



NEWSLETTER

NH WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION



Welcome Sam Currier—New President and CEO

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Sam Currier will serve as the new President and CEO of NH Water Works. “Sam has the experience, motivation and energy the Association was looking for in our new Director, and we are excited to welcome him to the team” said Chris Albert, Chair.

Sam started his water career at the Wastewater Facility in Rochester. He obtained his Wastewater Treatment Grade 2 license and a Collections Grade 3 license. He then took a job at the Rochester Water Treatment Facility. Sam found at this point he was making

a career out of water. Over the time spent in Rochester’s drinking water facility he was able to obtain both Treatment and Distribution Grade 2 licenses. With mentorship found from his lead, chief operator, and a few others he found within the New Hampshire Water Works Association (NHWWA), Sam felt confident in taking the next step to become the Superintendent of the Contoocook Village Precinct and Hopkinton Wastewater Department. Sam is passionate about all things water quality and feels lucky to be in this field doing something he enjoys every day.



Sam Currier with his wife Sarah and daughters Mia and Julia.

Sam has been on multiple working

(Continued on page 8)

Wishing Boyd all the Best on his Retirement

President and CEO Boyd Smith is retiring July 21. Since joining NHWWA in February 2020, Boyd, colleague and Office Manager Sue Kowalski, the Board of Directors and key professional

partners across New Hampshire’s public drinking water sector have helped make the Association a recognized, well-respected, and effective force for safe, affordable drinking water.



Boyd and Annette on Great Allegheny Passage rail trail. Heading for more adventures!

Some of the Association’s key successes include: crafting and adopting a robust, customer-oriented strategic plan; thoroughly revising the bylaws to align with the Plan and strengthen team recruitment, performance, and succession; redesigning and launching the website; rebalancing print and electronic publications, and initiating weekly emails to our 2,000+ subscribers; restructuring Operator certification training to

specifically target Grade 1A, 1 and 2 candidates; meeting annual Operator certification goals that align with projected retirement rates; co-founding and collaborating on legislative advocacy with other state-wide water and municipal organizations; building local workforce development programs; and engaging in the New England-led “Work for Water – New England” regional partnership.

According to Boyd “working with public water professionals has been an education, an honor, and a great privilege. I am especially grateful for Sue, our terrific Board, the senior water professionals across the sector, and our

(Continued on page 8)

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Legislative Update

One of our Association’s critical services is to monitor, engage in, and report on legislation and rules that effect our sector, and to effectively represent the sector’s interests to legislative decision makers. For regular, detailed summaries and calls to action, [become a Legislative Supporter](#) today! Some current legislative highlights:

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State Aid Grants for Clean Water. HB 311 established sustainable funding for the State Aid Grant (SAG) program, with requested non-lapsing allocations of ~\$15Mm / year for the upcoming budget biennium. Non-lapsing funds are critical to meet the state’s statutory commitment under RSA 486 and to provide a dependable source of revenue for approved community water projects.

Proposed PFAS MCLS. On May 25, 2023, we submitted formal comments to EPA regarding their proposed 4.0 part per trillion (ppt) MCLs for six PFAS compounds. The proposed rule underestimates costs, benefits, impacts, and technical ability to meet the new standard. Our letter ([click here to read](#)) expands on these and several other critical concerns. Our comments benefitted from cooperation with our state, regional and national partners, and we thank all who contributed to this effort.

While the May 30 EPA comment deadline has passed, we think it is both useful and necessary to be sure our federal delegation are equally informed. As constituents, our representatives are willing to hear from each of us. *Please contact your federal Representative and Senators to share how the proposed 4.0 ppt MCLs will impact your operations and customers.*

From a recent presentation, some additional State perspective:

- ◆ The number of new regulations, amount federal funding, and amplified social pressures combine to create unprecedented operating, managing, and communicating challenges for our sector.
- ◆ While roughly \$500M additional federal funds have been committed through 2026, a 2012 infrastructure needs study estimated \$1.7B of projects in NH. Thus, even without inflation, supply chain, and labor shortages, current funding falls far short of actual needs.
- ◆ The timing of federal funds and programs may be problematic, for example LSL replacement dollars are available, yet inventories are just gaining momentum with an October 2024 deadline.
- ◆ EPA’s proposed PFAS MCL of 4.0 ppt will impact roughly 180 public water systems and thousands of private wells. Their estimates of cost and implementation time are extremely low and unrealistic, combined with apparent pressure to fast-track adoption. In addition, the methods to manage drinking water and wastewater residuals impacted by PFAS remain uncertain and the costs potentially prohibitive.

