



Welcome Chris Albert, New Chairman of the Board

After two years serving as Chair of NHWWA, Chris Countie passed the gavel to Chris Albert of CSA Environmental Consultants at the NEWWA/NHWWA Joint Meeting in Portsmouth on January 19.

The Association is grateful for Chris Countie’s dedicated service, seeing us through a strategic plan and revision of the bylaws. These changes took his one-year term as President to a two-year term as Chairman of the Board. Congrats to Chris for being NHWWA’s first Chair!

We look forward to Chris Albert’s tenure. Chris has already contributed a great deal to the Association in his five years as a Director on the Board.

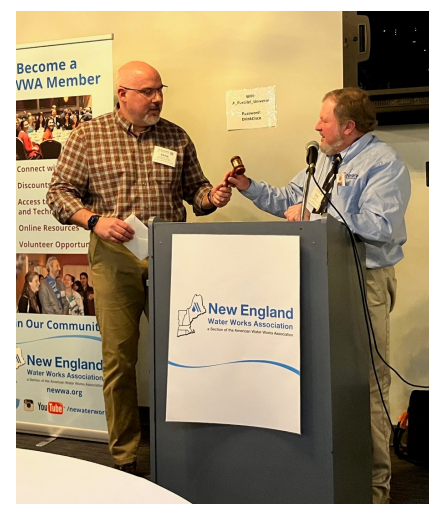


Chris Countie, left, and Chris Albert, at the NEWWA/NHWWA Joint Meeting in January.

The old adage “if you want something done, ask a busy person” applies very well to Chris. In addition to running his own business, he is involved in numerous other organizations. He also finds time to run a small farm at his home.

Chris is a licensed wetland scientist, septic system designer and evaluator with over 30 years of experience in the private sector. He holds a BS in Forestry with a minor in soils from UNH. He is the chairman of the newly created Licensure Board for Septic System Evaluators and vice chairman on the Licensure Board for Natural Resource Scientists.

He is also on the Board of Directors for the Granite State Designers and Installers chairing the non-point source advisory committee, past President for the New Hampshire Association of Natural Scientist, the Town of Epping’s representative and Board member for the Southeast Watershed Alliance.




Chris Countie passes the gavel to Chris Albert, right, who assumes the Chairmanship of the NHWWA Board.

NH Water Works Association, Inc. Annual Meeting

March 9, 2023 from 9:00 – 9:30 AM, Virtual

The Association’s Annual Meeting will include a summary report of 2022 and introduction to priorities for 2023, with time for discussion. Please join your colleagues for a high-level view of your Association and to share your ideas, questions and concerns for the coming year. Use the link below to join via Zoom [Meeting ID: 870 3560 2370, Passcode: 821111].

[JOIN NHWWA ANNUAL MEETING](#)




NHWWA
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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. To do this, we:

- ◆ Monitor and track legislation for potential impact
- ◆ Solicit Member concerns and advice
- ◆ Build trust and credibility with legislative leaders
- ◆ Share Member concerns and advice
- ◆ Support practical, science-based rulemaking
- ◆ Communicate with stakeholders, and amplify our sector’s voice and impact

The following section summarizes priority legislation that we are most closely monitoring.

HOUSE

NHWWA supports this legislation and testified accordingly to the House RR&D Committee on January 25. The Committee voted Ought to Pass (OTP) on February 8.

HB 212 – This bill changes the name and scope of the existing PFAS Remediation Loan Fund (RLF) and proposes allocation of \$2Mm for FY 2023 to continue NHDES’ established State-wide assessment of PFAS.

HB 276 – This bill proposes a \$25Mm fund administered in the model of State Revolving Loans to allow municipalities and non-profit lake and watershed associations to assess and mitigate cyanobacteria in surface water. The original bill was amended to put more focus on grants as many implementing agencies lack ability to take a loan.

HB 311 – This bill is to establish sufficient and sustainable funding for the State Aid Grant (SAG) program, with requested allocations of ~\$15Mm / year for the upcoming budget biennium. This amount is based on careful analysis by NHDES of approved priority wastewater projects. Maintaining this level of funding into the future meets the statutory promise of RSA 486 for the State to be a trusted partner in public water and can make the difference in local investment for critical infrastructure.

(Continued on page 8)

Congratulations 2022 Award Winners—Bill Boulanger and Sophie Ricard!



Bill Boulanger receives 2022 Meritorious Achievement Award. During his 39 years of service to the City of Dover, Bill held just about every position possible, starting as a sewer laborer and working his way up to head of operations of the Community Services Department. Bill is an innovator and leader in low-salt use to protect source water, leak detection and reduction (<5% lost water), adapting effective innovation, directional flushing, and mentoring staff and colleagues. Bill has given back to the profession, having served

on both NHHWA and NHPWA Boards. He taught numerous classes that were always a joy to attend, as he had a certain way to keep things interesting, with a long list of acronyms that he made up as only he could.

