

NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes of September 7, 2017 Meeting

The meeting was convened at 9:01 a.m.

Senate President Morse welcomed commission members and thanked them for their participation. Commission members introduced themselves. Members present included: Tim Vadney, Sen. Dan Feltes, Andrea Kenter, Rep. Chris Christensen, Bernie Rousseau, Rep. Suzanne Smith, Bruce Bretton, Rachel Miller, Rodney Bartlett, Robert Scott, David Paris, Clark Freise, William Boyd, III, Paul Sanderson, Lisa Morris, Christopher Way.

Senate President Morse requested the commission approve Rep. Christensen Vice Chair and Sen. Feltes Clerk. Moved by Mr. Boyd and seconded by Commissioner Scott. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Senate President Morse thanked the Department of Environmental Services for all their work and he welcomed the Department of Environmental Services for a presentation on the various water related grants and funding that the State manages. Michael Wimsatt and Clark Friese of the Department of Environmental Services provided a comprehensive presentation, including on MTBE settlement fund (hereinafter "fund"), for which the commission has jurisdiction over. Their slide deck will be made publicly available.

Senate President Morse said the fund is meant to operate and function similar to LCHIP, with the hope that it will be sustainable and ongoing, like LCHIP. Senate President Morse encouraged the commission to use their expertise and to think creatively about how to maximize the fund in a cost-effective way to meet New Hampshire's pressing water needs and problems. This could include ideas on pairing water projects with new road projects and ideas on leveraging this fund with other monies.

Senate President Morse noted there will be two sets of rules, one working with the Department of Environmental Services and one in terms of how the commission governs itself. The former will take some time. Senate President Morse said former Senator Russman, who worked closely on developing the LCHIP rules, will be spearheading a subcommittee to work on rules. He welcomed interested participants from the commission to help work on those rules and anyone interested in serving should contact Kristy Merrill, Senate Chief of Staff.

Senate President Morse welcomed public comment. Bill Hounsell of North Conway commented. He thanked Senate President Morse for his leadership on this and noted the commission's work is a major opportunity to address unmet water infrastructure needs in New Hampshire.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.