(Continued on page 8)

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NH Public Works Association, May 18 at The Derryfield



NHWWA Director Jen Mates and Lead Instructor and advisor Ian Rohrbacher sharing their knowledge and experience of the LCRR and LSL Inventory Programs at NH Public Works Association's 2023 Annual Meeting.



CONSTRUCTION DAY

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

\$100 NHWWA Members | \$120 Non Members

5 TCHs

Plan to join us for this popular annual event. We will be meeting in Concord and traveling by coach bus to Manchester to visit the Hooksett River Project then to Merrimack to visit their PFAS treatment facility. We will then return to Concord to see their new high lift station project.

Transportation, morning refreshments and lunch are all provided. [CLICK HERE](#) for a full schedule.

Space is limited and this popular event is sure to sell out – [register today!](#)

Thank you to Underwood Engineers for underwriting the cost of the bus this year, and Granite State Analytical Services and Smith Pump Co. for covering the cost of food!





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NHWWA Calendar 2023

For more information and to register use links on this page or visit our [TRAINING SCHEDULE & REGISTRATION](#) page. Stay current on trainings and events by signing up for our weekly emails [HERE](#).

When	What	Where	TCHs
July 25, 2023	Small System Roundtable For Grade 1A Operators	Wolfeboro Library	2.5
July 27, 2023	Small System Roundtable For Grade 1A Operators	Virtual	2.5
July 29, 2023	Fisher Cats Outing Green vs Blue Softball Game	Manchester	
August 2, 2023	Construction Day	Concord	5
August 17, 2023	NHWWA YP Treat & Meet	TBD	1
Sept. 19, 2023	Small System Roundtables For Grade 1A Operators	Conway Fire Station	2.5
Sept. 21, 2023	Small System Roundtable For Grade 1A Operators	Virtual	2.5
Sept. 30, 2023	NHWWA YP Concord Watershed Cleanup & Picnic	Concord Treatment Plant	
October 3, 5, 10 & 12, 2023	Grade 1A Operator Course	NHDES Offices, Concord	10
October 19, 2023	NH Drinking Water Expo & Trade Show	Grappone Center, Concord, NH	5
October 25, 27 & Nov. 1, 3, 2023	Basic Water Works Math Course	Concord Treatment Plant	12
TBD	Applied Laboratory Practices for Drinking Water & Waste Water Operators	TBD	4
October-November	Grade 2 Treatment Exam Prep Course	Manchester Water Works	36
November 8, 9, 15 & 17, 2023	Grade 1 Exam Prep Course	NHDES Offices, Concord	12
November 2023	Fall Technical Meeting	TBD	3
December 5, 2023	In-person NHDES Water Operator Examinations— Application deadline November 6	NHDES, Concord	
December 12, 2023	Operator Training	NHDES, Concord	5



We are excited to announce our annual NH Drinking Water Exposition and Trade Show on **Thursday, October 19, 2023 in Concord, NH!** We are planning ten seminars in five timeslots for a total of 5 TCHs, including topics such as:

- ◆ Lead Service Lines and LCRR updates
- ◆ EPA's Proposed PFAS Standards
- ◆ Managing Multiple Projects and Massive Federal Funding
- ◆ The 5 ppb MCL for Arsenic – Impacts on Owners, Operators, and Customers
- ◆ Supply Chain - Project Delays and Solutions to Shortages
- ◆ Cybersecurity Rules and Implementation
- ◆ Distribution Operations (Tanks and Hydrants)
- ◆ Managing and Mitigating Cyanobacteria
- ◆ Workforce Recruitment and Retention
- ◆ Public Communications – Regulations, Rates, and Engagement

Food will include breakfast pastries with a hot buffet lunch. A prize raffle, YP Luncheon, and Social Hour will spice up an already exciting day!

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! Register early for discounted tickets.

For Sponsors and Exhibitors:

Sponsorship benefits of this exciting, limited opportunity, [summarized here](#). Both *Room Sponsorships* are spoken for but there are plenty of other sponsorship opportunities available. [Click here](#) for sponsorships.

