

# NH Water Works Association Newsletter

June 2014

## **Construction Day 2014**

Wednesday, August 6 is NHWWA's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Construction/Field Day. Attendees will leave the Concord Bus Terminal at 8:50 am on an air conditioned 52 passenger chartered bus for a full day of exciting construction site visits.

One of this year's highlights will be a stop at the City of Nashua's "Combined Sewer Overflow Screening and Disinfection Facility". This is part of a very large project to address Nashua's storm overflow problem. When completed, the CSO structures/facilities will be able to treat up to 60 MGD during storm events.

The bus tour will include several other site visits in Southern NH.

Construction/Field Day includes morning and afternoon refreshments, lunch, an opportunity to share ideas with fellow travelers, water works fellowship, and lots of fun – and it's very affordable.



Construction Day 2013 included a presentation at the site of Franklin's .5 MG tank built by DN Tanks.

Look for the official notice in the mail at the end of June, or on our website (nhwwa.org). Make your reservations early. The bus fills up early, and reservations are taken on a first come – first served basis. Don't miss the bus!

## **NHWWA Calendar of Events**

Here are some of the NHWWA's summer and fall 2014 events:

When	What	<u>Where</u>
August 6	Construction Day	Concord
September 4	Technical Meeting	Manchester
October 29	Trade Show/Expo	Concord
November 6	Annual/Technical	Concord
	Meeting	

Also view upcoming meetings and events at NHWWA's website at nhwwa.org.

## **Highlights in this Issue**

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## **Member News**

Brian Alonzi, working foreman for the Dover Water Department retired at the end of March after working for the City for 37 ½ years. He began his career in the water division and stayed on when the utilities were combined. His knowledge of both water and sewer and his experience in both areas has been a major factor in the success of those utilities. Brian has played an enormously important role in working with utilities supervisor Bill Boulanger in collecting and documenting infrastructure information over the years, creating a wealth of valuable information for future water and sewer staff in the Town of Dover. Bill Boulanger says it best when he says "as all of us know, 37 years of service is hard to replace". Bill, and all of us at NHWWA wish Brian all the best.

**Harry Stewart**, DES Water Division Director, will retire at the end of May 2014 after over 16 years in this position and a long career at DES that started in 1980.

Harry started his career in 1975 as an engineer with the USEPA in Atlanta in the municipal wastewater construction grants program. In 1980, he returned to New England, moved to New Hampshire and worked for many years in the drinking water supply program of the Water Supply and Pollution Control Commission before managing the Groundwater Protection Bureau after the creation of the Department of Environmental Services (DES). After a 3-year sabbatical from government service, Harry managed the DES oil and hazardous waste cleanup programs for several years before serving as DES Water Division Director. Harry has always had a reputation for effective management of water programs at DES and for responsiveness to the needs of the water profession.

Harry has been recognized as a national and regional leader in water policy and program implementation. He has served as Chair of the New England Water Pollution Control Commission and as a longtime member of its executive committee. He has also been President and a board member of many years for the Association of Clean Water Administrators (the national state water director organization) which awarded him its Environmental Statesman Award, the organization's highest honor, in 2013. The New Hampshire BIA has recently recognized Harry with its "Above and Beyond Award" for his state service.

Harry and his wife Sue will continue to live in Londonderry, NH. He expects to continue to work, just not as much, and to continue to ski, golf, play soccer, and travel. Sue and Harry also plan to continue their humanitarian work in Haiti where they have recently traveled several times. NHWWA wishes Harry all the best in his future!

**Abby Fopiano,** formerly with Geosphere Environmental Management, is now with Epping Well and Pump where she provides consulting services.

**RH White Construction Co., Inc.** announced that **Paul DiLorenzo** has been promoted to Operations Manager for the Utility Construction Division. In this role he is responsible for all of the utility construction within the division.

**Dave Brennan** will be retiring from the City of Concord on June 30, and moving to Colorado where he plans to continue his work in the public drinking water profession. Dave has worked as Concord's chief plant operator for the past several years, and in the drinking water industry in NH for the past 28 years. Among his many achievements, Dave served as a NHWWA Director and as president in 2003-2004. He has said that he is truly grateful for the opportunity to work in NH's drinking water industry but especially with many other drinking water friends and folks whom he has crossed paths with during his career. Dave wishes all his water works friends "the very best in all your future endeavors, both professional and personal". And we all certainly wish Dave the same! (Dave also says that he would be delighted to have us visit him in Colorado.)