We are among the many inspired by Bill's example, and proud to recognize him with the 2022 Meritorious Achievement Award!

Photo (l to r): Boyd Smith, NHHWA President & CEO, Bill Boulanger, John Storer, City of Dover, and Chris Albert, Chairman of NHHWA Board.



Sophie Ricard, 2022 Young Professional of the Year. NH Water Works Association and the NHHWA Young Professionals welcome you to share our excitement for Sophie Ricard being recognized with the first annual Young Professional of the Year! Sophie is the Environmental Compliance Manager for the Concord's award-winning water treatment facility and holds a T3 water operator's license. As co-founder of the NHHWA YPs in 2019, she serves on two subcommittees and attended and contributed to almost all

the YP's 20 events. She developed and led the water quality monitoring section of NHHWA's Grade T2 Operator training in Fall 2022, is co-developing an applied laboratory training class for Fall 2023 and is always ready and willing to lend a hand. She is passionate about the water industry and committed to providing this essential service to her community. Congratulations - and thank you - Sophie!

Photo (l to r): Boyd Smith, NHHWA President & CEO, Trish Kelliher, Chair of the NHHWA YP Committee, Sophie Ricard, and Chris Albert, Chairman of NHHWA Board.



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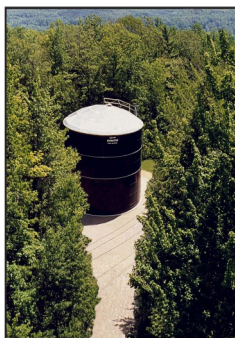
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NHWWA Calendar 2023

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
March 10, April 21, 2023	Grade 2 Distribution Exam Prep Course	Manchester Water Treatment Plant	30-36
March 22, 24, 29 & 31, 2023	Basic Water Works Math Course	Concord Treatment Plant	12
April 11, 2023	Small System Roundtable For Grade 1A Operators	Newfields Fire Station	2.5
April 12, 14, 19 & 21, 2023	Grade 1 Exam Prep Course	NHDES, Concord	12
April 13, 2023	Small System Roundtable For Grade 1A Operators	Virtual	2.5
April 2023	Leadership Roundtable	TBA	3
April 25, 2023	In-person NHDES Water Operator Examinations— Application deadline March 27	NHDES, Concord	
May 23, 2023	Cultivating Diversity Technical Symposium	Bank of NH Stage, Concord	5 (pending)
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
August 2, 2023	Construction Day	Concord	5 (pending)
Fall 2023	Grade 1A Operator Course	TBA	10
Fall 2023	Basic Water Works Math Course	TBA	12
Fall 2023	Grade 1 Exam Prep Course	TBA	12
Sept. 19, 2023	Small System Roundtables For Grade 1A Operators	Conway	2.5
Sept. 21, 2023	Small System Roundtable For Grade 1A Operators	Virtual	2.5
October 19, 2023	NH Drinking Water Expo & Trade Show	Grappone Center, Concord, NH	5
October-November	Grade 2 Treatment Exam Prep Course	TBA	30-36
November 2023	Fall Technical Meeting	TBA	3
December 5, 2023	In-person NHDES Water Operator Examinations— Application deadline November 6	NHDES, Concord	

Congratulations Eric Messier—Recipient of NHWWA YP’s Water Managers School Scholarship

Eric Messier is the 2023 recipient of a full-price scholarship to this year’s NHDES Water Managers School. Eric currently serves as Water Quality Control Supervisor for the City of Laconia.

The NHWWA YP Committee was impressed by Eric’s enthusiasm for and dedication to the water industry. They also appreciated his desire to use this opportunity for professional growth and as a steppingstone to give back to the industry.

Photo: Eric with his fiancé Sabrina and their dog Oakley.




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2023 NH Water Works Board of Directors

The NHWWA Board of Directors elected the following slate of officers and directors during the November 15, 2022 Board meeting. The terms run from January 1, 2023 though December 31, 2023.

OFFICERS

Chair

Chris Albert, CSA Environmental Consultants, LLC

Vice-Chair

Jamie Stevens, City of Dover

Treasurer

Robyn Descoteau, NH Energy Department

Secretary

Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce

DIRECTORS

Chris Countie, Pennichuck Water (Past Chair)

Erica Douglas, City of Lebanon

Abby Thompson Fopiano, Edgewater Strategies

Jason Gagnon, North Conway Water Precinct

Scott Kelley, Underwater Solutions, Inc.

Patricia Kelliher, Hazen and Sawyer

Brandon Kernen, NH Department of Environmental Services

Sarah Lescault, Manchester Water Works

Jennifer Mates, NH Department of Environmental Services

Michael Metcalf, Underwood Engineers, Inc.