You can also [register for a booth](#).

Prime Booths are taken but a handful of regular booths remain – grab booth space today!

Please join us to support public drinking water and those that make it happen with a sponsorship and / or exhibitor booth rental. Contact Sue Kowalski at Info@NHWWA.org with any questions.



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Annual NH Drinking Water Festival Held in Keene

Over 275 students from 14 different schools across NH gathered to learn about keeping water clean at this year's New Hampshire 4th Grade Drinking Water Festival, State Science Fair and Poetry Contest on Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

Several students received awards for their water science projects or poetry submissions. Many others enjoyed the water themed hands-on activities held throughout the Keene Parks and Recreation Center building and grounds.

To read the winning poems, visit <https://nhwaterfestival.org/poetry-contest/> or <https://www.facebook.com/NHEnvironmentalServices>.

Also awarded at this event is the Best Tasting Water Award. Several municipal water supply systems compete for student votes to win this coveted award. This year, Concord Water Department was chosen by the students as having the best tasting water!

Through generous donations, all participating teachers won raffle awards of classroom science equipment, well water tests or gift basket prizes.

The annual event is sponsored by the New Hampshire Drinking Water Coalition in conjunction with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to

(Continued on page 9)



NHWWA YP's conducted one of the water themed activities for students at the NH Drinking Water Festival on May 10.

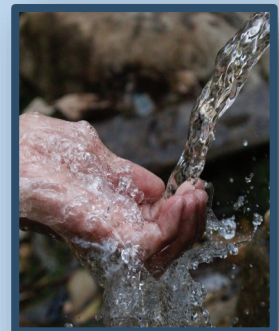
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Thank you to all our supporters! Supporters receive discounts on industry-leading educational classes and programs, access to current and critical technical and regulatory information, and are part of an organization that effectively advocates for 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

The NHWWA YPS have been busier than ever! In April, the YPS went to Laconia Water Department for a Treat and Meet tour. Laconia welcomed the group with a fantastic tour of their facility, and afterwards folks enjoyed catching up and networking at Patrick's Pub. In May, several YPs volunteered at the 4th Grade Drinking Water Festival in Keene hosting a water conservation obstacle course activity and serving as judges at the science fair. And in June, the YPs joined up with MWWA and NEWWA to host a Cornhole Tournament! Teams faced off at the Tyngsborough Sports Center for some friendly competition in what was the first of an annual tradition. Mark your calendars for next year!



Coming up next, the YPs are looking forward to another Treat and Meet as well as hosting the annual Fisher Cats Outing and Softball Friendly! Catch up on YPs socials or weekly update email blasts to register and stay up-to-date on all things YP!



Winners of the Cornhole Tournament.

[Find NHWWA YP Social Media links on their webpage.](#)

[NHWWA YP Events Page](#)

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Cultivating Diversity Technical Symposium 2023

On May 23rd, NHWWA and NEWWA hosted their second annual diversity event, the Cultivating Diversity Technical Symposium in Concord, NH. The event welcomed a lineup of fantastic speakers which highlighted the tremendous value that diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I) bring to the water industry. Attendees enjoyed technical presentations about incorporating DE&I into the water workforce and the latest about what is going on in water, as well as a roundtable discussion where folks had the opportunity to ask important questions. Mark your calendars for next year, as this annual event will continue to offer opportunities for growth and learning each year!



Thank you to the NHWWA YP industry leaders who helped plan this year's event!

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2023 Water Managers School Underway

by Sam Currier

This year I was fortunate enough to enroll in the Water Manager School put on by the collaboration of NHDES, NHWPCA, and NHWWA. With only one class a month you have ample time to work on the tasks asked of you before the next class and on day one you get to pick when you want to do your presentations, so there are never any

surprises. As I prepared for this class that was a huge factor for me, I needed to be able to work and do tasks at my convenience. The structure of the Managers School provides that. I never thought this is something I would need but after hearing from multiple people that this class is great whether you are already a superintendent, a CEO, a water/ wastewater operator, or someone who wants to work on being a public figure in your community, I knew that I wanted to give it an ol' college try.

