

New Hampshire Drinking Water & Groundwater
Trust Fund Advisory Commission
December 9, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Sen. Chuck Morse	Bernie Rousseau
Sen. Tom Sherman	Rodney Bartlett
Rep. Deborah Hobson	William Boyd, III
Rep. Kevin Maes	Marco Philippon
Christopher Way	Andrea Kenter
Clark Freise	Robert Scott

Also Present: Allen Brooks, Esq. Assistant Attorney General

Meeting convened at 10:00 a.m.

Chair Morse: Legislation will be coming forward to help the state deal with PFOS and PFAS issues. We will be talking about that today.

We will have 3 different votes today. The first vote being Source Water Protection. The second vote is the annual round of construction projects. The third vote will be special project recommendations. We are going to start with the Source Water Projection grants.

Source Water Protection Grant Program Funding Awards

Erin Holmes – The total request is \$1.172 Million. Seven projects are coming forward with recommendations for funding.

Five Rivers Conservation Trust
Portsmouth – Bellamy Reservoir
Rindge Conservation Commission – Rindge-Jaffrey WHPA
Society for the Protection of NH Forests – Emerson/Oyster River
Somersworth – Lily Pond
Southeast Land Trust – Sanborn / Lake Massabesic
The Nature Conservancy – Surry Mountain / Keene

Clark Freise made motion to move 7 projects in the proposed Award Recipients list with a note on the Rindge-Jaffrey WHPA Project, that if funded, the applicant would be required to prepare and submit an Environmental Site Assessment Report. This report will be reviewed by NH – DES and the Advisory Commission. The issue to be satisfied is that any contamination would be addressed before releasing any grant monies.

Bernie Rousseau seconds.

Unanimous consent.

Clark Freise recognized Paul Susca's Award of the Employee of the Year for DES this year. Paul has worked tirelessly leading our subcommittee's through fields and forests while researching these projects. Thank you, Paul.

Drinking Water Infrastructure Assistance Program Funding Awards

Erin Holmes – Next is the awards for the Drinking Water Infrastructure annual program. There are 13 projects requesting grant and loan. Total grant request is \$2.93 Million. Total loan request is \$3.955 Million. There are no conditions to these projects.

Acorn Terrace Cooperative
Beebe River Community Association
Epping Water and Sewer Commission
Freedom Village Mobile Home Cooperative
Lisbon, Town of
Manchester Water Works
Montrose Condominiums
North Conway Water Precinct
Ossipee Mountain Estates Cooperative
Rye Water District – Garland Road
Rye Water district – Wallis Road
Sanbornville Water Precinct
Village of Edelweiss

Motion to approve – Bill Boyd

Second – Senator Sherman

Unanimous Consent.



**Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund
2019 Annual Drinking Water Infrastructure Assistance
Program Funding Awards
December 9, 2019**



Applicant	Location	Project Name	Funding Request			
			Current	LEPWR	Current	LEPWR
2019 Annual Drinking Water Construction Projects Program Awards (Dec. 9, 2019)						
Acacia Terrace Cooperative	Newcastle	Phase IV Water Distribution System Improvement Project - Trunk Street	\$205,000	\$0	-	-
Acacia Terrace Cooperative	Newcastle	Water System Upgrade	\$30,000	\$0	-	-
Apping Street & Loring Commons Inc	Apping	Water Main Replacement Phase and Sewer Main Installation	\$780,000	\$0	-	-
Franklin Village Mobile Home Cooperative	Franklin	City Water Improvement	\$750,000	\$750,000	-	-
LA Home, Town of	Laconia	Water System Infrastructure Upgrades - Town of Development	\$300,000	\$0	-	-
Madison Street Water Works	Madison New Hampshire	Water System Improvement	\$0	\$1,000,000	-	-
Meredith Lane Apartments	Newmarket	Water System Upgrade	\$0	\$300,000	-	-
Merrill Community Water District	Merrill Community	Water Main Replacement	\$300,000	\$300,000	-	-
Prologis & Associates of Idaho, Cooperative	Prologis / Prologis	Water System Upgrade	\$300,000	\$0	-	-
Regis Water District	Regis	Water Main Replacement	\$0	\$800,000	-	-
Regis Water District	Regis	Water Main Replacement	\$0	\$10,000	-	-
Sandersonville Water District	Sandersonville	Water Main Replacement - Phase II	\$100,000	\$0	-	-
Village District of Folsom	Folsom	Water System Upgrade	\$275,000	\$0	-	-
Projects Included in the Special Project Assistance Program (Dec. 9, 2019)						
Academy Village District	New Hampshire	Water Treatment Plant Improvement	-	-	\$200,000	\$0
Lower Merrimack Water District	Merrimack	Water Main Replacement	-	-	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Mountaintop, Town of	Mountaintop	Water Main Replacement	-	-	\$500,000	\$0
Town of Merrimack	Merrimack	Water Main Replacement and Water Treatment Plant Capacity	-	-	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Town of Peterborough & Jeffrey	Peterborough/Jeffrey	Water Main Replacement and Sewer Main Replacement	-	-	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Town of Folsom	Folsom	Water Main Replacement	-	-	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Town of Middleton	Middleton	Water Main Replacement	-	-	\$5,000,000	\$0
FUNDING RECOMMENDED SUBJECT TO			\$2,930,000	\$3,950,000		
TOTAL PROPOSED DWGTF FUNDING				\$6,885,000		

Sen. Sherman – The minutes should reflect that while we are spending \$6.885 million, we are leveraging funds against this amount. Erin will provide leveraged fund amounts at our next meeting.

