



**NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER
& GROUNDWATER TRUST FUND**

*“to provide for the protection,
preservation, and enhancement of
the drinking water and
groundwater resources of the state”*

**Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory
Commission Meeting
October 16, 2023**



NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER & GROUNDWATER TRUST FUND

Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission Meeting October 16, 2023

AGENDA ITEM

OPENING REMARKS

Welcome

Vote to accept meeting minutes

August 15 Advisory Commission meeting

COMMISSION UPDATES

Commission members- **potential vote**

Rochester 202A water main event, NHDES 2022 Annual Report

Representative Bill Boyd, Chair

Public comment on agenda items only

Public

PROGRAM UPDATES

Consolidation Study Assistance Grants

Waiver request - **vote**

Cheryl Bondi, DWGTF Administrator

Construction Project Assistance Program

Status of construction projects and Annual Round solicitation - **informational only**

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Tilton and Northfield Special Project Assistance application- **potential vote**

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Towns of Northfield and Tilton

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Source Water Protection Program

2023 funding applications and review timeline - **informational only**

Laura Weit-Marcum, Source Water Protection Program Coordinator

Water Well-ness Initiative- informational only

Cheryl Bondi, DWGTF Administrator

New DWGTF Webpage Preview- informational only

Jana Ford, NHDES Public Information and Communications

CONCLUDE

Public
Comment on
today's
agenda items



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Consolidation Study Assistance Program

NHDES Initiative approved in 2021 for \$200,000 total

- Grants up to \$10,000 to conduct a feasibility study to evaluate options for interconnecting smaller, fragmented systems into a larger, more viable system

Eligibility Criteria

- CWS serving $\leq 1,000$ population
- Source with drinking water maximum contaminant level exceedance or water supply shortage

Program Status to Date

- 4 systems have used this grant program
- Outreach to increase participation

City of Concord application and waiver request

- Study to develop a Source Development Charge for 8 nearby communities to interconnect with Concord
- Two communities have PFAS (Bow and Pembroke) above proposed EPA MCLs
- Waiver on the grant maximum of \$10,000 and eligibility requirement that targets small CWSs
 - Concord has agreed to manage the study therefore, Concord is completing this study to benefit smaller neighboring communities.

58% of New Hampshire's small community water systems are aged 40 years or older!

Waiver request Explanation

- Concord has been approached by Bow, and Pembroke to provide drinking water.
- Boscawen has also asked in the recent past.
- Concord operates as an enterprise fund (not for profit).
- Any expense to address other communities contamination can not be burdened on the Concord water rate payers.
- Each community would struggle completing the consolidation study independently.
- Concord's management of the Study establishes the SDC for any neighboring community that approaches Concord.
- Same as the Merrimack Source Development Charge established by Manchester in 1987.
- The SDC has the users paying for their respective source (capacity) regardless of where they are.



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Status of Drinking Water Construction Projects



Currently 56 active projects

- **6 Projects go to G&C for approval in October**
- **7 Projects DES drafting the grant and loan agreements**
 - 36 are in the design phase
 - 17 are under construction
 - 3 will be completed by end of the year
- **2 Projects recently completed and closed**
 - **Village District of Edelweiss- Madison-** new storage tank and distribution upgrades to address noncompliance
 - **Pillsbury Lake Village- Webster-** Distribution upgrades to address insufficient capacity due to excessive leaks

Status of Drinking Water Construction Projects



Project-Specific Updates

Glenclyff Improvement Company- Warren- Approved 2022- \$650,000 Grant

- **Scope-** Replace storage tank with bacteria issues, new pump house, and update outdated distribution system.
- **Request:** Reduce the scope of work to lower overall project costs to \$1,176,000 . Still address the storage tank contamination: apply 34% contribution for a \$400,000 DWGTF grant.
- **Justification:** MHI is low- \$37,300 and some customers withdrew from system.

