

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM STUDY

RSA: 483-B:7-a Laws of 2017

Meeting Minutes September 14th, 2017 11:00 a.m. *SH 100*

1. Welcome by first-named legislator, Sen. Bradley, who asked attendees in turn to introduce themselves and make any necessary statements.
2. Sen. Bradley then called for nominations for the position of Commission Chair. Rep. Vose nominated Sen. Bradley, who was elected unanimously. Bradley then called for nominations for Clerk and nominated Rep. Vose, who was elected unanimously.
3. Sen. Bradley gave an overview of the issues involved as directed by the Senate bill that established the commission. He stated that the NPDES program assumption would be an all or nothing proposition, but it was suggested that a phase-in of the non-MS4 parts of the program might be possible.
4. Sen. Bradley emphasized the need to explore the costs of implementing this program at the state level; the commission needs to answer the threshold question, Will a state implementation cost more or less than having the EPA Region 1 office do it?
5. Dover/Rochester would like to see a more phased-in process for new EPA rules, which would be more likely if the state was in control.
6. A presentation of the newest rules of the NPDES program is needed.
7. Rep. Vose read from a recent interview with Sen. Sanborn that wastewater permit preapproval of new development projects would be necessary, but DES speculated that such preapproval may not be particularly onerous. Sanborn feared the loss of economic development should EPA implement the program.
8. Sen. Bradley suggested a presentation by NHDES and possibly by one other state on the NPDES program.
9. Discussion revealed that state takeover of the permitting process could take years and cost over \$1 million, just to get regulatory authority, and that several state laws would require modification.
10. NHDES advised that the state "look closely before we leap." The question arose about whether EPA Region 1 could supply any funding.