



# NH Water Works Association Newsletter

Issue 109

September 2015

## President's Message:

### Getting the Word Out On Infrastructure

by Guy Chabot, President, NHWWA

Everybody is talking about infrastructure these days. Lousy roads with lots of pot holes, bridges with corroded supports and spalling concrete, outdated airport radar systems that are dangerous and cause delays, sewer systems that continue to dump waste into waterways, water main breaks, etc., etc., etc. Damaged cars, disease, delays, death, angry citizens, road rage, loss of money, loss of time! Infrastructure deficiencies conspire to make every day we live on this earth a challenge.

The American Society of Civil Engineers performed a "Report Card for America's Infrastructure" in 2013 and the results were scary and embarrassing. Dams "D", Drinking Water "D", Hazardous Waste "D", Solid Waste "B-", Wastewater "D", Aviation "D", Bridges "C+", Roads "D". ASCE reviewed 16 different categories and came up with a grade point average (GPA) of D+!!! This is a GPA of D+ for the greatest country in the world. It sounds more like the GPA of a third world country.

Repairs, replacements and expansions of our country's infrastructure keep getting kicked down the road. Speaking of roads, raising the gas tax or taxing vehicles based on weight and miles traveled seems like a

**Continued on page 2...**



### NHWWA's Trade Show/ Exposition Coming October 28

NHWWA's Drinking Water Trade Show/Expo will take place at the Grappone Center in Concord on Wednesday, October 28, 2015. This is NH's premier drinking water event – where drinking water professionals and others interested in drinking water issues, products and services have "all in one place" access to the experts.

Registration materials should arrive in the mail shortly or you can register online at [www.nhwwa.org](http://www.nhwwa.org).

There will be approximately 60 exhibitors and 17 seminars that take place throughout the day. Some of the topics that will be discussed are: web and cellular based SCADA systems, dealing with emergencies, groundwater development, and Dig Safe enforcement.

Up to 5 contact hours can be earned during the Expo.

The event is designed for operators, managers, engineers, superintendents, water commissioners, water system owners, consultants, and other professionals, and all those interested in drinking water issues, products and services.

There is no charge to attend the exhibit only.

For additional information, please e-mail NHWWA at: [nhwwa@worldpath.net](mailto:nhwwa@worldpath.net) or visit our website at [www.nhwwa.org](http://www.nhwwa.org).

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## President's Message continued.

reasonable plan to me. The federal excise tax is 18.4 cents for gas and 24.4 cents for diesel, and it has not been increased since 1993! Raise the federal tax and raise the state fuel tax, and fix the roads and bridges so that we can go places safely and more quickly and perhaps we'll be happier when we get there – hey a bonus! Fixing the US transportation system should be easy.

But I digress, I'm supposed to be writing about water infrastructure that is poor in condition and how to improve it and pay for those improvements. Water is the essence of life. You can't live without it. It is the most important resource on this earth. It is estimated that 240,000 water main breaks occur every year in the United States. It is also estimated that water utilities will have to invest something like \$1 trillion nationwide over the next 25 years to repair or improve the water infrastructure.

The upkeep of the water infrastructure cannot be ignored or wished away. The problem will not go away! But how do we pay for it – who pays for it? Well, I think we all know that there's no magic bullet. First, I think there has to be a realization on the part of all, not just customers of a particular public water system, that safe water and an adequate supply of it benefits us all! Whether we consume it directly or not, we all need it. Personal ingestion is only a piece of it. That faulty reasoning of "I drink beer, I don't even drink the water, so why should I pay for it" – that's ridiculous! Or, "hey you take it out of the ground for free – why should I pay for it." We, as water suppliers, are on the front line when it comes to changing these attitudes.

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*"The upkeep of the water infrastructure cannot be ignored or wished away."*

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Second, I believe we need to foster partnerships—partnerships between federal, state and local governments, and public water suppliers, so that money is made available for economically challenged areas/populations to upgrade water infrastructure. The disbursement of federal and state money should be weighted toward lower income communities in such a way that customers are not paying more than a certain percent of income toward water. In studies, that number has been identified at 2.5% of annual household income.

Federal and state money should be in the form of grants and low interest loans. The State Revolving

Loan Fund, which offers low interest loans, is a great start. Additional federal and state money should be in the form of low interest loans and grants.

That said, customers will need to pay for a significant portion of these needs/improvements. The 2012 New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Water Rate Survey listed the NH average annual water rate at \$420.33 per year. This is an excellent value when compared to other utilities like electricity, cable or cell phone. Though raising rates is seemingly an easy thing to do, in reality it can be very difficult. The conversation is often not easy, the process can be lengthy, and when it's over and the new rates are implemented, and needed maintenance is performed, and capital improvements made – well then, it's time to ask for another rate increase. But isn't this the way it works with cable, cell service, electricity and pretty much all products and services. Then, why not water? The conversation has started, so let's keep it up front and center with our elected officials, policy makers and our customers.



## Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) Block Grants

CDFA's Community Development Block Grant program can help communities with water infrastructure needs. This often overlooked source/program is federally funded providing money for public facilities projects that benefit low and moderate income residents. Awards of up to \$.5M can be made annually for water treatment, or construction of water tanks or well replacement. In order to qualify, at least 51% of the project's beneficiaries must be low-to-moderate income.

The community applies to CDFA through its online Grants and Management System. Grants are awarded during two annual rounds – in April and October.

For more information, CDFA can be contacted at tel. (603) 226-2170 or go to <[nhcdfa.org/block-grants/](http://nhcdfa.org/block-grants/)>.



## 2016 Legislative Program

In the 2015 Legislative Session, the legislature began addressing the future funding of water and wastewater infrastructure improve-

ments. In fact, several bills visited this issue, including HB 511, HB 376 and SB 196. House Bill 511 is truly important because it creates a legislative committee charged with establishing eligibility criteria for funds, prioritization, whether thresholds are important, and best financing options.

Another important issue that was revisited through HB 109 was the backflow prevention device and overall backflow issue. New Hampshire public water operators' ability to access the containment device was solidified through this legislation, and once again NHWWA played an important role in the process. The Legislative Action Committee thanks all our members who supported our efforts – especially for your technical expertise, professional expertise and financial support.

A full report of the 2015 drinking water legislation will be included in the Summer Journal.

In August, your information packet regarding the 2016 NHWWA Legislative Program will be arriving. Please keep in mind the importance of NHWWA's continued participation in the legislative and rulemaking process and sign up for the 2016 program. Your financial support to sustain this effort is needed and appreciated.

Please return the legislative program registration form by September 18. Participating members will receive monthly legislative updates, either by regular mail or e-mail, which include bill status and a schedule of bill hearings and other important information. More importantly, your financial support helps pay for the legislative agent's time and effort to attend hearings, testify, and in general advocate for NHWWA and the public drinking water industry, and public drinking water community.

The cost after 25 years is still only \$.10 per service connection (\$100 minimum). So for example, if your water system has 2,000 service connections, your annual fee will be only \$200. For support members, the annual fee is \$250. For more information, contact Steve Del Deo, legislative agent at (603) 415-3959 or e-mail at [nhwwa@worldpath.net](mailto:nhwwa@worldpath.net).

## Water System Projects

**Epping Water Department** is experiencing low yields from its Hoar Pond Bedrock Well Field. Water levels are near or at pump intakes. The water department has been supplementing with bulk water deliveries. The Epping Crossing Well is being developed as a long term supply, however the infrastructure has not been completed. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services will be issuing an emergency waiver that will allow Epping to make a temporary connection to the Epping Crossing Well.

**Rochester Water Department** is close to completion of its \$2.2M plant upgrade. This comprehensive upgrade includes; new filter medium, underdrains, and traveling bridge backwashers in each of its filter beds. New lighting, ventilation, and control valves have been installed. In the chemical room there is new bulk storage and new chemical containment, and peristaltic chemical feed pumps have been added SCADA has been upgraded, and a touch screen control system added as well.



*The Newfields Water Department recently completed the construction of a new .25MG Aquastore storage tank.*

On August 21, **Exeter Water Department** began pumping water from its Lary Lane Well and one of its Gilman Wells through its newly completed pump station and into the distribution system. The project will be fully completed in the next few weeks. The agreement for the construction of the new stadium well pump station was recently signed and construction will begin shortly. The projected completion date for this project is December.



## Full Bus Visited 5 Sites on Construction Day



*Pennichuck Water Works' transmission connector.*

On August 5 a bus full of drinking water professionals had the opportunity to visit unique and innovative projects in progress or recently completed in four different communities. The tour started with Pennichuck Water Works' Merrimack River transmission connector, where Pennichuck is constructing a 6,100 foot long 36 inch diameter ductile iron pipeline branch to flow Merrimack River water to the existing raw water transmission main between Harris Pond and the treatment plant.

The bus traveled next to Merrimack Village Precinct where a 1,250 gpm capacity iron and manganese removal treatment facility is under construction. A quick trip up the highway brought us to the construction site of Manchester Water Works' two new 6.5 MG pre-stressed concrete distribution storage tanks. These tanks are so large, that their size could only be fully appreciated by climbing the embankment of the existing reservoir and then looking down at the tank foundations.

Next the bus made its way to Concord. Thank you to Marco Philippon and the Concord Water Department for hosting lunch on the grounds of the treatment plant. Following lunch, staff gave tours of the recently renovated chemical room, a project that was completed "live", while the chemical room and processes were in active mode.

The final stop was Concord's Main Street Project where we had a tour of the two-year rehabilitation/revitalization project which includes street, sidewalks, trees, crossing and utility components.

What a day. We're already looking forward to next year's Construction Day event.

*Construction Day 2015 included a stop at the site of Manchester's two 6.5 MG pre-stressed concrete distribution storage tanks under construction.*



## NHWWA wishes to thank the following companies for their sponsorship of the 2015 Construction Day/Field Trip.

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**Thank you for your generosity and continued support!**

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## 2016 Local Source Water Protection Grants

Applications Available Now!

**Due November 2, 2015**



Project funding is available from the Department of Environmental Services to develop and implement programs to protect existing sources of public drinking water.

The grants are available to water suppliers, municipalities, regional planning agencies, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, conservation districts, and state agencies. Applicants can receive up to \$20,000 for projects to protect drinking water sources, including watershed planning, delineation of protection areas, assessment of threats to water supply sources, implementation, and source security.

The application packet is available now to provide sufficient lead time for applicants to work with stakeholders and obtain compelling letters of commitment, which will be needed for some projects to score well in the competition for limited funds. The importance of letters of commitment is reflected in the application materials. Applicants should review the application materials at their earliest opportunity. **Applications are available at: [http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/lswp\\_grants.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/lswp_grants.htm).**

Please contact Pierce Rigrod at 271-0688 or [pierce.rigrod@des.nh.gov](mailto:pierce.rigrod@des.nh.gov) if you have any questions or would like to discuss your proposal.

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### NHWWA Calendar of Events

Here are NHWWA's fall 2015 events:

<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Where</b>
Sept. 10	Technical Meeting	Manchester
Sept. 22, 24, 29 & Oct. 1	C1-a Course	Concord
Oct. 6, 13 & 20	Exam Prep Class	Concord
Oct. 8 & 15	Math Class	Concord
Oct. 14	Iron & Manganese Issues	Dover
Oct. 21	Backflow Refresher Class	Dover
Oct. 28	Expo/Trade Show	Concord
Nov. 5	Annual/Technical Meeting	Concord
Nov. 17	Green/Efficiency Symposium	Exeter
Nov. 19	Operator Training	Meredith
Dec. 2	Operator Training	Concord

Also view Asbestos Pipe Worker Safety Training and other events at NHWWA's website at [nhwwa.org](http://nhwwa.org).

### Seeking Nominations— NHWWA Meritorious Achievement Award

Nominations for the 2015 Meritorious Achievement Award are now being accepted. As a member of NHWWA you have the opportunity to nominate a co-worker, associate, colleague, friend, client or any member of NHWWA whose past, recent or current accomplishments deserve to be recognized.

To nominate someone, simply access the NHWWA website ([nhwwa.org](http://nhwwa.org)), fill out the application found under the "About Us" tab, and then e-mail it back to us or send it regular mail. Please include a detailed description of the nominee's accomplishments in the drinking water field.

Nominees can be office, field and plant workers, operators, managers and commissioners, engineers, consultants, sales representatives or other drinking water related folks. To be considered, a nominee must have been a member in good standing for at least the past year.

Accomplishments may be in the areas of outstanding service to a water utility or the drinking water community, outstanding work in the drinking water industry in general, volunteer efforts, or methods of improving drinking water service.

Please submit nominations to NHWWA no later than September 25, 2015. Nominees will be reviewed by the NHWWA's Board of Directors, the award recipient will be chosen by the Directors, and the award presented at the January joint meeting with NEWWA.

**Thank you to the following for contributing to this newsletter:**

Guy Chabot, Manchester Water Works

Ian Rohrbacher, Rochester Water Department

Rick Skarinka, NHDES-DWGB

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**Your ad here!**

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**Job Listings on NHWWA Website**

As a service to its members, NHWWA posts job openings on the NHWWA website. If you have an opening please send information to Sue Kowalski at [nhwwa@worldpath.net](mailto:nhwwa@worldpath.net) or if you are looking for a job, click on the *Job Listings* tab on our website; [nhwwa.org](http://nhwwa.org)

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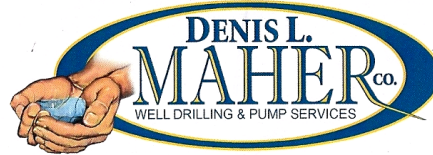
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