In March, **Luis Adorno** joined the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau (DWGB) as the Environmental Program Manager. A major component of his job will be developing an Asset Management Program. It is the goal of the DWGB to be a central location for information on asset management for all drinking water systems, and to provide technical assistance and examples of best practices.

Luis was previously with the Laconia Water Department as the Coordinator. During his tenure there, he was exposed to various aspects of the drinking water industry and gained knowledge and experience helpful in facilitating the transition to NHDES. It was during the process of implementing a GIS program for the City of Laconia that he realized the real benefits and needs of an "Asset Management Program" in the water industry.

If you have any ideas, need some guidance or technical assistance feel free to contact Luis at 603-271-2472 or via e-mail at luis.adorno@des.nh.gov.

**Adam Yanulis** has joined Tighe & Bond as its director of business development in its Worcester office. Adam was formerly with CDM Smith.

Jack Cooper, Water Systems Supervisor of the Highway and Utilities Division for Concord, retired at the end of last year after 40 years of service. He started as a laborer and worked his way up to operating heavy equipment and continued on to be the Water Systems Supervisor, which is a position he held for over 20 years. Phil Bilodeau, Assistant Director of General Services, reported that in the last 15 years of his career, Jack only missed one water main break and that was due to a death in the family. His knowledge, caring and dedication will be missed.



## 2014 Drinking Water Legislative Review

As the 2014 legislative session enters the home-stretch much

of the drinking water legislation has been acted on, yet there continues to be a few issues that still need to be addressed. Below is the status of some of the more important bills that the Association has been involved in.

There are two pieces of legislation that address the issue of access to backflow prevention devices. The first is <u>HB 1383</u>.

HB 1383 has several components. First, it allows municipalities with large groundwater withdrawals to reduce the amount of time they need to monitor and collect data relative to a seasonal river overflow surface water stream to 3 years unless the NHDES "provides scientific justification for longer monitoring".

A second part of this bill changes the term "unaccounted for water" to "water balance", and defines water balance as "the difference between the system input volume and authorized metered consumption. System input volume means the volume of water input to the water system supply corrected for known errors, which is equal to the volume of water derived from the water system's own sources, minus water consumed by treatment processes, plus water imported or purchased, plus or minus the net change in water storage where applicable. Authorized metered consumption means billed metered water plus unbilled metered water. Billed metered water means authorized consumption by all consumer types that is both metered and billed. Unbilled metered water means any authorized consumption that is metered for which the water supplier does not bill".

The NHDES may then grant a (renewable) exemption from the rules for water conservation practices to any municipality with a water balance of less than 15 percent.

An amendment was proposed and added to this bill that addresses backflow devices.

In summary it allows qualified certified water operators to inspect, install, repair and replace the main backflow device and assembly devices (the containment device). It requires that the facility

receiving water from a public water supplier is responsible for ensuring the device is in working order. This bill has passed the House of Representatives, and was reported out of Senate Committee - "Ought to Pass".

The second bill addressing backflow devices is SB 116.

Senate Bill 116 is a holdover bill from the 2013 legislative session. It passed the Senate in 2013 and at that time addressed concerns relating to people who work in the gas-fitting industry. When the bill went to the House of Representatives (in 2013), the House chose to hold the bill. During summer 2013, the mechanical licensing board (formerly the plumbers licensing board) and the State Fire Marshal's office added language to address the gray area between what belongs in the domain of "plumbing" and what licensed/certified water operators should be allowed to do regarding backflow devices. Water suppliers were not aware of this amendment until late in the process. So water suppliers, NHWWA, Granite State Rural Water Assoc., and others, along with NHDES, have been working with the State Fire Marshal's office and the Mechanical Licensing Board and plumbers, crafting language that would be acceptable to both water suppliers and plumbers. SB 116 has passed the House. However, NHWWA believes that the language pertaining to backflow devices needs to be further clarified. Now this legislation goes back to the Senate.

Senate Bill 408 would require that the State pay a 50 percent grant to municipalities in regional agreements for watershed management and restoration plans – specifically to protect water quality and meet clean water standards with respect to nutrient pollution. The municipalities would need to raise the other 50 percent. This bill is currently being held in the Senate for interim study.

Several bills have been killed, including:

House Bill 1287 which would have required a \$0.05 deposit on beverages sold at retail.

<u>House Bill 1288</u> would have required bottled water container labels to indicate the source of the water.

<u>House bill 1340</u> would have eased septic system separation distances from wells providing that records show that the well was grouted.

## 2013 Meritorious Achievement Award



Roland L. Viens (above left), superintendent of the City of Berlin Water Works, was recently awarded the NHWWA 2013 Meritorious Achievement Award. Roland received the award at the April 17 Technical Meeting at the Wolfeboro Inn. Andrew Sharpe, who

worked as a consulting engineer for the Berlin Water Works during Roland's tenure as superintendent presented the award.

Andy stated that under Roland's guidance many significant improvements were made in the operations of BWW and many major infrastructure upgrades were completed - too many to list here. But the most important improvement that Roland brought to the BWW was a management style that instilled a sense of ownership in the BWW staff. Under his leadership, BWW's field and office staff grew from "just tell me what to do" to "here is how I think we should do it", and then doing it. Roland acknowledged that the "team effort" is what really accomplished things, and he praised the BWW employees for their hard work and accomplishments.

NHWWA congratulates Roland for his excellent work, and his important contribution to the New Hampshire drinking water community. We wish Roland the very best in his future endeavors, which includes retirement at some point during 2014.

## NHWWA wishes to thank the following sponsors of the **2014 Drinking Water Week Festival**

ADM Vending, Inc. **Aqua Specialties** CDM Smith ChemServ Comprehensive Environmental **DN Tanks** GeoInsight, Inc. Geosphere Environmental Management **Granite State Rural Water Association** Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc. Hudson Trophy Co. Lewis Engineering, PLLC Manchester Water Works NH Department of Environmental Services NH Water Well Association **NH Water Works Association** Pennichuck Water Works R.E. Prescott Co., Inc. **RCAP Solutions** R.H. White Construction Co. **Smith Pump Company** Ti-Sales, Inc. Tighe & Bond Underwood Engineers, Inc. Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. Wright-Pierce Engineering

Thank you for your continued support!

State of NH Drinking Wa-Lakes Natural

## 2014 Drinking Water Week Festival

The 2014 Drinking Water Week festival and state finals of the fourth grade science fair were held at the Manchester Water Treatment Plant on May 7. About 365 third and fourth graders participated in 16 activity oriented presentations and 13 exhibits. The weather couldn't have been more perfect for the students to celebrate drinking water on the shores of Lake Massabesic. The NH Drinking Water Coalition, in conjunction with the NH Department of Environmental Services, hosts the event each year.

In addition to the companies and organizations listed to the left, the festival was also supported by additional volunteers from: Amoskeag Fishways, Art for Water, Concord Water Works, Dartmouth Toxic Metals Program, Go Green Concord, Lake Sunapee Protective Assn., Manchester Water Works, Merrimack Village District, NHDOT. NH

Fish and Game. NH Lakes Association. NH Rivers Council. ter Lab, Squam Science Center. and U.S. Forest Service.



## Available Drinking Water Grants and Loans

Several grants and loans are made available through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to help water suppliers in their operation, management and planning. Below are descriptions of each of these programs, including amounts available, when, who qualifies, and contact information.

