

NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes of July 19, 2018 Meeting

The meeting was convened at 9:04am.

Members present included: Sen. President Chuck Morse, Chair; Sen. Dan Feltes; Paul Sanderson; Lisa Morris; Rep. Chris Christensen; Andrea Kenter; Bernard Rousseau; Former Senator Richard Russman; Tim Vadney; David Paris; Clark Freise; William Boyd, III; Bruce Breton; Commissioner Robert Scott; Christopher Way; and Rachel Miller

Senator Morse opened the meeting and introduced Erin Holmes of DES who has been brought on by the Department to serve as the Trust Fund administrator.

Senator Morse reminded the members to file their financial disclosure forms with the Secretary of State's Office if they have not done so already and that sub-committee assignments have been done in such a way to avoid conflicts of interest as best as possible. Sen. Morse advised members that if they have questions about conflicts to ask him, or the Department, and to recuse themselves if they feel it necessary on certain projects.

Senator Morse discussed the applications that had been received by the Department for construction projects across the state and expressed concern that most applicants did a poor job of leveraging outside dollars. Senator Morse also stressed that the Commission has the authority to call emergency meetings to deal with contamination issues as they arise.

After this round of applications, Sen. Morse was hopeful that a very clear message could be sent for next year's applicants.

Rep. Christensen moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Former Senator Russman. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Erin Holmes presented an update on the Southern New Hampshire Regional project and where each city and town along the route is in the process. Ms. Holmes also discussed the administrative process needed to get the project underway starting with the MOU (memorandum of understanding) between all of the involved parties. That MOU would form the basis of the Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) going forward. Ms. Holmes discussed the first piece of the project to get underway is a storage tank in Atkinson.

Ms. Holmes reported to the commission that Susan Geiger had been retained to work on the IMA and has had extensive experience with the Public Utilities Commission.

Questions arose about the approval process of individual projects within the Southern New Hampshire Regional project and Commissioner Scott clarified that the Commission will still have to vote on the individual projects.

Paul Susca of DES presented an update on the Land Conservation portion of the applications and that the full applications are due to DES by August 6th and that 23 pre-applications have been received. Mr. Susca gave an overview of the projects that have applied for funding and laid out the process going forward where a subcommittee would be appointed to review those projects and make recommendations to the full Commission for funding.

Bernie Rousseau moved to approve the proposed slate of members recommended for the sub-committee. The motion was seconded by Rep. Christensen. It was adopted unanimously.

Rick Skarinka of DES presented an overview of the construction applications received by the Department and how they will interact with the existing Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program.

Discussion ensued about the applications in general and how application should be treated and how to potentially leverage municipal money. Sen. Morse remarked that these issues should be addressed before the next round of applications begin.

Following a short break, the Commission reconvened and Erin Holmes presented an overview of the 88 applications received by the Department. The Commission was broken up into 4 sub-groups, each charged with reviewing a category of projects.

The Full Commission reconvened and each sub-group reported back to the full Commission of their initial impressions of the applications and the respective dates and times the sub-committees would meet again to review applications in further detail, with a deadline of August 10th to send their list of recommended projects to DES.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:20pm.

JWE