



NEWSLETTER

NH WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION



Construction Day 2022

The first step of our annual Construction Day event will be a tour of the UNH/Durham water treatment plant. Next we will head to Dover where we will see the PFAS water treatment plant under construction and the recharge facility for the two wells associated with the plant. We will finish with a picnic lunch and networking at Hilton Park on Dover Point.

We're happy to be returning to the coach bus for this year's Construction Day! Attendees can hop on the bus at the station in Concord or meet the bus in Durham. Many thanks to Woodard & Curran for sponsoring this event and covering the cost of the bus!

Plan on joining us for this popular event. Space is limited so [register today](#).



The new UNH/Durham Water Treatment Plant which went online in March 2020.



Woodard & Curran

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Association and Leadership News

One of our core strategic goals is to build the Association's ability to deliver on its promises to the public drinking water sector. Our focus is building our Board and Committees with the best and the brightest talent, and engaging water leaders from around the state to identify and solve common and critical challenges. At our March Board meeting we welcomed Mike Metcalf and Scott Kelley as Directors, adding two highly respected and talented members to the leadership team. On April 20 we held our first Leadership Round Table (LRT), hosted by Ian Rohrbacher and the City of Rochester drinking water team.

Leadership Roundtables are designed for senior leaders and managers within our sector. Our inaugural event began with a tour of Rochester's WTP, and continued at their new DPW building with presentations and discussions on addressing workforce challenges. Presentations were led by Sarah Lescault, Deputy Director – Finance & Administration, of Manchester Water Works, and Mary DeRoche, head of Pennichuck Water Human Resources. We discussed pay scales, job requirements and descriptions, and ways to identify and attract new workers to our field and built connections and camaraderie to carry beyond the day. We plan on two to three LRTs annually, based on needs and topics identified by our water leaders.

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Legislative Update



Thanks to all who assist our legislative monitoring and advocacy efforts with your financial support! With your ongoing commitment, we are well-positioned to continue our advocacy efforts in the upcoming session. In our February eNews we reported on the status of 12 House and 1 Senate bill impacting our sector. The following highlights “big picture” decisions and future considerations as this session comes to an end.

PFAS REGULATIONS

There is growing concern that the EPA may set MCL Goals of 0 for PFAS, either as selected species or the entire chemical class. New Hampshire statutes require NHDES to take EPA risk advisories as de-facto standards. It is possible that PFAS standards could become more stringent.

Regulating PFAS compounds in soil is a growing and problematic issue. Analytical methods, leachability, and toxicity combine to create a complicated matrix to manage. Both drinking and wastewater facilities create solids that may, through no fault of their own, contain PFAS.

HB1547, which requires NHDES to establish allowable concentrations of PFAS compounds in soil, was passed by the House and Senate with amendment, including an additional \$25Mm from the General Fund surplus for the PFAS Remediation Loan Fund. Soil standards are due to the Legislature by late 2023.

On June 15, EPA released interim goals for PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. The interim goals only consider toxicity, not laboratory detection limits or treatment feasibility and cost. Interim goals are substantially lower than analytical detection limits. PFAS and other man-made contaminants come from our modern lifestyles. NHWWA will continue to work with all engaged stakeholders to address societal-level drinking water challenges.

[Click here for more information from NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau Administrator Brandon Kernen.](#)

STATE AID GRANTS (SAG)

Working closely with the NHWPCA, the NH Municipal Association (NHMA), Bill Hounsell of Granite State Rural Water Association (GSRWA), and the NHDES, we testified in support of SAG. Wastewater support was approved by both chambers, but drinking water was not, in large part due to the influx of federal dollars.

The Legislature ignoring a legal mandate to fund an approved program is apparently not uncommon. We continually made the point the State needs to meet its promise, but apparently promises are kept according to real and perceived budgetary constraints.

PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES

While public water is considered an “essential” service, water workers have not been classified as emergency responders, a difference made clear in the early

(Continued on page 8)



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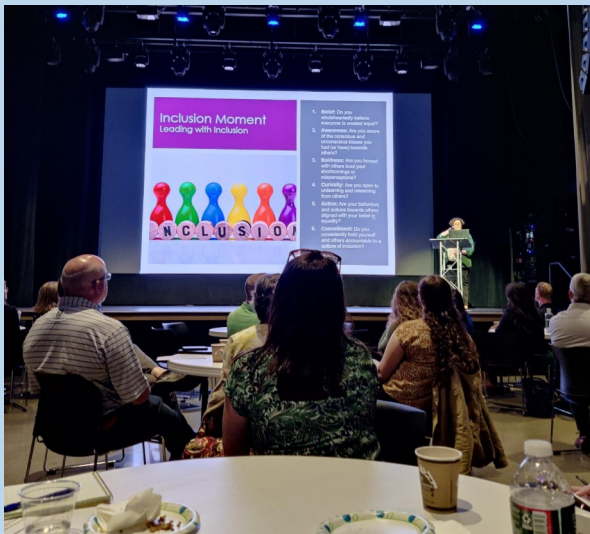
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Advancing Diversity in the Water Workforce

Technical Meeting held May 17 at the Bank of NH Stage in Concord



Keynote Speaker Erica Lotz, P.E., Stantec, and current President of New England Water Works Association, kicked off the event with her presentation on *Incorporating Diversity and Equity in the Workplace*.



Emily Klein, Ph.D., Officer of Aquatic Sciences, Pew Charitable Trusts, joined remotely and spoke about the difference between equality and equity.




Thank you to an amazing group of planners and presenters! From L to R: Boyd Smith, NHHWA; Trish Kelliher, Hazen & Sawyer; Sarah Jakositz, CDM Smith; Sarah Lescault, Manchester Water Works; Sophie Ricard, City of Concord WTP; Ji Im, CDM Smith; Kirsten King, NEWWA; Courtney Mitchell, Alton Water Works; Christine Sproviero, Methuen Construction; Erin Holmes, Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund; and Marco Philippon, City of Concord WTP.



Professional women shared the work they do and their experiences in the water works industry. Above Jihyon Im, P.E. of CDM Smith and Christine Sproviero of Methuen Construction talked about Manchester Water Work's new Merrimack River WTP.

The Bank of NH Stage provided an excellent venue for our event. Holly helped us plan the event to a T, and Erick flawlessly delivered sound and technology to the room, in spite of two City-wide power outages!





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NHWWA Calendar

Here is a look at our upcoming trainings and events for 2022. For more information and to register use links on this page or visit the [TRAINING SCHEDULE & REGISTRATION](#) page on our website. Email notices will go out via Constant Contact.

When	What	Where	TCHs
August 3, 2022	Construction Day [Coach bus from Concord]	Stops at Durham and Dover locations	5
August 13, 2022	NH Fisher Cats Game	Manchester, NH	
September 6, 2022	Small System Roundtable	Newfields	2.5
September 8, 2022	Small System Roundtable	Plymouth Village Water & Sewer	2.5
September	Leadership Roundtable #2 - Strategic Public Communications	TBA	3
October— November 2022	Grade 2 Training/Exam Prep	TBA	18-24
October 4, 6, 11 & 13, 2022	Grade 1A Small System Water Operator Course	NHDES, Concord, NH	10
October, 19, 21, 25, & 28, 2022	Basic Water Works Math Course	Concord Water Treatment Plant	12
October 20, 2022	NH Drinking Water Expo & Trade Show	Grappone Center, Concord, NH	5
November, 2, 4, 9 & 16, 2022	Grade 1 Exam Prep Course	NHDES, Concord, NH	12
November 15, 2022	Fall Technical Meeting	The Derryfield, Manchester	3
Late Fall	Subsurface Designers & Installers Training	TBA	6
December 6, 2022	NHDES Water Operator Examinations	NHDES, Concord, NH	
December 13, 2022 [Snow date 12/14]	Operator Training	NHDES Auditorium, Concord, NH	3

Annual NH Drinking Water Expo and Trade Show

Thursday, October 20, 2022

Our annual Exposition and Trade Show will be held in Concord, NH. We are planning two five-topic tracks with expert speakers covering the latest about operational, regulatory and management issues relevant to public drinking water sector (earn up to 5 TCHs). Food will include breakfast pastries and a hot buffet lunch. Crowd favorites raffle, YP Luncheon and Happy Hour will continue. Watch for NHWWA emails and check in on our event [web-page](#) for presentation and registration details, and join friends and colleagues to share your experience and professional pride!

