



NEWSLETTER

NH WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION



National Water Week Fly-In, April 2025

Advocating for NH Water in Washington D.C.

By Sam Currier, President and CEO, NHWWA

I was lucky enough to once again go to Washington DC and represent NH during the National Water Week Fly-in. As I always do, I went with NH water in mind but was fortunate enough to partner with, and represent, AWWA, NEWWA, NEWEA, and NHWPCA. This was my second year heading down to DC, and I couldn't be more excited for 2026 already. This year, I teamed up with April Sargent (RMI), the Government Affairs Committee Chair for NHWPCA. Together, we met with all four NH delegates and/or their office staff. April and I had quite a team this year that we were able to bring into the meetings with us, including Tracy Wood from NHDES, Shelagh Connelley from RMI, Meghan Abbey from Underwood Engineering (NEWEA YP Scholarship winner), and my daughter Mia Currier (a very young NHWWA YP rep). This team brought a lot of impact to these meetings and pushed NH "One Water" while stressing the needs of NH at a national level.

AWWA and Water Environment Federation (WEF) teamed up for the first time for this year's Fly-In. The NH team and I really appreciated the national level representation. Water and clean water overlap in many areas. Once again, NH seemed to be out ahead of this concept as we have looked at the "One Water" mentality at the state house level for some time

now. In NH, it is not out of the norm to see people work at both ends of the pipe. We have many operators that are licensed in both water and clean water. Seeing this nationally recognized hit home quite a bit. NHWWA wants to continue to work alongside NHWPCA and assist them in their success. In the future, be sure to see us combining some events for both of our associations. More than just beating them in our annual softball game, we aim to foster collaboration and mutual success.

Out of the four NH delegates, Congresswoman Maggie Goodlander was the only one available to have an actual in-person meeting with us. She was extremely excited to see all of us and happy to see the YP representatives. A couple of key things from the meeting with our freshman Congresswoman were the desire to see "One Water" and how she wanted to use NHWWA concepts as she works on Capitol Hill. Funding for SRF was the majority of our conversation. We asked



The NH "One Water" team at this year's Fly-In: Meghan Abbey, Shelagh Connelley, Tracy Wood, April Sargent, Sam Currier, and Mia Currier.

for no cuts during this budget cycle. One question she had for us was how has EPA Region 1 been. During that time in April, and now, there is a lot of speculation about EPA's future. Knowing we lost a lot of long-time employees from Region 1, her main concern was the availability from EPA Region 1 to NH.

We were fortunate to catch Congresswoman Goodlander before her first committee meeting. We weren't so fortunate with Congressman Pappas. As the Congressman needed to

(Continued on page 2)



The past legislative session was incredibly fast paced. As someone who has never been part of a budget year before, I found it to be one of my most challenging sessions yet. I collaborated with various associations and closely monitored clean water legislation, recognizing its importance for future developments. What happens at one end of the pipe often impacts the other end as well. Through these efforts, NHHWA contributed to legislative

(Fly-In Continued from page 1)

leave right before our meeting, we were still able to meet with staff member Savannah Rogers. To be completely candid, I was most excited for this meeting. Pappas' office and I have had an open line of communication. I have been able to call and have open conversations with his staff, and I have received calls from them asking about water and clean water here in NH. Water Risk and Resilience Organization (WRRO) was discussed quite a bit. I was fortunate to use real-life experiences during my time as an operator to discuss the needs of fully funded SRF programs and the need for the WRRO. In this meeting, again, we were asked about EPA Region 1 and their availability.

Our team then headed over to meet

2025 Legislative Session Wrap-up

advocacy by drafting letters to the House and Senate in collaboration with multiple associations, including NHMA, NHHPCA, and GSRWA.

Some key take aways from this session.

- ◆ Most legislation died in committee. (RIC, ITL)
- ◆ Not a lot of water focused bills but a lot that would affect infrastructure and community growth.
- ◆ Fluoride Bill was back but failed
- ◆ Anti-Lobbying Bill was back (twice) and failed

Senate Bill 115 allocates \$28,870,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for the second phase of the Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Project. This funding aims to increase water supply by over 2 million gallons per day for communities affected by PFAS contamination and rising water demand. Similarly, Senate Bill 116

appropriates \$325,000 for the Pillsbury Lake Village District community water system. Both bills were challenging to follow initially but were ultimately passed. For more information, please refer to [SB115](#) and [SB116](#).

