

New Hampshire Drinking Water & Groundwater
Trust Fund Advisory Commission
September 16, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Sen. Chuck Morse, Chair	Clark Freise, Asst. Comm. DES	Rachel Miller
Sen. Tom Sherman, Vice Chair	Paul Sanderson	Christopher Way
Rep Deborah Hobson	Bernie Rousseau	Andrea Kenter
Rep. Kevin Maes	Rodney Bartlett	Jason Gagnon
Fmr. Sen. Richard Russman	William Boyd, III	
Robert Scott, Comm. DES	Marco Philippon	

Meeting convened at 10:03 a.m.

Opening Remarks – Sen. Chuck Morse

Today we will be talking about the Southern New Hampshire Project and the Application Process. The Application process just closed on Friday.

Approval of August Minutes

Motion To approve Rick Russman

Rodney Bartlett 2nd.

Motion Adopted – Unanimous Consent

Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Interconnection Project

Sen. Morse – In passing the project area today, it looked to be in the very advanced stages. The water tower is going to be completed in October. Erin will have information about an event coming up in which the water tower will be commissioned. We'd like as many of The Commission members to attend as possible.

Along with that there are 3 contracts out for Route 28. We will talk about that. Also, the deadline for construction is June 15 2020.

Erin Holmes – Members please attend a ribbon cutting for the Water Tower Project. It will take place the morning of October 22, but the time has yet to be determined. Please watch for details.

Mike Unger – Sanitary Engineer III, Water Pollution Division, DES

I am the project manager for the Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Project. We have seen some cost increases. See 1-page handout in packet. Mike gave an overview of the project history.

Discussion continued.

At present, in bidding, we have the 4 water main projects that have been opened. Three projects on Route 28 and one in the Shannon Road area. Next steps would be two projects, pump stations and control valve stations in Derry, Windham and Salem. Design is underway for Hampstead Area Water Company. West side Drive Pump Station from Salem into Atkinson. We are advertising right now. Pieces in Plaistow and Windham Route III are at about a 30% design stage and should be bid for a spring construction start ideally.

Discussion continued about the increased costs.

Chairman Morse: I have real concerns. To the engineers, we voted on this in January. We knew what the economy was in January. If it's happening here, it's happening at DOT. I have real concerns as a Senator.

Sen. Sherman: is the problem in the process? Are we bidding sequentially rather than cumulative or all at once? Sequentially gave the chance to see where that State was, where the towns were. Could we learn in the future that if we fund 5 projects from this committee, would bidding at the same time avoid this kind of figuring? The size of this uptick concerns me.

Mike Unger: The state uses different models to manage the project. There is definitely an opportunity to look at that.

Clark Freise, Asst Commissioner, DES: The first phase is being driven very hard to make sure water is flowing by next summer. The costs in the earlier part of the contracts are shaping the later part of the project, is that correct?

Mike Unger: Yes.

Chairman Morse: Maybe the State shouldn't be representing the State on the construction side. The State has turned into a construction department. It also becomes our responsibility to do "PR" so that everyone understands the project. It's a challenge. In January I'd like to understand better.

Discussion continued.

Motion to increase the grant awarded for the Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Project be increased by \$4,439,858 to address scope changes and cost increases associated with contracts D1, D2, S1A, S1B, S2 and S3, by Clark Freise.

Bill Boyd, 2nd.

Motion Adopted - Unanimous consent.

2019 Grant & Loan Funding Applications

Erin Holmes: With everything closing last Friday, we are just starting to go through the funding applications. I'm hoping to give you a high-level overview of what we are seeing in the types of

applications, percentages of grants and loans, etc. It's hard to say how many subcommittees we're going to have or how we're going to break up the projects. In October we will give a big presentation of everything.

We've received less applications this year than we did last year. It would appear that the projects are more well thought out this year. We're starting to see that leveraged funding piece.

The one task I'd like to have completed is the confirmation of the subcommittee that's going to be addressing the Source Water Grant Protection Program.

Erin continued to walk the commission through the types of applications. On October 15th we will determine what the subcommittee structure will look like to review applications. Between October and November, we anticipate several subcommittee meetings and site visits. I anticipate 2 to 3 construction meetings.

In November the full list of recommended funding for projects will be presented to the full Commission. To summarize, leaving the November 12 meeting, our goal is to have a complete list of finalized infrastructure projects and source water projection grant program projects. The December meeting will be the final vote.

Following that meeting and the vote, DES will take our administrative role. We will notify the applicants of their funding awards or denials and then start working through the final application process.

Chairman Morse: Last year we broke up into 4 different categories; source water projection, asset management, contamination and delivering water. When we go through the 60 + applications, we might be able to consolidate into 2 or 3 committees. We will probably be reviewing 20 applications a piece. Contaminations seems to be showing up on all of these applications, so we need to be careful there.

For new members we had about \$280M. With MtBE we had about \$800M worth of problems so the goal was to multiply it by going out and finding other sources to tie into this. We didn't have PFOA's at that time, so now the problem is compounded. The Legislature is going to have to deal with that separate from this committee.

Chairman Morse: is there a list of SRF's that we're going to be able to see in October?

Erin Holmes: Yes, the list of projects funded this year was under 12.

Chairman Morse: About \$10M?

Robert Scott, Commissioner, DES: Twenty million.

Erin Holmes: The subcommittee for the Source Water Projection Grant Program will start scheduling these site visits. Sen Tom Sherman will still be the Chair?

Sen. Sherman: Yes

Chairman Morse: I think the Legislature is going to have to step in and look at this problem with PFOA. There is a \$200M number in the State of New Hampshire to deal with this problem. I don't think we should get stuck on the fact that it's our responsibility to solve the PFOA situation right now. It needs to be debated and we need to come up with a process. The Department does a great job of developing a process and getting people to make a decision.

Taking \$6M from our fund for the budget is being debated 2 different ways. Solving individual well problems is probably not a good answer for the State, in my opinion. I think sending pipelines down roads and connecting everybody is a better idea. Cleaning up a well of one problem today may not be the contamination we face tomorrow. We need to keep thinking about that.

Motion to adjourn – Mr. Scott
Kevin Maes – 2nd
Unanimous Consent.