

# NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes of October 1, 2018 Meeting

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The meeting was convened at 10:03am.

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

Senator Morse announce that the minutes of the August meeting had not been completed, but they would be taken up at the next meeting in November.

Erin Holmes presented an administrative update and introduced Mike Juranty, who is taking over the MtBE Remediation Bureau, replacing Gary Lynn who retired over the summer. Ms. Holmes informed the committee that DES is in the process of interviewing for the last two vacant positions for the trust fund and the hope is to have all five positions filled by the end of the year. Ms. Holmes updated the committee on the ongoing outreach and communications efforts to cities, towns, and water utilities.

Sen. Russman presented to the commission the work that the source water protection sub-committee had done and explained the process they went through to vet the applications the commission received and spoke to why certain projects were denied funding.

Sen. Russman also requested two changes be made to the recommendations made by the sub-committee due to new information he had received in the interim. Specifically he asked that the Birch Ridge project in New Durham and the request from the Town of Peterborough be removed from the funding list. He relayed that the Peterborough project would like be submitted again for consideration by the Commission as part of a larger project.

Sen. Russman also discussed the scoring formula; some projects approved scored low while others that scored high were not funded. He stated that in the future, the score criteria would to be tweaked to be a better reflection of what the Commission is looking to fund.

Assistant Commissioner Freise agreed that the scoring would need to be changed slightly and that it was a first attempt by the department to quantify what the Commission was looking for in projects. He noted that the construction scoring formula was much closer to the mark.

William Boyd made the motion to approve the recommended funding list, with Sen. Russman's changes, seconded by David Paris. Motion was adopted unanimously.

Erin Holmes provided an update on the Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Project. The Memorandum of Understanding about the communities have been finalized and all have signed or have verbally committed to signing. This will set the stage for the inter-municipal agreement (IMA). A meeting of the communities to work on the IMA will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup>. The disinfection study is still on-going; Windham and Salem are working on their 30% design, Derry is working on their 30% design work scope and budget; Hampstead Area Water Company is working on engineering requirements; Plaistow's town engineer is reviewing the regional basis of design memo.

Erin Holmes presented an update on the projects currently underway, funded by the commission. Colebrook will be starting construction in two weeks, and the projects in Dover and Pennichuck East Utility in Litchfield will get underway shortly. Ms. Holmes told the Commission members to contact Josh Elliott in Sen. Morse's office if they would like to go to a groundbreaking ceremony.

Erin Holmes presented the loan terms for the projects that need to be voted on by the Commission. William Boyd asked why the terms are the same for a 5 year loan as a 40 year loan. Johnna McKenna answered and said that it had been discussed previously by the Commission to have the same rate for each term but that could be changed.

Assistant Commissioner Freise added that it had been mentioned to do all of the first round of loans done and out the door to get funding on the streets and to revisit staggered rates in future years.

William Boyd moved to accept the rates as presented; seconded by Assistant Commissioner Freise. Motion was adopted unanimously.

Senator Morse addressed the need to take a step back and re-evaluate how the application process worked and work on potential changes that may need to be made. He reiterated that any time sensitive business development or contamination related projects can be brought before the Commission at any time.

Discussion ensued about the changing standards for PFAs and other water contaminants and the potential impact on requests for funding from the trust fund in the future. David Paris commented that with advances in science, it is getting easier to detect trace amounts of contaminants that never would have turned up in a sampling test in years past, and that in some cases the presence of a particular contaminate does not necessarily mean that the water is unsafe to drink. Funding should be directed at tackling problems that are creating public health issues.

Senator Morse reminded the members that the next meeting will be held on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am.

JWE