

**HB 495 Seacoast Drinking Water Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**January 24, 2020**  
**NHDES Portsmouth Office**

**Members present:** Renny Cushing (Chair), Tim Roache (Clerk), Mindi Messmer, Mike Edgar, Patricia Bickford, Brandon Kernen, John Storer, Representative Pat Bushway (Vice Chair), Brain Goetz, Dana Truslow, Senator Tom Sherman, Anne Lightbody, Art Ditto,

**Others Present:** Keith Pratt, Eric Nichols Underwood Engineering, Erin Holmes NHDES

Chairman Cushing opened the meeting at 2:05 PM by inviting Brian Goetz and John Storer to inform the Commission of options for an interconnection to cross the Little Bay Bridge to complete full interconnectability along the seacoast.

Storer described the how interconnection might work and on-going discussions with NHDOT. Goetz described Portsmouth investments and upgrades to the system. Mesmer inquired about expansion to the Breakfast Hill area. Goetz explained that not all of the Breakfast Hill area has been added to the Portsmouth system and there is no current plan to extend the service.

Keith Pratt presented on the engineering costs and challenges of making the interconnection across the Little Bay Bridge. Pratt explained the design process of the bridge should consider the water connection. Pratt answered questions regarding who would pay for the pipe and who is managing the DOT project. TimeLine for the project is driven by NHDOT. There was discussion of options to fund the Bridge inter connection.

It was suggested that the project apply for Drinking Water Trust Fund dollars and the Commission provide a letter of support. Erin Holmes, NHDES Administrator briefly discussed the Trust fund matching requirements. She suggested that the project could support future regional supply.

Sherman suggested that the project be discussed at the upcoming Drinking Water Trust Fund meeting on February 10.

**Motion** for the Commission to send a letter of support by Messmer with a second by Edgar. Motion carried with Kernen, Storer and Goetz abstaining.

**Motion** by Edgar with a second by Bushway for the Seacoast Drinking Water Commission members to attend the Drinking Water Trust Fund meeting to support the interconnection project. Motion carried with Kernen, Storer and Goetz abstaining.

## **Chairman Change**

Chairman Cushing announced that he is stepping down as chair. Recommended Vice Chair Bushway take over the role as Chair and Edgar step in as Vice Chair. A motion by Messmer and a second by Goetz to install Bushway as Chair and Edgar as Vice Chair passed unanimously.

## **Minutes**

Minutes of November 22 were reviewed. There was a motion to approve by Truslow with a second by Storer. The minutes were approved as presented.

Chair Bushway conferred with the members present and agreed to move on to item 4 on the agenda, Sub-committees with the goal to determine which of those suggested at the November meeting will be established. Committees suggested in November included:

- Drought management
- Hazardous and medical waste
- Water efficiency

The discussion picked up from the recommendations of the November meeting. The idea of a drought management subcommittee evolved through the discussion to an Emergency Management subcommittee that would consider interconnection on the regional level. *This led to the idea of a presentation on emergency management prior to establishing a subcommittee. Kernen suggested that NHDES could accommodate a presentation on emergency management. Chair Bushway suggested adding this to the March agenda.*

A sub-committee for hazardous and medical waste was again discussed. Sherman suggested a presentation on hazardous and medical waste to the group and then focus on a subcommittee if needed. Kernen discussed the NHDES materials available on this topic.

The topic of water efficiency was then brought up and it was immediately suggested that a presentation be scheduled prior to forming a sub-committee. It was recommended that Goetz present on the topic. There was again an acknowledgement that given the size of the commission, we need to be mindful about the number of sub-committees that we agree to.

## **Next meeting**

After circular discussion it was agreed that there will be a February 28 meeting to continue the review of the last Commission's report and discuss pending legislation. The March meeting will feature a presentation on Emergency Management and Regionalization. The April Meeting will feature presentations on water efficiency and hazardous/medical waste.