A significant achievement was the collective effort of various associations and stakeholders in the Senate Finance Committee. Through numerous letters, hearings, and emails to senators, our team secured \$2.5 million annually in SAG funding. These funds are crucial for various NHDES programs and for communities to complete projects in New Hampshire.

New Hampshire, despite being a small state, has the largest State House in the US and the most dedicated individuals in the water industry. Their tireless efforts improve the state's drinking water. You are the lifeblood of New Hampshire, and I am privileged to represent you in the last session and the upcoming one.

with a staff member in Senator Maggie Hassan's office. We discussed funding, infrastructure, cybersecurity, and workforce development. Mid-meeting, Senator Hassan had five minutes available for us to meet with her directly. Besides her recognizing me and Shelagh by first name from last year's meeting, we discussed fully funding the SRF for NH.

Our last meeting of the day was with Senator Shaheen's office. She was unable to meet in person, but we met with long-time staff member Janelle DiLuccia. Janelle is amazing and very educated in the need for water and clean water. Again, our biggest ask was the need for a fully funded SRF. We were able to discuss cybersecurity and infrastructure, but it all circled back to funding and the constant need for all of our delegation's support as we proceed

to deliver the best product we can.

It is clear without a doubt that NH is fortunate. Our delegation is aware of the importance of water. In all of our meetings, we walked in with big asks, and every answer we received felt genuine. Although the future is always in question, and things can change overnight, when we go to DC we represent NH and all of you who have careers in this industry. I always go to DC or the NH state house thinking of NH water first. NHHWA wants to back decision-making with science, not emotions. When I go to DC in 2026 or when we start the next legislative year in NH, this is exactly what we will focus on, as we meet with representatives on both sides of the aisle.

I feel extraordinarily grateful to all of you who support NHHWA's legislative efforts.

Congratulations to the Town of Salem and South Main Street Water District!

The Town of Salem and South Main Street Water District (Warren) were recognized during NHDES' Source Water Protection Conference in June. They each received awards for their outstanding work to protect the quality and sustainability of sources of drinking water.

The Commissioner presented NHDES's **Source Water Protection Award** to **Salem** for the town's effort to address cyanobacteria in Arlington Mill Reservoir, a primary source of drinking water for the town, as well as work to reduce non-point source pollution. In 2024 Salem's Water Department worked with NHDES to develop a strong cyanobacteria water quality monitoring program. The monitoring is now conducted under a defined monitoring plan that outlines steps to quickly detect and respond to harmful algal blooms that may affect water treatment operations and drinking water quality. Salem also took the extra step to dedicate and train staff to recognize bloom forming conditions through microscopic analysis of water samples taken near the treatment plant's intake.

More broadly, over the last five years Salem has implemented federal Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) stormwater permit requirements and secured funding from NHDES to identify and limit discharges of non-point source pollutants, such as phosphorus, into the town's lakes, ponds and rivers.



Left to right: NHDES Commissioner Bob Scott, John Klipfel, Salem DPW Director; Fred Wallace, Salem Water Department Director.



Left to right: Phillip Gossell, South Main St. Water District, NHDES Commissioner Bob Scott.

The **South Main Street Water District** in Warren received the 2025 **Source Sustainability Award** for the impactful work to institute leak detection measures and water system investments that reduced system leakage and increased the water system's capacity to produce safe drinking water for its 200 customers.

Since 2020, Warren has experienced multiple emergency "no water" events, in part due to failures in old water system pipes. To combat excessive water loss, the District undertook extensive leak detection efforts and made significant repairs to fix leaks that were on the order of 30,000 to 50,000 gallon-per-day. The District also received an emergency grant from the New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund to install a new drilled well deeper in the formation that is more resistant to drought. These important actions will preserve the long-term sustainability of the public water system and help ensure the system will continue to meet the needs of its customers.

Join us for Construction Day on August 6!

This year, our annual event will take place in Jaffrey and Peterborough, featuring a project designed by Underwood Engineers which involves a well and treatment plant for a joint service to Peterborough and Jaffrey. This is exciting stuff, as this project involves intricate details for the two different chemistries used by each town.

In the afternoon, we will view samples of heavy equipment purchased for projects related to inspecting and replacing pipe in regard to the LCRI. Attendees will be able to look through the equipment and speak with owners and operators to see if these large purchases are the right fit for their community. NHDES Staff will be going over the use of SRF funding to purchase equipment. [REGISTER HERE](#)



ATTENTION

Water Operators

NHDES is offering in-person exams on
October 28, 2025

For more information and to apply to
take the exams, go to: [Water Works
Operator Certification | NH
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NHWWA Calendar

For more information and to register, use links on this page or visit our [TRAINING
SCHEDULE & REGISTRATION](#) page.

