommendations. The goal is to give participants some knowledge to make decisions and also to see what participants focus on or do not focus on.

For the Commission members attending the sessions, they will be asked to join a group mainly to listen to the discussion. If media happen to show up, they will also be asked to join a group with the understanding they cannot quote what they hear from a group or individuals without the consent of the group or person. NH Listens will also ask participants to evaluate the sessions at the end of the event. After the event is over, NH Listens will be sending out a quick summary of the general themes heard at all five locations and they will be issuing a report to the Commission a few weeks afterwards.

NH Listens and the Commission need to continue to publicize the listening sessions, with an effort to get participants who are not normally involved with water issues all the time. The Commission was asked to distribute flyers and to e-mail the electronic copy that will be sent shortly. The Public Engagement subcommittee will be working with the Commission members regarding the logistics of who will be attending which session, getting a packet of materials out and handling showing the slideshow.

III. June 19th Stakeholder Session

The May 8th sessions are largely geared towards the general public. The June 19th session will be mainly for those businesses using water or those who work with water issues or needs professionally; these stakeholders will largely be at a higher level of understanding of the issues. The June 19th stakeholder session is currently scheduled to be held at DES during the normal Commission meeting (2:00 to 5:00 p.m.). NH Listens has offered to assist with facilitation of the June 19th session.

The following comments were made regarding the content and structure for the June 19th session:

- The plan is to structure the session the same way as the May 8th session, with small group facilitated discussions, but to have the questions posed to the participants be more strategic.
- There will be some crossover regarding attendees between the public sessions and the stakeholder session.
- If the session is at DES, then there is a limited capacity. Should the Commission target certain groups to invite?
- There should be some mechanism to try to link organizations together as a result of the session or the Commission's work.

The Commission members felt the following questions should be asked at the June 19th session either to get direct feedback or to at least get the conversation started amongst participants:

- What can those in the water professions do to advance the thinking on water resources on a watershed basis?
- What can the Commission do from the list of compiled recommendations (Appendix A) to advance these issues/recommendations with the recognition that the Commission is ending in September?
- What can the represented organizations do to move these issues further?
- What has been the inhibiting factor(s) to address many of these issues and what can be done to overcome them?

The issue of capacity at the DES facilities for the sessions was discussed and whether there may need to be some funds raised to try to host the session in a larger space.

IV. Recommendations Review

Prior to the meeting, John Gilbert asked Commission members to review the table of the recommendations from various sources and their relationship to the six draft visions the Commission discussed at the last meeting (See Appendix A). The recommendations are from the other water-related commissions, the New Hampshire Water Primer and, recommendations the Implementation subcommittee drafted at their last meeting. Many of the recommendations are related to several visions and the vision related to education is actually an overarching vision. John asked the Commission members if these are the issues and are they the most important. Many of the recommendations are specific, particularly from the other commissions, and the Commission's recommendations need to be more strategic in nature.

The following comments were made regarding the recommendations and visions:

- The issue of international trade agreements and foreign companies extracting water from the state is not listed.
- Concern that these recommendations do not fully address the issue of riparian rights and the development of a prioritization of water users. A suggestion was made that the Commission may want to recommend that a prioritization system be established for emergency situations, but the Commission itself should not be creating the system.

- The recommendation/vision regarding watershed planning needs to be better worded to specify the level it should be done at with relation to existing laws/regulations (or should recommend new laws/regulations).
- Recommending a change to a watershed based approach for state regulations would be a major policy shift.
- Another level of policies may need to be included in between the Commission's visions and recommendations.
- There is a need to include the precautionary principle either in the visions, policies or recommendations.
- The lack of data is not specifically mentioned, and there needs to be proactive planning for either getting the data and/or what should be done if there is not enough data to make sound decisions.
- A recommendation about how data will be incorporated into decisions needs to be included.
- The issue of cost needs to be included, even if the Commission does not recommend specific mechanisms for addressing funding.
- At least some of the recommendations need to be doable and there needs to be a system of prioritization included in the final report.
- The Water Infrastructure Commission is looking into broad funding solutions as part of its recommendations.

V. Other Business

At the next meeting, John Gilbert indicated that the Commission needs to start looking at what the form of the final deliverable is going to be and work on the recommendations/ report will need to be part of every meeting discussion from this point forward. For the May 15th meeting, the Commission will be hearing from some of the watershed planning efforts occurring around the state. In July the meeting will focus on the value of water and August will be dedicated to the report.

VI. Public Comments

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

- Similar to what the Department of Transportation puts in its ten-year infrastructure plan, a plan needs to be developed for water resources that addresses the ultimate goal, the needs, who will pay, the upfront and long-term costs, and what policies need to be in place to reach that goal.
- The state needs to prioritize funding of water infrastructure projects in a well defined manner. It also needs to allow for local knowledge and priorities to be considered in water infrastructure funding. There is a need to discuss the role of funding at the local, state and federal level, and how all three levels interact. Funding must be discussed as part of the Commission's plan.
- There is a need to be more protective of areas that serve, or may someday serve, as water supplies. However, there is a need to not have recommendations or regulations be too cumbersome or costly on public water systems, or there will be pushback.
- There is a need to be ways to look at creative or alternate ways to pay for water infrastructure and to protect water resources. No matter what the form takes it will be critical that there is technical assistance available from DES and others, which means that there needs to be adequate funding for those entities.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.

		Visions				
		Education Vision: People have an in-depth understanding of water issues and place great value on water and water services				
Recommendations		Integrated watershed management and planning is occurring at appropriate levels (e.g. state and subwatershed).	Stormwater and Non-point source pollution is effectively treated.	Drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and dams are adequately maintained and improved as necessary to protect human health and the environment and water services are affordable.	There is effective adaptation to address changing climate trends, specifically more frequent flooding and droughts and changes in water occurrence and quality with temperature increases.	There is an adequate quantity of water to support human and other ecological needs.
Land Development and Land Development Regulations Commission	Utilize the NH Wetlands Method, a recognized scientifically based method of evaluating wetlands, to establish wetland buffers of 50 to 100 feet (measured horizontally). Note: The Commission offered specific buffer score recommendations.					
	Define "wetland buffers" and "indirect impacts" to wetlands.					
	Compile data on functional values of wetlands as they become available in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the thresholds scores proposed in the first recommendation.					
	Recommend that if municipalities choose to implement a wetland buffer ordinance or regulation, that they be encouraged to utilize the same method (Method for the Evaluation of Freshwater Wetlands in New Hampshire, 2010).					
	Enhance existing education and outreach programs to promote smarter growth and protect natural resources.					
	Consider new legislation to provide for an alternative, integrated land development permit that addresses multiple issues (e.g., wetlands, stormwater, wastewater/septic, habitat, and indirect and cumulative impacts) in coordination.					
	Establish incentive-based programs to promote smart growth patterns of development.					
	Develop and implement a statewide ecological connectivity plan to maintain and restore wildlife mobility among habitats and across the landscape.					
Stormwater Study Commission	Amend State law to define the term "stormwater".	Senate Bill 265 is currently being considered by the Legislature and, if passed as written, would include a definition of stormwater in state statute consistent with the recommendations of the Stormwater Commission.				
	Amend State law to clarify that all property owners are responsible for stormwater originating from their property. Create statutory definitions that will provide the underpinning for local and statewide stormwater management based on property owner responsibility.					
	Amend State law to create a statewide, watershed-based, stormwater utility program with local options that could be phased in over a period of years. Amend the existing language in RSA 149-I about municipal stormwater utilities to be consistent with and complementary to the statewide utility concept. (If the recommendation of creating a statewide stormwater utility program is not implemented, amend State law to create a statewide stormwater discharge permit system administered by NHDES.)					
	Amend State law to clearly enable and require municipalities to regulate stormwater within their boundaries.					

Landscape Management					
Limit the construction of new critical facilities or state facilities in fluvial hazard zones (mapped 100- and 500-year floodplains or identified fluvial erosion hazard zones).					
Increase the preservation of land in floodplains to help retain natural flood storage capacity while also providing significant ecological benefits for fish and wildlife.					
Establish a state -level regulatory approach for floodplain management.					
Increased funds for flood management activities.					
Relocating structures within the 100 year floodplain and determining flood insurance status.					
Increase knowledge of flood building codes at the local level.					
Establish a state-level fluvial erosion hazard program similar to Vermont's Fluvial Erosion Hazard Program.	The NH Fluvial Erosion Hazard Mitigation Program was established in 2009.				
Increase ability for the state and municipalities to manage stormwater.					
Ensure that bridges and culverts are adequately sized.					
Establish protocol for mitigation procedures for removal of woody material that may pose an imminent threat to infrastructure.					
Local Floodplain ordinances should prohibit development within a 100 year floodplain.					
Increase education and outreach to communities regarding floodplain management and insurance options.					
Encourage all NH communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and its Community Rating System.					
A dedicated state-funding source for floodplain buyouts.					
Flood Forecasting and Data Collection					
Increase information collection to improve flood forecasting.					
Improved flood insurance rate maps and watershed planning					
Dams					
Funding for the repair or removal of aged dams					
Increase public awareness [of flooding and dams].					
Improve flood forecasting for dam operations during flood events.					
Improve dam operations during floods.					

Water Infrastructure Funding Sustainability Commission	Interim Report Recommendations					
	The immediate need for 2011 state match dollars to secure federal state revolving loan funds for wastewater and drinking water improvement projects					
	An interim need, until a long-term revenue source can be identified, for dam repair funding to ensure state owned dams are safe.					
	The reinstatement of state aid grants in the state 2012/2013 budget for projects that were initiated prior to these grants being deferred and would justifiably have anticipated the availability of these grants.					
Groundwater Commission	Clarification on entitled required to report water use of more than 20,000 gallons per day to DES and establishment of enforcement standards.	Recommendation fulfilled by passage of House Bill 215 in 2005.				
	Expansion of the ambient bedrock monitoring network in New Hampshire.		This recommendation has only been partially fulfilled by the NH Legislation appropriating additional program funds.			
	Clarification of state and municipal authority to restrict excessive discretionary water uses from non-regulated withdrawals during water supply emergencies.	In 2007, the Legislature approved House Bill 457, which enabled municipalities to restrict residential lawn watering, including when private wells are the water source, during state or federally declared droughts.				
	Need for accurate and complete information regarding well location and associated geologic materials.	In 2007, the Legislature approved House Bill 459, which amended RSA 482-B:10 to require that licensed well drillers provide accurate well location data to NHDES.				
	The exemption of replacement or redundant wells from the requirements of the Large Groundwater Withdrawal Permit (RSA 485-C:21).	In 2010, the Legislature established RSA 485-C:22 which exempts such wells from the permit.				
	To require water quality tests to be conducted on water from newly constructed private wells and from private wells providing drinking water at the time of a real estate transaction.	In 2010, the Legislature considered House Bill 1685, which proposed such testing, however, the bill was not approved.				
	Clarification that state regulations of large groundwater withdrawals do not pre-empt a municipality's authorities to regulate other aspects of a project, and clarification of regulatory requirements for short-term and emergency large groundwater withdrawals.	In 2010, the Legislature adopted Senate Bill 411, which amended RSA 485-C as stated.				

Rivers and Streams					
Protection of riparian areas.					
Increased collection of physical, chemical and biological data.					
Reduce the impacts of land use change.					
Continue to develop and implement instream flow protection.					
Lakes and Ponds					
Improve coordination of water quality programs.					
Determine carrying capacity and provide adequate public access.					
Continue new initiatives to prevent and control invasive aquatic species.					
Groundwater					
Improve monitoring to support protection.					
Increased municipal land use controls to protect groundwater quality and quantity.					
Increased public education and awareness.					
Wetlands					
Improve wetland permitting to increase efficiency and stakeholder satisfaction.					
Increase and improve local involvement.					

Coastal and Estuarine Waters					
Develop a strategy to adapt to the impacts of climate change.					
Reduce nutrient and sediment loads to the estuaries.					
Limit boat moorings.					
Make removal of head-of-tide dams a priority.					
Expand shellfish resources and harvesting opportunities through improved management of estuarine areas.					
Support land conservation and stormwater best management practices to help reverse trends in coastal and estuarine degradation.					
Water Use and Conservation					
Per capita water efficiency must improve.					
Community water systems need incentives.					
Water use registration and reporting requirements must continue, be fully enforced and implemented.					
Innovative water resource projects must be developed.					

Drinking Water					
Increase private well protection.					
Improve capacity of small systems.					
Maintain and upgrade drinking water infrastructure.					
Improve local protection efforts.					
Track emerging contaminants.					
Water system security and interconnection.					
Prepare for climate change.					
Wastewater					
Take action to get the most out of the existing wastewater infrastructure.					
Start planning early for the next generation of wastewater infrastructure.					
Promote the use of onsite treatment technology in ways that protect environmental quality.					
Continue efforts to eliminate discharge of untreated sewage where cost effective.					

