



NH PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION
Zoom Board of Directors Meeting
May 21, 2021 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Present:

- President Lisa Fauteux – City of Nashua
- President-Elect Tim Clougherty – City of Manchester
- Treasurer/Secretary Dan Hudson – City of Nashua
- Past President - Scott Kinmond – Town of New Durham
- State Director Rep. of the NE Chapter APWA - Kürt Blomquist – City of Keene
- Representative from the NH Water Works Association - Ian Rohrbacher – City of Rochester
- Representative from NH Primex – Dave Witham
- Representative from NH LTAP - Marilee LaFond
- Representative from NHDOT – CR Willeke
- Representative from NH Road Agents Association – Rick Riendeau - Town of Milford
- Representative from NH Water Pollution Control Association– Peter Goodwin – Tate & Howard
Member at Large – Christina Hall – City of Lebanon
- Member at Large – Aaron Lachance – Hoyle Tanner
- Member at Large – Britt Eckstrom – Wright-Pierce
- Member at Large - F. Adam Yanulis - Tighe & Bond
- *Guests:* Marlon Austin (NHDOT), Fred McNeil, Jon Ibarra, Todd Connors

- I. Opened meeting of the NHPWA Board of Directors May meeting at 9:02am
- II. April minutes distributed and will review and vote on them in June
- III. Review and Approval of Treasurer’s Report
 - a. \$49,952.99- DW motion to approve, CH second, all in favor and passes
 - b. Review any tax implications at \$50,000 threshold and discuss at next meeting
- IV. Announcements and Updates
 - 1) Membership list to be finalized this month
 - 2) Public Works Memorial
 - a. RR shared that large group of volunteers joined efforts to Spring clean yesterday
 - b. There are names to be added to it, discussion underway how to memorialize and dedicate names

3) Board Positions

- a. Public Sector Rep – SK, TC, and DH (DH also President-Elect)
- b. LF removed from Public Sector, and placed in Past-President
- c. AY, CH, BE, and AL Member-at Large
- d. CH Treasurer and Member-at Large
- e. KB state rep of NEAPWA
- f. PG - NHWPCA rep
- g. NH Water Works - IR
- h. RR - NHRAA
- i. JV will continue in current role
- j. Consider someone from NH Consulting Community, NHPWMA, NHDES, and NHMA
- k. Election will be held as a show of hands on Zoom

4) Annual Meeting-June 10

- a. CH will work with JV to send speaker bios, session descriptions
- b. TC will read proclamation from Governor
- c. <https://unh.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwtcu2sqTsoEtwZiePHPggpQYEEjjtdLBhH>

V. Partner Reports

1) New England APWA

- a. NEAPWA Summer Conference from June has been moved to October. Will be Fall Conference. PWX will happen in person in September in St. Louis. Hurricane Prep program next week. Fred McNeil award winner, Western MA considering becoming a branch, will be hosting a separate awards program

2) NH Water Pollution Control Association

- a. Committee has been busy! See full summary below.
- b. Annual Golf fundraiser Aug 5 at Beaver Meadow
- c. May trade fair moved to October 1st at Double Tree Manchester
- d. Winter Meeting 12/10 in person in Portsmouth

3) NH Water Works Association

- a. June 8th call Special member meeting for bylaws revisions

4) NH DOT will start LPA training next week, returning to office June 1st but will offer LPA training in person as well as remote, referring to 10 year plan if stimulus money makes funding more Bridge projects possible

- 5) NH DES
 - 6) Municipal Management Association of NH
 - 7) NH Road Agents Association – Sept 2nd Mtn of Demos at Sunapee
 - 8) NH Consulting Community
 - 9) NH Public Works Mutual Aid – Considering one day October 1, 2, 3rd for conference
 - 10) NH Primex – held virtual summit last week with 280 registrants with almost 200 in attendance at keynote session, will return in-person next year in a hybrid format, risk management staff back in field for audits, inspections, and training and facility upgrades will wrap late summer and all staff will return to building
- VI. Other Business
- a. Consider when we transition back to in-person meetings, interest in hybrid meeting
- VII. Upcoming Meeting and Events
- 1) Next Meeting Annual Meeting June 10
- VIII. Adjourn

Summary from NHWPCA

Wow, this committee has been busy! In addition to getting a new name of Government Affairs Committee (GAC), and a new chair (Rebecca Elwood, HDR), we have been in high gear during the biannual budgeting sessions and relentlessly working to elevate awareness to the needs of our water infrastructure.

State Aid Grants (SAG)

The GAC and Executive Board have been working in unison in support of fully funding water and wastewater State Aid Grants (SAG). We have sent two letters to the Senate Finance Committee voicing our support for SAG, and jointly authored an op-ed (acronym for "opinions and editorials page") with NHHWA on this topic to be published in an upcoming Union Leader.

As currently written, HB2 Section 62 places a moratorium on the awarding of new grants until June 30, 2023 unless the State general fund unrestricted revenues as reported by the department of administrative services are above the revenue plan. This eliminates \$12.6 million in state assistance to all eligible projects reaching substantial completion after December 2019, effectively denying a number of communities the funds for eligible projects that are currently underway and moving toward completion in the next biennium.

HB2 Section 62 also places a suspension on State payments for existing grants for the 22/23 biennium. Suspending payments on existing SAGs is, in effect, breaking a contract to 57 communities by not funding payments for 139 Governor and Executive Council approved projects. These communities will now be left scrambling to determine how to absorb the portion of funding promised by the State.

As of this writing, HB1 and HB2 (the budget and budget omnibus bills) currently sit in the Senate Finance Committee. Just yesterday, Senator Morse sponsored HB2 amendment 1473, an amendment to move the efficiency SAG budget line item (the amounts for previously-approved projects which the House eliminated) to a fiscal year 2021 appropriation. However, funding is still not restored in FYs 2022 and 2023, and a moratorium is still in place for new projects.

The fight is not yet over. June 3rd is the final day for the Senate to vote on the state budget. From here, these budget bills will then go to a committee of conference where a combination of House and Senate Finance Committee members and legislative leadership work out the kinks between the two versions of the bills and send them back for final votes. The state budget takes effect July 1.

HB 397: Last year it came to the attention of the Board the municipal exemption for obtaining shoreland permits had been allowed to expire. These fees would impact any wastewater projects that impacted waterways and could add up to tens of thousands of dollars. We contracted with Dennehy and Bouley to help us put forward legislation to reinstate the exemptions. We also worked with the DES, who were depending on the fees to cover their cost to write the permits to cap the fees at \$3,750 for any municipality. At the time of this article, the bill has passed in the house and senate with an amendment, and is expected to be signed into law soon.

SB 146: Part IV of this omnibus bill expands the acceptable testing methods for fecal coliform in areas where shellfish might be harvested. When new permits on the seacoast came out last year, they contained language that limited fecal coliform testing to 5-tube decimal dilution. Right now a couple of plants have to send their samples up to Concord 3 time a week to run the test, would eventually affect all seacoast treatment plants. This bill would allow them go back to using IDEXX or MF as they had previously.

With LSR's for next year due in September, the GAC is already looking forward to the 2022 legislative session. The main piece of legislation we are looking to introduce will be a bill that will require clear labeling on wipes packaging to be correctly labeled as either flushable or non-flushable based on established industry standards. Several states have already passed similar legislation, with pending legislation in Massachusetts. Already, a group of major manufacturers (including Kimberly-Clark and Johnston and Johnston have agreed to these labeling requirements. Stay tuned as we continue to move this forward.

Space here for other legislative efforts Mike mentioned on the board meeting that I am less familiar with.

Outreach Video in Lieu of Legislative Breakfast

Due to the ongoing pandemic, it was necessary to re-imagine and re-invent the annual legislative breakfast. The GAC decided that the best way to get our message out to our local legislators was to develop a short video with pre-recorded messages from several of our esteemed colleagues about the

challenges they face every single day. Additionally, Ty Gagne, author of *The Last Traverse: Tragedy and Resilience in the Winter Whites* and risk management expert, has agreed to be our guest speaker. This video is anticipated to be released by NHWPCA by the end of May. We hope it can be shared far and wide to help us gain more public support and awareness of our water infrastructure.

Other Activities

The committee has also been working to elevate awareness to the needs of our water infrastructure in the following ways:

- Organized a “Water’s Worth It” rally during Vice President Kamala Harris visited the Granite State to garner support Biden’s infrastructure package.
- Jointly participated in calls with NH Federal delegation with NHWWA as part of Water Week 2021.
- Participated in national Water Week activities, which were limited to virtual events this year due to COVID.
- Participated in the forming of a water coalition with NHWWA, NHMA, NHDES, and several members of the NH House of Representatives to share information and work as a team to effectively promote our water needs, track local and federal legislation, closely monitor funding opportunities, and share timely information.