

## **Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund October 15, 2019 Advisory Commission Meeting-Subcommittee B Breakout 2019 Annual Drinking Water Construction Project Assistance Program**

Attendees: Bernie Rousseau, Christopher Way, Representative Deborah Hobson

NHDES Staff: Randy Suozzo, Emily Nichols

Absent: NHDES Commissioner Robert Scott & Bruce Breton

The group nominated as Bernie Rousseau to be Chair and Christopher Way Spokesmen for the Group.

The group noted inconsistencies and concerns in applications with the priorities of the funding plan: Contamination, Affordability; and readiness to proceed. Little to no applications appear to address contamination and many did not appear ready to proceed.

Engineering costs were discussed and inquiry made about potential increase in costs/rates? Should planning/engineering cost be considered leveraged funding? Group consensus is someone else filling out application should not be considered leveraged funding or ready to proceed.

Concerns were expressed regarding other leveraged funding. Applications do not demonstrate leveraged funding. Reasons? Applicant didn't know about other funding programs or missed deadline. Final option-DWGT supposed to be last resort. Many applicants note intent to pursue other resources but did not demonstrate tried effort/attempts to secure other sources. Lack of knowledge of other programs was noted on several applications. Some applications indicate leveraged to a point beyond ability to accept additional funds.

The Subcommittee requested that NHDES provide a Birdseye overview of the projects as NHDES is familiar with most and has reviewed all applications. NHDES went over the summary table, project funding plan and percentages, and overview of project scope.

At the meeting conclusion, subcommittee agreed that each member would review the projects prior to the next meeting and use the screening sheets. Projects will be discussed at next meeting and comments/recommendations compiled on a final screening sheet along with funding recommendations by November 5.

Proposed meeting dates: Wednesdays (October 23 and 30) at 8 am with an alternative meeting option of Friday Nov 1 (8:30), if needed.