Stormwater					
Encourage and facilitate the local adoption of state stormwater management standards.					
Encourage low impact development and compact development.					
Upgrade stormwater infrastructure.					
Implement stormwater utilities.					
Dams					
Improve dam maintenance.					
Remove unnecessary dams.					
Increase public awareness [of dams].					
Floods and Droughts					
Develop improved mapping programs for floods.					
Increase the number of stream gages to better predict flooding.					
Develop and implement disaster precaution for floods.					
Revise the Drought Management Plan.	Currently being developed by UNH.				
Establish prevention and mitigation strategies for water supplies adversely affected by drought.					

Rivers and Lakes Advisory Committees' Sustainability of NH Surface Waters

Increase available water resource data, and improve data access and management. Specifically, increase the stream gage network and expand/improve water quality monitoring.					
Establish a clear, well-communicated strategy on a state-wide scale to effectively address landscape change and its impacts on water quality and quantity.					
Promote protection of shorelands and riparian buffers.					
Limit the impacts to water quality and quantity from urbanization and watershed development.					
Determine the carrying capacity of lakes and provide adequate public access to surface waters. (Carrying capacity refers to the level or type of use beyond which impacts to the lake or the visitor experience exceed acceptable limits.)					
Control invasive aquatic species through prevention, monitoring and research.					
Address issues of consumptive use of surface water and groundwater. Specifically, determine and implement instream flow protections, and monitor/address impacts of [cumulative] groundwater withdrawals.					
Address the potential climate change impacts on New Hampshire's rivers and lakes, including include rising sea levels, altered runoff patterns from reduced amounts of snowfall and more frequent extremes in precipitation from drought to floods, and increased water temperatures that could degrade cold water fisheries					

		Education Vision: People have an in-depth understanding of water issues and place great value on water and water services				
Recommendations		Integrated watershed management and planning is occurring at appropriate levels (e.g. state and subwatershed).	Stormwater and Non-point source pollution is effectively treated.	Drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and dams are adequately maintained and improved as necessary to protect human health and the environment and water services are affordable.	There is effective adaptation to address changing climate trends, specifically more frequent flooding and droughts and changes in water occurrence and quality with temperature increases.	There is an adequate quantity of water to support human and other ecological needs.
WSC Implementation Subcommittee 4/10/12 Recommendations	State regulations (permitting and enforcement) are coordinated at the watershed-level within state agencies and between agencies.					
	Allow/encourage municipalities to enter into cooperative agreements to address (proactively) water resource and water infrastructure issues.					
	Allow/encourage municipalities to adopt uniform regulations to protect water resources across municipal boundaries.					
	Promote the limiting of impervious surfaces related to land use change and encourage low impact development (LIDs).					
	Alter design criteria for stormwater treatment systems to require more treatment than just infiltration.					
	Elimination of combine sewer overflow infrastructure.					
	Adopt septic systems design standards or regulations that minimize nutrients and other pollutants from entering surface water or groundwater.					
	Reduce the demand for capital costs associated with water infrastructure replacement or upgrades.					
	Allow/encourage water infrastructure systems to form cooperative agreements to reduce operational and management costs, and where possible, to interconnect to further reduce costs.					
	Require asset management plans for all water infrastructure receiving funding receiving state or federal funds to encourage.					
	Ensure that during drought conditions, water resources and use are allocated under a prioritized system.					
	Promote water planning efforts such as instream flow protection that ensure a balance of water use between human consumption and ecological demands.					
	Promote water efficiency and water conservation.					

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
May 15, 2012**

**New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Concord, NH**

Commissioners in attendance:

Virginia Battles-Raffa
Kris Blomback
John Boisvert
Thomas Burack
John Gilbert, Chair
Denise Hart
Michael Licata
Marcy Lyman, Vice Chair
Amy Manzelli
Glenn Normandeau
Cliff Sinnott
Chuck Souther
Alison Watts

Commissioners not in attendance:

Dave Allen

Public in attendance:

Thomas Buco, Conway Fire Village District
Henry Deboer, Epping Water and Sewer
Commission
Ted Diers, NHDES
Bill Housel, CDM Smith
Wayne Ives, NHDES
Robert Morency, RCAP Solutions
Sarah Pillsbury, NHDES
Jennifer Rowden, NHDES
Paul Susca, NHDES

Chairman John Gilbert called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

I. April 17th Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the April 17th meeting minutes was made by Amy Manzelli and seconded by John Boisvert. The motion passed unanimously with Glenn Normandeau abstaining.

II. NH Listens May 8th Sessions Follow-up

Denise asked Commissioner members who attended one of the public listening sessions on May 8th to give an overview of who attend, what was said, and what they thought about the NH Listens process. Commission members gave the following feedback for the sessions:

Attendance - Those in attendance at most of the locations were mainly those who deal with water more than the average citizen. The range of attendees was from professionals to volunteers to elected officials to students. Manchester and Greenland had the most attendees and many were professionals or well informed citizens.

Facilitation – The skill level of facilitators varied widely with some able to ensure everyone had an opportunity to speak and some facilitators allowing the conversations to become a debate. A main suggestion was the need to have a facilitator and a note taker to keep the facilitator from doing both, which distracted from the conversation.

Discussion – Several Commission members noted that participants largely whittled down the issues to what the Commission has been discussing all along. The issue of funding came up at all the locations. The following topics were specifically mentioned during the discussions:

- The need for education about water and integration of water into education curriculum.
- Managing at a watershed level.
- Infrastructure funding.
- Balancing water use and regulations.
- Frustration with the ineffectiveness of existing laws.
- Understanding the land and water connection.

- Recognition that the issues in various regions are different.
- Questions about who owns the water and water privatization.
- Issues related to private wells.
- How is water infrastructure going to be fund and who is going to pay for it.
- Innovative funding sources need to be considered.
- The need for information about water on a more refined scale.
- Security surrounding water infrastructure.
- To be successful in this endeavor, the public needs to value water.

NH Listens sent out an initial summary of the recommendations to come out of the May 8th sessions locations (Appendix A). Denise will forward the NH Listens event evaluation form to Commissioners and request their feedback so it may be passed along to NH Listens.

III. June Stakeholder Session

The June stakeholder session is designed to be similar to the public listening sessions, but geared towards water professionals. Denise explained that NH Listens will be assisting with this event, but to a lesser extent than with the public listening sessions. The event is currently scheduled for June 19th from 2:00 to 5:00 PM; however, a location that can accommodate 150 to 200 people has not been finalized. Commission members discussed the merits of keeping the date, or trying to a different date due to the conflict with the Business and Industry Association & DES event on the same day.

Denise described the preliminary structure for the session:

1. Provide attendees with an overview of the Commission's work and the NH Listens final report on the May sessions (which will be available by then).
2. Ask them if these are the key messages/recommendations and what are the priorities.
3. Ask them to identify what the barriers are to accomplishing them.
4. Ask them to identify what indicators should be used (and where the data is if it exists).
5. Provide an evaluation at the end of the session.

The Commission members asked for clarification on details and offered slight modifications to improve the flow of the session. The Public Engagement subcommittee requested the full Commission give the subcommittee the authority to move forward with the above outline structure, with the incorporation of the suggestions posed at the meeting. Today's meeting is the last prior to the session. A motion was made by Kris Blomback and seconded by Glenn Normandeau; the motion passed unanimously.

The Public Engagement subcommittee has also been asked if it might consider holding a public listening session in the Lakes Region. While budget constraints will not allow for this, a group in the Belmont region has offered to host the Commission's July meeting and the Commission could hold a longer public comment period. Assuming an adequate space can be found, no Commission member had an objection to holding the July meeting in the Lakes Region.

Finally, the subcommittee requested the Commission's input about holding a formal public comment period during June. The public would be encouraged to comment on specific topics the Commission is addressing in addition to providing general comments. The Commission gave the Public Engagement subcommittee to the approval move forward with the comment period.

IV. Southeast Watershed Alliance Overview

Alison Watts and Ted Diers provided an overview of the Southeast Watershed Alliance (SWA), an organization established by statute in 2009 to help the coastal watershed municipalities coordinate and address intermunicipal water issues (See Appendix B). Ted provided a brief history of the enabling legislation, emphasizing that the ability for municipalities to cooperate on issues was already in RSA 9-B, and this was the attempt to focus that cooperation on water quality issues. Alison gave an overview of SWA's work to date, including the 2011 SWA Symposium that brought researchers working in watershed

to together and SWA beginning to develop model stormwater standards for use by New Hampshire coastal watershed communities.

According to Ted, Alison and others Commission members involved with SWA, the main challenges for SWA moving forward include:

- The all-volunteer nature of the organization means it is difficult to get work done if no one has the time or interest. Currently, there is not funding for any staffing.
- SWA only works on those issues for which there is funding, members with interest/expertise or both. It, therefore, functions as more opportunistic, and less strategic.
- Having representation from all the municipalities is still a challenge.
- Difficulty in getting municipalities with varying priorities and challenges to focus on specific issues.
- Municipalities fear the loss of autonomy and control with collaborations like this unless the benefit is very clear.
- If SWA is ever going to be funded through the state or communities, then it needs to be seen as having momentum and a clear purpose.

Commission members discussed the flexible nature of the SWA-enabling legislation. The flexibility is a benefit that will allow SWA to adapt to changing issues and priorities, but it is a challenge to get municipalities to see the purpose and benefit of joining. Ted described that this type of legislatively enabled municipal cooperation is a two-step process: one, is to foster general cooperation, and secondly, to build something (such as a multi-town sludge hauling facility). The SWA is only at the beginning of step one, but there is enough momentum to keep progressing forward. The Commission discussed that SWA is a good example of watershed-based management occurring in New Hampshire and some of the complexities of pursuing that approach. If the Commission recommends it as the model, there needs to be consideration about the funding and support such entities receive.

V. Final Deliverable Discussion

Given the fast approaching September deadline, the Commission needs to begin to finalize its deliverable to the Governor and the approach to rolling it out. John and Marcy asked Commission members to provide feedback on the mock report outline developed by Sarah Pillsbury to give them a starting point. Comments included the following:

- The approach does not rehash all of the other reports and recommendations which is a positive. This can be used as an educational/ marketing tool.
- Questions about how the results from the NH Listens process would be incorporated into this structure.
- Short, digestible documents like the mockup are needed, but a longer report with all the details also needs to be created so the details the Commission has looked at do not get lost.
- Suggested appendices included the NH Listens report, the list of recommendations from all the water-related commissions, example/stories and the Commission's minutes.
- The recommendations the Commission feels are most important need to be highlighted.
- The report needs to include key next steps, actions to be taken, and responsibility assigned to different entities.

For additional comments regarding the mockup report, Commissioners were asked to submit them to Virginia. Members of the Implementation subcommittee will work with additional Commission members on the deliverable and rollout.

VI. Public Comments

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

- Thomas Bucu, Conway Village Fire District Commissioner, submitted two letters for the Commission's consideration. The letters are to DES Commissioner Burack and Governor Lynch regarding the need to reinstate the state aid grants for water and wastewater systems for the 2014/2015 state budget (Appendix C). Conway Village Fire District was awarded funding in April to interconnect with the Conway Wastewater Treatment Facility which will eliminate its discharge into the Saco River. The town leveraged the funds for this with the state aid grant funds, for which payments back to the towns are on hold.
- Bill Hounsel, CDM Smith, stated that the Southeast Watershed Alliance is a good model, and helps to unite municipalities. However, the state needs to contribute funds in order for municipalities to tackle and leverage additional funding for water and wastewater projects.
- Henry Deboer, Epping Water and Sewer Commission, stated that there is a need for New Hampshire to promote using water wisely and to its economic advantage. People get tired of hearing about water conservation, but using water wisely gets to the same point. DES advising towns more regarding rates would be helpful. Promoting more education through programs such as the chemical monitoring waiver program would be good. The program provides incentives for systems to save money through reduced testing if they qualify, but requires educational material to be distributed as part of it.

VII. Upcoming Meetings

Marcy and John discussed the need for the Commission and subcommittees to start meeting more often. The suggested schedule will be to meet twice in July and twice in August with the final report rollout the 3rd or 4th week in September. A poll will be sent out to Commission members regarding their ability for dates for upcoming meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This will be the water stakeholders meeting. The location of the meeting is pending.

Appendix A – NH Listens Report

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

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**

www.nhlistens.org

Bringing people together for engaged conversations and informed community solutions

Appendix B - Southeast Watershed Alliance Overview

Vision

Healthy coastal water resources that provide a balance between social, environmental, and economic benefits, in keeping with State and Federal regulations.

Mission

The mission of the SWA is to establish a regional framework for Piscataqua coastal watershed communities, regional planning commissions, the state and other stakeholders, to collaborate on planning, and implementation measures to improve and protect water quality and more effectively address the challenges of meeting clean water standards.

Enabling Legislation

TITLE L WATER MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION. CHAPTER 485-E SOUTHEAST WATERSHED ALLIANCE
Section 485-E:1 Findings and Purpose.

