

**DRAFT Proceedings of First Meeting of the
New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission
September 20, 2016
State House, Room 100**

Commission Members Present:

Senator Chuck Morse

Representative Chris Christensen

Thomas Burack, Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES)

Andrea Kenter

Rachel Miller, Chief Deputy State Treasurer

Christa Morris, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), (designated by Marcella Bobinsky, Acting Director, Division of Public Health Services, DHHS)

David Paris

Senator Morse called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM

Following introductory remarks by Sen. Morse and introductions of the Commission members in attendance, Sen. Morse announced the first order of business was to elect a chair.

Mr. Burack moved to nominate Sen. Morse as chair. Rep. Christensen, Mr. Paris and Ms. Kenter seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Morse invited questions from Commission members. There being none, Chairman Morse invited NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) staff to deliver presentations to the Commission.

Sarah Pillsbury, Administrator of the NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau, gave a presentation about drinking water and groundwater use in New Hampshire and NHDES's regulation and support of municipal and private drinking water systems.

Mike Wimsatt, Director of the NHDES Waste Management Division, gave a presentation about the State of New Hampshire's methyl-tertiary-butyl ether (MtBE) lawsuit, the funds obtained from settlements and the ExxonMobil jury trial, and a review of the purpose and key elements of NHRSA 485-F, the law that established the New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission and governs administration of the New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund.

Gary Lynn, Administrator of the NHDES MtBE Remediation Bureau, gave a presentation about the Bureau's use of the settlement funds to address MtBE contamination of drinking water and groundwater in New Hampshire, including descriptions of several drinking water projects.

Each of the NHDES speakers fielded questions from Commission members regarding their presentations. Several questions were directed to Gary Lynn regarding the scope of the MtBE contamination problem and the MtBE Remediation Bureau's use of settlement funds to provide clean drinking water in affected communities.

In response to member questions about investment of the Trust Fund, Ms. Miller explained that all of the funds are currently invested in secure, low yield instruments. Ms. Miller offered to bring information to the next Commission meeting regarding various investment strategies and options.

Chairman Morse asked NHDES to provide a presentation at the next Commission meeting on an MtBE Remediation Bureau project that uses multiple funding sources, as a means of educating Commission members on how such projects are funded and implemented.

Chairman Morse requested that NHDES prepare a draft mission statement for the Commission to be circulated to members prior to the next meeting.

Chairman Morse requested that NHDES poll Commission members about possible dates for the next meeting, targeting the second or third week of November.

Mr. Burack suggested that NHDES would look into establishing a webpage for the Commission, to help members and the general public to stay informed and have easy access to Commission documents.

Next meeting date: To be announced

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 pm.