

Appendix K –Water-Related Commissions References

*All reports listed below are available at the websites listed or at: www.nh.gov/water-sustainability/

Land Development and Land Development Regulation Commission

(HB 1579, Chapter 294, Laws of 2008)

Final Report (November 2010)

<http://www.nh.gov/oep/legislation/2008/hb1579/index.htm>

Stormwater Study Commission

(HB 1295 Chapter 71, Laws of 2008)

Final Report (November 2010) Summary Report

Comprehensive Flood Management Study Commission

(HB 648, Chapter 179, Laws of 2007)

Final Report (September 2008)

<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/reports/1853.pdf>

Water Infrastructure Sustainability Funding Commission

(SB 60, Chapter 245:1, Laws of 2009)

Interim Report (2010)

Comprehensive Flood Management Study Commission

(HB 648, Chapter 179, Laws of 2007)

Final Report (September 2008)

<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/reports/1853.pdf>

Groundwater Commission

(SB 155, Chapter 305, Laws of 2003 & Chapter 287, Laws of 2005)

Final Report (November 2010)

Citizens Trade Policy Commission

(SB 162, Chapter 365:1, Laws of 2007)

Annual Reports: 2008 and 2009 (Draft)

Summary of New Hampshire Water-Related Legislative Commissions' Recommendations	
Legislative Commission	Recommendations
Land Development and Land Development Regulation Commission (HB 1579, Chapter 294, Laws of 2008)	Utilize the New Hampshire 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

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	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 (HB 1295 Chapter 71, Laws of 2008)	Amend State law to define the term stormwater.
	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.
Comprehensive Flood Management Study Commission (HB 648, Chapter 179, Laws of 2007)	<i>Landscape Management</i>
	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.
	Relocate structures within the 100-year floodplain and determine 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.
	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.

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	Encourage all New Hampshire communities to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and its Community Rating System.
	A dedicated state-funding source for floodplain buyouts.
	<i>Flood Forecasting and Data Collection</i>
	Increase information collection to improve flood forecasting.
	Improved flood insurance rate maps and watershed planning
	<i>Dams</i>
	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 (SB 60, Chapter 245:1, Laws of 2009) <i>Note: Commission extended to November 2012.</i>	<i>Interim Report Actions</i>
	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 (SB 155, Chapter 305, Laws of 2003 & Chapter 287, Laws of 2005)	Clarification on entities required to report water use of more than 20,000 gallons per day to NHDES and establishment of enforcement standards.
	Expansion of the ambient bedrock monitoring network in New Hampshire.
	Clarification of state and municipal authority to restrict excessive discretionary water uses from non-regulated withdrawals during water supply emergencies.
	Need for accurate and complete information regarding well location and associated geologic materials.
	The exemption of replacement or redundant wells from the requirements of the Large Groundwater Withdrawal Permit (RSA 485-C:21).
	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.
	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.
Citizens Trade Policy Commission (SB 162, Chapter 365:1, Laws of 2007)	<i>Annual Report 2008 Recommendations</i>
	New Hampshire citizens and elected officials should be better informed about the impact of trade agreements on the authority of state and local governments to represent the interests of their citizens
	The Commission should engage in active outreach to key stakeholder groups including groups representing business, agricultural interests,

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	local government, workforce development, concerns for human rights, and the state's Congressional delegation.
	The Commission has not yet been able to assess data that sheds sufficient light on the relationship between trade, investment, business activity, levels of employment, and job quality. In the coming year, the Commission should conduct or encourage a deeper analysis of the impact of trade on the New Hampshire economy. Such analysis might be accomplished through the Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau of New Hampshire Employment Security, New Hampshire institutions of higher learning, or by the Commission itself through its regular meetings.
	The Commission should engage in further study of State procurement policies and USTR procedures to commit states to inclusion in procurement agreements, and should consider the role of the states in decisions to opt in and/or opt out of such agreements or whether these agreements should continue to be made solely by the Governor or whether there should be a role for the General Court. Such analysis should include consideration of Legislative and Constitutional authority, and the policy issues involved in decisions in opt in or opt out decisions.