I. New Hampshire's coastal water resources have significant ecological, commercial, cultural, and recreational values for the state and its citizens. The state's coastal water resources are highly sensitive and are subject to intense and increasing pressures associated with population growth and development, including increased pollution loads from many sources, including wastewater treatment facilities, stormwater runoff, septic systems, and land use practices. Excess levels of nutrients are of particular concern, have become a significant problem in the Great Bay estuary, and are likely to result in more stringent water quality requirements that could affect activities occurring in municipalities throughout the coastal watershed. In order to improve and protect water quality and meet state and federal regulations, it is necessary for municipalities to reduce nutrient pollution loads from wastewater treatment facilities, stormwater runoff, septic systems and septage, and land use practices. It is essential that the state, and municipalities located within the state's coastal watershed, work in a coordinated way to address these problems and protect the health and sustainability of New Hampshire's coastal resources.

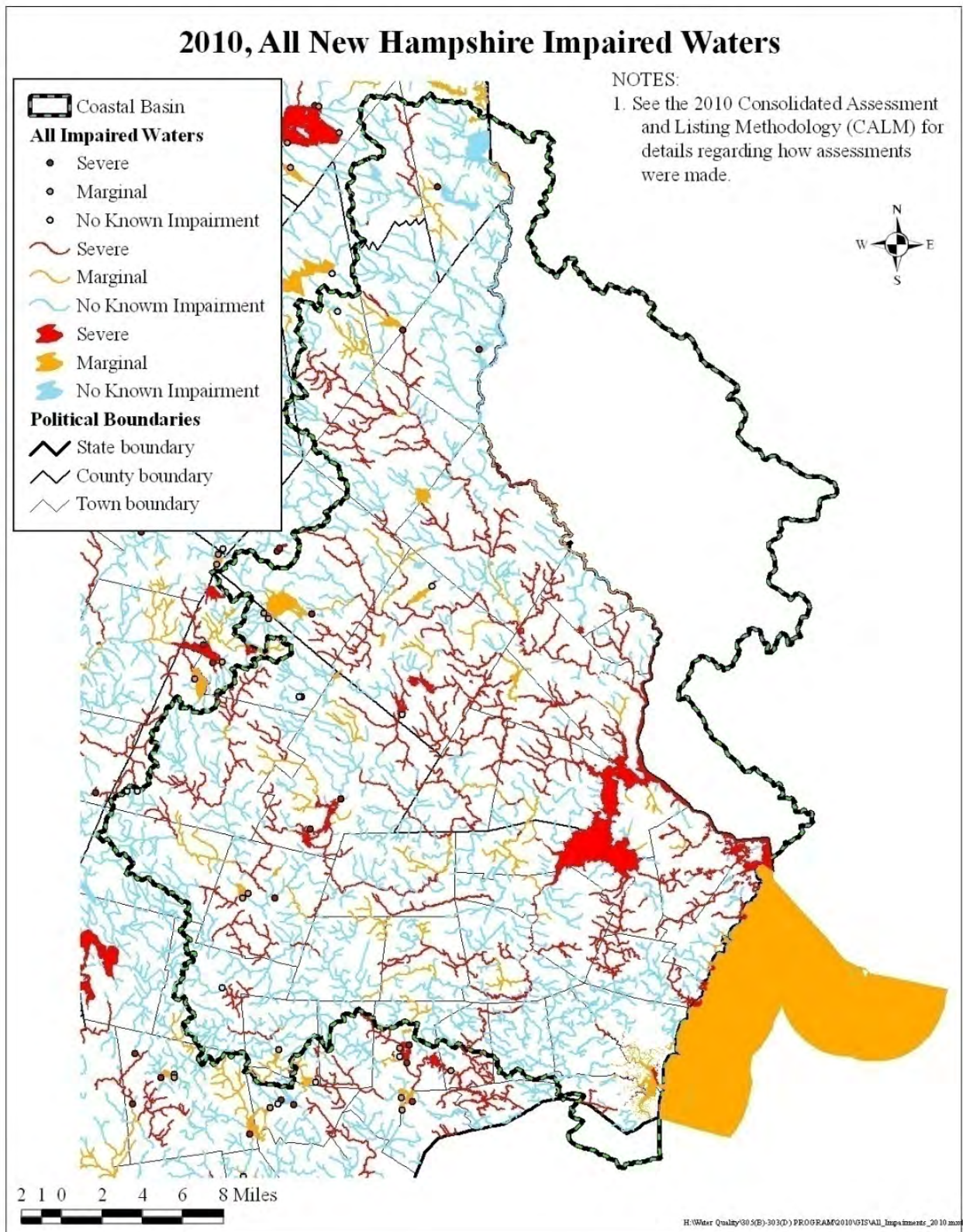
II. The purposes of this chapter are to:

(a) Create better municipal, intermunicipal, and regional planning and coordination relative to wastewater and stormwater management, water quality and water supply planning, and land use;

(b) Establish a regional framework for coastal watershed communities, regional planning commissions, the state, and other stakeholders to collaborate on planning and implementation measures to improve and protect water quality and more effectively address the challenges of meeting clean water standards, particularly with respect to nutrients pollution;

(c) Encourage coastal watershed municipalities, the state, and other stakeholders, individually and in collaboration with one another, to plan, implement, and invest in wastewater, stormwater, and land use planning and management approaches that protect the water quality, natural hydrology, and habitats of the state's coastal resources and associated waters and that advance the state's economic growth, resource protection, and planning policy, established in RSA 9-B; and

(d) Seek innovative solutions to reducing pollution and enhancing water quality.



Appendix C –Letter submitted by Thomas Buco, Conway Village Fire District Commissioner.

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
June 19, 2012**

**New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Concord, NH**

Commissioners in attendance:

Virginia Battles-Raffa
Kris Blomback
John Boisvert
Thomas Burack
John Gilbert, Chair
Marcy Lyman, Vice Chair
Amy Manzelli
Cliff Sinnott
Chuck Souther
Alison Watts

Public in attendance:

Henry Deboer, Epping Water and Sewer
Commission
Ted Diers, NHDES
Bill Housel, CDM Smith
Wayne Ives, NHDES
Robert Morency, RCAP Solutions
Sarah Pillsbury, NHDES
James Ryan, NH Fish & Game Commission
Jennifer Rowden, NHDES
Paul Susca, NHDES

Commissioners not in attendance:

Dave Allen
Denise Hart
Michael Licata
Glenn Normandeau

Chairman John Gilbert called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Tom Burack introduced the Water Sustainability Commission members to Vicki Quiram, the new DES Assistance Commissioner.

I. May 15th Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the May 15th meeting minutes was made by Amy Manzelli and seconded by Kris Blomback. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Public Engagement Subcommittee Update

Amy provided the Commission with an update on the three main subcommittee tasks.

A. July 9th Water Professionals Session

The planning for the July 9th session is underway and the main push now is advertising the session to those who either work with water in a professional capacity or whose businesses rely on water. Commission members were asked to please send out the announcement to their constituency and contacts. This session is being considered a Commission meeting; all those in attendance indicated their ability to attend on July 9th.

The subcommittee is working with NH Listens staff to design the content of the July 9th session. The general format will be similar to the May 8th sessions, but with more time for feedback on recommendations. The three major components of the session are the following, with priority going to items two and three, are:

- 1) Attendees' reactions to the May 8th public conversations report from NH Listens.
- 2) Reaction to the Water Sustainability Commission's work directions/current thinking.
- 3) Getting people whose work it is to focus on water to identify common causes.

To help attendees and the Commission get the most out of this session, the subcommittee would like to provide the attendees with a summary of the Commission's vision/guiding principle/ general

recommendations. This would be sent out along with the May 8th session report and the discussion guide. The plan is to have all of this together by the end of next week so that information can be sent out before the July 4th holiday. Kris asked if any of the session was going to focus on what attendees are worried may be coming, be it increased costs, regulations, etc. Amy stated that getting at those worries will be covered by the session format. If any Commission member has any concerns or suggestions about the session content, please e-mail Amy as soon as possible due to the short turnaround time.

The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 27th from 2:00 to 3:30 at Baldwin & Callan.

B. Public Comment Survey

To get feedback from those who have not been able to attend any of the Commission's meetings or sessions, the subcommittee had moved forward with designing a structured comment period. The subcommittee is working with NH Listens and DES staff to design the survey. The survey will be sent out next week (after a brief pilot). The plan is to send out the survey link to the Commission notification list, the NH Listens session attendees and to post it on the website. The comment period will run through the end of July.

Virginia expressed the need for the survey should be sent specifically to municipal officials to get a better sense of the public's attitude about water and water issues. John G. and Amy indicated that the intent was to distribute the public comment survey as broadly as possible without too much solicitation due to time constraints. Commission members were encouraged to forward the comment survey to their contacts.

C. NH Listens May 8th Sessions Draft Report

NH Listens sent the Commission the draft report from the May 8th sessions late yesterday so they would have it when discussing the vision, goals, etc. for later in the meeting. The overall summary reflects the most prevalent responses to the guiding questions, as well as to the five challenges outlined in the water primer summary that were part of the discussion guide. The priority issue areas to emerge from the conversations are as follows:

1. Management, coordination, and protection of water resources.
2. Education and public awareness of water issues.
3. Regulation and incentives for conservation.
4. Address funding structure for long term and proactive investment.

Comments from members who reviewed the draft report was that the feedback largely reflected what the Commission had been discussing. It was questioned whether the discussion guide and the framing questions may have been too leading. That a large portion of those in attendance were highly knowledgeable about water issues may have also swayed the results.

III. Commission Visions/Goals/Recommendations Discussion

Prior to the meeting, John G. distributed a document containing the drafts of the Commission's vision, guiding principles, strategic goals, recommendations and actions. These have developed and discussed at full Commission and Implementation Subcommittee meetings. The document was not intended to represent the final format of the Commission's final deliverable/report, but rather just the content. John had asked Commission members to think about the following when reading through the draft:

- What is missing?
- What should be addressed in the strategic recommendations that have not been covered?
- Are there any recommendations that appear to have drifted in terms of the way that they are expressed now versus the manner in which they were originally proposed? In other words, have any of the recommendations moved off point?

The final content of the draft materials will serve as the foundation for the final deliverable, supported by the Executive Order, the NH Listens report, feedback from the water professionals listening session, and other relevant context-setting information.

Marcy also asked Commission members if any of the recommendations or actions are too specific for the Commission to make a recommendation about (i.e. does the Commission know enough to weigh in). Virginia commented that many of the recommendations and actions are not specific enough; there needs to be details such as timeframes and sources of information. Cliff noted that it is important to be specific where possible, but when the Commission only has a partial idea of how to address something that it should still be captured.

Additional comments regarding the overall final deliverable included the following:

- The goals and recommendations, the “whats” are good and well framed. The “hows” are largely missing and that may be the most important part: how will all of this get done, by whom, by when and how will it be tracked? (How will the Commission's work be carried on?)
- The idea of this Commission adding value to the past water-related commissions' work still needs to be incorporated. What work has been started from those recommendations and what else needs to happen?
- Visuals and testimonials need to be included to make the content accessible.

A. Vision Statement

Discussion included the necessity to either define the term sustainability, define what the Commission views as sustainability, or to simply work it into the vision statement.

B. Guiding Principles/Overarching Recommendations

Education: The importance of education must to be included throughout the deliverable; however, the extent of the emphasis was discussed. The Public Engagement Subcommittee at a recent meeting heard from Judy Silverberg (NH Fish and Game Department) about the state of environmental education in New Hampshire. The basic message was that environmental and science education varies greatly in the state, particularly at the lower grade levels. However, the state does have an environmental literacy plan that has vetted recommendations to better incorporate environmental education into the classroom curriculum. Youth education needs to be specified because the youth of today will be the adults of tomorrow. If the Commission chooses to include youth education into its recommendation, it is possible to cite the work of others who are more knowledgeable about the issue than this Commission.

It was also noted that, though education is an important component of the final deliverable, it also needs to emphasize the actions that need to get done and not just what the public (along with youth and legislators) needs to learn.

Investment/Funding: Does the Commission want to use strong language when speaking about the need to invest in water infrastructure and resource protection/management? Does the Commission have enough knowledge about the interaction between the federal, state and municipal funding and the value/cost of water to make such a statement? Commission members discussed the need to emphasize full cost accounting in the price/ value of water. For example, what is long-term cost of a water system versus just replacing pipes? What is the value of ecosystem services? John B. noted that there is a difference between recommending investing in water infrastructure and funding/subsidizing that infrastructure.

Adaptation/ Risk Management/Population Shifts: The Commission discussed whether there needs to be a statement about the implications of climate change, shifting populations and diffuse land use patterns. What is the risk if land use patterns continue as they have recently, particularly for different regions of the state?

Water Laws and Rights: Ensuring equitable allocation and access for social and ecological demand was discussed because it is part of sustainability.

Post - Water Sustainability Commission Actions: Several Commission members noted there was discussion about how to carry the work of this Commission forward once the final deliverable is issued in September. A solution to this issue was not decided; however, Commission members offered that a description of an organization or entity that could carry this work forwards could be included. That would leave the door open for creation of a new entity or an exiting entity to take it on.