Kids Connect with Water Through Science and Poetry

Fourth grade students, inspired by their questions about the world and a desire to solve real problems, competed in the **New Hampshire 4th Grade State Water Science Fair** May 3-6, 2022. Students explored a wide variety of topics, including erosion, ocean salinity, water science and water/energy conservation solutions to address climate change. Despite Covid-19 limitations, students from eight schools from the following communities participated in this annual event: Gilsum, Hampstead, Harrisville, Keene, Dover and Manchester. Students presented their science projects to panels of judges virtually.

Fourth Grade Water Science Fair Results:

First Place: Ava Laffond and Julia Clark, Gilsum for the project “The Water Cycle” (pictured)

Second Place: Dominic Heath, Keene for the project “Pollution on the Ashuelot River”

Third Place: Valiant Tran, Dover for the project “Effects of Water Quality on Germination”



Additionally, 161 classroom and home schooled third- through fifth-grade students composed and submitted poems for the fourth annual **Water Poetry Contest!** Poems focused on the theme “Water and Me.” Entries were thoughtful, funny and moving, and were perfect examples of our physical, emotional, and for some, spiritual connection to water, which made it very difficult for the judges to select the most worthy poems.

Water Poetry Contest Results:



First Place: Remy Foucher, third grade homeschooler from Newton for “Imagining the Ocean” (pictured)

Second Place: Jasper O’Shaughnessy, fifth grader from Concord for “Blue Copy”

Third Place: Reno Honda, fourth grader from North Hampton for “I Am”

Honorable Mention: Alexis Peterson, fourth grader from Chester for “The Peaceful Blue”

To read student poems and learn more, visit NHDES on Facebook or Twitter and the event website at <https://nhwaterfestival.org/>.

The Water Science Fair and Poetry Contest celebrate National Drinking Water Week, May 1-7. The events

were sponsored by the New Hampshire Drinking Water Coalition in conjunction with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to encourage future leaders and scientists to learn about one of the world’s most precious resources, water!

These events are generously supported by donations and volunteers from many organizations, including: City of Concord General Services; Edgewater Strategies; Granite State Analytical; City of Keene Water Department; City of Manchester Water Works; NH Department of Environmental Services; NH Water Well Association; NH Water Works Association; Plymouth Village Water and Sewer District; and RCAP Solutions, Inc.

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Thank you Bill for Providing Years of Quality Water Operator Instruction!

A big thank you to Bill Boulanger, Deputy Director of Community Services for the City of Dover, for teaching NHWWA's *Advanced Distribution System Operation and Maintenance* training for 13 years! Bill has also stepped up to present at numerous operator trainings and technical meetings over the years, covering topics from simple maintenance to flow testing/fire flows clinics. Bill has also hosted us at Dover to share the various projects he and his employees have undertaken.



Bill will be retiring soon but we have someone brave enough to volunteer to fill his shoes. We look forward to having Mike Nadeau of Dover teach the *Advanced Distribution* workshop in 2023!



Attendees in the 2022 Advanced Distribution class fused 2" HDPE pipe.

WELCOME NEW SUPPORTERS!

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Thank you to all our supporters. Supporters receive discounts on industry-leading educational classes and programs, access to current and critical technical and regulatory information, and are part of an organization that effectively advocates for and represents New Hampshire's public drinking water sector. If you are not yet a supporter, please consider [joining today](#). Help us to help you succeed!

NHWWA Young Professionals (YP) Committee Happenings

Spring, a time for growing and preparing for the months ahead – and that is exactly what the YPs have been up to! Back in February the YPs hosted their annual “Member’s Choice” event, this year at the Electric Avenue Arcade in Manchester. Water folks and their families enjoyed networking while enjoying refreshments and every classic arcade game you could imagine! In March, the YPs teamed up with the City of Concord to host a tour of the Water Treatment Plant followed by a happy hour at Area 23. Thank you, Concord, for having us! The NEWWA YPs also had fantastic representation at the NEWWA Spring Conference in Worcester with four of our board members getting behind the podium and sharing their work. This is one of the biggest events for water folks in New England with a great variety of topics. Shoutout to NEWWA for another successful event!



To wrap up the busy Spring season, many of the YPs contributed to the planning and execution of NHWWA’s first annual “Advancing Diversity in the Water Workforce” event. Industry leaders presented on topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace, the importance of quality in the lab and field,

addressing private well contamination, and more. A highlight for many was the roundtable discussion led by industry leaders who answered questions from the audience about how we can improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in the water industry. The YPs look forward to being a part of this event again in the future!

