N.H. Department of Environmental Services

Drinking Water Source Protection Conference

In-Person Wednesday, June 3, 2026 (9:00 am-3:15 pm)

Conference registration is available at the American Ground Water Trust's registration page: www.agwt.org

5.0 Technical Credit Hours for NH Water Works Operators

AGENDA

Edward Cross Training Complex
722 Riverwood Drive
Pembroke, NH 03275

June 3, 2026

9:00-9:15 am **WELCOME, CONFERENCE OVERVIEW**
Pierce Rigrod, Supervisor, Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau, NHDES

9:15-9:30 am **OPENING REMARKS AND AWARDS**
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES

9:30-9:45 am **DWGB PRIORITIES, LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY UPDATES**
Brandon Kernen, Administrator, Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau, NHDES

9:45-10:30 am **MAINE PFAS IN PRODUCTS PROGRAM**

Overview of Maine's New State Law to Limit PFAS in Consumer Products: Implementation and expected benefits for drinking water. Kerri Farris, Maine Department of Environmental Protection Office of the Commissioner; Susan Breau, LG, Hydrogeologist, Water Resources Team Leader Maine DHHS CDC Drinking Water Program

10:30-11:00 am Break

REGISTER ONLINE: www.agwt.org

11:00-11:45 am-Breakout Sessions		
Land and Water Conservation	**Land Use Management: Case Studies and Guidance**	**Emerging Contaminants & Public Health**
City of Rochester's Efforts to Protect their Water Supply by Partnering w/Moose Mountain Regional Greenways	**A Fresh Look at a Frozen Problem: How Modern Salt Practices Strengthen Budgets, Support Safe Roads, and Reduce Impacts to Water Resources**	**PFAS Source Identification**
The City of Rochester relies on the 8,000-acre Berry's River Watershed to recharge a series of reservoirs the city uses to provide drinking water to its residents as well as residents in portions of Barrington, Strafford, and Farmington. Safeguarding the watershed is essential to maintaining high-quality source water. This session will spotlight two recent conservation projects that permanently protect freshwater wetlands and vegetated buffers along key stretches of the Berry's River. These projects, completed in collaboration with conservation partners, demonstrate how targeted land protection can strengthen long-term water quality and ecosystem resilience and safe, reliable drinking water for generations to come.	Winter road maintenance is one of the most visible and costly services that NH municipalities provide. For many communities, salt use has long been viewed as a significant but difficult to control expense with several unavoidable environmental tradeoffs. This session will share how that assumption is being successfully challenged and how those beliefs are changing in today's modern winter operations. This session will highlight how municipalities are rethinking winter operations through three proven strategies: calibration, brine and liquids and treated salts.	Evaluating the relative composition of individual PFAS compounds in environmental media, such as wastewater effluent, surface water, and groundwater can be a powerful tool for identifying potential PFAS sources. As both laboratory detection capabilities and regulatory analyte lists continue to expand, environmental managers and engineers face increasing complexity in interpreting PFAS data. This presentation offers a clear, accessible introduction to PFAS finger-printing tailored for environmental managers, engineers, and corporate staff at industrial facilities. Attendees will learn how PFAS profiles can be used to assess whether a facility may pose risks related to PFAS discharges and how to navigate evolving analytical and regulatory landscapes.
Ian Rohrbacher, Water Superintendent, Rochester, NH; Veronica Bodge, Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, Land Acquisition & Stewardship Coordinator	**Scott Kinmond, UNH T2 Program, Technical Specialist; Marilee Enus, Winter Instructor**	**Elizabeth Denly, TRC, Inc., PFAS Initiative Leader/Chemistry Director**

11:45-12:45 pm-Lunch

12:45-1:30 pm-Breakout Sessions		
Land and Water Conservation	**Land Use Management: Case Studies and Guidance**	**Emerging Contaminants & Public Health**
Protecting the Town of Gorham's Water Supply by Conserving the Town Forest	**Protecting Natural Resources through Open Space Subdivision**	**From Science to Standards: Developing Health-Based Recommendations for Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards**
Established in 1936, the 6,800-acre Gorham Town Forest is one of New Hampshire's oldest town forests and a standout example of how conserved lands can advance multiple community priorities. Beyond its ecological and recreational value, the forest plays a vital role in protecting the municipal drinking water supply that serves 90% of Gorham residents. Since 2020, the Town of Gorham, working in partnership with The Conservation Fund, has expanded the forest by an additional 3,060 acres, all while minimizing financial impacts on taxpayers. This strategic growth strengthens the town's ability to safeguard water quality, maintain working forestlands, and support long-term community resilience. Participants will learn how Gorham balances drinking water protection with sustainable timber harvesting, and outdoor recreation.	Open space subdivisions (cluster developments) are an effective land-use tool to help protect natural resources while still accommodating residential development. Open space subdivisions "cluster" homes on smaller lots to permanently preserve a large portion of the land. This design reduces the overall development footprint, limits impervious surfaces, and helps maintain natural landscapes that support groundwater recharge and water quality. Learn how Salem, NH has permanently preserved nearly 800 acres through open space subdivision and how this planning technique can balance community growth, land conservation, and long-term drinking water protection.	Protecting source water begins with transparent criteria that translates science into actionable limits. This presentation will describe the process used by the NHDES Environmental Health Program (EHP) for developing health-based recommendations for ambient groundwater quality standards (AGQS) for almost 50 chemicals, including PFAS, guided by U.S. EPA methodology. This presentation will walk through the entire framework, from health hazard identification and dose response assessment to estimating exposure to reflect multiple pathways realistically. A PFAS case example will illustrate how evolving science challenges conventional derivations.
Sally Manikian, The Conservation Fund, NH & VT State Director; Peter Gagnon, Town Manager, Town of Gorham	**Jacob LaFontaine, Planning Director Town of Salem, NH**	**Dr. Kimberly Aviado, Toxicologist, Environmental Health Program, NHDES**