When	What	Where	TCHs
August 6, 2025	Construction Day	Concord Bus Station to Jaffrey/Peterborough	5
August 19, 2025	Small System Roundtable	Virtual	2.5
August 21, 2025	Small System Roundtable	Wolfeboro	2.5
August 23, 2025	Blue vs Green Softball Game	Manchester	
October 9, 15 & 16, 2025	Basic Water Works Math	Concord Treatment Plant	12
Sept. 16, 23, 30, Oct. 7 & 14, 2025	Grade 2 Treatment Exam Prep Course	Manchester Treatment Plant	30
Sept. 23, 30, Oct. 7 & 14, 2025	Grade 1A Small Water System Operator Introduction Course	NHDES, Concord	10
Sept. 26, Oct. 3, 10 & 20, 2025	Grade 1 Exam Prep Course	NHDES, Concord	12
October 23, 2025	NH Drinking Water Expo & Trade Show	Concord, NH	5
October 28, 2025	In-person Water Operator Exams - Application Deadline 9/29	NHDES, Concord	
November 13, 2025	Fall Technical Meeting	The Derryfield, Manchester	2-3
Fall TBA	Clerk of the Works Training	TBA	
December 9, 2025	Operator Training	NHDES, Concord	5

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

NH Drinking Water Expo & Trade Show

October 23, 2025

Concord, NH



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NH Students had a Great Time at the NH Drinking Water Festival in May!

Students from Rochester and surrounding towns made their way to the 33rd annual NH Drinking Water Festival on the grounds of the Rochester Water Treatment Plant on May 8.

They rotated around activities like: *Climate Change Impacts on Aquatic Diversity, Purification in Action, Super Bowl Surge, Move the Water to the Treatment Facility, How do Dams Keep us Safe?*, and *It's all Connected Preventing Pollution, from Drains to Drinking Water*, just to name a few.

A water tasting competition is another tradition at this event. This year there were five participants: Rochester, Manchester, Concord, Plymouth, and



Students were also treated to tours of the Rochester Water Treatment Plant.

Hooksett. Students took turns tasting and sharing their impressions on each sample. Congratulations to the crew at the Concord Treatment Plant for defending their title and taking home the win!

The State Finals of the 4th Grade Water Science Fair and the Water Poetry Contest were also held during the festival.

This annual event is planned by **NH Drinking Water Coalition** members.



There were many hands-on water themed activities.

They represent the following organizations: NH Department of Environmental Services, City of Keene, City of Concord, City of Manchester, City of Rochester, Plymouth Water & Sewer District, NH Water Works Association, Granite State Rural Water Association, RCAP Solutions, and NH Water Pollution Control Association.

Thank you to all the volunteers and presenters who make this event possible!



The 2025 winners of the State-wide Finals of the 4th Grade Water Science Fair. Awards were presented by Rochester Mayor Paul Callaghan.



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NHWWA Young Professionals (YP) Committee Happenings



The NHWWA YP's first Treat and Meet of the year was held on March 25th at Concord's water treatment plant. We were thrilled to have twenty-nine water professionals join us for the tour of the City of Concord's 10 MGD surface water treatment plant. Concord uses conventional treatment to serve over 12,000 connections. After the tour, we networked at Concord Craft Brewing.



Annual Cornhole Tournament.

On May 29 we held our 3rd Annual Cornhole Tournament at the Tyngsboro Sports Center. Congratulations to our winners!

- ◆ 1st Place: Kevin Desjardins, DN Tanks and Steven Moran, Ti-Sales
- ◆ 2nd Place: Sean Donohoe, City of Concord and Daniel Perry, City of Concord
- ◆ 3rd Place: Bryan Sadowski, AECOM and Fred Lusky, Tighe & Bond

We recently held our second Treat and Meet at a small water system in Epping. On June 17, twenty-six water professionals visited Evans Cooperative to tour a small PWS going through a large upgrade to their drinking water

infrastructure including a new pump house and distribution system. After the tour, we got together at the Holy Grail for networking.