Erin Holmes – The town of Newmarket recognized that they were on the unfunded recommendation list and felt they should submit a letter to clarify their funding package.

Town of Newmarket - Chris Berg, Engineer for Wright-Pierce

The initial funding request that was approved last year was for approximately \$4Million. We are requesting additional funds as the arsenic regulation changed. This is the reason for the additional request. We estimated there is a need for an additional \$2 Million for planning, construction, administration and contingency. Since that initial request, Newmarket has a funding arrangement with Rural Development to fund an additional five projects. This brings the total cost of all projects to \$12 Million.

Discussion continued.

Chair Morse – this is going to have to be discussed with the Commission as a special project due to the change in project scope.

Clark Freise – Question: When would you need authorization that funding would be available from the Trust Fund to be able to maintain the RDA funds?

Mr. Berg – Answer: We are looking to move this project forward for spring construction. If we move toward special project for clarification, that would give us some flexibility to come back in front of The Commission over the next number of months.

Clark Freise clarified that if The Commission didn't give approval until Feb or Mar, RDA funding wouldn't be in jeopardy. Mr. Berg said it wouldn't be in jeopardy.

Mr. Berg clarified that the project is in the final stages of design and that the primary issue is the fact that arsenic is being reduced from 10 ppt to 5 ppt.

Chair Morse wants to make sure that when a project comes in as a “special project” it is not the intent to make the project better, it is to clarify details.

Bethlehem Village District Project

Bethlehem has a water source and they changed over to a different type of disinfection so they could reduce disinfection byproducts. There was always a potential for a deterioration of water quality when a storm water event took place which would require them to go to a different type of treatment. They are looking for additional parts of their treatment to help reduce the risk. They have secured a USDA loan and grant package. They’ve received funding through Northern Borders and a Drinking Water Trust Fund from 2017. They are seeking additional funds to cover the next component of their treatment system.

Robert Scott, Commissioner, DES – We have contribution from the applicant, and we have USDA funding, Northern Borders funding. These are the things we like to see on an application. The biggest issue at this point is the change in scope at the last minute. I think the applicant should continue to work on this and bring it back as a special project with special consideration to what they are asking.

Chair Morse asked Erin to read the letter going to recipients of Special Project status. The purpose of the letter is to inform them that the 2019 Construction Assistance Program Recommended Funding list was approved by the Commission and the funding application for whichever project this is referring to was not selected at this time. However, the Commission has referred the project to the Special projects Assisted Program.

As presented in the 2019 Award Plan which was adopted in April, the Commission has determined that projects may be considered for funding outside of the annual process for the following circumstances:

Projects that address drinking water contamination, projects that are time critical and deferring to an annual application review would be impractical, grant request due to financial hardship and projects that support economic growth.

There are 5 shown on the list provided by Erin Holmes.
Discussion continued.

After much discussion, Chair Morse recommends that the two projects presented today, Bethlehem Village District and Newmarket be considered in the list of Special Projects.

Sen Sherman moves to add the two special projects to the existing list of 5 special projects for a total of 7 special projects.

Marco Phillipon seconds.

Unanimous consent.

Update on Public Water System PFAS Sampling Results

Brandon Kernen, DES updated the group on the public water system sampling as of October 1, 2019. Brandon passed out a spreadsheet of sampling data see sheet Summary of PFAS Public Water System MCL Compliance Sampling Results in New Hampshire from 10/1/19 to 12/6/2019.

Discussion continued.

Chair Morse had legislation drafted to set up an account for PFOAs. That will accept funds from either bonds or from lawsuits.

Sen. Sherman asked about a rise in sea level especially on the seacoast. Saline intrusion. Is it something that is on the radar of DES?

Mr. Sarkinka – Mike Unger has been tasked with leading in Drinking Water on climate issues. Manganese is also being talked about at a federal level. We also monitor for chlorides in public drinking water supply.

Mr. Kernen – Based on current models it doesn't look like saltwater intrusion is a big problem for contaminating major water supply wells, private wells, infrastructure. It is a problem from a flooding and other structural issues standpoint.

Clark Freise – More salt problems are associated with road salt.

Sen. Morse suggests approving minutes from November 2019.

Mr. Rousseau moves to approve November 2019 minutes.

Mr. Boyd seconded.

Commissioner Scott requests change "yes" vote to "no" vote on Second Rye (Wallis Road) project.

Mr. Rousseau reconsiders move to approve November minutes with change.

Mr. Boyd seconded.

Unanimous consent.

Erin Holmes is looking for volunteers for a 2020 Award plan. They will be looking for some rules clean up and run through JLCAR process. This should just be a couple of meetings. Senator Morse, Marco Phillipon, Jason Gagnon, Rodney Bartlett, Chris Way, Bernie Rousseau, Clark Freise, Bill Boyd.

Senator Morse thanked all Commission members for a year of hard work.

Andrea Kenter, P.G. Public member – Question: Meeting minutes reflected 75% of our applications were rejected because they weren't following our process, are we looking to fine tune our process or reach out to those that weren't funded?

Erin Holmes, DES – What that may mean is that they are not leveraging funding and maximizing grants, potentially not following the program. They weren't bad applications. The subcommittee will look at how we want to do this again next year.

Chair Morse – The Department and I, we take pride in the process. We go and speak to communities. The message needs to be received clearly on the other end because we are trying to multiply the money.

Meeting concluded at 11:02 a.m.