

**HB 495 Seacoast Drinking Water Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**November 22, 2019**  
**NHDES Portsmouth Office**

**Members present:** Renny Cushing (Chair), Tim Roache (Clerk), Deb Hobson, Mindi Messmer, Mike Edgar, Patricia Bickford, Brandon Kernen, Cameron Wake, John Storer, Representative Pat Bushway (Vice Chair), Brain Goetz, Dana Truslow, Senator Tom Sheman, Senator Martha Fuller Clark, Anne Lightbody, Kyle Pimetal,

Chairman Cushing opened the meeting at 2:00 PM. He discussed the administrative challenges facing this Commission.

**Introductions:**

Chairman Cushing reviewed the committee membership and Welcomed Senator Martha Fuller Clark. Members present then introduced themselves.

**Minutes**

Minutes were reviewed. There was a motion to approve by Bushway with a second by Messmer. Discussion lead to minor changes to the text in the last paragraph. The minutes were approved as amended.

**Updates:**

- There was a brief discussion of the upcoming legislative session. Bills are still being drafted with House bills due 12/1/19 and Senate Bills dues 12/19/19. Messmer suggested that the Commission be responsive to new legislative initiatives as they arise.
- PFAS and Arsenic limits were discussed. Senator Fuller Clark suggested Tom Donovan as a potential speaker on the subject. Kernen provided an update on PFAS standards and ongoing testing. He provided an explanation of an exceedance and violation of standards. The committee discussed the Surface water Quality Plan coming before the Legislature and the proposal to treat schools impacted by PFAS with a 50/50 cost share from the Drinking Water Trust Fund.
- Efforts to block implementation of the PFAS Standards are ongoing but there are no timeframes or further updates on the State lawsuit.

**Former Commission Report Review:**

Edgar created a matrix of goals developed by the last commission. It was suggested that a website be developed, and the work of the former Commission be carried forward to that site.

Several of the goals of the former commission were discussed. The conversation focused on regional solutions and regionalization. Storer suggested that the RPC's be used as a means to convene communities. It was also suggested that an advisory council could be formed with the RPCs supporting the council. The committee discussed land purchase as a surface water protection and model buffer ordinances.

Regional projects should be encouraged, and perhaps can be incentivized through funding, if available. It might be possible to get funding from the Drinking Water/Ground Water Trust Fund to support efforts.

In the matter of the greater regional cooperation, and oversight of that cooperation, the existence and composition of the newly established drinking commission adequately addresses that issue. The existing agreements and procedures for mutual aid for firefighting are well-established and are adequate for addressing any issues that may arise. That issue can be regarded as complete. Efforts to expand ground water/source water protection education programs are ongoing. A sub-committee for drought management was recommended. While there was general agreement that DES does a good job of keeping municipalities informed, and coordination is fair, the effort needs to be expanded. Senator Fuller-Clark brought up the issue of the impact of drought on agriculture throughout the state. Other commercial enterprises such as golf courses, sod farms, and car washes were also mentioned as areas that need consideration. Leak detection was identified as an area that perhaps could be included, but the point was made that leak detection can be very complicated, and funding to address problems related to infrastructure can be problematic. The suggestion was made to get a briefing from the town of Newmarket on their drought management plan.

A sub-committee for hazardous and medical waste was proposed. The sub-committee would consider ways to get more contaminants out of the waste stream, perhaps by focusing more on a regional approach to make disposal of dangerous and hazardous materials easier and more accessible. The suggestion was made to look at what Nashua is currently doing. The commission will continue to monitor federal legislation and revisit the results of the legislation as that becomes available.

A sub-committee to look at water efficiency was proposed. That sub-committee could address topics such as programs to incentivize reduced usage. Cameron Wake recommended that we look more broadly at the issue of efficiency and at water as valuable and potentially scarce resource. That led to further discussion about the possibility of a sub-committee on education and communication on all issues related to water. There was an acknowledgement that given the size of the commission, we need to be mindful about the number of sub-committees that we agree to. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan 24, 2020 at 2PM at the Pease Tradeport NHDES office.

#### **Next meeting**

November 22, 2019 2:00PM NHDES Pease office.