C. Goals/Recommendation/Actions

Goal 1 – Watershed Planning and Management

- Members debated about whether to use the term watershed in the report, given that the general public does not know its meaning. However, part of the Commission's desire is to emphasize thinking about issues at the watershed scale so introducing the term may be consistent with that.
- The need for a good glossary with the report was deemed essential.
- Tom also indicated the need to use language the public can understand and not technical jargon.

Goal 2 – Stormwater and Non-point Source Pollution (Water Quality)

- The goal was rephrased to read "stormwater runoff and non-point source pollution is minimized and effectively treated."
- Suggested restating stormwater runoff as "rain and snowmelt runoff."
- The second set of recommendations/ actions seemed to capture what the Commission discussed at a broader, more strategic level. The first set captured DES staff comments regarding more specific recommendations/actions.

Goal 3 – Water Infrastructure (Drinking Water, Wastewater, Stormwater and Dams)

Conversation regarding this goal was covered simultaneously with the investment/ funding discussion found above.

Goal 4 – Adaptation

- The recommendation regarding prioritizing water uses during drought conditions fits under Goal 5, as well.
- This goal either should be combined with goal 5 or both should be rephrased to be more distinct.

Goal 5 – Water Quantity

- The Commission discussed whether there was agreement on a recommendation about development of a hierarchy of water users, particularly during drought situations and/or when demand exceeded supply. The general consensus was that no agreement had been reached. The group discussed whether climate change and population shifts will increase the occurrences of there not being enough water. While it may not be a major problem now, it may be in 25 years, particularly for smaller water systems. Perhaps there is a middle ground with only prioritizing during very specific conditions (drought for example).
- Another suggestion was the need for a hard look at water rights and water laws in New Hampshire related to groundwater and access to water. Sarah Pillsbury offered to forward the Commission the research the Groundwater Commission had done related to developing a hierarchy of water users in New Hampshire; information related to priorities during drought situations is also covered.

IV. Final Deliverable

John G. discussed the need for the Commission to begin to finalize the content of its deliverable to the Governor and how that deliverable is going to be rolled out. He would like to accomplish this by dividing the Commission members into two teams; one focus on the content and the other on the rollout. There was considerable discussion about how the work of this Commission and its recommendations will

continue after the Commission is done in September. This will be part of the rollout effort so the Commission's final report will not just sit on a shelf. The content team will focus on the final language that will be used, but also ensure the recommendations and information can be used by a variety of stakeholders. The need to have the report be accessible and have multiple points of entry for different readers was stated several times.

The two teams will ideally meet simultaneously due to the overlapping nature of the two, and the teams should have members of the Implementation and Public Engagement Subcommittee on them. John G. and Marcy will be participating with both teams. The following Commission members indicated their team preference:

- Deliverable Content Team – Denise, Tom, Cliff, John B. Chuck, and Alison.
- Deliverable Rollout Team – Amy, Virginia, and Kris.
- Team not yet indicated - Mike, Dave and Glenn

Tom asked that the extent to which the Commission would like DES staff to assist in the mechanical preparation of the final report be discussed at the first content team meeting. The need to have the report written in one, consistent voice was highlighted as very important.

V. Upcoming Meetings

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| • 7/9 - Water Professionals Session | • 8/14 – Deliverable Teams Meeting |
| • 7/10 - Deliverable Teams Meeting | • 8/21 – Regular WSC Meeting |
| • 7/17 - Regular WSC Meeting | • 9/6 – Deliverable Teams Meeting |
| • 7/24 – Deliverable Teams Meeting | • 9/11 – Regular WSC Meeting |

VI. Public Comments

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

- Robert Morency, RCAP Solutions: The buzzwords he hears in his work are asset management, which is synonymous to a degree with sustainability. What are New Hampshire's assets? Its lakes, dams, etc. Sustainability also has to do with cost of balancing what you need, what you can afford and the timeframes involved. An effort should be made to like the water infrastructure funding to public health and economic vitality. Are New Hampshire municipalities sustainable if their water and water infrastructure are not?
- Henry Deboer, Epping Water and Sewer Commission: Commended the Commission for their open-mindedness on issues, particularly when it comes to the economics of water infrastructure. Every municipality is looking for a free handout and funding needs are long term, but most towns do not plan for the long term as are reflected in their rates. The question about will there be enough water in the state in 25 years is yes and no; it is locally dependant. The bottom-line is education, technical assistance and reduction in the broad regulator restrictions that constrain towns because of the cost. The broad policies do not work in the state because so much of the issues are locally specific.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

The water professionals' session will be held on Monday, July 9th from 2:00 to 5:00 at the New Hampshire Fire Academy in Concord; this is considered Commission meeting. The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 17, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Department of Environmental Services

Meeting Notes
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
Deliverable Working Session

July 10, 2012
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
Concord, NH

Commissioners in attendance:

John Boisvert
Thomas Burack
John Gilbert, Chair
Michael Licata
Marcy Lyman, Vice Chair
Cliff Sinnott
Chuck Souther
Alison Watts

Commissioners not in attendance:

Dave Allen
Virginia Battles-Raffa
Kris Blomback
Denise Hart
Amy Manzelli
Glenn Normandeau

Public in attendance:

Sarah Pillsbury, NHDES
Jennifer Rowden, NHDES
Paul Susca, NHDES

I. Deliverable Overview

John Gilbert explained that the purpose of the meeting is to begin finalizing the Water Sustainability Commission's report content and the way that the report and recommendations will be rolled out. Given the need to engage people over the long term the form and content the report takes is important. The Commission has some level of flexibility with rolling out the report and recommendations versus how other commissions have traditionally presented their findings.

The groups discussed their general thoughts behind the content and rollout approach for the deliverable. There was consensus that the content needs to be understandable, useful and interesting, and the rollout needs to be on message, to the right audience and at the right time. Additional comments regarding the final deliverable included the following:

- An explanation as to why all of this work was done and the purpose of the Commission needs to be stated clearly and upfront.
- Tension between broad goals and need for achievable goals.
- Need for action steps to be included. List of actions to be taken by businesses, households, municipalities, legislators, etc
- State what we know should be done versus having a series of questions to be asked for when we do not know what is needed.
- Need to articulate a road map for action and prioritization. Inclusion of a timeline.
- Balance goals and state specific actions that can be accomplished.
- In the introduction there is a need to lay out how the commission views sustainability.
- Education will need to be addressed, including whether the focus should be on educating children for long-term improvement or educating adults for quicker improvement.
- Education in this context needs to mean education to engage or educating for action.
- Regarding funding, the Commission may only be able to state that we need more of it.
- Outcomes:
 - Measures of progress or a report card?
 - What are consequences/ cost of not addressing issues now?
 - What do we need to avoid it?
 - Trends/predictable consequences – this is what we can do.
 - Asset management
 - Behavioral changes.

- Disinvestments: small solution example- incremental rate increases.
- Infrastructure for the new economy
- Scale of issues both time and geography is various for different areas of the state.
- Look at the consequences and the cost of not acting. What are the predictable outcomes?
- There is a need to keep it positive to avoid having readers become overwhelmed and to include achievable actions. "Here is what businesses can do" or "here is what homeowners can do". Examples include, utilizing asset management.
- Emphasize building for reality versus building for probability. What are the realistic infrastructure needs versus what infrastructure may be required in the future? Adequate capacity will need to be considered.
- Most people do not believe or realize there is a problem.
- There is a need to identify different issues and solutions for various regions and scales in the state.

John G. will speak with the Governor's Office regarding the rollout and Tom asked if there has been any discussion as to who will be following up with the rollout events after the Commission ends. Tom offered DES public relations staff to assist with ideas if the rollout team would like to tap them.

II. Deliverable Content

The group agreed that the content of the report needs to have simple, understandable language, be useful with relatable actions, and be engaging by being interesting. The report needs to be iconic with a direct message of why this is important and what can you do about it.

Tom asked that the group discuss who the audience is for this report. The group discussed that it was for the public, but refined it down to looking at community leaders, as those are the folks who will be doing most of the implementing. This also targets legislators and business owners who are often from the same pool of people. However, the report should still be written in accessible language so that anyone can understand it. Cliff mentioned that one audience that may readily take up these recommendations are the regional planning commissions who are all tasked with developing regional sustainability plans for the whole state over the next few years.

The group discussed what the platform for the Commission's report will be given the lack of funding. The general consensus was that distributing it electronically as much as possible is necessary, but there is a place for paper copies or at least single page version with links to the online, full version. The possibility of the Commission's report and resources being hosted on a website was also discussed, but resources would need to be found to support it long term as the current website may not be funded by future governors.

III. Deliverable Rollout

Challenge: How much will the Governor be involved in initial roll-out phase? Will he do roll-out through agencies? Roll-out should get thing out of block, move agenda ahead. Want this to be seen not as top down but as growing from the bottom up.

Initial steps:

- 1) Pre-release: Need/opportunity/benefits of working with selected media (go to limited number of reporters/editorial boards – briefing on work/recommendations of Commission), decide who to target – thought that businesses that depend on water most important group to target
- 2) Report: What form will it take?
 - if it is printed – who will print it (cost?)
 - if electronic – how distributed – website/social media (which/how?)
 - TV/Radio – WMUR/series on water/ NHPR/NHPTV
- 3) Set up system for transferring from one gubernatorial term to another.
 - Structure independent of governor.
 - Initiate process by which "super connected" people grow effort from bottom up
- 4) Create portfolio of stories – connect with NH Humanities Council

- 5) Create Speakers Bureau
- 6) Design and create fund to support annual New Hampshire Water Prize to recognize initiatives etc that best represent principles of sustainability.
- 7) Website: go for template of materials on water – curriculum, data, electronic clearing house – off shelf educational materials – Where to house? DES/Coop Extension/RC&D's?

Events:

- 1) Governor (one? More events): Great Bay, Salmon Falls, Winnepesaukee
- 2) Upcoming planned events:
 - BIA Water Conference – November
 - Conservation Commission Annual Meeting – November
 - Conservation Voters Annual Breakfast – January
 - Businesses for Social Responsibility – Spring
 - Water Conference – Plymouth State – March

Distribution-outreach of report:

- 1) Highlight sections important to different constituencies
- 2) Email?/Website?/Mail (if printed)?
- 3) Constituencies: exs. (PSNH, Pat McDermott, Economic Development)

Next Steps:

- 1) Marcy to follow up on Water Prize
- 2) Talk to Denise about collecting water stories
- 3) Design/format of report
- 4) Time-line of roll-out

IV. Upcoming Meetings

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| • 7/17 - Regular WSC Meeting | • 8/21 – Regular WSC Meeting |
| • 7/24 – Deliverable Teams Meeting | • 9/6 – Deliverable Teams Meeting |
| • 8/14 – Deliverable Teams Meeting | • 9/11 – Regular WSC Meeting |

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 17, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Department of Environmental Services.

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
July 17, 2012**

**New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Concord, NH**

Commissioners in attendance:

Kris Blomback
John Boisvert
Thomas Burack
John Gilbert, Chair
Denise Hart
Marcy Lyman, Vice Chair
Glenn Normandeau
Cliff Sinnott
Chuck Souther

Commissioners not in attendance:

Dave Allen
Virginia Battles-Raffa
Michael Licata
Amy Manzelli
Alison Watts

Public in attendance:

Michele Holt- Shannon, NH Listens
Rosemary Landry
Walter Leach
Bruce Mallory, NH Listens
Sarah Pillsbury, NHDES
James Ryan, NH Fish & Game Commission
Jennifer Rowden, NHDES
C. Spencer [Name was illegible on sign-in sheet]

Chairman John Gilbert called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

I. June 19th Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the June 19th meeting minutes was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Public Engagement Updates

A. Public Engagement Subcommittee update

Denise provided a brief overview of the last few tasks the Public Engagement Subcommittee will complete now that the July 9th session has occurred. The tasks include developing a report of the outcomes of the July 9th session and finalizing the May 8th session report with NH *Listens* based on comments received today.

B. New Hampshire Listens Debrief

Michele Holt-Shannon and Bruce Mallory, NH *Listens*, provided an overview of the NH *Listens* process, how the process was utilized at the May 8th and July 9th sessions, and how the Commission can use and interpret the outcomes of those sessions. NH *Listens* main goal was to help the Commission gain broad input from the public and water professionals. The second goal was for the conversations to begin engaging citizens in discussing and acting on these issues.

An analysis of all notes and small group reports surfaced the following issues as priority areas for further action. The priorities are:

- Management, coordination and protection of water resources.
- Education and public awareness of water issues.
- Effective regulations and incentives for conservation.
- Address funding structure for long term and proactive investments.

At the May 8th session there was strong emphasis on the need for incentives, and not just regulations, in order to get the desired behavior change around water. Many also acknowledged that water is

undervalued. The general take away message Michele had for the Commission is that people are becoming more aware, i.e. beginning to "think blue", but that they are simply uninformed about the issues. The guide for the May 8th session is a summary from the *New Hampshire Water Resource Primer* that is translated in to more general terms. The May 8th session report is intended to emphasize what attendees can do to continue the conversation about water.

