

Water Quality Standards Advisory Committee

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, January 9, 2014 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Department of Environmental Services

Rooms 112/113/114

29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH

Attendees

Name	Organization
Dan Blais	Home Builders and Remodelers' Association of NH
Sam Demeritt	NH Wildlife Federation
John Hodsdon	NH Farm Bureau Federation
Mike Metcalf	NH Water Works Association
Eileen Miller	NH Association of Conservation Districts
Allan Palmer	Rivers Management Advisory Committee
Ken Rhodes	Associated General Contractors of NH
William Schroeder	NH Lakes Association
Tracy Tarr	NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists
Malcolm Butler	Water Council
Mark Hutchins	Normandeau Associates
Ellen Weitzler	US EPA
Joe Boyer	Plymouth State University

DES Attendees

Ted Diers

Philip Trowbridge

Gregg Comstock

Jeff Andrews

Paul Susca

Owen David

Collis Adams

1) Introductions

The meeting began with a round of introductions.

2) Approval of 10/10/2013 meeting summary

The following corrections were made to the meeting summary prepared by DES:

- The title of the document was changed from "Meeting Minutes" to "Meeting Summary".

3) Update to Organizational Principles for WQSAC

Ted Diers presented a draft of revised Organizational Principles for the committee (attached). The update was needed because the current "Terms of Reference" document does not reflect how the committee actually operates. There are 27 official members of the committee but less than half regularly attend the meetings, which causes problems with having a quorum. In contrast, there are nearly 150 "interested parties" on the notification list, and some of these people participate in the committee meetings on topics of interest to them. DES encourages this participation because the outside parties provide needed expertise on various topics. The new Organizational Principles make it explicit that the committee acts in an advisory nature and that the membership is flexible.

The committee discussed the proposal and offered comments. DES will revise the proposal with the following:

- DES should report back to the committee if the agency takes an approach that is significantly different from the consensus of the committee or on controversial topics.
- The Organizational Principles state that consensus is a goal of the committee but not a requirement. The document should include clarify what level of consensus is meant by this statement and what tools could be used to efficiently reach this level of consensus.
- DES should manage the transition to the new process to ensure that existing members continue to attend and new members join. A letter should be sent on behalf of the Chair or the DES Commissioner to organizations with official membership encouraging their continued participation. The next meeting agenda should encourage all interested parties to attend the meeting.

DES will share a revised Organizational Principles document with the committee at the April 10, 2014 meeting.

4) Triennial Review of NH Water Quality Standards:

Solicitation pre-rulemaking comments on potential revisions to Env-Wq 1700

Phil Trowbridge presented the list of topics that DES intends to update in Env-Wq 1700 (attached). Committee members provided the following comments:

- Consider removing the word “potential” from the name of the designated use for drinking water (“Potential Drinking Water Supply After Adequate Treatment”).
- Compare existing data on methyl mercury in fish tissue to the new recommended water quality criteria from EPA.
- The list of proposed changes should be emailed to the full WQSAC mailing list to solicit more comments. (This objective will be achieved by means of this meeting summary.)
- If the new recommended criteria for recreation are not adopted into rule, DES will need to provide a justification to EPA showing that the existing state criteria are equally protective.

DES will prepare a draft rulemaking proposal to share with the committee in October 2014.

5) NEIWPC comments on EPA Proposed Changes to 40 CFR 131 - Water Quality Standards Regulatory Clarifications

Phil Trowbridge gave a summary of comments submitted by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission on proposed rule changes to 40 CFR 131. The main issue for DES was the proposed change to the antidegradation regulations. EPA is reviewing the comments received and expects to respond by the end of the fiscal year.

6) Other Business

The next meeting will be on April 10, 2014 at 1:30 PM.

7) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.