Hooksett Village District – Approved 2021- \$218,000 grant/ \$1,176,800 loan

- **Scope-** Replace water mains and new storage tank on Route 3A.
- **Request:** 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.
- **Justification:** This 70-year-old pipe segment is critical infrastructure and failure would significantly impact transmission, pressure, and available flow to the distribution system.

2023 Annual Round

Outreach to announce request for proposals

- Business Industry Association- NH Regulatory Conference
- Broadcast email to list serve
- DES hosted informational webinar September 19th
- DES webpage and Drinking Water Matters Newsletter

Applications due October 13th

- Number of applications received
- Total grant and loan request

Application Evaluation and Timeline

- October 17th distribute applications to Commission in DES Drop Box
- Subcommittee review dates: **October 24th, 25th, and 30th**
- Funding recommendation report to Commission week of November 6th
- Full vote on funding awards at November 20th Commission meeting





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AGENDA ITEM	
	<p>OPENING REMARKS</p> <p>Welcome Vote to accept meeting minutes August 15 Advisory Commission meeting</p>
✓	<p>COMMISSION UPDATES Commission members- potential vote Rochester 202A water main event, NHDES 2022 Annual Report <i>Representative Bill Boyd, Chair</i></p>
✓	<p>Public comment on agenda items only <i>Public</i></p>
	<p>PROGRAM UPDATES</p>
✓	<p>Consolidation Study Assistance Grants Waiver request - vote <i>Cheryl Bondi, DWGTF Administrator</i></p>
✓	<p>Construction Project Assistance Program Status of construction projects and Annual Round solicitation - informational only <i>Cheryl Bondi, DWGTF Administrator</i></p> <p>Tilton and Northfield Special Project Assistance application– potential vote <i>Rick Skarinka, NHDES Project Manager</i> <i>Towns of Northfield and Tilton</i></p> <p>Sanbornville Water Precinct Special Project Assistance application– potential vote <i>Rick Skarinka, NHDES Project Manager</i> <i>Towns of Northfield and Tilton</i></p>
	<p>Source Water Protection Program 2023 funding applications and review timeline - informational only <i>Laura Weit-Marcum, Source Water Protection Program Coordinator</i></p>
	<p>Water Well-ness Initiative- informational only <i>Cheryl Bondi, DWGTF Administrator</i></p>
	<p>New DWGTF Webpage Preview- informational only <i>Jana Ford, NHDES Public Information and Communications</i></p>
	<p>CONCLUDE</p>

Request

TF Loan: \$0

TF Grant: \$1,585,458

Total Request: \$1,585,458

Leveraged Funds:

2021 Funding

- \$1,950,000 American Rescue Plan
- \$4,550,000 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (10% Forgiveness)

2023 Funding

- \$2,500,000 Emerging Contaminant SRF (100% Forgiveness)
- \$1,585,458 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (60% Forgiveness)

Total= \$10,585,458

Total Project Cost: \$10,585,458

DWGTF Contribution: 15%

SPECIAL PROJECT ASSISTANCE APPLICATION TILTON AND NORTHFIELD WATER DISTRICT

- ✓ **Is there drinking water contamination?** *Water quality data from 2021 shows iron levels as high as 0.38 mg/L and manganese levels as high as 0.31 mg/L and more recently at 0.57 mg/l and iron at 1.9 mg/l in one of the wells.*
- ✓ **Is the project time critical?** *Co-funding from SRF must go to a Special Town vote to accept borrowing authority and ARPA money must be spent by 2026.*
- ✓ **Is there financial hardship?** *Median Household Income is \$58,524. When the project is completed Affordability Index with SRF loans is 1.44 in 2025 and 1.67 in 2027.*

Does the project support economic growth? *Serves several local businesses, however the project does not provide expansion for new development and growth.*

SPECIAL PROJECT ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

TILTON AND NORTHFIELD WATER DISTRICT

Project History and Need

- Two supply wells have increasing levels of iron and manganese that are a health concern and causing operational issues
 - Recent tests show 0.57 ppm Mn and 1.9 ppm Fe
- Original cost estimate for treatment was \$6.5 M in 2021
 - **Applied and secured SRF and ARPA in 2021**
- Project is now \$10.6 M due to increasing construction costs
 - Applied to DWGTF Annual Round in 2022
 - Told to apply to SRF and then come back as a Special Project
- Small water utility with small customer base
 - Disadvantaged w/ fixed incomes
 - Raised water rates in anticipation of project, increasing AI 1.67 by 2027 to pay off DWSRF loan