Michele provided a brief summary of the outcomes from the July 9th session; Marcy and Denise will be working with Michele to develop a report of the session. Many in attendance indicated they would be interested in similar future events. Most groups seemed to feel the Commission had its challenges laid out well, but there was strong sentiment asking what needs to be done to spur acting on those challenges. Bruce identified that all along, July 9th included, that there has not been anything surprising that has come up. The issues have been identified, but the public's relationship with water is that it is taken for granted. The real identified need seems to begin to raise awareness amongst the public. Attendees at all the sessions recognized the complexity of these issues, but that having a conversation is not enough. The conversation, however, does begin to raise awareness which is an important step in achieving the long-term goal.

The Commission members thanked Bruce and Michele for their assistance helping the Commission complete the public engagement requirement of the Executive Order, indicating that it would not have been as thorough or provided as much feedback without them. The group discussed the following regarding the NH *Listens* process and the May 8th Session Report:

- The content of the discussion guide was excellent; it was refreshing to see the issues and challenges expresses so clearly.
- At the July 9th session, the collective expertise that was in the room may not have been fully utilized to help come up with solutions. Having facilitators may have helped, as would more time. Michele explained that when a mixed group convenes it often does require time for attendees to begin to warm-up to the conversation, and getting to solutions can be rushed. However, it does foster the desire for continuing the conversation at a future event.
- Attendees at the July 9th session reinforced the need for education that was brought up at the May 8th session. The focus on education was very broad at the May 8th session, and on July 9th it was more focused on the need to work across disciplines. Education that results in behavior changes was emphasized. Bruce commented that often educating someone on their personal impact/change on an issue leads to awareness and action on broader issues.
- Denise heard a need for education over time, questions regarding whether infrastructure is a local or state issue, that people do not think in terms of a watershed, and that more collaboration is needed.
- John B. noted that the true/real cost of water keeps coming up. Much of the discussion has been about water services costs, in which the real cost can be calculated. The fixed versus the variable costs in water services prices might not ultimately promote water conservation given the pricing structure that is often uses. The cost of water that has not been discussed is the more abstract values, for example, the recreational value of an impoundment versus the cost to maintain a dam. Getting people to know and realize these costs is also important. Michele noted that many participants understand that the full cost of water is not captured in their water bill. Others stated that thinking needs to be adjusted to understand that there is no such thing as waste water.
- Cliff noted that if we expect the public to respond to the issues they need to understand the challenges. Michele indicated that that aspect of public education is part of the larger strategic planning effort the Commission is undertaking. Denise requested the Commission not lose sight of the creative solutions that were offered at both sessions, such as bonding, a water lottery, etc. Glenn cautioned that sometimes ideas such as those may have unseen consequences, such as taking away from other issues that drawn from the same, somewhat fixed pool of funds.
- John B. mentioned that while Pennichuck Water Works has not reached the price point with its rates to where customers start to take notice and become engaged, the communities around Great Bay may be about to reach that point with sewer rates. The issue with these rates hitting a tipping point is that there is not alternative. The water and wastewater utilities will always do their jobs, however, it may be with a band-aid approach there the level of service become less. The real issue may be at what point will the level of services fall below customers' expected level of service. For example, is a business willing to go without water one day a month for lower

rates, or are they willing to pay more for better, consistent service? Marcy suggested that that specific topic may be an excellent follow-up session using the NH Listens model.

- Suggestions about using the NH Listens model for future discussion included holding something at the New Hampshire Municipal Association conference in the fall. Working with other similar groups at other events in between the end of the Commission and afterwards was also suggested. The suggestions on topics, events and audiences should also be included in the deliverable.

Denise made a motion for the Commission to accept the substance of the May 8th Session Report, and approve the request that the Public Engagement Subcommittee to work with Michele and Bruce to make any minor editorial changes. John B. seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

III. Final Deliverable

John G. explained that in order to begin to finalize the Commission's work, the members have been divided into two groups to work on the content and rollout of the deliverable. The idea is to have the two groups meet at the same time since the items they discuss will overlap. The first meeting was on July 10th and the two groups are as follows:

Deliverable Content – John G. Denise, Tom, Cliff, John B., Chuck and Alison.

Deliverable Rollout – Marcy, Amy, Virginia, Kris, Mike, and Glenn.

A. Content Overview

John G. explained the content group discussed that audience for the report is really those who are engaged in their communities (municipal boards, school boards, business leaders, local water association members etc.). This being the target audience will allow the report to still be accessible to the public, and will get at legislators who generally draw from those groups. These community leaders are some of the busiest people, so the actions and issues must be clear. The attributes of the content must be understandable, useful, accessible and engaging. The general size of the document should be limited to eight to ten pages, plus appendices. There is no budget for printing of a document and many aspects may need to be housed online. The general content of the report will include the following:

- Overview as to why this topic is important and why the Commission was established.
- The vision statement and guiding principles.
- The goals, recommendations and actions.
- Outcomes the Commission expects if the goals/recommendation/actions are completed and perhaps some measures of progress.

The why portion of this report was discussed as need to include that water is critical to the environment, quality of life, and the economy. The goal is to not have it be only human oriented.

B. Rollout Overview

Marcy gave an overview of the rollout group's initial thoughts and ideas. The first item for the rollout is to determine to what degree the Governor will want to be involved. The main goal for the rollout is to design it in a way that will help get the ball rolling and keep it rolling once the Commission ends. Issues related to and ideas for the rollout included:

- Have a pre-release event of the report for the media.
- The format of the report given the lack of budget may constrain how the rollout occurs.
- Try to engage the business community and other targeted audiences through upcoming events.
- Encourage the media to do a series of stories around water.
- Needs to be a description or plan on who should take this forward and it needs to be independent of the Governor.
- There could be a speaker's bureau or a site of off the shelf material for interested groups or individuals.
- Establishing a New Hampshire water prize for those going innovative work around water issues.

- Holding a series of launching events in prominent water locations: Great Bay, Lake Winnepesaukee, etc.
- The need to highlight the different issues and actions to various groups in a way that will foster long term change.

Given the lack of funds the group discussed the need to prioritize efforts and develop a timeline at the next meeting. Additional suggestions were to develop a canned presentation for any Commission member to give if a group requests such a presentation and the need to be careful with the messages contained in the report and rollout.

C. Outcomes

John G. explained that at the deliverable meeting it became obvious the Commission needed to make a statement about the outcomes it expects to see in 25 years if the goals, recommendations and actions are achieved or implemented. This will help to give those who take on some of these tasks a final benchmark to work from.

Goal specific outcomes:

- Watershed management:
 - Municipalities and the state are partnering to manage water at the watershed level (integrated watershed management).
 - Permitting is occurring at the watershed level.
 - Land use decisions and planning are being conducted at the watershed scale, which in turn are fostering cooperation between municipalities and/or the state.
 - Recommendation/action: Amend the regional impact statute (RSA 36) to incorporate projects of watershed impact.
- Stormwater:
 - MS4 communities are being permitted at the watershed scale, not the municipal level to help reduce the redundant costs associated with the MS4 permit.
 - The regulatory process for permits is streamlined, but incorporates stormwater. (If stormwater is going to be added into the mix of regulations there needs to be effort made not to add to the project approval time.)
- Infrastructure:
 - More stormwater is being infiltrated into the ground rather than being directed into detention basins.
 - Municipalities begin to view stormwater as a utility.
 - Septic systems are able to be financed to be replaced by homeowners through a revolving loan program
 - Municipalities are able to add a fee to property tax that is then refunded if a homeowner shows that a septic system has been properly maintained.

The Commission began presenting thoughts on outcomes based on of the five goal areas, however, it was realized that the outcomes being stated were closer to actions or recommendations. A broader approach to outcome statements was then discussed.

Broader outcomes:

- Tom drafted a few specific and some broader outcomes broken into three general categories: water quality and quantity, infrastructure and public awareness.
- For infrastructure, the replacement costs of the existing system need to be incorporated into the annual costs rather than letting those cost accrue, i.e. asset management.
- New Hampshire's policies, laws, rules and programs support the principles of sustainable practices.

The group discussed the degree to which the can/should address issues related to water rights and laws. The conclusion was that the Commission can identify those areas of water rights law that are relevant to

sustainable water management and describe outcomes that are necessary to align with the principles of sustainability.

The need to streamline the regulatory process and to have more consistency.

- An example for stormwater outcomes with a time line are that in five years each watershed would have a model stormwater utility, in seven years the state would provide incentives and in 25 years stormwater would be part of an integrated water management process.
- Flexibility exists in state laws and regulations to allow for water issues and resources to be managed differently based on regional or local situations.
- Information regarding water quality and quantity from around the state is available and accessible to allow for site specific, local, regional and statewide planning and regulatory decisions to be made. This data will allow for trends and cumulative impact information to be calculated.
- Water infrastructure is designed and water services are priced in such away to be adaptable to changing climate conditions, population shifts, and fluctuating demands.

V. Upcoming Meetings

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| • 7/24 – Deliverable Teams Meeting | • 9/6 – Deliverable Teams Meeting |
| • 8/14 – Deliverable Teams Meeting | • 9/11 – Regular WSC Meeting |
| • 8/21 – Regular WSC Meeting | |

VI. Public Comments

The public in attendance at the meeting had the following questions and comments for the Commission:

1. *Question:* What is the Commission's take on issues related to private wells?

Answer: The Commission has attempted to not take positions or make recommendations on specific topics. That said, we have taken a more long term view and are planning to make recommendation related to water pollution and cumulative impacts to help ensure that people will still be able to obtain plentiful, clean water from their wells.

2. *Question:* Given that the Commission has not issued a draft report, what is there for the public to comment on during the public comment period?

Answer: The Commission's public comment period is an attempt to given the public another opportunity to influence the process of the Commission's recommendations. This opportunity is in addition to the listening sessions held in May and July. The form online for comments is intended to help frame what the Commission is looking for feedback on; however, comments may be submitted with out the form via e-mail or regular mail. Additional information about the Commission's work, including meeting minutes and reference material, is available on the Commission's website for the public to react to.

3. *Question:* Will the public have a chance to comment on the Commission's report once it is issued?

Answer: It is unclear if the Commission is required to take public comment once its report has been issued; it is not called for in the Executive Order. Ways this may be accomplished will need to investigate this and discuss by the Commission. That said, the short time frame left in the Commission's existence may not allow for such responses.

A general discussion between the public in attendance and Commission members regarding how the Commission was established, the membership, and general work of the Commission also took place.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2012 from 2:00 to 5:00 at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. The Commission will also be meeting from on July 24th and August 14th from 1:00 to 4:00 at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to discuss the content of the final deliverable and how it will be rolled out to the public.

Meeting Notes
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
Deliverable Working Session

July 24, 2012
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Concord, NH

Commissioners in attendance:

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

Commissioners not in attendance:

Dave Allen
Virginia Battles-Raffa
Thomas Burack
Amy Manzelli

Public in attendance:

Sarah Pillsbury, NHDES
Jennifer Rowden, NHDES
Paul Susca, NHDES
William Housell, CDM Smith

I. Update

John G. reviewed the discussion from the last meeting and updated the group that the Governor's level of involvement is still not known. Given the discussion from the last meetings, the rollout and content groups elected to meet together given the cross-over of the two groups.

II. Content Discussion

A. Goals & Recommendations

The group discussed the need to be clear with the goals and recommendations. For example, goal one may be emphasizing watershed planning, but there is a need to acknowledge its practical limitations. The group discussed the merits of moving towards holistic watershed-based permitting, the different components of watershed management (ecological, regulatory, etc.), and the varying needs of different regions and municipalities.

Additional comments about the goals and recommendations included:

- What steps can be take now (and into the future) that will be more cost effective?
- Planning and permitting efforts at the watershed scale may be more cost efficient.
- There should be more emphasis on utilizing or expanding existing inter-municipal water efforts such as the volunteer local river advisory committees or the business model of the Winnepesaukee River Basin Program. Incentives for collaborative models such as these should be developed.
- Behavior change is what the Commission is looking for long-term and making tangible suggestions in the report is needed.
- Municipalities need resources, including technical assistance, and DES does not have the capacity to fill all of those needs.
- Incremental incentives are needed for targeted audiences.
- Recommendations need to be simple and realistic. People want to know they can do A, B or C to help. It is also important to show them why, possibly with stories.
- Need to point out that part of sustainability is economic, particularly for infrastructure. Municipalities working together is economically efficient; the soon to be release Stratham and Exeter water and wastewater infrastructure study illustrates this.
- Call out these examples in a case study.

Denise expressed concern about the lack of mention of pressures from outside of New Hampshire, particularly international pressures that may potentially impact our water resources (specifically the commoditization of water). Some members felt the issue was too broad given the Commission's scope and others felt the issue was address in the general statement regarding ensuring the state's water laws are sufficient. For now, the group discusses simply flagging the concern as an uncertainty that may need to be looked into.