Upcoming Event

On Saturday August 23, please join us for our [Annual Blue vs Green Softball Game](#). The Blue Team will be defending their winning streak! Will this be the year Green finally takes home the trophy? Sign up for a team or stop by for a fun day at the park!

Thank you to our 2025 NHWWA YP Sponsors!

AECOM, Aqueous Vets, CDM Smith, Clow Valve Company, CSA Environmental Consultants, Dave Miller MWW, Edgewater Strategies, EJ Prescott, Endyne, Granite State Analytical, Hazen & Sawyer, Kleinfelder, Maher Corporation, Ti-Sales.



YP's June Treat and Meet at Evans Cooperative in Epping.

Congratulations and Thank You, Dave Miller!

Dave Miller, of Manchester Water Works, embarks on a well-deserved retirement at the end of July. Dave has had a distinguished career as Deputy Director of Water Supply since June of 2012. Before that he held the position of Water Supply Engineer since 1996.

In addition to his dedication to Manchester Water Works, Dave has been a tireless advocate for NH Water Works Association. Dave served as treasurer of our Board of Directors for many years, leaving only to take on the leadership of the New England Water Works Board. Dave has also presented at countless trainings, always willing to share his knowledge with other water operators.

We want to thank Dave for all he has contributed to NHHWA and the NH water works industry during his career, and to wish him all the best in his retirement!

Guy Chabot, Manchester's Deputy Director of Water Distribution, also announced his retirement this summer. We want to thank Guy for his commitment to NHHWA. He served as president of the Association's Board of Directors in 2014-15. Our best wishes for Guy in his retirement as well!



Welcome New NHHWA Members!!

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2025 YP Certification Award Recipient Eliza Balch



Congratulations to Eliza Balch, the 2025 recipient of the NHWWA YP Operator Certification Award! Eliza looks forward to pursuing her water operator certification grades 1 and 2 with the help of this award.

Eliza completed her Masters in Soil and Water Resource Management from the University of New Hampshire in 2020 and has been working in the environmental field since then. During her time at UNH, she worked with a consulting company that was assessing a dam for removal. She found that her work with nitrogen processes in surface water was useful. This experience gave her an appreciation of maintaining water systems within the broader watershed. She stated, "My research experience in freshwater resources and water quality has piqued an interest in water treatment, where I can apply what I have learned."

We are pleased to welcome Eliza to the drinking water field. "I am looking forward to connecting with other professionals in the water treatment field, and continuing to serve the public by providing safe and reliable access to drinking water."

In her free time she enjoys trail running, knitting and Nordic skiing.

In Memoriam

With sadness we learned of the deaths of these past members.

James (Jim) B. Gill

James (Jim) B. Gill passed away peacefully on December 4, 2024, at the age of 78. Jim was born and spent his youth in New Bedford, Mass., where he learned to love sailing and fishing along the New England coast line.

As a student, Jim excelled academically. With degrees in both mechanical and environmental engineering, Jim first worked for Sanders Associates in Nashua, NH and for 40 years for the NH Department of Environmental Services – contributing significantly to wastewater management and pollution control, and then in the area of public drinking water.

Jim was an avid historian immersed in the study of U.S. and world history. He also enjoyed, immensely, reading about boat building, boating history, sailing, and everything nautical.

Jim lived in Boscawen for many years. He is predeceased by his wife Lucille Estee Gill, his parents, Bernard Gill and Helen Skylarski Gill, and his sister Janice Gill Haskell.

Jim always looked forward to NHWWA events. He is remembered as a man of quiet intelligence and kindness.

James (Jim) Reed Thyng, Lt. Col USAF (Ret.)

James (Jim) Reed Thyng, 83, of

Pittsfield, NH died January 16, 2025.

Jim, son of Harrison and Mary (Rogers) Thyng, was born February 3, 1941, at Selfridge Army Air Field, MI, and grew up on Air Force bases throughout the U.S. He was a U.S. Air Force Academy graduate of 1963.

Upon graduating from pilot training, he flew F-102 and F-106 Interceptors, before volunteering for Vietnam in 1965 where he flew the A-1E Skyraider, a WWII era prop plane that flew low and slow protecting ground troops. He flew 301 combat missions in 11 months, taking battle damage on 44 occasions. Jim did a second brief tour in Vietnam flying the F-4D Phantom.

Other accomplishments and assignments in the Air force included working at the Pentagon with a specialized team in the Fighter Division, reporting to the chief of staff on the viability of the F-15 and F-16 fighter jets and associated weapons systems.