Water System Stats

- **Median Income:** \$58,524
- **Current User Rates:** \$675
- **Projected Rate:** \$842 in 2025 *without DWGTF*
\$784 in 2025 with DWGTF
- **Estimated Affordability Index:** 1.44 in 2025 and 1.67 in 2027 *without DWGTF*
- **Connections:** 996
- **Population Served:** 2,600

SPECIAL PROJECT ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

TILTON AND NORTHFIELD WATER DISTRICT

Project Scope to Address Water Quality Issues

- Design and construction of new iron and manganese removal water treatment plant on site with existing production wells
- Greensand plus filtration system
- Backwash recycle system
- Solar array to offset increased electrical costs

New Green Sand Filter or Aeration Filter WFP

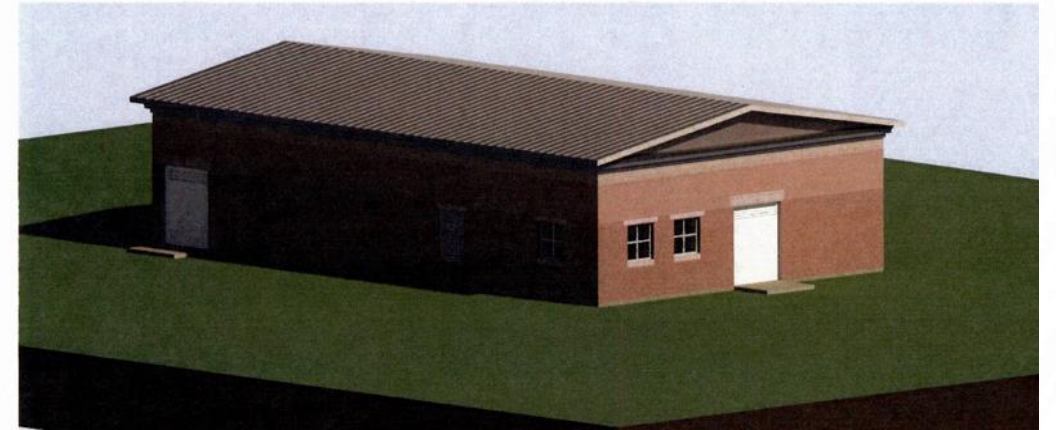


SPECIAL PROJECT ASSISTANCE APPLICATION TILTON AND NORTHFIELD WATER DISTRICT

Funding Package and Request

Funding Sources for Tilton Northfield Water Treatment	
American Rescue Plan Act Grant	\$1,950,000
2023 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Emerging Contaminant w/100% Forgiveness	\$2,500,000
2021 SRF Loan 10% Forgiveness and 2023 SRF Loan with 60% Loan Forgiveness	\$4,550,000 \$1,585,458
Total Leveraged Funds	10,585,458
Total Project Cost	10,585,458
DWGTF Grant Request to offset loan burden	\$1,585,458

New Iron and Manganese Removal Plant
Concept Drawing – Located on the Rte. 140 site in
Northfield



Request

TF Loan: \$0

TF Grant: \$750,000*

Total Request: \$750,000

additional to \$2,122,000

2021 grant

Leveraged Funds:

- \$3,690,000 Drinking Water State
Revolving Fund (20% Forgiveness)

- \$1,000,000 Northern Border
Regional Commission

- \$500,000 Community

Development Block Grant

Total= \$5,190,000

Total Project Cost: \$8,062,000

DWGTF Contribution: 37%

SPECIAL PROJECT ASSISTANCE APPLICATION *SANBORNVILLE WATER PRECINCT*

Is there drinking water contamination? No

✓ **Is the project time critical?** Contractor already on site,
price increase if it goes to re-bid

