

# NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes of December 3, 2018 Meeting

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The meeting was convened at 10:06am.

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

Senator Morse took up the minutes of the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. William Boyd moved the minutes, seconded by former Senator Russman. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Sen. Morse opened the floor for testimony from the public. William Hounsell of North Conway encouraged the Commission as they review their guidelines to very clear in the definitions, such as what is meant by 'contamination' and other terms. That would help municipalities as they are writing up their applications for projects to be considered by the Commission.

Ms. Holmes provided an administrative update on the Trust Fund with Fiscal Committee approving the funds authorized by the Commission in the previous meetings. Sue Carlson from DES will be attending the January meeting to provide a comprehensive financial update. Sen. Morse encouraged members to reach out to legislators about the importance of the Trust Fund and the Commission.

Ms. Holmes brought up Paul Susca from the Department of Environmental Services to discuss the five Exemption Requests that came from awardees of the water supply land grants. Lengthy discussion ensued about granting the exemptions and whether that was in conflict with the spirit of the mission of the Trust Fund. It was agreed that in subsequent years the guidelines on this issue would have to be clearly stated.

Former Sen. Russman moved to grant the Rochester project an exemption, seconded by Lisa Morris. The motion was adopted unanimously. Former Sen. Russman moved to grant the Lucy Brook Farm project in Conway an exemption. William Boyd moved to table the project. The after discussion, the motion to table was adopted unanimously.

Sen. Morse moved to grant the Bearce and Chesley projects exemptions, seconded by William Boyd. The motion to approve was adopted unanimously.

Larry Goodhue, CEO of Pennichuck presented his company's request for a loan from the Trust Fund of \$5.5 million to build a new deep water intake in the middle of the Merrimack River. Currently they only have a bankside intake which limits the amount of water that can be drawn from the Merrimack River and the seasons when it can be drawn. The water treatment plant the new intake would connect to serves 11

communities in Southern New Hampshire. Recently, Pennichuck has made service connections to contaminated sites in Amherst, Merrimack and Litchfield.

Mr. Goodhue stated that the reason for the request is risk mitigation. Currently Pennichuck is almost entirely reliant on water pulled from the Pennichuck Watershed. Having already lost a well in Amherst due to PFAS contamination, the need for a redundant source is great. This project would allow the company to meet 100% of its water demand from the Merrimack River.

Due to various governmental and environmental regulations, the construction window for such a project is very narrow, which is why Pennichuck is coming to the Commission now for the project. Based on the schedule, the company would need approval in January in order to be in the river building at the right time.

Commission members asked several technical questions about the line and the operational capabilities of the existing water treatment plant.

William Boyd noted that this was Rep. Christensen's last meeting as a commission member, as he had not run for re-election in November. Rep. Christensen was thanked by the Commission for his service.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:21 am.

JWE