

Voting Members:

**Michele L. Tremblay**  
Chair  
Conservation  
Community

**Larry T. Spencer**  
Vice Chair  
Conservation  
Commissions

**Victoria Bunker**  
Historic/Archeological  
Interests

**Christopher Hodgdon**  
NH Fish & Game  
Commission

**Mark Lombardi**  
Granite State  
Hydropower  
Association

**Frederick J. McNeill**  
Municipal Officer

**Allan G. Palmer**  
Business & Industry  
Association

**Ruth Ward**  
Local River Management  
Advisory Committees

**Donald L. Ware**  
Public Water Suppliers

**Stewart Yeaton**  
Agricultural Community

**Vacant**  
Recreational Interests

Non-Voting Members:

**Peter Bowman**  
NH Department of  
Natural and Cultural  
Resources

**Jennifer Gilbert**  
NH Office of  
Strategic Initiatives

**Mark Hemmerlein**  
NH Department of  
Transportation

**Shawn Jasper**  
NH Department of  
Agriculture,  
Markets & Food

**John Magee**  
NH Fish & Game  
Department

**Meghan Wells**  
NH Department of  
Safety

Staff:

**Tracie Sales**  
Program Manager

**Vacant**  
Watershed Coordinator

**Vacant**  
Program Assistant

N.H. Rivers Management and Protection Program

# N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

February 19, 2021

The Honorable Edward Gordon, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 208  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 216** *An act relative to public notice of and access to meetings under the right to know law.*

Dear Chair Gordon and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its support of House Bill 216, which will allow public bodies subject to RSA 91-A to meet remotely outside of a declared emergency.

The RMAC has found that attendance at remote RMAC meetings has been higher, both by committee representatives and members of the public, than when the RMAC met in person. While the committee prefers to meet in person when possible, allowing remote meetings permits busy volunteer committee members as well as the public to attend meetings during inclement weather or when they are not feeling well, and to join all or part of a meeting when schedules are tight. As volunteers, many are challenged to make the investment in travel including driving time and fuel costs. Staff in the Rivers Management and Protection Program have reported a similar increase in attendance at local river management advisory committee meetings by committee members and the public, as well as by guest consultants discussing proposed projects in the committee's area of jurisdiction. The tools and protocols for remote meetings are available and familiar now, and the RMAC would like to offer the remote meetings.

The RMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to administer RSA 483, the Rivers Management and Protection Program. The Governor and Council appointed Committee is comprised of members from business, agriculture, hydroelectric, municipal government, water supply, conservation, recreation, fish and game, and historical interests. Among its other responsibilities, the RMAC is charged with reviewing legislation relevant to the Program and with advising the NHDES Commissioner on the merits of such legislation.

In conclusion, the RMAC supports HB 216 because it will permit boards and commissions such as the RMAC to meet remotely while still allowing public involvement in the committee's work.

The Honorable Edward Gordon  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
HB 216 February 19, 2021  
Page 2

Should you have any questions regarding our testimony, please feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or [MLT@naturesource.net](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net).

Sincerely,



Michele L. Tremblay  
RMAC Chair

cc: Rep. Lucy Weber  
RMAC Representatives  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES  
Tom O'Donovan, Director, Water Division, NHDES  
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES  
Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager, NHDES  
Local River Management Advisory Committee Chairs