✓ **Is there financial hardship?** *Precinct currently has a
\$3,690,000 loan to repay and they have already doubled rates
over the past several year to \$1,035 per connection..*

Does the project support economic growth? *Serves
several local businesses and the school, however the project does
not provide expansion for new development and growth.*

** SWP sent updated budget to DES emphasizing they
are trying to get budget shortfall down to \$600,000*

SPECIAL PROJECT ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

SANBORNVILLE WATER PRECINCT

Project History and Need

- Many of the system components were installed in 1937 and about 30% of the distribution system still consists of the original bituminous coated steel pipe prone to breaks and significant leakage.
- Production study done in 2014 showed 60% of the water was unaccounted for.
- New SWP Commissioners are working to improve the water system
- Developed an Asset Management Plan and engineering design for system improvements.
- Top priority is replacing the 1940's steel pipe prone to breaking.
- Over 3 miles of pipe needed replacement, but SWP has only awarded a contract for replacement of 15,840 feet due to the escalating costs in pipe materials.
- Bid came in 25% higher than budget estimate

Water System Stats

- **Median Income: \$88,750**
(Town of Wakefield used)
- **Current User Rates: \$1,035**
- **Projected Rate: \$1,035**
- **Estimated Affordability Index: 1.17**
- **Connections: 410**
- **Population Served: 1,500**

SPECIAL PROJECT ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

SANBORNVILLE WATER PRECINCT

Project Scope

- Completion of water main replacements to remove 1930s steel pipe with excessive breaks and water loss.



SPECIAL PROJECT ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

SANBORNVILLE WATER PRECINCT

Funding Package and Request

Funding Sources	
DES State Revolving Fund	\$3,690,000
Northern Border Regional Commission	\$1,000,000
Community Development Block Grant	\$500,000
DWGTF Grant 2021	\$2,122,000
Total Project Cost	\$8,062,000
Funding Shortfall- DWGTF Grant Request	\$750,000

- For over thirty years, system operations have been done on a shoestring budget.
- Rates were kept low resulting in no capital reserves to deal with the increasing number of issues as the system ages and becomes more susceptible to failures.