1:30-2:15 pm-Breakout Sessions		
Land and Water Conservation	**Land Use Management: Case Studies and Guidance**	**Emerging Contaminants & Public Health**
The Economic Benefits of New Hampshire's Open Space to Protect Public Drinking Water Quality and Quantity	**Marking 10 Years of Investigation and Mitigation of PFAS Releases from the Saint Gobain Performance Plastics Facility in Merrimack, NH**	**Bloom Fighters: Building a Statewide Monitoring and Response Protocol to Defend Against Cyanotoxins**
Conserving land within a water supply watershed, aquifer or wellhead protection area is a longstanding practice in New Hampshire designed to protect drinking water quality and quantity. Learn more about how New Hampshire's "nature economy" with more than 1,000 lakes and 10,000 miles of rivers and streams, provides many benefits, including water filtration and storage, which are crucial to maintaining clean, safe drinking water and preventing and controlling flooding, while benefiting the local economy. This session will present data on avoided water treatment costs due to preservation of critical lands in a water supply watershed.	This presentation will cover an overview of the Saint-Gobain project, touching upon NHDES response efforts following the initial detection of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the Merrimack Village District public water system, investigation and work completed by Saint-Gobain and NHDES, stakeholder involvement through the process, current status of the project, changes to the regulatory framework during the 10 years of project activity, impacts to other NHDES programs and initiatives, and lessons learned.	Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) are becoming more frequent across the United States, with New Hampshire experiencing record-high levels in 2024. To address this challenge, a comprehensive risk assessment of public water system sources' susceptibility to HABs was completed for those currently experiencing cyanobacteria blooms. The assessment framework considered source water monitoring data from historical HAB events and each system's water treatment capacity to remove cyanotoxins. Project recommendations involving monitoring and water treatment will position water systems to be better able to detect and respond effectively to HAB events. The framework offers a scalable, adaptable approach that can be applied by utilities statewide facing similar HAB-related challenges.
Jessica Sargent, Founder, Primrose Research Group; Meredith Hatfield, Associate Dir. for Policy and Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy	**Andrew Fuller, Senior Hydrologist, Hazardous Waste Remediation Bureau, NHDES**	**Liz Crafton, Dir. Water Quality Protection and Restoration, Hazen and Sawyer; Tyler Hudson, Drinking Water Practice and Operations Assist. Lead, Hazen and Sawyer**
BREAK – 2:15-2:30PM		
Breakout Sessions 2:30pm – 3:15pm		
Protecting Concord's Water Supply through Land Conservation: A Partnership with Five Rivers Conservation Trust and the Town of Hopkinton	**Protecting Watersheds through Erosion Control Methods: Examples and Case Studies**	**Using Statewide Data to Inform PFAS Treatment and Monitoring Approach for Private Wells in Maine**
Penacook Lake is the primary drinking water source for the City of Concord. It is the only lake in New Hampshire that prohibits public access to enhance water quality protection for its customers. Recent efforts have focused on protecting the Contoocook River and upstream tributaries which provide water to the lake. Learn more about how Five Rivers Conservation Trust and the Town of Hopkinton worked together to protect land along the Warner River and the Contoocook River, to permanently protect the quality of source water in the two rivers and Penacook Lake.	Sediment loss through soil erosion is one of the leading causes of surface water pollution. When soil washes into rivers, lakes, and reservoirs, it can carry with it nutrients, organic matter and other pollutants that increase turbidity and make drinking water treatment more complex and costly. Erosion controls such as vegetated covers, mulching, terracing, riparian buffers, and erosion matting limit erosive conditions and maintain water quality. This session will provide an overview of effective erosion controls that can be used to protect water quality in surface water sources.	Managing a home water treatment system can feel overwhelming for many private well owners, especially when PFAS contamination is involved. This presentation draws on an analysis of statewide data to highlight key considerations for installing and maintaining PFAS treatment systems for private wells. This work completed in the State of Maine used a state dataset of more than 13,000 samples from over 400 PFAS point-of-entry treatment (POET) systems. In conjunction with the Maine DEP, Sanborn Head analyzed these data to develop recommendations for sampling frequency, filter changeouts, sampling method improvements and treatment system approaches.
Jeffrey Evans, Dir. of Conservation Five Rivers Conservation Trust; Dijit Taylor, Town of Hopkinton, Marco Philippon, Water Treatment Supt., City of Concord	**Mike Everhart, Erosion Control & Stormwater Specialist, EJ Prescott, Inc.**	**Harrison Roakes, P.E., Sanborn, Head & Associates, Inc.**