#### **Local Source Water Protection Grant**

Funds are available to develop and implement programs to protect existing (active or planned) sources of public drinking water including delineation, planning, assessment, implementation and source security. Water Suppliers, Municipalities, Regional Planning Commissions, Non-profit Organizations, County Conservation Districts, State Agencies, Watershed Associations, and Educational Institutions can apply. Approximately \$100,000-\$200,000 is available annually. The maximum grant amount is \$20,000 and there is no match required. Applications are usually available in the late spring and are due in early November. For questions contact Kelsey Vaughn at 271-2950, kelsey.vaughn@des.nh.gov or Pierce Rigrod at 271-0688, pierce.rigrod@des.nh.gov

## **Water Supply Land Protection Grant**

Funds are available for the acquisition of land or conservation easements at community and non-transient non-community drinking water supplies. Municipalities and non-profit land trusts can apply. Currently there is \$2.2 million available for drinking water supply lands in the southern I-93 corridor communities of Salem, Windham, Derry, Londonderry and Manchester and in the Lake Massabesic Watershed, which includes portions of Auburn, Hooksett, Candia and Chester. Grant amounts are 25% of the value of land or conservation easements critical to the quality of public drinking water supplies with a 75% match. For questions contact Holly Green at 271-3114, holly.green@des.nh.gov

#### **Record Drawing Grant**

Funds are available to assist community water systems in preparing or updating their record drawings to accurately reflect the location of critical infrastructure. Community water systems serving 500 people or less can apply. Approximately \$30,000 is available. The maximum grant amount is \$1,500 with a 50% match required. Applications are currently available and are accepted year round. For questions contact Johnna McKenna at 271-7017, johnna.mckenna@des.nh.gov

#### **Asset Management Grant**

Funds are available to assist community water systems in developing an asset management plan. Community water systems serving 500 people or more can apply. Approximately \$150,000 is available annually. The maximum grant amount is \$15,000 with a 50% match required. Applications are usually available in early fall and due in late fall. For questions contact Luis Adorno at 271-2472, luis.adorno@des.nh.gov

## **Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund**

This is a low interest loan program for the planning, design, and construction of drinking water infrastructure projects. Municipalities, community water systems and non-profit, non-community non-transient water systems can apply. There is no maximum loan amount. Loan terms are available for 5, 10, 15 or 20 years. Disadvantaged systems may be eligible for a 30 year loan. Pre-applications are available in May and due in June. If the project is funded, final applications are due any time before the following spring. For questions contact Daniel Dudley at 271-2953, daniel.dudley@des.nh.gov or Johnna McKenna at 271-7017, johnna.mckenna@des.nh.gov

#### **Leak Detection**

Funds are available to complete leak detection surveys at community systems. Approximately \$100,000 is available annually to hire a professional leak detection firm to complete the surveys at participating community water systems. The request for surveys will be distributed in June and surveys will begin in 2015 once a firm is selected. For questions contact Derek Bennett at 271-6685, derek.bennett@des.nh.gov

Applications and information regarding the programs listed above can be found on the DES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau website at http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/index.htm

There are many other grant programs available to public water systems such as NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Emergency Management Preparedness Grant. Municipal water systems, including village districts, can apply for a 50% grant to pay for generators and security measures. Applications are available at http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/hsem/grants/index.htm. Contact Cindy Richard 223-3627, cindy.richard@dos.nh.gov for more information. Also, check out EPA's FedFUNDS tool (www.epa.gov/fedfunds) for more information regarding the various hazard mitigation grant programs that are available to reduce or eliminate losses from future disasters.

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

Johnna McKenna, NHDES Laurel Pushee, NHDES Andrew Sharpe, Andrew J. Sharpe, P.E., LLC

## **Welcome New Members**

## Support

Kevin A. Brassard, Coyne Chemical Owen Friend-Gray, Tighe & Bond Todd Piskovitz GeoInsight, Inc.

## Utility

Rosebrook Water Co., Bretton Woods Utility Partners, LLC, Greenville

## **Job Listings on NHWWA Website**

As a service to its members, NHWWA is now posting job openings on the NHWWA website. If you have an opening please send to information to Sue Kowalski at nhwwa@worldpath.net or if you are looking for a job, click on the *Job Listings* tab on our website; nhwwa.org

## New Hampshire Water Works Association

18 North Main Street, Suite 308 Concord, NH 03301 Tel. (603) 415-3959

E-mail: nhwwa@worldpath.net

Website: nhwwa.org

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Editor: Stephen J. Del Deo Layout, Design & Production:

Susan Kowalski

civil & environmental engineering



25 Vaughan Mall Portsmouth, NH ph 603.436.6192 99 North State Street Concord, NH ph 603.230.9898 www.underwoodengineers.com











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