



NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER  
& GROUNDWATER TRUST FUND

## NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER TRUST FUND ADVISORY COMMISSION



October 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. at Department of Environmental Services, Cafeteria, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, N.H.

**Members present included:** Representative Bill Boyd, Senator David Watters, Senator Jeb Bradley, Representative Linda Gould, Representative Peter Petrigno, Rachel Miller, , Josh Elliott, Michael Dionne, Jason Gagnon, Rick Russman, Marco Philippon, Bernie Rousseau, Andrea Kenter, Debra Paul, , Michele Roberge.

**Members absent:** Michael Bergeron, Bruce Benton

**Department of Justice representative in attendance:** None

### **Opening Remarks – Representative Bill Boyd**

Voting on vice chair and clerk. Motion for Sen. Watters as Vice Chair was made by Rep. Peter Petrigino and seconded by Sen. Bradley. Sen. Watters accepted the nomination. Vote was unanimous in favor. Motion for Josh Elliott as Clerk was made by Bernie Rousseau, seconded by Sen. Watters. Josh Elliott accepted the nomination. Vote was unanimous in favor. Meeting minutes from the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with no changes.

**Public Comment: No comments were expressed.**

### **NHDES Program Updates:**

Cheryl Bondi, the DWGTF Administrator introduced the Consolidation Study Assistance Initiative that was approved by the Commission in 2021. DES received an application from the City of Concord Water Department to perform a Source Development Charge Study for future interconnections with 8 adjacent communities, including Bow and Pembroke, both which have PFAS contamination in their groundwater wells. Their application would require a waiver to two of the Initiative conditions 1) that water systems have less than 1,000 people and 2) grants are capped at \$10,000. Marco Philippon disclosed that he is an employee of the City of Concord and excused himself from voting and confirmed he had not spoken to any Advisory Commission members prior o the meeting. Marco gave more details on the Source Development Charge Study and benefits to the communities that my interconnect with Concord’s water system. Rep. Boyd was in favor of the request.

**Sen. Bradley Motioned and Deb Paul Seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor; Marco abstained.**

### **Construction Project Assistance Program**

Cheryl Bondi, the DWGTF Administrator gave an overview of the status of the currently funded projects for the Construction Project Assistance Program. There are currently 56 active projects. 6 Projects go to G&C for approval in October and 7 Projects DES is drafting the grant and loan agreements for G&C approval. 36 projects are in the design phase; 17 projects are under construction; 3 projects will be completed by end of the year. Two projects recently completed and closed: Village District of Edelweiss- Madison- new storage tank and distribution upgrades to address noncompliance and the Pillsbury Lake Village- Webster- Distribution upgrades to address insufficient capacity due to excessive leaks.

Two projects requested a rescope from the original proposal. Glencliff Improvement Company in Warren- was Approved in 2022 for a \$650,000 Grant to replace their storage tank with bacteria issues, new pump house, and update outdated distribution system.. They are requesting to reduce the scope of work to lower overall project M. Boire and C. Bondi

costs to \$1,176,000 . They will still address the storage tank contamination: apply 34% contribution for a \$400,000 DWGTF grant. Their justification is that the community has a low MHI of \$37,300 and some customers withdrew from system. **Motioned by Marco Phillipon and seconded by Sen. Bradley. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Hooksett Village District was Approved in 2021 for a \$218,000 grant and \$1,176,800 loan to replace water mains and new storage tank on Route 3A. The original scope will be completed in May 2024 with +/- \$150,00 remaining. HVD is requesting to use these funds to replace another 355 feet of outdated water main. This 70-year-old pipe segment is critical infrastructure and failure would significantly impact pressure and flow to the distribution system. **Motioned by Jason Gagnon, and seconded by Bernie Rousseau. Unanimous vote in favor.**

#### **Tilton-Northfield Water District; Special Project Assistance for 1,585,458 grant**

Rick Skarinka, NHDES Project Manager, summarized the project for the Advisory Commission. There is contamination of iron and Manganese. Bernie and Marco support the project and made comment regarding their original application to the 2022 Annual Round and acknowledged the applicant had made efforts to secure outside funding. Note was made regarding the order of funding making DWGTF last in line to be used. Sen. **Bradley motioned, Marco Phillipon seconded, the vote was approved unanimously.**

#### **Sanbornville Water District; Special Project Assistance for \$300,0000 grant**

Rick Skarinka, NHDES Project Manager, summarized the project for the Advisory Commission. Phase 1 has been completed on this project and it is 98% complete. There was representation from the Water District who explained the state of the water system and the challenges for the businesses and the school in the town. There was discussion around the unity of the town and the public utilities. Sen. Bradley commented on the bad condition of the pipes that he witnessed on a site visit and the need for this improvement. **Motioned by Rick Russman, and seconded by Sen. Bradley. The vote passed unanimously.**

There was discussion about gap funding and the current projects possibly coming back to the Advisory Commission looking for additional funds. Rep. Boyd suggested it be on the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **Source Water Protection Program**

Laura Weit-Marcum, Source Water Protection Program Coordinator, gave an update on funding applications and reviewed timeline. She said that this year tied for highest number of applications since 2018 with 15 total. If all projects are funded at it would total \$3,631,960 in grants.

#### **NH Water Well-ness (also known as the arsenic filter pitcher project)**

This Initiative was approved in June 10, 2019 for \$333,278 to develop a pilot program to reduce exposure of pregnant women and infants to arsenic and other well contaminants. 120 Water was retained as contractor to manage and implement the program. There have been many barriers to participation: including the pandemic, contractors' remoteness, and staff turnover, competing responsibilities of WIC staff and the moms they serve, complex workflow. Lots of lessons have been learned. DES is requesting to retire the program under the current proposal and retire the contract with 120 Water, who is amenable to this. **Commission members approved of this request.** Cheryl noted that Amy Hudnor, the Private Well Outreach Coordinator at NHDES made significant efforts to make this program successful and Amy was acknowledged for her commitment.

#### **Preview of new NHDES webpage**

Jana Ford, NHDES Public Information and Communications Director, show cased the new DWGTF webpage. She provided background on how the previous webpage and all its content had to be moved from Word Press Blog to the DES web server. She showed the Commission how the new webpage catalogs all previous meeting materials for the past two years. All documents have been consistently formatted and are now ADA compliant.

**Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM**