

NH Water Works Association Newsletter

Issue 113

January 2017

NHWWA Ian Rohrbacher Inducted as NHWWA President

Ian Rohrbacher was elected as president of NH Water Works Association at the annual meeting on November 3, 2016. He assumes the position of president after serving as a director for six years.

Ian has a background in electrical and computer engineering and entered the drinking water industry in 2001 as a distribution mechanic for the City of Somersworth. In 2006 he transferred into the treatment plant and was responsible for the operation and maintenance of both an upflow clarifier and ballasted sand clarifier.

In June of 2014 he accepted the position of Chief Operator for the City of Rochester. He manages

the water treatment and storage systems; oversees the cross connection control program; and directs the planning and operations for a 4.5MGD conventional surface water plant, 0.9MGD groundwater treatment plant, 6 pumping stations, and the City's multiple reservoirs contained within the 8,000 acre Berry River Watershed.

He holds Grade IV Treatment and Grade III Distribution certifications, is a licensed backflow inspector, and is an instructor and presenter for NHWWA and NHDES.

His friends and family consider him a renaissance man due to his eclectic interests and hobbies, which include camping, fishing, hiking, amateur radio, computer repair, and reading. Ian joyfully spends his personal time with his wife Michelle and their four children, Katherine, Madeline, Emmeline, and Ethan, serving in their church and tending to the chickens and guineas on their small hobby farm in Barrington.



NHWWA's new president Ian Rohrbacher with his wife Michelle and their four children, Katherine, Madeline, Ethan and Emmeline (left to right)



NHWWA's new president Ian Rohrbacher with two of his daughters and one of their chickens at their home in Barrington, NH.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Page 2 NH Drought Update
- Page 2 Calendar of Events
- Page 3 2017 Legislative Program
- Page 5 2017 Drinking Water Festival
- Page 5 Support NHWWA with AmazonSmile
- Page 6 Outgoing President's Message
- Page 7 NEWWA Award Recipients
- Page 8 2016 Trade Show Recap
- Page 9 Program Committee Volunteers Needed

Drought Conditions Persist Despite Normal Rainfall at the End of 2016

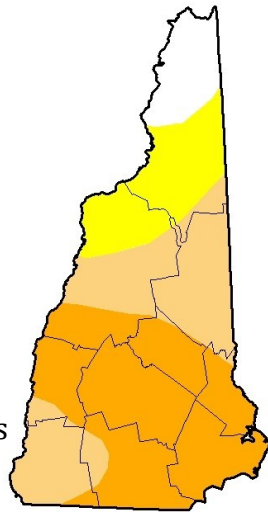
The rain we had in the fall and the drop in outdoor water usage has eased the pressure on NH water utilities but a good part of the state is still in a severe drought.

Brandon Kernen, P.G., a hydrogeologist with NH Department of Environmental Services — Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau (NHDES-DWGB), encourages water operators to monitor and track the condition of their drinking water sources, and to have an emergency plan in place for alternative water sources if needed. He advises operators to encourage indoor conservation and to be ready with regulations for outdoor water use when the growing season starts.

According to the NHDES site, as of November 10, 2016 one-hundred and sixty-six community water systems have implemented a water restriction or ban. Taking a different tact, Keene’s water department has recently initiated a 10% challenge, asking residents to reduce their water usage by 10%. Eric Swope, Keene’s Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator, has taken to social media to get their message across by creating a video and posting it on YouTube and the city’s Facebook page.

Only time and mother nature will determine what we’ll face in the spring for groundwater levels. Mr. Kernen indicated that we can’t expect groundwater levels to rise until snowmelt, and that the degree of recharge will

depend, in large part, on the amount of snow we receive this winter. Also, reservoir levels will depend on the amount of precipitation that falls between now and then to replenish drawdown.



(Released Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	8.41	91.59	75.35	44.93	0.00	0.00
Last Week 10/29/17	8.41	91.59	75.35	44.93	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 10/15/2016	0.00	100.00	62.44	40.49	19.27	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 1/1/2017	8.41	91.59	75.35	44.93	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/27/2016	15.33	84.67	62.44	40.49	19.27	0.00
One Year Ago 1/12/2016	50.13	49.87	14.88	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:
■ D0 Abnormally Dry ■ D3 Extreme Drought
■ D1 Moderate Drought ■ D4 Exceptional Drought
■ D2 Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



For updates on drought conditions visit NHDES’s home page at www.des.nh.gov and look under the “What’s New” tab. Click on “Current Drought Conditions” and you will find links to the following:

- ◆ U.S. Drought Monitor Classifications for New Hampshire which is updated every Thursday.
- ◆ Links to daily updates on precipitation and streamflow conditions.
- ◆ Monthly reports on the drought outlook and groundwater levels.
- ◆ Water restrictions and bans in NH cities and towns.

NHWWA Calendar of Events

When	What	Where
Jan. 18—March 22	Basics Course	Concord Water Treatment Plant
January 19	NEWWA/NHWWA Joint Meeting	Red Hook Brewery, Portsmouth
March 16	Operator Training	NHDES Coastal Offices Portsmouth
Mar. 28, Apr. 4 & 11	Exam Prep Course	Concord Water Treatment Plant
April 6 & 13	Water Works Math	Concord Water Treatment Plant
April 18 & 19	Advanced Distribution	Dover Public Works
April 20	Technical Meeting	TBA

View upcoming meetings and events at NHWWA’s website at www.nhwwa.org. Stay tuned for more events being planned.



2017 Legislative Program

With New Hampshire's Inauguration Day behind us the 2017

legislative session has officially begun. There are 780 LSR's for proposed legislation this year. Of those, there are 15 pieces of legislation identified as water specific and over 50 more that we have earmarked as having a potential impact. While many of the LSR's are still being drafted, several already have bill numbers assigned and some have hearing dates scheduled for their respective committees. The water specific legislation that NHWWA will be monitoring closely are as follows:

HOUSE BILLS

HB 119 (LSR 0022): making appropriations to the department of environmental services for the purpose of funding eligible drinking water and wastewater projects under the state aid grant program.

HB 376 (LSR 0149): requiring construction projects that disturb sediments of estuarine waters to analyze the characteristics of the sediments and report them to the department of environmental services.

HB 485 (LSR 0286): relative to standards for emerging contaminants in drinking water.

HB 173 (LSR 0303): relative to regulations restricting the use of water for outdoor usage.

HB 486 (LSR 0304): relative to the protection of wetlands.

HB 230 (LSR 0354): relative to the referendum procedure for public water systems.

HB 298 (LSR 0242): relative to the mechanical licensing board.

0355: abolishing fluoridation in water.

0368: relative to suction dredging in the surface waters of the state.

HB 431 (LSR 0481): establishing a commission for long term goals and requirements for drinking water in the seacoast area.

0551: relative to the responsibility of a person who through their pollution makes drinking water non-potable.

HB 507 (LSR 0553): regulating groundwater pollution caused by polluting emissions in the air.

SENATE BILLS

0801: establishing the stormwater management and flood resilience fund within the department of environmental services.

0818: making appropriations to the department of environmental services for the purposes of funding eligible drinking water and wastewater projects under the state aid grant program.

SB 30 (LSR 0946): defining woodland buffers and relative to such woodland buffers for the purposes of the shoreland protection act.

0979: preventing childhood lead poisoning from paint and water.

Some of these LSR's, such as the fluoridation bill, are repeats that

Continued on page 4.

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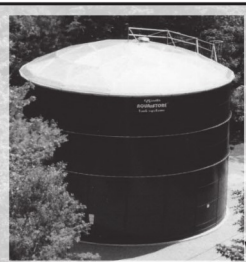
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Continued from page 3.

we see every year while others, such as the bills relative to emerging contaminants and restricting outdoor water use are a direct result of current conditions in the state.

If you have an interest or specific concern with any of the proposed bills, please contact the NHHWA office to discuss.

The proposed legislation for 2017 will require time and dedicated funds to lobby for the best interests of our industry. If you haven't done so already,

please consider supporting NHHWA's Legislative Program with a donation.

Your support is greatly needed to continue to protect our resources and our industry.

Donations can be made by check and sent to NHHWA, 18 N. Main St., Suite 308, Concord, NH 03301. Donations can also be made online at: <http://nhwwa.org/members/legislative>.

Your support of NHHWA's legislative advocacy is greatly appreciated.

Become a Legislative Member

Help support NHHWA's lobbying efforts by participating in the 2017 Legislative Program when paying your annual membership dues. Your support is greatly needed to continue to protect our resources and our industry.

Participating members receive monthly legislative updates which includes the bill status, a schedule of bill hearings and other important information. Updates are traditionally sent by mail but we will be focusing on sending more timely updates via email in the coming months.

The costs will remain the same for 2017:

- ◆ \$10 per service connection (\$100 minimum) for Utility Members
- or —
- ◆ \$250 Legislative Membership for Support Members

The financial support is allocated for the time spent attending hearings, testifying and advocating for NHHWA and public drinking water.

For more information, please contact Charity Ross at (603) 415-3959 or email cross@nhwwa.org.

NHHWA Legislative Committee

Philip Bilodeau, Concord General Services Department

John Boisvert, Pennichuck Water Works

Brian Goetz, City of Portsmouth

Carl McMorran, Aquarion Water Company

David Paris, Retired, Manchester Water Works

Charity Ross, NHHWA Staff & Legislative Agent

2017 Drinking Water Festival and State Science Fair to be held in Keene in May

The NH Drinking Water Coalition (of which NHWWA is a member) is busy planning the 25th NH Drinking Water Festival to take place at the Keene Recreation Center on Wednesday, May 10, 2017. The Coalition already has commitments from the Keene schools, as well as schools from neighboring communities, to send their 4th grade classes. This year's festival could reach 500 students!

The festival and state finals of the drinking water science fair are held each year during National Drinking Water Week. The

festival is held in a different community each year. The Coalition counts on many people to make each festival a success. Participants contribute their time as presenters, exhibitors, and logistical volunteers. Others donate prizes for the science fair winners and provide financial support to cover festival expenses.

If you would like to be involved in this year's festival and science fair please contact Lara Hooper at lara.hooper@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-4071.



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How do you support NHWWA at AmazonSmile?

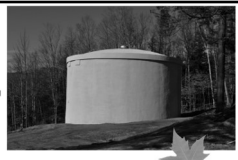
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Letter from Outgoing President Fran Lyons

Last year was a momentous one for NHHWA. After 36 years guiding the Association, Executive Director, Steve Del Deo announced his retirement. We were faced with the challenge of finding a replacement for this key position.

A Selection Committee was formed and after numerous interviews, the Committee recommended Ms. Charity Ross. Ms. Ross, a native of Concord, NH, had been working in the Washington, D.C. area for five years and has extensive experience in the legislative, planning, and other various activities of the Executive Director's position. Ms. Ross came on board in April and the transition has been smooth and

seamless. Thank you to the Selection Committee for a job well done!

In reflecting on my year as President, I recognize the need for continued growth for the organization. My hope for the future of the Association is that an effort is put forth to recruit our youth into the industry.

This is not a unique challenge as the electricians, plumbers, pipefitters, carpenters and others are all facing a shortage of entry level personnel.



Fran Lyons (left) passes the president's gavel to incoming president Ian Rohrbacher (right) at the Annual & Technical meeting on November 3, 2016.

We need some creative ideas on how to best get the word out to high school students, their parents and guidance counselors of the need for skilled craftsmen. Maybe it can best be approached by a united effort of all the trades, be they state associations or trade unions.

With that, I recommend that NHHWA initiate a recruitment program in conjunction with our training programs as I think it is crucial for the continued success of our industry and the Association.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone at NHHWA for the opportunity to serve as President for a year and for all the support I received. I could not have done it without the help and guidance of the staff: Steve Del Deo, Susan Kowalski, and Charity Ross who manage the Association's business so well.

Sincerely,
Francis X. Lyons

NHHWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the Annual & Technical Meeting on November 3, 2016 the NHHWA membership elected the following members to the Board of Directors for 2016-2017.

OFFICERS

President

Ian Rohrbacher, Rochester Public Works Department

Vice-President

John Lyons, Granite State Analytical Services, LLC

Treasurer

David Miller, Manchester Water Works

DIRECTORS

Rene Pelletier, NH Department of Environmental Services

Mark Naylor, NH Public Utilities Commission

Lee Ransom, Methuen Construction

Charles Roberts, Concord Water Treatment Plant

Carl McMorran, Aquarion Water Co.

Donna Hanscom, Keene Water Works

Chris Countie, Pennichuck Water Works, Inc.

Francis Lyons, FX Lyons, Inc. Ex Officio

NHWWA Members Recognized as Award Recipients

Congratulations to the following NHWWA Members who were recently announced as award recipients by New England Water Works Association (NEWWA).

Philip Bilodeau, Deputy Director of Concord General Services, received the **John H. Chafee Distinguished Public Servant Award** which recognizes individual(s) or agency(ies) that demonstrate clear leadership that embodies a commitment to principles and pursues what is right while championing the causes of the environment and public health. Phil's knowledge and experience in the fields of water supply, wastewater, and public works has commended him as a role model to newcomers and veterans of water and wastewater disciplines. Phil received this award at the NEWWA and NHWWA Joint Monthly Membership Meeting held on January 19, 2017 at the Redhook Brewery in Portsmouth, NH.

Christopher Countie, Water Supply Manager for Pennichuck Water Works, Inc., received the **Operator Meritorious Service Award** which recognizes special performance by operators for compliance with public health standards, plant maintenance, development of new ideas, training, outstanding achievement beyond normal operating responsibilities, and consistent operation of distribution lines, pumps stations, and reservoirs. Chris received this award on September 20, 2016, during the 135th NEWWA Annual Conference in Providence, Rhode Island.

Pennichuck Water Works, Inc., received the **Distinguish Public Involvement Award** which recognizes individuals or organizations that have created or expanded a public education or information program about drinking water, developed public policy to conserve, nurture, protect, or improve public drinking water supplies, or made a significant effort to share programs as described. Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. was recognized for their outreach projects with local schools, businesses, communities and state agencies to develop unique and effective watershed protection projects.

Also recognized by NEWWA was **Representative David Danielson (R—Hillsborough, District 7)** as the **Legislator of the Year**. This award, presented annually, recognizes a member of the U.S. Congress or a state legislative body who has substantially assisted in the promotion of legislation or the advancement of policy that protects public health and the environment while ensuring safe drinking water. Representative Danielson was nominated for this award by NHWWA for his involvement in protecting and improving public water systems in New Hampshire. Representative Danielson received this award at the NEWWA and NHWWA Joint Monthly Membership Meeting held on January 19, 2017 at the Redhook Brewery in Portsmouth, NH.

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Save the Dates for 2017

Drinking Water Festival and State Science Fair

will be held on Wednesday, May 10 at the Keene Recreation Center in Keene, NH.

NH Water Works Construction Day
will be held on Wednesday, August 2.
Location details will be announced soon.

NH Drinking Water Trade Show & Expo
will be held on Thursday, October 26, at the
Grappone Center in Concord, NH.

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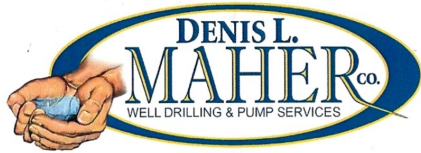
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2016 NH Drinking Water Trade Show & Expo a Great Success

The 2016 Trade Show & Expo was a record breaker! The Grappone Center was filled to capacity with 60 booths. We also saw hundreds of water works professionals attend the 17 seminars offered throughout the day. The pre-show mixer was appreciated as exhibitors had a chance to grab a drink and something to eat before setting up their booths.

The Trade Show is a team effort and would not be possible without the financial support

from our exhibitors, sponsors and New England Water Works Association by way of its Mission Sharing Program. NHWWA is also greatly appreciative of all of the support from our volunteers, NH Department of Environmental Services, the expert trainers and NHWWA's Trade Show Coordinator, Patricia Beavers, who dedicated countless hours of their time and energy to make this event a success!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to our 2016 Trade Show Sponsors!

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Mark your calendars

The 2017 NH Drinking Water Trade Show & Expo will be held on Thursday, October 26, at the Grappone Center in Concord, NH.

You can now find us on Facebook and LinkedIn.



Please note our new e-mail address: info@nhwwa.org

We will also be using Constant Contact to share events and information with you. Please make sure to add info@nhwwa.ccsend.com to your sender's safe email list.

Welcome New Members

Support Members

Marcia A. Brown, NH Brown Law
Steve Del Deo, Retired, NHWWA
James Michael Hill, Mass Tank Inspection Services
Dan Horgan, RH White Construction
Eric Kelley, Environmental Partners Group, Inc.
Marc W. Morin, Tata & Howard, Inc.
David M. Rieth, Water Specialties Co.

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Committee Members Needed!

Interested in helping to plan the training for NHWWA? Have some suggestions for potential classes? Perhaps you're an instructor looking for a teaching opportunity?

Whatever your purpose may be, NHWWA is looking for volunteers for their Program Committee. The committee is designed to brainstorm, and help to plan training classes for the recertification of water operators. The committee hasn't been active for many years and there is a renewed interest in resurrecting the committee.

Your Commitment

It's not a large time commitment – the meetings are held quarterly, typically in Concord, and are approximately one hour long. The meetings are organized to accommodate the committee's availability and as of right now are not on a set schedule.

Suggestions Welcomed

Not interested in participating in the committee but have a suggestion? Send your suggestions for future training ideas to info@nhwwa.org. Please make sure to use the title "Suggestion for NHWWA Training" in the subject line of your email.

Join Us!

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, from 2:00-3:00 PM at the Concord Water Treatment Plant, 53 Hutchins Street, Concord, NH.

Help us with the planning of future training by bringing your fresh new ideas to the table.



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The Newsletter is distributed to NHWWA Members in January, June and September.

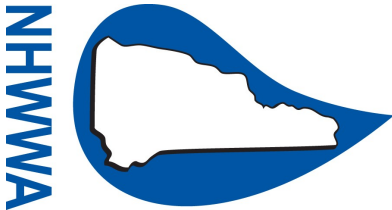
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