



NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER  
& GROUNDWATER TRUST FUND

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



February 12, 2024 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, Representative Linda Gould, Michael Dionne, Rick Russman, Marco Philippon, Karen Umberger, Rachel Miller, Robert Scott, Andrea Kenter, and Michelle Roberge

**Members absent:** Senator Jeb Bradley, Representative Peter Petrigno, Bruce Breton, Michael Bergeron, Jason Gagnon, Bernie Rosseau, Josh Elliott

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

**Other attendees:** Phil Corbett (CMA Engineers, Ronald Bush (Jewel Estates Monile Home Park, and Chris Albert from CSA Engineers).

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

Representative Bill Boyd welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting minutes from the January 22, 2024 Advisory Commission were approved. It was recognized there were not enough Construction Subcommittee members present to approve the January 22, 2024 meeting minutes, so those were deferred to the next meeting. Rep. Boyd updated the Commission on member appointments. Deb Paul's two-year term expired in December 2023, and because she is no longer on the Town of Londonderry Town Council, she cannot be reappointed. There is a request to the Governor's office for a new appointment to that position.

**Public Comment:** Chris Albert, from CSA Engineers, spoke to the Advisory Commission, representing the Town Line Mobile Home Park. He stated this project was funded by the DWGTF in 2021 and is currently under budget. He said this is a very low-income community and they are requesting to apply as a Special Project in the near future for gap funding.

### **Program Updates:**

Cheryl Bondi gave an overview on the status of construction projects and updated the Advisory Commission on NHDES progress to have funds obligated for the 2023 projects.

### **Jewel Estates Mobile Home Park - Special Project Application**

Marco Philippon (Subcommittee Chair) introduced the Jewel Estates Mobile Home Park project that has applied for funds as a Special Project. The mobile home park is connected to Pennichuck Water, but their internal distribution system is in such disrepair they are experiencing frequent and expensive leaks, and significant water loss. Their Special Project application request is for a \$960,400 DWGTF grant and a \$411,600 DWGTF loan. They have pending matching funds from the Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$500,000. Rep. Boyd asked how the pending CDBG grant may affect their DWGTF request and the consultant for Jewel Estates, Phil Corbett from CMA Engineers, stated that the sewer system is also in great need of updating; they foresee most of the CDBG money going towards sewer if that is awarded. The Advisory Commission heard from Phil and Ronald, representing Jewel Estates, on their financial need. It was discussed that because they are not a Public

Water System, they are limited to other funding sources. Marco made the motion to fund the project as request. Karen Umberger seconded the motion. All in favor.

### **Summary of 2023 Spending**

Cheryl Bondi provided an overview of the 2023 spending trends and target allocations. The DWGTF balance on January 1, 2024 was \$108.8 million. If the Advisory Commission decides to continue with the 20% annual allocation, that would be \$21.8 million for grants and loans in 2024. The breakout would be \$8.7 million Construction Project loan funds. And a total of 10.8 million grant funds, broken into \$2,000,000 for Source Water Protection (SWP) grants and the \$8.8 million in Construction Grants and any needed NHDES initiatives. The total awarded funds for 2023 was \$18.5 million, falling short of the 20% allocation. \$8 million in grant and \$8 million and loans for construction projects, and \$2.3 million was awarded to SWP projects.

### **Drinking Water Lead and Cooper Rule Updates**

Cindy Klevens (NHDES Engineer) and Ian Atwell (Lead Program Administrator) gave an informational update on the federal Lead and Copper Rule revisions and the *NH Get the Lead Out of Schools and Childcares* program. They showed results of the first two rounds of sampling. They explained that NHDES has secured Federal money to hire another staff to implement the program. The DWGTF Lead Remediation in Schools application is now online and NHDES has received four applications so far. Karen Umberger asked how daycares that are held in homes rather than formal facilities are considered? Cindy Klevens stated that any licensed childcare facility, whether in a private home or a childcare center, is regulated by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and may receive assistance under their programs. However, unregistered childcare taking in place in private homes, would be hard to reach.

**Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM**