

## Officer & Committee Report Form : Entry # 8524

### Executive Committee Meeting Date

June

### Name of Committee or Office

Director - New Hampshire

### Activities/Decisions Since Last Executive Meeting

As a result of discussions during its meeting on May 18, 2023, the NHWPCA Government Affairs Committee developed a letter to NHDES Commissioner Robert Scott seeking support for development of a "Biosolids Roadmap" for New Hampshire. The purpose of the "Biosolids Roadmap" is to develop a statewide plan to address future biosolids reuse and disposal options for New Hampshire. This would include assessment of current and future needs, estimation of capacity requirements, disposal options and hurdles, estimated costs for municipalities and environmental costs. The intent of the letter is to ask Commissioner Scott to allow and encourage cooperation and participation among the various divisions of the NHDES with development of the "Biosolids Plan".

Not mentioned in my April NH State Director Report was a meeting held on February 24, 2023 between the NH Four Water Associations and U.S. Representative Chris Pappas. Congressman Pappas is the U.S. Representative for NH 1st District and a member of the Water Resource and Environment Subcommittee of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Key discussion topics included ARPA and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, long-term infrastructure challenges, potential impact of earmarks on established programs, the importance of private wells, the impacts of PFAS and related technical and funding challenges, workforce development, and communications. Congressman Pappas was particularly interested in how SRF loan forgiveness helps cities and towns fund key infrastructure investments, how regional approaches enhance public water services, and how cooperation among educators, employers, and government can address workforce challenges.

The NHWPCA is in the process of redeveloping/revitalizing its Education Committee to broaden its scope to include targeting individuals over the age of 18 for inclusion in the water industry in addition to continuing the role of coordinating classes for new and existing wastewater treatment facility operators. Leveraging successful programs of other New England states that have Water and Wastewater Operations as curriculums at Trade Schools or Community Colleges, the Education Committee will work to get this as a curriculum moving forward here in NH. The Education Committee is seeking additional volunteers.

#### Operator Exchange

Planning for the 2023 operator exchange between NH and VT is under way. The Operator Exchange in NH is scheduled to take place September 20-22, 2023 to coincide with the NHWPCA Fall Meeting scheduled for September 22, 2023. A couple of NH and VT operators have expressed interest in participating in this year's operator exchange.

#### Ops Challenge

This year's Ops Challenge has been a topic of discussion at all of the NHWPCA Board of Directors meetings this year. One of the challenges NH has faced in recent years is finding a facility at which the training sessions can be held. Several potential locations were discussed, and efforts are under way to secure a facility at which to hold the training events. We are also working on putting together a team from NH. So far, NH does not have an Ops Challenge team in place for this year.

#### WW Operator Training

NHWPCA partners with the NHWWA, NHDES and others on operator training opportunities. One such effort is the NH Water and Wastewater Managers School. It is a collaborative effort between NHWPCA, NHWWA and NHDES. Classes in the current session are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from March through November. There are 20 operators in the current

Management School session. Tuition is \$675/student and graduates receive 70 contact training hours.

### WW Operator Certification

NH has been in the process of revising its WW operator certification requirements in a collaborative effort with the NHDES. The group is going through the existing regulations to guide/focus discussion. The NHWPCA Board has discussed the need for operator exams to be computerized, especially Grade 1, to provide greater access for workforce development. Proposed changes are currently undergoing legal review.

### Newsletter

The Summer 2023 edition of the NHWPCA newsletter "The Collector" was distributed and is available on the NHWPCA website: [nhwPCA\\_2023\\_summer\\_newsletter.pdf](https://www.nhwPCA.org/nhwPCA_2023_summer_newsletter.pdf) The Newsletter Committee is looking to add new members to bring their energy, enthusiasm and creativity to the development of "The Collector" newsletter which is published quarterly.

### Events

- The NHWPCA Annual Trade Fair was held on Friday, April 14, 2023, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM, at the Sheraton Hotel on Tara Boulevard in Nashua, NH. The trade fair included vendor exhibits, technical sessions for CEU's, a formal luncheon, an awards ceremony and a raffle. There were 140 registrants for the luncheon and 30 exhibitors for the booths in the exhibit area. Additional attendees visited the exhibit area and the technical sessions. Sherri Caneer, World Water Works, gave a technical presentation on the concept of intensification which utilizes hydrocyclones to enable treatment facilities to produce a more densified or granular sludge as part of an enhanced nutrient removal. Steve LaRosa and Corey Repucci, Weston & Sampson, provided an overview of operational and managerial challenges treatment facilities are facing in light of PFAS regulations and biosolids disposal concerns. Recipients of NEWEA, WEF, and EPA awards at the January 2023 NEWEA Annual Conference were recognized during the luncheon. Recipients included Anthony Drouin (EPA Region 1 Wastewater Trainer of the Year), the Town of Newmarket (NEWEA Wastewater Utility Management Award), Christopher Perkins (NEWEA Alfred E. Peloquin), Mark Corliss (NEWEA Operator Award), Sharon Nall (NEWEA Energy Management Achievement Award), Christopher Crowley (EPA Region 1 Industrial Pretreatment Program of the Year), and David Lovely (EPA Region 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator of the Year Excellence Award).
- Discover Wild NH Day was held on Saturday, April 15, 2023, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, at the NH Fish & Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH. The event was well attended and very successful. Discover Wild New Hampshire Day included lots of fun opportunities for the entire family to explore New Hampshire's wildlife resources and legacy of outdoor traditions, browse educational exhibits presented by environmental and conservation organizations, see live animals, fish and trained falcons, try your hand at archery, casting, fly-tying, B-B gun shooting, watch retriever dogs in action, enjoy hands-on craft activities for the kids, and check out the latest hunting and fishing gear and gadgets. The NHWPCA gave away 20 fishing poles (2 poles every ½ hour) and provided pizza for this event.

The NHWPCA Annual Summer Outing is scheduled for Friday June 23, 2023, 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM at Ellacoya State Park in Gilford, NH. This popular event includes a fun-filled day of great food, friends, music, swimming and games. This year's menu features grilled chicken, steak tips, veggies, ice cream, and much more. There will also be a double-elimination style corn hole tournament for teams of two – always a highlight of this event.

The NHWPCA and New Hampshire Water Works Association (NHWWA) are getting ready for a double-header event on Saturday, July 29, 2023. There will be a softball exhibition game featuring the NHWPCA (Green) team against the NHWWA (Blue) team. The game is scheduled for 2 PM, Saturday, July 29, 2023, at Steven's Park in Manchester, New Hampshire. That evening we will be attending the NH Fisher Cats baseball game at 7:05 PM at Delta Dental Stadium in Manchester. At this time, both teams are looking for softball enthusiasts who would like to represent their respective associations and participate in the game. Last year the NHWWA softball team crushed the NHWPCA team. Hopefully we can avoid that embarrassment this year!

### Legislative

- New Hampshire's 2024 annual Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 7:30 AM at the

Holiday Inn, Concord, NH. Over 100 persons registered for the 2023 Legislative Breakfast and 61 attended the event. The split between legislators and non-legislators was approximately 50/50. The 2023 breakfast was very well received by all who attended, particularly the legislators.

- Notable Legislative Service Requests (LSR's)/Bills currently being tracked include:

HB 212 – Appropriations for PFAS tracking and investigation fund.

HB 311 – State Aid Grant funding appropriation.

HB 2 – Proposed licensure and regulatory reform.

- PFAS. NH Governor John Sununu has expressed skepticism over the EPA proposed federal drinking water standard of 4 parts per trillion for PFAS contamination. New Hampshire already developed its own drinking water standards for four PFAS chemicals ranging from 12 to 18 parts per trillion.

## Meetings/Conference Calls Held

Regular monthly meetings of the NHWPCA Board of Directors were held on Friday, April 14 (at the annual trade fair) and Thursday May 11, 2023. The April BOD meeting included discussion of Board of Director changes, Association management, upcoming events and Association needs. The meeting included discussion of the Annual Trade Fair and the possibility of finding a new location to host the trade fair next year. The D.C. Fly-In was discussed at the May meeting and there was agreement on the need to continue in-person outreach to both Federal and State legislators on an ongoing basis. The next monthly meeting of the BOD is scheduled for Friday, June 23 at 10:00 AM at the Summer Outing at Ellacoya State Park in Gilford, NH. Attendance will be in-person only.

The NHWPCA Government Affairs Committee met on Thursday, April 20 and Thursday, May 18 at 1:00 PM. Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 1 PM via video conference call. In view of the great success of the Legislative Breakfast held on March 8, there was discussion of follow up activities and outreach to Legislators to include tours of local wastewater treatment facilities and visits to the local offices of U.S. Congressional members. Shelagh Connelly represented New Hampshire at the annual WEF DC Fly-In on April 24-26, 2023. Shelagh thought the Fly-In was very successful and stressed the need to continue ongoing outreach efforts to both Federal and State legislators. There was extensive discussion at the May meeting of development of a "Biosolids Roadmap" for New Hampshire. This was followed up by creating a letter to NHDES Commissioner Robert Scott requesting the Commissioner's support in developing a "Biosolids Roadmap".

NHWPCA's Youth Outreach Committee is moving forward with planning and scheduling of youth-focused events for 2023. The goal for 2023 is to coordinate these events under the new Committee. Nate Brown (Peterborough, NH) and Casey Maranto (Wright Pierce) are the co-chairs of this committee. The YOC has also been working on its description/charge which will be reviewed by the NHWPCA Board of Directors.

The NHWPCA Permit Committee last met on May 10, 2022 to discuss two pending NPDES permits and a letter from CLF regarding the Great Bay Total Nitrogen General Permit. There was discussion of comments to be submitted to EPA regarding the draft NPDES permits for the Pease WWTF in Portsmouth and the Rochester, NH WWTF. The next meeting of the Permits Committee has not yet been scheduled.

NH Four Water Associations. Representatives of the NH Four Water Associations and senior leaders from the NHDES met with Congressman Greg Pappas on February 24, 2023. Congressman Pappas is the U.S. Representative for NH 1st District and a member of the Water Resource and Environment Subcommittee of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The meeting was part of legislative outreach by the Four Water Associations. Key discussion topics included ARPA and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, long-term infrastructure challenges, potential impact of earmarks on established programs, the importance of private wells, the impacts of PFAS and related technical and funding challenges, workforce development, and communications. Representatives of the four member associations of the NH Water Coalition (NHWWA, GSRWA, NHMA (municipal association), and NHWPCA, along with NHDES meet periodically for the purpose of promoting common messaging with state and national leaders as well as informing the public). The NH Four Water Associations met on May 25, 2023. Discussion included legislative outreach activities, pending Legislative Service Requests (LSR's), PFAS impacts on water and wastewater facilities and workforce recruiting challenges.

## Committee Member School Outreach Activities

The NHWPCA's Scholarship Committee announced the winners of the 2023 scholarships. From a total of five applications for the high school scholarship, the committee recommended Makenna Tullar of Newfound Regional High School in Bristol and Carina Walter of Keene High School as awardees. Makenna is a member of the National Honor Society and is graduating from high school after three years, not the traditional four years. Makenna has accomplished this feat while maintaining multiple part time jobs, including working at a pizza restaurant, a local pet supply store, and performing housekeeping duties at a local private school. She has been accepted to the University of New Hampshire and the University of New England. The teacher who wrote her letter of recommendation mentioned Makenna's academic performance and personal character. It was evident to the committee that Makenna is a hard-working student, a driven individual, and someone who is well liked. Carina Walter is a member of the National Honor Society as well as the National Art Honor Society, is involved in high school sports (varsity soccer, lacrosse, and alpine skiing), has participated in volunteer watershed cleanup events, and maintains a part-time job while in school. Carina's letter of recommendation talks about her engaging, mature, conscientious nature and made note of her love for learning. She has been accepted to five colleges, including the University of New Hampshire and the University of Rhode Island. We are happy to be able to provide some financial assistance to both of these deserving students. Thanks to Jeremy D. Bouvier, PE, Water Supply Engineer at Manchester Water Works for leading this effort.

## General Comments

"Boundless are the possibilities when we embrace the courage to imagine, the determination to pursue, and the resilience to transform our dreams into reality." – unknown author.

## Report Submitted by

Michael Trainque

## Submitter's Email

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## Date Submitted

05/31/2023

## Notes



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