Courtney Mitchell, Alton Water Works

Rene Pelletier, NH Department of Environmental Services

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NH Drinking Water Festival Returns In-Person May 10 in Keene



Students attend the 2017 Drinking Water Festival in Keene. The festival rotates among four locations: Plymouth, Manchester, the Seacoast and Keene.

The NH Drinking Water Coalition is excited to offer an in-person Drinking Water Festival in Keene this spring after a three year hiatus!

The 2020 festival was cancelled due to COVID and the past two Festivals have been offered online through the NH Water Festival website.

The state finals of the 4th Grade Water Science Fair

and Water Poetry Contest are held during the festival as well.

About 350 fourth graders will learn about water quality, conservation, erosion and other water related topics through hands-on activities. The festival is offered free of charge to area schools and staffed by dedicated volunteers.

The NH Drinking Water Coalition, which plans the festival each year, counts on donations to cover expenses like tents, sanitation, an entertainer and food for volunteers. Please consider [supporting the festival](#).

Thank you!!

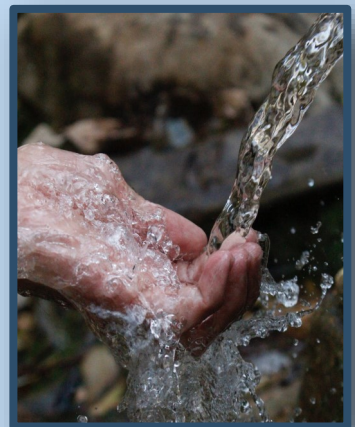
WELCOME NEW SUPPORTERS!

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- Jackie Richter, AECOM
- Violet Smith, Kleinfelder
- Aaron Thibeault, Kleinfelder
- Megan Trahan, Kleinfelder
- Sarah, Trejo, Aquarion Water Co.

Utility Supporter

- Andover Village District



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 YPs kicked off the winter season with a Treat and Meet with the City of Portsmouth, Department of Public Works – Water Division. On Tuesday December 6th, the Portsmouth team gave a fantastic tour of the surface water treatment facility in Madbury as well as the Pease PFAS treatment facility. The tours were followed by networking and cheers at Great Rhythm Brewery in Portsmouth.



After a break for the holidays, the YPs hosted a networking night at Boutwells Bowling Center in Concord! Every February, the YPs poll their members on what they want the winter social outing to be. This year, folks enjoyed friendly competition while also meeting new water peers and catching up with friends.

Don't forget to follow us on social media to keep up-to-date with all that the YPs have planned! This spring, the YPs look forward to hosting a cornhole tournament along with NHWWA and MWWA. This will be a big event with plenty of opportunity for fun, networking, and sponsorship, so look out for updates!



Meet your 2023 NHWWA YP Board! We are excited to see you all this year, and to see where this year takes us! From left to right, your YP Board members are McKenna Dunn, Alicia Dufresne, Susan Martin, Sarah Lescault, Sam Currier, Laurel Jackson, Sarah Jakositz, Casey Harding, Trish Kelliher, and Sophie Ricard! We hope to see you all soon at our next few events!

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(Legislative Update continued from page 2)

SENATE

NHWWA supports this legislation and testified accordingly to the Senate Finance Committee on February 7.

SB 138 - This bill appropriates an additional \$5Mm / year to the PFAS Remediation Loan Fund for the budget biennium. NHWWA supports this legislation and testified accordingly to the Senate Finance Committee on February 7.

SB 169 - This bill requests \$9.7Mm to interconnect Nashua (Pennichuck Water) with the town of Litchfield. NHWWA supports this legislation and testified accordingly to the Senate Finance Committee on February 7.

SB 230 – This is companion legislation to HB 311. NHWWA supports this legislation and testified accordingly to the Senate Finance Committee on February 7.

Please let us know if you have any questions or are concerns about bills identified above, or other legislation we may not be aware of. Thank you for your support of our Association and for all the great work that you do!

NEWWA Awards—January 2023

The following NH drinking water leaders were recognized during the NEWWA/NHWWA Joint Meeting in Portsmouth on January 19.



Above: Brandon Kernen , Administrator, NHDES-DWGB, was presented with the **David M. Erickson Groundwater Award**. L to R: Jim DeCelles, NEWWA President, Brandon Kernen and Andy Miller, Secretary , NEWWA Groundwater Committee.

Below: Donald Ware, COO, Pennichuck Corporation, was honored with the **Lifetime Achievement Award**. L to R: Jim DeCelles, NEWWA President and Don Ware.



Above: Johnna McKenna, NHDES-DWGB, received the **Jerome J. Healey Award**. L to R: Jim DeCelles, NEWWA President, Johnna McKenna and Kirsten King, NEWWA Executive Director.

Congratulations Brandon, Don and Johnna!