Looking ahead, the YPs have been busy

planning for the upcoming summer season. They kicked it off with a well attended Treat and Meet at Pennichuck’s water treatment plant in Nashua on June 21! They followed up the tour with networking at Able Ebenezer Brewing Company in Merrimack.

On Saturday August 13th, the YPs will be hosting their annual Fisher Cats outing preceded by a friendly softball game! Register to join the YPs in a “Brown vs. Blue” softball game with co-host, NH Water Pollution Control Authority and/or grab your tickets for the Fisher Cats game that evening – tickets sell out fast! [Click here to sign-up and get tickets.](#)

Be sure to follow the YPs on social media for event updates. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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New Manganese MCL Expected to Take Effect 1-1-2023

2023 Manganese Monitoring Schedules Now Available

The State of New Hampshire will soon be enforcing a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for manganese of 0.3 mg/L. It is anticipated that the proposed rule change will go into effect **January 1, 2023**.

Further information about manganese can be found in multiple NHDES Fact Sheets [here](#). Questions regarding the health effects of manganese in drinking water can be directed to Mary Butow of NHDES' [Environmental Health Program](#) at (603) 271-8693 or via email at mary.e.butow@des.nh.gov.

[Click here](#) to read Jacqueline Howarth's May 18 email for more information about how this may affect your water system.

Communicating system exceedances to customers is an expected requirement for manganese and other drinking water quality standards. Recognizing the difficult balance between keeping customers informed and maintaining their trust – in good times and bad – the Association is committed to exploring and sharing ways that systems can achieve this balance.

(Legislative Update continued from page 2)

months of the COVID pandemic. Of course, without drinking and wastewater services, hospitals, fire protection, schools and more will shut down in hours to days.

The NH Public Works Association (NHPWA) introduced Senate Bill SB325, sponsored by Senator Kevin Cavanaugh, that puts DPW staff benefits on par with emergency responders. We supported this legislation as a first step towards raising awareness, recognition, and real support for public water providers. At a June 8 meeting with Senator Cavanaugh and Tom O'Donovan, we learned first-hand that Governor Sununu signed SB325 into law on June 7, 2022.

Federal Funding

Due to the fast-paced and dynamic nature of accepting, allocating and managing the influx of federal money, the most effective way to monitor program funding is by following the [NHDES Loans and Grants](#) website.

NHDES Regulations

Manganese rule effective date revised from July 1, 2022 to January 1, 2023. Expanded treatment and reporting requirements are pending.

PFAS soil standards and probable MCL / AGQS tightening anticipated (see above).

Lead-Copper Rule and LSL Inventories. While final EPA rules are pending, we know that inventories and mitigation plans will be required over the next couple years. NHDES is developing contracts to assist very small systems with these assessments, but many larger systems have work to do.

Links to current NHDES rulemaking information

Proposed Rules: [Administrative Rules | NH Department of Environmental Services](#)

Public Comment Opportunities: [Public Comment Opportunities | NH Department of Environmental Services](#)

Recently Adopted Rules: [Administrative Rules | NH Department of Environmental Services](#)

Thanks again for supporting our Association through your Legislative Advocacy membership.



Chip Mackey standing far right at our 2017 Expo.

Remembering Harrison "Chip" Mackey

NHWWA lost a good friend in Chip Mackey on June 6, 2022.

Chip retired from NHDES at the end of 2020 after twenty-two years working in the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau. During that time, he worked closely with the Association as Manager of the Drinking Water Operator Certification Program, coordinating operator trainings on a variety of subjects and certification levels.

When he transferred to the Drinking Water Quality Program in 2011, Chip was always willing to speak at NHWWA trainings, updating operators on changes in water quality standards. He helped keep everyone on track with the quickly changing PFAS regulations and requirements in 2019 and 2020.

In 2014 Chip was honored with the national Harris F. Seidel Lifetime Achievement Award recognizing his outstanding contribution toward advancing the cause of certifying environmental professionals.

Chip leaves behind his wife, Ann, two daughters and two granddaughters.

NH's Drinking Water community will remember Chip's many contributions to our industry.

[Click here to read the published obituary.](#)