B. Purpose & Findings

Commission members agreed that the reason for the Commission's existence and why these recommendations are being made needs to be better emphasized in the report. There is a perception that water in the state is all right, but the Commission members want to highlight that this will not be the situation in the future unless changes are made now. The "why" component needs to be more compelling. The areas discussed included infrastructure funding, water rights/ownership, extreme weather events, and the cost of protection versus restoration.

The group discussed how to present the Commission's findings in a way that does not minimize what the public said, the work of the other commissions, and provides evidence that helps convince people that change is needed or is occurring. Sarah offered DES assistance with finding the statistics the help support the Commission's statements once they are drafted. The facts used should emphasis that water is an asset to the state.

C. Next Steps

The following tasks were outlined to be completed before the next deliverable meeting in August.

- Refinement on why the Commission is looking at the issues it is looking at. (John B. and Alison will draft this to be sent out prior to the August 14th meeting.)
- Outlining the general findings of the Commission and basic facts to support them. (Cliff will draft and work with Sarah to come up with facts and charts to illustrate them.)
- Chairman's overview. (John G. will draft.)
- Logo for the report and future related actions. (John B. will work with Sarah to develop some logo choices for the full Commission to consider.)

The group also discussed future activities to take place after the Commission has ended or as part of the rollout. Suggestions included:

- Development of a New Hampshire water prize. (Marcy will continue to explore this idea.)
- A video contest (for high school students?) for illustrating why water is important in New Hampshire.
- Development of a coalition or advisory committee of organizations that focus on water to help carry out the Commission's ideas. John G. thought the Water Council could potentially serve this function as it already has the legislative authority already.

III. Upcoming Meetings

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| • 8/14 – Deliverable Teams Meeting | • 9/6 – Deliverable Teams Meeting |
| • 8/21 – Regular WSC Meeting | • 9/11 – Regular WSC Meeting |

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 14, 2012 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m, at the Department of Environmental Services

**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

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
August 21, 2012**

**New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Concord, NH**

Commissioners in attendance:

Virginia Battles-Raffa
Kris Blomback
John Boisvert
John Gilbert, Chair
Michael Licata
Marcy Lyman, Vice Chair
Amy Manzelli
Glenn Normandeau
Cliff Sinnott
Chuck Souther
Alison Watts

Commissioners not in attendance:

Dave Allen
Thomas Burack
Denise Hart

Public in attendance:

Fred Arnould
Paul Basiliere
Ann Marie Banfield
Arthur Bingham
Michael Brown
Rene Gingras
Bill Hounsell
Dennis Lemare
Robert Kingsbury
Don Kleeberg
Sarah Pillsbury
Jennifer Rowden
Aram Sisoian
Lucy Sisoian
Paul Susca

Chairman John Gilbert announced that the Commission meeting would be delayed slightly for the Commission members to hold a non-meeting consultation with legal counsel. All non-Commission members were asked to leave the room; once the consultation with legal counsel was finished, the public meeting would begin immediately.

The meeting was called to order at 2:50 p.m.

I. July 17th Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the July 17th meeting minutes was made by Marcy and seconded by Glenn. The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously with Amy, Alison and Virginia abstaining.

II. Public Engagement Subcommittee Update

A. July 9th Session Report

Marcy explained that the draft July 9th public session report developed by Public Engagement Subcommittee had been distributed to the Commission members for their review. Pending any changes from this meeting, the subcommittee would like the Commission to accept the report so it can be sent to participants and posted on the Commission's website. Two additional changes the subcommittee would like to make are to include a table of contents and a list of the session participants with their affiliation. The Commission members offered the following comments:

- The subcommittee should check with New Hampshire *Listens* to see if there are any issues with including participants' names given that they facilitated the session registration.
- The report should be published on the website as a stand alone document, but also included as a appendix to the final deliverable.

A motion to accept the July 9th session report pending the inclusion of a table of contents and the discusses appendices was made by Amy and seconded by Cliff. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Review of Public Comments

All public comments received to date (Listening Session Reports, the public comment questionnaire, the e-mailed and mailed comments, and comments from meetings) have been sent to the Commission. The subcommittee would like feedback about how the comments are framed or emphasized in the final deliverable. The Commission members offered the following comments:

- Within the report, do not respond to individual comments, but similar themes should have a response.
- At minimum, all the comments should be included as an appendix and posted online.
- Towards the beginning of the report (perhaps in the Chairman's Overview), the huge amount of comments received on a variety of topics should be mentioned.
- Summarize the comments in the report, with all the comments in an appendix.
- The report should specify in that members have reviewed all the comments and have considered them when formulating the goals and recommendations.

Comments will be brought back to the Public Engagement Subcommittee and they can work with the deliverable content group to incorporate the public comments.

III. Final Deliverable

A. Content Outline

John G. provided an overview of the draft final deliverable content that was distributed; this will be used to frame the paper report and the online content for the Commission. He explained the structure that those working on the content would like feedback on; the specific language included is just for clarification and is not necessarily the language that would be used in the final report. The goals section is the most complete because the most work has been done on it to date; however, goal six related to funding is a new addition. At the last content group meeting, the need to emphasize the funding beyond just infrastructure was realized and should include items like funding for monitoring.

The final deliverable will mainly be electronic (possibly with a website) to allow for easy linkage to other documents and sources. The short document discussed previously is likely not realistic, however, the printed copies of the report can reference the long appendices as being available online to cut down on length.

The Commission members provided the following feedback regarding the draft outline:

- Goal one and five may need to be clarified as they sound similar.
- In the goals, terms like watershed and stormwater should be used in the goal statements; do not may weaken what is being stated. Defining the terms in the sidebar was decided as the best solution. In general, the language needs to be simple or the terms need to be defined.
- All public comment will be included in the report as an appendix.
- For the "what can you do" section, the groupings should perhaps be more general (individuals, municipalities, businesses/organizations, government officials). Specific items to include are to know what watershed you live in and the importance of a water budget.
- Reorganize the "why is water important" section into the following subheadings:
 - A. Bundle the idea water is important for the environment, society and the economy.
 - B. General trends and issues now and possibly in the future.
 - C. The Commission's vision statement.
- Within the "findings" section, the importance of pilots and experimentation should be included, along with the information gaps that exist. The idea for flexibility and adaptation strategies should also be included.
- The findings and recommendation sections need to be consistent with each other once they have been more refined.

- There needs to be emphasis that the report, findings, recommendations, etc. are the Commissions. Inclusion of a letter from the Governor may not help move the report's content into future governors' agendas.
- For the funding goal, the funding need should be the central argument and that the situation is getting worse and not better. In the long run it is cheaper to address the problems now versus later, however, everything does not need to be done right away. The emphasis should perhaps be that the scope of the problem is known, however, all the potential solutions may not be.

The Commission discussed if the goals, recommendations or actions should be prioritized with no definitive conclusion. There was agreement that goals had largely been agreed upon, as had many of the recommendations (pending some wordsmith). To move towards a final deliverable, John G. would like anyone with thoughts on the content to come the August 29th content team meeting. He will send out a revised report outline based on today's meeting discussion. For the next regular Commission meeting, the goal will be to send out a fairly complete report by September 11th with the request any comments be sent to John and Marcy. This will be the basis for the discussion at the September 18th meeting. This should allow those who will not be able to attend the September 18th meeting the chance to provide input. The tentative vote on the final report was scheduled for September 25th.

B. Rollout Update

Marcy explained that the deliverable rollout has three main items to work with:

- 1) The physical report and its rollout.
- 2) How the Commission's recommendations will be moved forward.
- 3) Establishing a New Hampshire Water Prize. This was seen as a light, positive activity.

The next deliverable rollout meeting will be on September 6th at the same time as the content meeting.

IV. Upcoming Meetings

The following dates and times were proposed for upcoming Commission meetings and the general timeline for work: **August 29th** from 2:00 to 5:00 at DES. (Content Team)

- **September 6th** from 2:00 to 5:00 at DES. (Content & Rollout Teams)
- **September 11th** - *Draft report sent to Commission for review and comments. Draft to be discussed at 9/18 meeting. If members are unable to attend, send comments to John and Marcy in advance of the meeting.*
- **September 18th** from 1:00 to 5:00 at F&G. (Regular meeting) *Draft report discussion.*
- **September 25th** from 2:00 to 5:00 at DES. (Regular meeting) *Approval of final report (tentative).*

V. Public Comments

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

- Submitted written comment: 1) Recommendations need to be a reasonable reflection of the critical infrastructure upgrades that need to be addressed in the one to three year timeframe to avoid an interruption of services to water system needs and wastewater requirements. 2) The budget items necessary to address the one to three year priorities should become clear when the above is considered.
- Bill Housell, CDM Smith: Urged the Commission to reread the minutes from when Ira Leighton, EPA, spoke to them. Ira discussed the partnership between municipalities and the state's role in the funding issues. Primacy is also an upcoming issue. He urged the Commission to think from a municipal point of view versus the state's point of view.
- Dennis Lemare, US Senate Candidate (New Hampshire - District 2): Stated this is about property rights. If elected, he would never support funding that would go towards any of the efforts

discussed by this Commission. This is more about control by the United Nations as an entity. Sustainability is about private property rights being given over to the community. It is not about the sustainability of the water; it is about the United Nations taking your property rights. He also asked who in attendance and on the Commission were federal employees.

John G. explained that the Commission was not being directed by the United Nations. It was established by Governor Lynch by executive order and that all the Commission members were volunteers appointed by the Governor.

- Anne Marie Banfield, New Hampshire resident: She stated that she, and likely others, would like to have the following questions addressed: 1) Where is the evidence that there is a shortage of water? 2) How was the Commission formed? 3) How were all of the issues being discussed by this Commission dealt with before the Commission was formed? 4) What is the budget for the Commission? 5) What is the purpose of this Commission?

John G. explained that there are studies that point to a lack of water related both population changes and weather changes. He suggested that she look on the Commission's website to read about the Commission, including the Executive Order. The Commission was established by the Governor in an effort to bring together the findings of multiple legislative commissions from recent years to establish one strategy to protect water in the state.

- Bill Housell: He additionally urged the Commission to reread the information Dana Bisbee presented to them at the January meeting regarding the implications on NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] and its implications on property rights related to taking water.

Marcy stated that based on the findings of this Commission and others, the issues surrounding water will require the investment of time of residents to inform themselves and others about water now and into the future.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Glenn and seconded by Amy. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2012 from 1:00 to 5:00 at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
September 27, 2012**

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

Commissioners in attendance:

Virginia Battles-Raffa
Kris Blomback
John Boisvert
Thomas Burack
John Gilbert, Chair
Denise Hart
Michael Licata
Marcy Lyman, Vice Chair
Amy Manzelli
Glenn Normandeau
Alison Watts

Commissioners not in attendance:

Dave Allen
Chuck Souther
Cliff Sinnott

Public in attendance:

Bill Hounsell
Jim Ryan
Paul Susca

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 p.m.

I. September 18th Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the September 18th meeting minutes was made by Michael and seconded by Kris. The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously with Virginia abstaining.

II. Final Deliverable Discussion

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

A. Goal 1

- Change "regional" to "watershed".
- Towns often do not have the adequate expertise but some do.
- Better articulate the need for a different relationship between municipalities and the state.
- Need for state to be "final arbiter" of water permitting matters, based on science, while municipalities have the authority to deal with land use matters. This is the way it has been.
- Discussion about the state's authority regarding water matters and towns' authority regarding land use and the roles of each.
- Change working to clarify coordination between municipal and state levels of government.
- Discussion about the role of DES as a technical assistance source for municipalities and its resource level and authority.

B. Goal 2

- Recommendations 2: Add the idea about pilot programs and projects to implement new laws to learn the potential pit falls.
- Are there situations where federal authority supersedes state and local authority?
- There are opportunities for better coordination among federal, state and local government.
- Need to investigate potential impacts of international trade agreements on these matters.
- Add promoting integrated maintenance/replacement of water system components when other utilities/infrastructure work is taking place. (Example, replace water and sewer lines at the same time.)
- Possible area for additional inquiry: require that grant recipients establish a dedicated capital reserve account as a condition of receiving state grants or loans. There may be conflicts with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) regulations that need investigation.

C. Goal 3

- Preference for goal phrased "runoff from rain and snow, and the pollution it carries, will be minimized and effectively managed."
- The alteration of terrain rules seems to discourage this idea in impaired watersheds. DES is aware of the issue and looking to address it.
- What is being said about "managed landscapes" and "audits"? Clarification is needed.
- Discussion about what a "cooperative agreement" actually looks like. DES staff can provide an explanation.
- Discussion about establishing a process to address problems before a waterbody is listed as impaired.

D. Goal 4

- Discussed working changes to goal, recommendations and actions
- Recommendation 1: Tom will have DES staff comment if LiDAR is the only technology that should be called out
- General discussion about rewording the recommendations and changing the order.
- Discussion about whether to include other water infrastructure types, e.g. dams, and to reference design standards for new infrastructure.
- Adding something about the impacts of changing weather patterns or possible health impacts.