Jim resigned his commission in 1973, and began his second career in the utility industry. He began at a natural gas transmission company in Colorado Springs. As staff manager of operations, he oversaw 5,200 miles of pipeline and created the Divine, CO, Technical Training Center for pipeline technicians. While in Colorado Springs, he joined the Air Force Reserves. He retired in 1985 as Group Deputy



Commander, Resources, of the 901st Tactical Airlift Group.

In 1985, Jim became the Superintendent of the Littleton, NH, Water and Light Department. He received the AWWA Operator's Meritorious Achievement Award for the New England region in 1992. He joined the NH Public Utilities Commission as an engineer in 1993, retiring in 2003.

Jim lived in Pittsfield, NH for the past 30 years. Jim leaves his wife of nearly 45 years, Marilyn (Ferguson) Thyng, children and grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

Jim enjoyed attending NHHWA events, and will always be remembered for his easy and broad smile.

Donald (Don) Proulx

Donald (Don) Proulx, 72, passed away unexpectedly on March 3, 2025, in Naples, Florida. He was born in Allenstown, NH to Arthur and Edna Proulx. A 1970 graduate of Bishop Brady High School, he was captain of the football team and played hockey and baseball. He continued his education at NH College, where he played as a catcher on the baseball team, before transferring to the University of NH, where he earned a degree in Civil Engineering.

Following college, Don worked in construction, contributing to the I-393 project. In 1980, he began a career in the waterworks industry at EJ Prescott. From 1984 to 1990, he owned Tom Collins General Store on Loudon Road in Concord. He returned to EJ Prescott in 1996 as an outside sales representative, until his retirement in 2020.

Don was an avid sportsman, enjoying hunting and fishing. He devoted much

of his time to coaching youth sports. A dedicated father, he spent his weekends and early mornings driving his three sons to hockey practices, games and tournaments across New England. Watching his sons compete in youth, high school and collegiate athletics brought him immense pride.

Don is predeceased by his sister Caroline. He is survived by his three sons and families, and his brothers and families.

It could be said that Don rarely missed attending, and greatly enjoyed NHHWA Technical meetings, and with his quick and easy smile was always a pleasure to talk with.

John (Jay) Leonard Smith Jr.

John (Jay) Leonard Smith Jr., 68, of Concord, NH passed away suddenly on April 22, 2025. He was born to John and Barbara Smith, May, 21, 1956, in Boothbay, Harbor, Maine.

Jay retired in 2021 after a meaningful career with the Central Hooksett Water Precinct. In retirement, he enjoyed tinkering, fishing, and helping friends. Above all, Jay found joy in practicing his Christian faith serving at Word of Life Christian Fellowship for over 30 years, dedicating himself to ministry and loving others well.

Generally quiet but thoughtful at NHHWA events, Jay was known for his generous heart, unwavering faith, and for making people feel seen and valued.

Jay was predeceased by his daughter Lisa Smith, and his parents. He is survived by his wife Mary, daughter Jessica, sons John and Eli Smith, stepsons Chris and Ted Perry, and several grandchildren.

Maurice (Moe) L. Lavoie

Murice (Moe) L. Lavoie, 83, of Pembroke, passed away peacefully on June 7, 2025.

Born in Concord, Moe was the son of the late Edgar J. and Barbara (Desmarais) Lavoie. He was raised and educated in Pembroke, where he resided his entire life.

For a time, Moe was employed by the State of NH as a member of the striping crew. He raised cattle for the U.S. Government during the Vietnam War. He owned and operated Moe's paving for over two decades. He was the longtime superintendent of the Pembroke Water Works.

Moe enjoyed woodworking, and especially yard work when he could operate his tractor.

Moe was predeceased by his beloved wife of 46 years, Jeanine (Lascelle) Lavoie, and his daughter Cami Lavoie. He is survived by his daughter Jennifer Lavoie, step children Jodi Abbott and his wife Sally, Jason Abbott and his wife Kristen, and several grandchildren and great grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Pierre (Pete) Lavoie, former community Services Director of Dover, NH, and NHHWA President 1999-2000, and Pete's wife Caroline.



2025 NHHWA YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

Eligibility: Young Professional, age 40 or younger, in the drinking water industry who is actively engaged in the NHHWA and related NHHWA sub-committees. The recipient must be a NHHWA member in good standing for at least the last calendar year, and the recipient can receive the award only once.

**NOMINATIONS DUE:
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31ST**

