

Memo

To: Berlin City Council
From: Jim Wheeler, City Manager
Date: November 7, 2017
Re: Bass Shoe/Dead River Pump Station and Report regarding Bill Hounsell's Services

Attached is a summary description of the NH Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission¹ charge as it relates to the \$276 million fund created by the State's suit against Exxon in relation to MTBE groundwater contamination.

Our consultant, Bill Hounsell, is following the work of the Commission and is looking to create support for a program which makes this funding available to certain wastewater projects. Another idea for this funding is to use it to create a fund which would support the State Aid Grant programs for water and wastewater projects into the future.

I followed up with Bill Hounsell at the Council's request regarding the possibility of grant funding for the Bass Shoe Pumping Station Upgrade. The only source of potential funding he currently sees for this purpose is the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund. It will likely be several months before program rules are developed.

Another potential source for a sewer system extension on Rte. 110 might be an EDA grant. To obtain an EDA the project would have to meet certain economic conditions. EDA may not be available for the pumping station upgrade.

We will continue to look for grants into the future.

1 Taken from <https://forestsociety.org/blog-post/nh-drinking-water-and-groundwater-advisory-commission> at 2:37 pm on 11/3/17

(1)

NH Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission

Matt Leahy (/staff/matt-leahy) | October 25, 2017



In 2016 the New Hampshire Legislature passed, and Gov. Maggie Hassan signed **Senate Bill 380** (/sites/default/files/SB380.pdf) into law, which established a dedicated Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund as well as the commission charged with determining how the funds will be allocated. The \$276 million fund is financed by the proceeds from the State's lawsuit against the Exxon Mobil Corporation's liability for the MTBE contamination of groundwater.

Even though the Commission has not yet developed a long-term allocation plan, Senator Russman's statement is notable for two reasons:

1. It indicates that Commission members are considering an all-inclusive approach towards meeting the statutory purpose of the trust fund. While we recognize that a portion of those funds are needed to remediate contaminated sites and ensure residents near such sites have access to clean drinking water, preventing future contamination through source protection is cost-effective.
2. Russman also is chairing the sub-committee of the Commission which must develop the specific rules the State will follow in order to award grants and loans to eligible projects. We will certainly encourage the Commission to adopt final rules that include funding for projects that use permanent land conservation to secure source water protection.

The members of the Commission's rule-making subcommittee are:

- Rachel Miller, Chief Deputy State Treasurer
- Paul Sanderson – NH Fish & Game
- David Paris – NH Waterworks Association
- Tim Vadney – NH Water Pollution Control Association
- Richard Russman – State or regional land trust, appointed by the governor
- Rodney Bartlett – public member appointed by the president of the senate
- Bernie Rousseau – public member appointed by the speaker of the house
- Clark Freise – NH Department of Environmental Services

The roster of the full commission membership can be found **here**

([http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/details.aspx?](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/details.aspx?id=1276&rbl=1&drplegislator=927)

[id=1276&rbl=1&drplegislator=927](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/details.aspx?id=1276&rbl=1&drplegislator=927)). The next meeting of the full commission is on November 2 at 9:00 in Room 210 of the Legislative Office Building in Concord. The subcommittee next meets on November 17 at 9:00 in Room 103 of the State House.

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[ABOUT US \(/ABOUT-US\)](#)

 **Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests**

54 Portsmouth St. | Concord, NH 03301

 Phone: **603.224.9945**

 Fax: **603.228.0423**

 **info@forestsociety.org (mailto:info@forestsociety.org)**

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Statutory and Study Committees - Committee Details

Result List

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NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION : *establishing the drinking water and groundwater trust fund and establishing the New Hampshire drinking water and groundwater advisory commission.*

General Info.

Year:	2016	Bill Number:	SB380	Effective Date:	3/31/2016
Chapter Law:	11:2	RSA Chapter:	485-F:4	Report Filed:	No
Comm. Status:	Active Statutory Committee			Final Report Due:	None
Amending Bills: HB517(2017)					

Committee Members

Rachel Miller - Chief Deputy State Treasurer	Chris Christensen - House
Suzanne Smith - House	Chuck Morse - Senate (Chair)
Dan Feltes - Senator	Lisa Morris - DHHS
Robert Scott - NHDES	Christopher Way - DRED
Paul Sanderson - Fish & Game	Tim Vadney - NHWPCA
Dorothy Kurtz - NH Business Community, appt. by the President of the Senate	Richard Rusman - State or Regional Land Trust, appt. by Governor
David Paris - NHWWA	Bernie Rousseau - Public Member appt. by the Speaker of the House
Andrea Kenter - Public Member appt. by Governor	Bruce Bretton - Municipality without a public drinking water system, appt. by Governor
William Boyd, III - Municipality with a public drinking water system, appt. by Governor	Rodney Bartlett - Public Member appt. by the President of the Senate

Meeting Dates

Date/Time	Meeting Location
11/17/2017 9:00 AM	SH Room 103 Subcommittee Meeting
11/02/2017 9:00 AM	LOB Room 210-211 Regular Meeting
10/18/2017 9:00 AM	SH Room 103 Subcommittee Meeting
10/05/2017 9:00 AM	LOB Room 210-211 Regular Meeting
09/26/2017 9:00 AM	SH Room 100 Subcommittee Meeting
09/07/2017 9:00 AM	LOB Room 210-211 Organizational Meeting

[Show Previous Meetings](#)

Committee Detail:

First Meeting: The commission shall meet at least annually. The commission shall, at least annually, provide a report to the general court with information on the progress of the MTBE efforts, expenditures for the year, projects begun or completed during the previous year, the balance in the trust fund, and any other information the commission deems appropriate.

Quorum: N/A

Report: At least every 5 years, the commission shall prepare and file a report with the general court evaluating the progress made relative to MTBE contamination, the efficiency of the program established under this chapter, and whether it continues to provide the maximum benefit to New Hampshire citizens, and providing any recommendations on potential additional tasks for which the trust fund could be used to improve access to safe and clean drinking water.

Termination Date: N/A

NH House

NH Senate

New Hampshire General Court Information Systems 107 North Main Street State House Room 31 Concord NH 03301