E. Goal 5

- Discussed working changes to goal, recommendations and actions.
- Recommendation 2: Regarding private wells, it was agreed to take out language "retain data on a confidential basis".
- Recommendation 3: the wording does not reflect that New Hampshire has one of the best groundwater withdrawal permitting programs in the country.
- Where should the concept of ecosystem services conflicts be included?
- Need to consider if the withdrawal permitting process will ensure the 25-year goal.
- This is an area where people seem to be concerned. Rewording to emphasize the need to reflect 21st century concerns and needs was suggested.
- The focus on withdrawals has largely been groundwater, however, the goal references all withdrawals.
- Discussion to work adaptive management into recommendations 3 and 7.
- Recommendation 3: Need to be careful not to suggest that current ownership structure with regard to water needs to be changed. The concern about water ownership was raised by the public and is addressed in the executive summary that the Commission did not address it.
- Rights and access are important components to sustainability and the report needs to clearly address the issue. The report currently mentions it, but needs to address the specific concerns.
- Discussion about combining recommendations 3 and 4.
- Recommendation 6: DES staff can provide additional information about the instream flow program and what has been learned.
- Recommendation 8: Intended to identify additional ways to address conflicts concerning water that do not involve the court system.
- Recommendation 5: Will fold this into questions about addressing different regional issues and concerns.
- Areas for additional inquiry: remove "ownership of land and water rights".

F. Goal 6

- Keep this goal, but add a funding goal.
- Discussion about what belongs under a funding goal and how it fits into the larger report.

The Commission discussed the need to lay out a vision for how the report recommendations will be implemented after the Commission is done. In addition, there is a need to address bench markers to indicate progress towards those goals. The key issues that need to be addressed are:

- Resiliency
- Avoidance of reaching thresholds (Example, how to indicate when a waterbody is nearing impairment status.)
- Watersheds
- Education, awareness and engagement
- The link between forest management and water quality
- Demographic shifts.
- Water rights and private ownership
- Funding and investments
- Regional differences

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 and the general timeline for work:

- **Thursday, October 9th from 2:30 to 5:00** at DES. *Report content working group meeting.*
- **Tuesday, October 16th from 2:00 to 5:00** at Fish and Game. *The draft report will be sent prior to this meeting for discussion and possible final approval at this meeting.*

IV. Public Comments

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

Bill Hounsell: The impairment status of waterbodies needs to be communicated to the municipalities. Funding incentives should be used to help municipalities to deal with and avoid impairments. The legislature needs to figure out how to help municipalities avoid impairments.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next regular Commission meeting is October 16, 2012 from 2:00 to 5:00 at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

**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.

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
November 7, 2012**

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

Commissioners in attendance:

Virginia Battles-Raffa
Kris Blomback
John Boisvert
Thomas Burack
John Gilbert, Chair
Denise Hart
Michael Licata
Glenn Normandeau
Cliff Sinnott
Chuck Souther
Alison Watts

Commissioners not in attendance:

Dave Allen
Marcy Lyman, Vice Chair
Amy Manzelli

Public in attendance:

Stephen Capizzano
Robert Godrick
Bill Hounsell
Sarah Pillsbury
Jennifer Rowden
Paul Susca

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m.

I. September 27th Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the October 16, 2012 meeting minutes was made by Tom and seconded by Michael. The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously with Chuck abstaining.

II. Final Deliverable Discussion

The roll-out of the report and coordinating with Governor Lynch and Governor-elect Hassan was discussed. Tom offered to contact the Governor's Office to arrange a meeting with John and other interested Commission members.

John explained that at this point, there is a need to not introduce new concepts into the report and the Commission should be focusing on refining the current contents. The consensus was that the report was nearly complete and there is an urgency to get it finished. Tom indicated that DES staff compiled suggestions for the Commission's consideration that focused on consistency, accuracy, and flow within the report.

The following are the agreed upon changes (minus minor editorial changes) discussed regarding the draft report sent to the Commission on November 1 and the DES suggestions offered by Tom.

A. Executive Summary

- Change bullet referencing water policies to read as follows, "Some of the state's water management laws, policies and regulations should be reviewed and updated as necessary to ensure that they reflect current scientific understanding and economic realities."
- Include the following bullet immediately following the first bullet on page 2, "Water infrastructure is part of New Hampshire's economic advantage and unless investments are made we will lose out competitive edge."
- Replace the language in the bullet titled "Infrastructure investments" with the following, "The natural and built systems that provide recreational opportunities, support ecosystems, deliver our drinking water, manage our storm water and clean out wastewater help to provide New Hampshire with a competitive advantage over other states. Without sustained and sustainable investments in our water infrastructure, we may lose this edge. We need to renew and perhaps reinvent partnerships between and among individuals, communities, state and federal government, and the private sector to provide the necessary levels of investment. "

- Change bullet titled "21st Century Management" to "Future Focused Management".

B. Why Water?

- Add Chuck's language regarding examples of how water serves different sectors.
- Replace the second bullet under "Why Now" to the following, "While there is no current expectation of a statewide water shortage, a look at where growth is expected to be concentrated (see figure) shows that some parts of the state are more likely than others to push the limits of available water resources. In the Seacoast region, domestic water demand is expected to grow by 54% between 2003 and 2020, and non-domestic water demand by 62 percent (Horn, et al., 2008)."
- Strike the last sentence of the second bullet on page 6.
- Under "Questions for Consideration", the third bullet should be split in two as the second question concerns a separate question.
- In the second to last bullet concerning water value, reword the second question as follows, "Is the price I pay for the water I use enough to ensure that my water system is adequately maintained and its water sources protected?"

C. Vision of New Hampshire's Water Future

- Add the following to the "Equity" bullet, "Ensuring that the ecological needs and human needs are both met so that all systems thrive *and, also, not impairing the ability of future generations to enjoy the same opportunities and benefits.*"
- For the "Stewardship" bullet use the following definition. "Promote understanding of water by individuals, communities and businesses, and actively manage it in a manner that protects the quality and quantity resilience of our water for the long term."
- For the graphics, it was requested that both the circular graphic (top-down sustainability view) and the pyramid graphic (cross-sectional view) used by Maureen Hart be included. The caption should reflect the idea that our environment is the foundation upon which society is built which in turn supports our economy. Having enough clean water is essential for all three areas.
- Under "Guiding Principles" reword the last bullet to the following, "Recognize that there is often some degree of uncertainty involved when making decisions about resource management, as well as opportunities for innovation, we make every effort to protect the ability of our water systems to support our natural environment, human communities, and economic systems over the long term."
- Reword the "Vision Statement" to the following, "New Hampshire's water is essential for the people and ecosystems that draw their life from it. The vision of this Commission is a renewed commitment and partnership between and among the state, its municipalities, its residents, its businesses, other stakeholders and the federal government. The purpose of this partnership is to collaborate on investments, management policies, practices and tools that ensure clean, plentiful and affordable water that meets both societal and ecological needs while protecting water for future generations."

D. Findings

- Drop the last three sentences of the first paragraph into a bullet, and then tie first and second paragraphs together.
- Use the replacement language offered by Tom regarding the compartmentalizing of water resource management.
- In the bullet referring to water quality and storm water the link modify the bullet, and captions under the two graphics to make the link to water quality and impervious surface coverage stronger. Delete the sentence about the best indicator for water quality is the number of people in the watershed. Call out the statement regarding the level of impervious surface coverage in the caption.
- Add the following to the end of the first paragraph to the well testing text box. "Both naturally occurring and human caused contaminants can be hazardous to your health."
- Reword the last bullet on page 11 to the following, "Site specific interrelationships between water resources (e.g., groundwater streams, and lakes) are not always fully understood. Additional information is needed to understand and address demands and impacts upon these resources."

- First bullet on page 12, questions were raised about whether the statement was a finding or more of a conclusion.
- The bullet concerning commercial investments on page 12 needs clarification. Elsewhere in the report innovated partnerships are encouraged, but the bullet as stated seems to discourage it. Suggestions made included removing the bullet or rephrased to indicate that if the public does not invest in water infrastructure private entities could potentially fill that gap. However, private investments may bring about other issues of concern. If the bullet is kept, it should fall after the bullet concerning water infrastructure investment needs.
- Under "Consequences", Tom suggested the following bullets to replace those listed:
 - Failure of water infrastructure and expensive repair lead to economic disruption.
 - In some places, not enough clean water will be available to meet local needs. This will have adverse effects on public health, the economy and the environment.
 - Human and ecological systems may no longer be available to fully tolerate disturbance, restore balance, and adapt to change. Full restoration of such systems is often extremely expensive and difficult, if not impossible.

E. Strategic Goals

a. Goal 1

- Reword goal to the following, "The people of New Hampshire will be knowledgeable, engaged and careful consumers *and stewards* of our water resources."
- Change the idea for action to include publicizing the economic impacts of water quality.

b. Goal 2

- Reword the last idea for action under recommendation 2 to the following, "Promote the conservation and management of New Hampshire's forests as a priority strategy for protecting water quality and quantity in the state."
- Throughout the report, replace the term "thresholds" with "indicators" as indicators need to be developed, but still encompass the concept of thresholds.

c. Goal 3

- Delete the fourth item under "area for additional inquiry" as concerns about international trade agreements are listed under Goal 1.

d. Goal 4

- Reword recommendation 4 to include the idea that the state commitment to provide funding mechanisms needs to be secured, developed and followed through.
- Strike second "idea for action" under recommendation 4 as it is duplicative of recommendation 2.
- Reword the fourth item under "areas for additional inquiry" to the following, "What are the implications for New Hampshire's residents and the economy of employing full cost pricing for water related services and systems?" And add a fifth item, "Since water infrastructure drives our economy, and benefits public health and the environment, how do we equitably share the cost?"

e. Goal 5

- Rephrase the recommendation 1 "idea for action" regarding impervious surface mapping to the following, "Expand mapping and analysis of existing impervious surface coverage throughout the state."

f. Goal 6

- Only minor wording changes made.

g. Goal 7

- Reword the goal to the following to be more visionary, "Ensure there will be adequate funding for managing water resources effectively and efficiently."

- Debate about whether to include an "idea for action" under recommendation one about trying to link funding mechanisms for water infrastructure along with funding for other water resource management needs. Concern that linking the two may result in the latter being brushed aside.

F. Where Do We Go From Here

- Reword number four under "multi-sector initiative" to the following, "Support initiatives to secure and provide for: infrastructure and other investments specified in Goals 4 and 7; technical support and assistance; cross-boundary planning and management; and policies, law, and programs that will ensure the availability of clean water where it is needed for future generations."

G. What You Can Do

- Several suggestions for changes were offered by Tom to the section to provide consistency.
- A new section was added titled "everyone" with a listing of supporting of the two items outlined in the "Where do we go from here" section.

H. Conclusion

- Concern that the first paragraph may imply that the Commission is suggesting statewide water zoning is needed. The intention was actually just to convey that we need to be careful that how we are managing water to ensure we are not slowly compromising it for the future.

I. Appendices

- Appendix C: Tom suggested using a different wording than behavior change and did the public truly ask for more regulations or where they asking that existing regulations be enforced?
- Add in the list of recommendations from the water-related legislative commissions to Appendix K.

III. Next Steps and Upcoming Meetings

John G. will get a revised draft report out shortly that reflects the changes discussed at today's meeting. If any Commission member has any issues or concerns with the draft, it was requested that they contact John to discuss the concern as soon as possible. John will then make any additional changes needed to the report and send out one last draft along with a list of concerns that require discussion. This final draft will be considered the version to be voted on at the next meeting on Wednesday, November 28 from 8:30 to 10:00 at New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

IV. Public Comments

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

Bill Hounsell: This Commission has included under Goal 4, recommendation 4 that "the state should commit to and establish a stable funding source for water infrastructure". It was requested that the Commission include a recommendation specifically included in the SB 60 Water Infrastructure Funding Commission Intern Report from 2010. The recommendation is that the state fulfills its funding obligations to communities who have projects with deferred payments through the state aid program.