** SWP sent updated budget to NHDES emphasizing they are trying to get budget shortfall down to \$600,000*



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CONCLUDE

Source Water Protection 2023 Grant Round

Applications



15

Population Served



291,721

Total Acres



2,490

Total High-Priority Acres



1,307

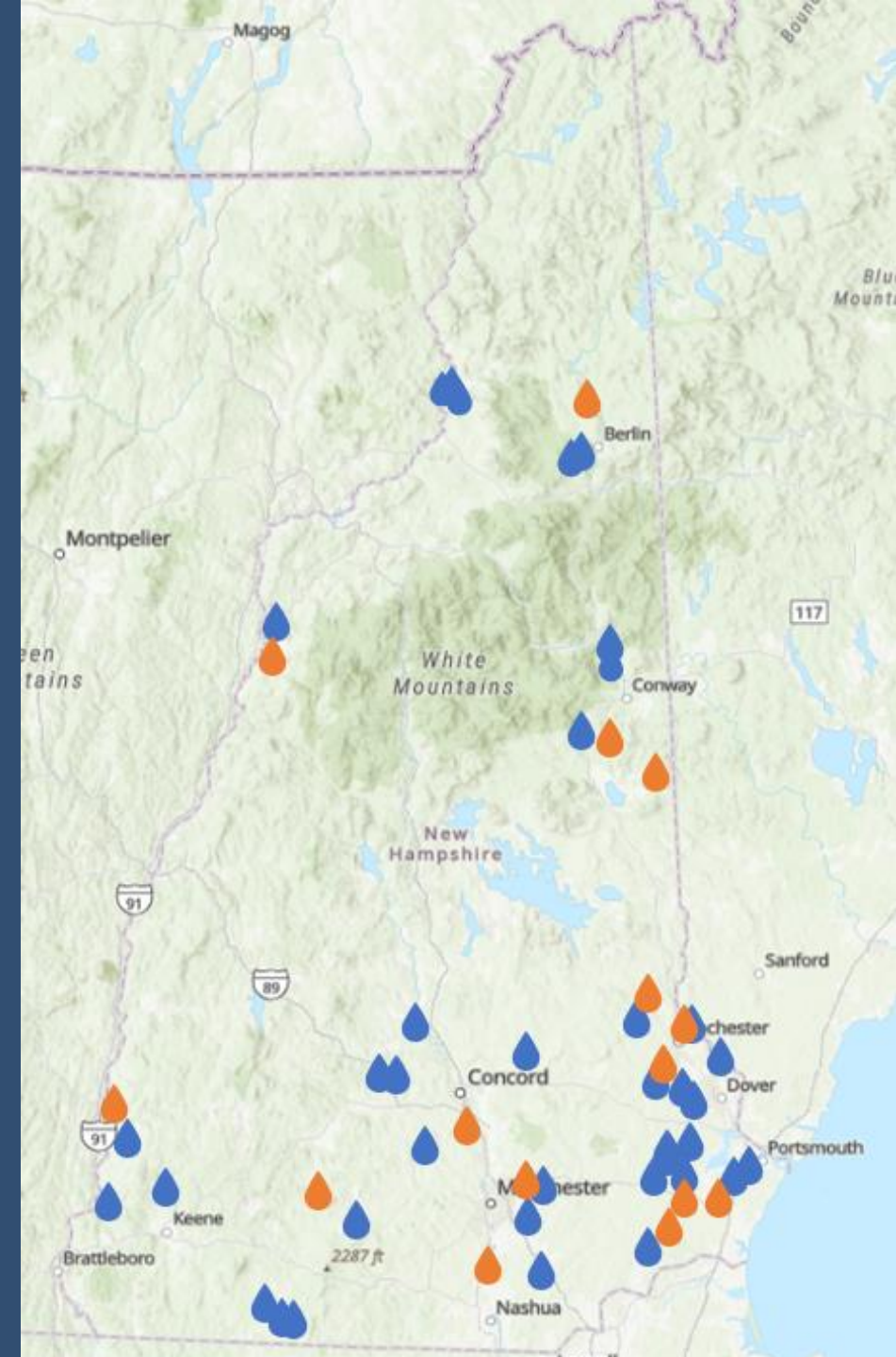
Total Requested



\$3,631,960

SUMMARY

- Tied for highest number of applications since 2018.
- If all projects are funded at requested amounts, Trust Fund would leverage \$8,249,075.
- 5 regional land trusts, 3 large non-profits, 3 small non-profits, 2 towns and 2 public water systems.





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CONCLUDE

NH Water Well-ness

also known as the arsenic filter pitcher project

Initiative approved by Commission June 10, 2019

- \$333,278 for a pilot program to reduce exposure of pregnant women and infants to arsenic and other common well contaminants
- 120 Water retained as contractor to manage and implement
 - 65 pregnant moms had water tested with 23 pitchers provided
- **Barriers to participation:** Pandemic, contractors' remoteness and staff turnover, competing responsibilities of WIC staff and the moms they serve, complex workflow, hard to reach population
- NHDES is requesting to retire the program

Lots of lessons learned!

Population most vulnerable to well contaminants is unfortunately the hardest to reach due to variety of obstacles





About the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund

Protecting, preserving and enhancing the drinking water and groundwater resources of New Hampshire.

In 2003, the State of New Hampshire went to trial against ExxonMobil Corp. as part of its 10-year lawsuit against refiners and suppliers of gasoline, seeking damages for the statewide methyl-tertiary butyl ether (MtBE) contamination of groundwater and drinking water sources. The State prevailed and won a \$236 million jury verdict in the trial. During the appeals process, the New Hampshire Legislature created the New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF) to

Statutes and Rules

[Chapter 6-D – Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund](#)

[RSA Chapter 485- F](#)

[Env-Dw 1300: Administrative Rules for the Trust Fund Grants and Loans](#)

[Construction Project Assistance](#)



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