I quickly learned about my personality

type, and how different personalities work together, through a DISC assessment. I'm in a classroom with 20 of my colleagues in both drinking water and clean water, all with the drive to be future leaders in this industry. I even learned how my peers perceive me both as my best and my worst. In this program you learn a lot about public speaking too. You will be critiqued by your classmates, on both your strengths and weaknesses on the two public presentations you will need to do in class. Earning TCHs is the cherry on top of all this information and learning.

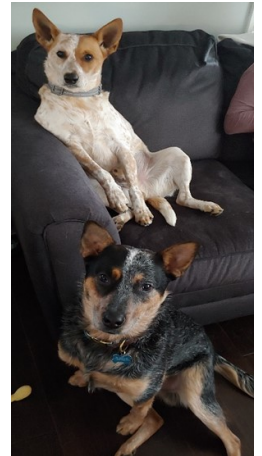
Sam Currier (Continued from page 1)

committees and boards throughout NH but is most excited about the work he has been able to do as the student outreach coordinator for the NHHWWA Young Professionals. Water quality for both drinking water and wastewater is something Sam has been passionate about since the first day he stepped into this industry. The excitement to

come on board as the CEO of NHWWA is overflowing out of him and he cannot wait to get started.

Sam has three important ladies at home - his wife Sarah, and his 2 daughters, Mia and Julia. He also has 2 cattle dogs, Ranger and Craig. "All four are high energy and loving" Sam said, but wouldn't change anything as they all support him in every move he makes to advance his learning and his career.

He does like to have fun too, as he is a captain in a learning league for Ultimate Frisbee and plays on some club teams for Ultimate Frisbee and flag football.



Ranger and Craig

Boyd Smith (Continued from page 1)

fantastic partnerships with New England Water Works Association, NH Public Works Association, NH Municipal Association, Granite State Rural Water Association, and NH Department of Environmental Services". He added

"The teamwork and commitment to public water is higher than anything I've experienced throughout a long and varied career. Everyone I have met is exemplary, and I am deeply grateful for their encouragement, commitment, patience, and humor".

For retirement, Boyd plans to spend

more time with family and friends, travel actively with his wife Annette, and advocate for drinking water, rail trails, and fiscally responsible public policies at the local and State level.

Legislative Update (continued from page 2)

- ◆ The 5 parts per billion (ppb) action level and mitigation requirements for lead in schools and day care centers have added over 1,000 facilities and 30,000 sampling locations.
- ◆ Although 10+ - day exposure of 0.3 parts per million (ppm) or more of

manganese is believed to be a threat to infants, the NH Attorney General's Office has delayed approval of the proposed MCL / AGQS for manganese. This was an unprecedented reversal of NHDES rule development.

While much good work has been done by many committed professionals, and existing federal funds are expected to

remain at their current elevated levels through 2026, public water professionals must continue to educate our customers and policy makers about investing in infrastructure and operations, and using science-based analysis to achieve health-based outcomes.

Source Water Protection Eligibility Application is Due July 28th

The Drinking Water & Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF) – Source Water Protection (SWP) Grant Program offers funding to permanently protect drinking water supply lands.

Eligible applicants include:

- Municipalities or other subdivisions of the state.
- Owners of community water systems or a nonprofit that owns a non-transient non-community water system.
- Land trusts or other nonprofits with land conservation as one of its purposes.
- Other entities as approved by the DWGTF Advisory Commission.

The link to the Source Water Protection eligibility application can be found at <https://onlineforms.nh.gov?formtag=nhdes-w-04-007>. Eligibility applications are due **July 28th**.

Please contact Laura Weit-Marcum at (603) 271-2862 or via email at laura.m.weit-marcum@des.nh.gov if you have any questions.

Drinking Water Festival (continued from page 6)

encourage future leaders and scientists to learn about one of the world's most precious resources - water!

Thank you to the **NH Drinking Water Coalition members** for their countless hours planning this event: Lara Hooper and Liz Pelonzi from NHDES, Aaron Costa and Zack Adams from the City of Keene, Sophie Ricard from the City of Concord, Kristin Conte from the City of Manchester, Sue Kowalski from NHWWA, Jason Randall from Plymouth Water & Sewer

District and Erick Toledo from RCAP Solutions.



2023 Water Science Fair winners.



2023 Poetry Contest winners with Keene Mayor George Hansel and City Manager Elizabeth Dragon.

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