The Commission debated whether to include specific recommendations from other commissions in its own report. It was decided to not include the requested recommendation (though the Commission acknowledged its importance) due to the long-term, strategic level the Commission is working at. However, a list of all the recommendations of the various water-related legislative commissions will be included an appendix of the Commission's report.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next Commission meeting is November 28, 2012 from 8:30 to 10:00 at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
November 28, 2012**

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

Commissioners in attendance:

Virginia Battles-Raffa
Kris Blomback
John Boisvert
Thomas Burack
John Gilbert, Chair
Glenn Normandeau
Cliff Sinnott
Chuck Souther
Alison Watts

Commissioners not in attendance:

Dave Allen
Denise Hart
Michael Licata
Marcy Lyman, Vice Chair
Amy Manzelli

Public in attendance:

Robert Goodrich
Bill Hounsell
Sarah Pillsbury
Jennifer Rowden
Paul Susca

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

I. November 7th Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the November 7th, 2012 meeting minutes was made by Virginia and seconded by Alison. The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

II. Report Rollout Discussion

John G. indicated that a draft press release, Commission hand-out, and presentation were distributed to be used as part of the Commission's report rollout. Given the heavy focus on the report in the last few weeks, the Commission members suggested holding an optional meeting to discuss rollout items at a later date. The Commission members discussed working on the following items, and will bring updates and confirmations to a December 5th meeting:

- Glenn offered to have Fish and Game public relations staff help get the press release out and to work with media contacts, including WMUR and other local cable outlets. Virginia will also work with her media contacts, including the Union Leader and NH Public Radio Exchange program.
- Virginia will also contact some of the state universities regarding interest in a presentation on the Commission's work as part of their environmental curricula.
- John will reach out to NH Public TV, suggesting possible collaboration with WMUR.
- Tom indicated the Governor's Office has proposed having a rollout event on December 17th at 2:30 at the State House with Governor Lynch. John will work with others to try to tie in media coverage. This date will be the tentative rollout date; Commission members should attend if possible.
- Copies of the report will be sent to the chairs of the New Hampshire House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee. Glenn (Senator Odell) and John G. (Representative Spang) will contact the chairs to discuss other opportunities to present the Commission's work.
- Alison requested that at the rollout meeting there should be discussion about working with the UNH Sustainability Program, or another group, about helping to push the recommendation forward and/or to organize the technical water and public engagement task forces described in the report.
- Tom and Sarah mentioned that DES's water education coordinator is organizing a State-wide Water Education Summit on December 14th; this would be a good opportunity to discuss some of the public education recommendations.
- Speaking engagement opportunities:

- Conservation New Hampshire Green Eggs and Ham Legislative Breakfast (January 2013)
- New Hampshire Water and Watershed Conference (March 2013, abstracts due December 10).
- Spring Office of Energy and Planning Workshop

A meeting to finalize the rollout of the report for will be held on Wednesday, December 5th from 5:00 to 6:30 at DES.

III. Final Report Discussion

John G. explained that the marked up version of the final report the Commission received reflected the changes discussed at the November 7th meeting, contains the minor, non-substantive changes offered by Commissioners, and has the substantive changes requiring discussion marked. John indicated that he only received substantive comments from a few Commission members. Some of these Commission members have requested that a vote not be taken on the report today and that another meeting be scheduled in order to address additional changes to the report. However, other members expressed the need to be finished due to scheduling conflicts, the amount of time the Commission has been extended, and their belief that the report will not greatly benefit from additional work. Those present discussed that there have been many opportunities for comments and concerns regarding the report to be addressed and, assuming no major conflicts from this meeting's discussion, a vote should be taken today given the unlikelihood of having all Commission members at a meeting in the near future.

Each of the substantive changes marked in the draft report were discussed by the Commission and resulted in the following decisions:

- Executive summary, 4th bullet: There was concern about characterizing all existing water laws as inadequate and request to include the term economic realities. The agreed upon language is as follows, "Some of the state's water management laws, policies and regulations should be reviewed and updated, as necessary, to ensure that they reflect current scientific understanding and economic realities"
- Executive summary, education bullet: There is a need to emphasize respecting private property rights and balancing responsibility. The agreed upon language for the last two bullet sentences is as follows, "These sectors must all be willing to take responsibility for and commit to action to ensure the quality and availability of water. We must respect private property rights while balancing a shared responsibility to ensure the quality and availability of water for future generations."
- Executive summary, infrastructure bullet: Use the original language to focus this section on why the investment is important. The agreed upon language is as follows, "The natural and built systems that provide recreational opportunities, support ecosystems, deliver our drinking water, manage our storm water, and clean our wastewater help provide New Hampshire with a competitive advantage over other states in terms of water availability and affordable water services. Without sustained investment in our water infrastructure, we may lose this edge. We need to renew, and perhaps reinvent, partnerships between and among individuals, communities, state and federal government, and the private sector to provide the necessary levels of investment."
- Executive summary, management bullet: Use the original bullet title of future focused management.
- Why water: Place questions under each statement.
- Why water: Change the statement "water is a finite resource" to "clean water is a limited resource".
- Why water, third bullet: Change the last sentence to read as follows, "These realities indicate that we are not on a sustainable path with regard to the availability of enough, clean water where we need it and when we need it in New Hampshire."
- Why water, questions for consideration, fourth bullet: Use original language as follows, "How can I work with others to encourage our state legislators and policy makers to keep good water laws on the books and update others to best serve today's world?"

- Why water, questions for consideration, fifth bullet: Include wastewater and rephrase as follows, "Do I know how much it costs to deliver clean water for me to use and to treat my wastewater? If clean water is a potentially finite resource, what is its value? Is that value and what is required to deliver it reflected in the price that I pay for the water I use?"
- What is water sustainability: Keep the four definitions and add in the tag line "enough for all forever".
- Guiding Principles, fourth bullet: Use original language as follows, "Recognizing that there is often uncertainty, as well as opportunities for innovation, we make decisions that protect the ability of our water systems to support our natural environment, and human communities over the long-term."
- Guiding Principles, fifth bullet: Strike statement.
- Consequences, second bullet: Use the original language, and change places to areas, as follows, "In some areas, there may not be enough clean water available to meet local needs. This condition will have adverse effects on public health, the economy and the environment."
- Consequences, third bullet: Use the original language as follows, "Human and ecological systems may no longer be able to fully tolerate disturbance, restore balance, and adapt to change. Full restoration of such systems is often extremely expensive and difficult, if not impossible."
- Goal 2, recommendation 5: Use the term "many uses" instead of "competing uses" throughout the document as it implies that there is often conflict when that is rarely the case, particularly over the long-term.
- Goal 4, recommendation 4, second action: Replace language with as follows, "Adequately fund existing state programs that assist municipalities in financing water and wastewater improvements." There was discussion about whether this action should be a recommendation itself; however, the majority of Commissioners felt the statement better supported recommendation 4 as an action given that it is only one idea to establish a stable and reliable funding source.
- General question about if the report should be referencing climate change versus changing weather patterns. The Commission chose to use changing weather patterns to avoid the barrier the term climate change can sometimes create.

Following discussion of the comments, John G. again noted the absence of some Commission members that had requested postponement of action, including some that had offered substantive comment. After further discussion of the issues summarized in the first paragraph of this section, a motion to accept the current report draft, with the inclusion of the changes discussed at this meeting, as the Water Sustainability Commission's final report was made by Glenn and seconded by Virginia. The vote was unanimous by all Commission members present.

IV. Public Comments

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

Bill Hounsell: Indicated that it is important for wastewater treatment to be included in the "Questions for Consideration" section question that focuses on the price and value of water. This is because the majority of the infrastructure cost needs comes from wastewater treatment. For the recommendation related to the state's commitment to fund water infrastructure projects, there is a portion of the state aid grants that the state legally responsible to pay regardless of the available funding clause. (John G. pointed out that the Commission has not looked deeply into the law regarding funding obligations and would not be including anything that detailed in the report.)

Bob Goodrich: Suggested clarifying the number of lakes and ponds noted in the "Why Water" section to be consistent with the number of lakes cited in the Executive Order.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35a.m. The next Commission meeting is December 5, 2012 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and will focus on rollout of the report.

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
December 5, 2012**

**New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Concord, NH**

Commissioners in attendance:

Virginia Battles-Raffa
Kris Blomback
John Boisvert
Thomas Burack
John Gilbert, Chair
Denise Hart
Michael Licata
Marcy Lyman, Vice Chair
Amy Manzelli
Glenn Normandeau
Cliff Sinnott
Chuck Souther

Commissioners not in attendance:

Dave Allen
Alison Watts

Public in attendance:

Terry Cox
Rosemary Landry
Jennifer Rowden
Martha Spaulding
Paul Susca

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

I. November 28th Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the November 28, 2012 meeting minutes was made by Glenn and seconded by Kris. The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously with Mike, Denise, Amy and Marcy abstaining.

II. Report Discussion

John G. explained a few Commissioners members who were not present at the last meeting for the vote to approve final report have requested that the report be re-opened so that some additional revisions to the report can be made. Marcy, Denise and Amy reviewed the additional revisions they wished to see included in the report with the rest of the Commission. The Commission discussed the implications of re-opening the report for revision, whether the revisions offered substantially changed the report or corrected inaccuracies, and if there had been sufficient opportunity for Commissioners to comment on the report.

A motion to re-open the report for revisions was made Mike and seconded by Tom. The vote passed 8 to 4.

The additional revisions offered were briefly discussed by the Commission and those that the majority of Commission were comfortable with were accepted. Due to the short time-frame for getting the report to the Governor's Office by December 10th (so they would have one week to review it prior to the event on the 17th), John noted that the Commission would not have time to meet to accept the final version of the report.

A motion to accept the report pending the inclusion of the discussed revisions was made by John G. and seconded by Marcy. The motion passed unanimously.

John and Marcy indicated they would work on incorporating the changes and work with Jenn to get the final formatting completed by December 10th. The final report would be sent to the full Commission at the same time it is passed to the Governor's Office.

III. Report Rollout Discussion

The following update was provided by Amy.

A. Water Prize

Marcy is spearheading this effort. Currently, she is arranging a meeting for interested folks to join and discuss.

B. Website

We want a long-term presence on the internet. That way, when our work comes up in the future, as we hope it will, people will be able to Google and find the website as easily as they can now. Currently, our website is hosted on part of the Governors' portion of NH.gov and maintained by DES, presumably by Jenn Rowden. Amy contacted Linda Sheldon at the Dept. of Information Technology (DoIT). She spoke with Theresa Pare-Curtis, the Director of Web Services at DoIT. Linda reports that Theresa sees no reason that the website should come down after the governorship changes. So long as DES continues to maintain the website, it can stay up indefinitely.

C. Gubernatorial Leadership

Event with Governor Lynch tentatively scheduled for Monday December 17 at 2:30 at the State House. John is spearheading this. After some discussion, the Commission agreed that this event should focus upon the sitting Governor Lynch and that we should not invite Governor-Elect Hassan.

D. Upcoming Events for WSC Presentations

1. Conservation NH Green Eggs & Ham Breakfast – January 2013: Agenda for event is set through a series of monthly policy meetings starting in November and attended by most big environmental groups in NH. John and Amy attended their November 9, 2012 meeting to present the report in hopes of getting us on the agenda for the January breakfast. They are thinking about our pitch. If declined, CNH suggested that it may be able to provide an alternate venues with legislators.
2. NH Travel Council Annual Conference – Spring 2013: Kris worked with Alice Pearce, SkiNH President; Karl Stone, SkiNH and NHTC Board; Van McLeod, NHTC; Peter Ramsey; and Henry G. Veilleux. Planning for the conference will occur in November and December, 2012. We need someone to spearhead this. Kris will be out of town for the conference.
3. Drinking Water Week: Paul will work the WSC Final Report into the topics to be covered in the one-week long drinking water week at DES in the first week of May 2013.
4. PSU Center for the Environment Spring 2012 Colloquium Series: Virginia has arranged for John to speak on March 27, 2013.
5. Municipal Association (LGC) Annual Conference: Cliff is working with Julie LaBranche, a senior planner on the Board of NECAPA. They'll contact the LGC in May 2013 to see about a session for their annual conference in November 2013.
6. New Hampshire Planners Association annual conference: Cliff is working with Julie LaBranche, a senior planner on the Board of NECAPA. Conference Planning begins in late Dec-Jan. Conference expected in June. Julie has forwarded a heads-up email to Sarah Marchant, who is current president of NHPA.
7. Northern New England APA Chapter annual conference: Julie LaBranche is on conference planning committee and will carry the request.
8. OEP's annual planning conference. OEP contact is Joanne Cassulo (271-2155). Cliff is spearheading this. He has confirmed a spot for the WSC. It will probably be in Manchester on a Saturday in May.
9. Water Education Summit December 14. Marcy will be participating in this event.
10. Possible presentations to legislative committees. John is working with Rep. Spang and Glenn is working with Sen. Odell on this.

E. Media

1. Exchange with Laura Knoy on NHPR: Virginia is working on this, but they are more interested in January than right now.
2. Glenn will have F&G public relations staff help distribute press release. Paul had volunteered to will work with Jim Martin, DES' press information officer, to distribute the press release. After some discussion, the Commission decided it was not concerned about possible overlaps given the interest in getting the word out as broadly as practicable.

3. Glenn will have F&G public relations staff work towards a spot on Chronicle or otherwise on WMUR.
4. John will reach out to NH Public Television – meeting on Monday, December 10th.

F. Canned Presentation

Paul and Jenn have begun a 30-minute “canned” presentation for Commissioners to use when presenting about the WSC in the future. They will complete this according to the final version of the report.

G. Recent Presentations

1. John presented at the BIA/DES Water Symposium on November 9 as part of a two-hour session with two other speakers on water issues in the state.
2. Amy presented on November 3, 2012 at the Annual Conference of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions.
3. Granite State Rural Water Association, John spoke to them and submitted an article for their newsletter. The Association expressed an interest in being part of a consortium, however it evolves, that works to implement the recommendations of the Commission

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. The presentation of the report to Governor Lynch is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 17th from 2:30 to 3:00 at the State House in the Executive Council Chambers in Concord. It was requested that as many Commissioners attend as could be available.