



State of New Hampshire

GENERAL COURT

CONCORD

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 1, 2021

TO: Honorable Sherman Packard, Speaker of the House
Honorable Chuck Morse, President of the Senate
Honorable Paul C. Smith, House Clerk
Honorable Tammy L. Wright, Senate Clerk
Honorable Chris Sununu, Governor
Michael York, State Librarian

FROM: Representative Jaci Grote, Chairman

SUBJECT: Interim Report of the Annual Report of the Long-Term Seacoast
Commission on Drinking Water. RSA 485-F:6

Pursuant to RSA 485-F:6, enclosed please find the Annual Report of the Long-Term Seacoast Commission on Drinking Water.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very Respectfully,

Representative Jaci Grote, Chairman

CC: Commission members

Interim Report

Seacoast Commission on Long-Term Goals and Requirements for Drinking Water
November 1, 2021

I. Commission Charge:

Pursuant to RSA 485-F:6, the Commission shall:

Continue the work of the RSA 485-F:5 seacoast Commission on long-term goals and requirements for drinking water which was repealed on November 1, 2018

Utilize and expand upon existing studies to plan for seasonal or drought supply issues

Prepare and discuss mutual aid between seacoast towns for firefighting

Prepare and discuss mutual aid agreements for emergency or replacement drinking water supply where contaminated

Encourage coordination between towns and cities

Establish working subgroups as needed

Monitor and review the work of state agencies regarding possible new emerging contaminant threats

II. Members:

Rep. Jaci Grote (chair)	Town of Rye, NH
Rep. Mike Edgar (vice chair)	NH House of Representatives
Pat Bushway (clerk)	Town of Hampton
Sen. Tom Sherman	NH Senate
Sen. Rebeca Perkins-Kwoka	NH Senate

Rep. Aboul Khan	NH House of Representatives
Rep. Aiden Ankarberg	NH House of Representatives
Rep. David Meuse	NH House of Representatives
Sen. Martha Fuller Clark	Senate District 21
Representative Dennis Malloy	Greenland, NH
Tim Roache	Rockingham Planning Commission
Jen Czysz	Strafford Planning Commission
Brandon Kernen	NH Dept of Environmental Services
Brian Goetz	City of Portsmouth, NH
John Storer	City of Dover, NH
George Eaton	Town of Seabrook, NH
Arthur Ditto	Rye Water District, Rye, NH
David Moore	Stratham, NH
David Ciccalone	North Hampton, NH
Patricia Bickford	Madbury, NH
Bob Kelly	Town of Exeter, NH
Peggy Lamson	Senate District 21
Danna Truslow	Senate District 24
Mindi Messmer	Senate District 24
Dabra Seiken	Senate District 24
Carl McMorran	Aquarion Water Company
Ann Lightbody	University of NH
Cameron Wake	University of NH
James Zuckerman	New Castle, NH

III. Introduction:

The Long-Term Seacoast Commission on Drinking Water continued meeting virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions from January 2021 through June of 2021 and did

not meet in July and August. In September 2021 the commission resumed in person meetings at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) office at the Pease Tradeport in Newington. Efforts to identify commission members from municipalities currently not represented are ongoing.

IV. Progress to Date:

Beginning with the January meeting and continuing throughout the year, Brandon Kernen of the NHDES presented an update on drought conditions throughout the state and specifically in the seacoast region. He also provided regular updates about the Emergency Drought Assistance program which was established to assist low-income households that experienced problems with residential wells because of the drought.

Also at the January meeting, Chair Grote raised the issue of the need for an inventory of water resources by community to serve as part of the baseline for the commission's work going forward. The inventory included a presentation of water resources by each municipality represented on the commission. NHDES began each presentation with an overview of the water sources, protection areas, distribution infrastructure, and any unique challenges to the water system for that city or town. Mr. Roache of the Rockingham Planning Commission and Ms. Czysz of the Strafford Regional Planning Commission also provided summary information for their counties. Once complete, the inventory of water assets throughout the region can be used to support efforts that could improve efficiency and reliability in water distribution and ensure water quality and availability. The following is the schedule of briefings for the year:

Rye	Art Ditto	February 11, 2021
Madbury	Garrett Ahlstrom	March 26, 2021
Dover	John Storer	April 23, 2021
Portsmouth/Newington	Brian Goetz & Peggy Lamson	May 21, 2021
Seabrook	George Eaton	June 18, 2021
Greenland	Rep Dennis Malloy	September 23, 2021
Stratham	David Moore	October 21, 2021

North Hampton	David Cicalone	November 18, 2021
Hampton	Carl McMorran	December 16, 2021

The review of water systems serves as a baseline overview of resources and challenges throughout the seacoast region. Those challenges include water usage and conservation efforts, and threats to water quality from both natural sources such as arsenic, radon, and manganese as well as from man-made sources such as PFAS chemicals. The reviews included efforts to manage those issues, and information about water source protection initiatives, ongoing cooperation between municipalities, and best practices for ensuring water quality and quantity.

The inventory of water resources also included information on the number of users that get their water from a public source and those that rely on private wells. The information is summarized below*:

City/Town	% Public Supply	% Self-Supplied
Seabrook	98%	2%
Hampton	89%	11%
North Hampton	79%	21%
Exeter	90%	10%
Greenland	43%	57%
Portsmouth	99%	Less than 1%
Rye	97%	3%
New Castle	100%	096
Newington	92%	8%
Dover	94	6%
Madbury	Less than 1%	99%
Stratham	7296	28%

* Information in this table is an estimate based on the best available data

In addition to the presentations on municipal water systems, Representative David Meuse from Portsmouth provided periodic updates on the status of legislation related to drinking water.

At the September meeting, the commission voted in favor of sending a letter to the Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission requesting up \$290,000 to

support a project proposed by NHDES to begin addressing the health risks posed by arsenic and other common contaminants in water from private wells. NHDES will conduct the Seacoast Private Well Initiative that includes community outreach, testing, information on treatment, and free filter pitchers for qualified families and individuals whose well water has unsafe levels of contaminants. The project will be conducted in the seacoast region with a view to demonstrating practices that can be replicated in other regions of the state. The letter was sent on September 24, 2021.

The Commission did not meet in July and August. The minutes of all meetings with additional detail on the municipality water system briefings and other documents used in the presentations listed above are available on the Commission website which can be found at the following:

<http://www.dencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/committees/1493/>

V. Conclusion:

The Long-Term Seacoast Commission on Drinking Water will continue to meet monthly. With the completion of the inventory of water systems by community, the Commission will begin to consider ideas that will ensure that all communities in the seacoast continue to have uninterrupted access to safe and adequate drinking water. The Commission will also continue the work of the previous commission and will address additional relevant issues as presented.



Representative Jaci Grote

Chair, Seacoast Commission on Long-Term Goals and Requirements for Drinking Water