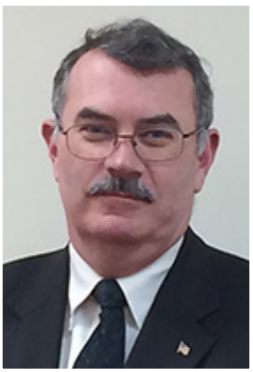


COMMISSIONER'S COLUMN

NHDES joins Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative



I am proud to share that NHDES recently joined the New Hampshire Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative. Substance Use Disorder (SUD) is when an individual uses a harmful substance, such

as opioids or alcohol, to the extent that it interferes with a person's well-being or ability to participate in daily activities. NHDES understands that Recovery Friendly Workplaces support the community by recognizing that individuals in recovery from SUD is a strength. We want to encourage a healthy and safe environment, and eliminate barriers to recovery for those impacted by addiction.

Recently, NHDES decided to strengthen our workplace culture by offering resources to promote health, well-being and recovery for employees and their family members. We aspire to lead other employers in creating and maintaining a Recovery Friendly Workforce through awareness and education.

If your organization is interested in learning how you can become a Recovery Friendly Workplace, you can reach out to Shannon Bresaw, MSW, with the New Hampshire Governor's Recovery Workplace Program at shannon@recovery-friendlyworkplace.com. ■

WAND program now available to help residential well owners affected by drought

NHDES recently launched a new program to provide short-term relief and financial assistance for low-income residential well owners experiencing irreversible deterioration of water supply quantity or water quality caused by droughts or other types of natural disasters. The Water Assistance for Natural Disaster Impacts to Low-Income Residential Well Owners (WAND) program is funded by a \$500,000 grant from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF).

"Through our Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund, New Hampshire has invested nearly \$2 million to provide assistance to scores of low-income homeowners whose wells have been affected by drought," said Governor Chris Sununu. "With the expansion of this innovative program, New Hampshire is providing yet another layer of assistance to further ensure families have access to a source of clean, reliable drinking water."



Bellamy Reservoir during the 2016 drought.

As of September 6, 2022 most of the state is abnormally dry or in moderate drought. The southern and southeastern part of the state is now in severe drought.

WAND, cont. page 3

PFAS water treatment rebates

The Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Removal Rebate Program for Private Wells is now accepting applications. The program provides rebates to private well users for up to \$5,000 for the installation of PFAS treatment or up to \$10,000 for a service connection to a public water system.

Eligible private well users must be able to document an exceedance of a regulated PFAS compound(s) with no offer of alternate water from a third party. An exceedance would be a result above New Hampshire's Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards (AGQS) for four PFAS compounds, which are: 12 parts-per-trillion (ppt) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA); 15 ppt for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS); 18 ppt for perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS); and 11 ppt for perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA).

"New Hampshire leads the country in identifying PFAS contamination and acting on those findings," said Governor Chris Sununu. "These rebates will go a long way to help hundreds of homeowners affected by PFAS contamination to connect to clean drinking water sources or install treatment systems for their homes."

NHDES has collected more than 7,200 PFAS samples from approximately 6,200 wells across the state and has identified several thousands of locations that exceed one or more of the AGQS. While there are provisions in state rules for parties that are responsible for contamination of groundwater to remedy water supply wells that violate AGQS, not all PFAS contamination found in the state has been attributed, either technically or legally, to a responsible party. In instances where there is no identified responsible party for a contaminated water supply well, the burden of providing safe drinking water resides with the well owner. Third parties have addressed over 1,000 wells that exceed AGQS for PFAS by providing alternate water, either temporarily or permanently, in accordance with state rules.

If NHDES sampled your well, an email or letter has been sent to you indicating that the program is accepting applications. If you sampled your well yourself or hired someone else to sample your well, please email pfasrebateprogram@des.nh.gov. Eligible applicants can be reimbursed for the installation of treatment or a service connection back to September 30, 2019.

"This innovative PFAS Removal Rebate program provides helpful funding for homeowners burdened with the costs of treating wells contaminated with PFAS above New Hampshire's drinking water standards," said Bob Scott, NHDES Commissioner.

Funding for the program is provided by the New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund and surplus funding from the State General Fund authorized under HB 1547. For more information on the program, including eligibility requirements and a link to the application, visit the [PFAS Removal Rebate Program for Private Wells webpage](#).

For additional information on this program, please contact the PFAS Rebate Team at pfasrebateprogram@des.nh.gov or Amy Rousseau at (603) 271-8801. ■



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Environmental News is published six times a year by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

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WAND *continued from page 1*

Further, groundwater levels continue to drop in the south-east and Connecticut River Valley. Due to these indicators of drought, NHDES anticipates that vulnerable private residential wells will be adversely impacted and has started accepting applications into the WAND program for drought-related water quantity issues. Applications are available on the [DW-GTF website](#).

In general, projects that restore the homeowner with a reliable and safe source of drinking water are eligible in this program, subject to review and approval by NHDES. This may include, if feasible, connecting the homeowner to a nearby existing community water system, rehabilitation of the well, or replacing the well. Additionally, recognizing that each well has unique water quality characteristics and challenges, capital costs to install treatment may be included as an eligible project cost.

The WAND program may also provide immediate short-term relief with a delivery of bottled water where available, or financial assistance to purchase bottled water if requested

while residents are waiting for their well improvement project to be completed. The bottled water provision will terminate upon completion of the water supply well project; if the applicant is determined to be ineligible for financial assistance; or, at the discretion of NHDES.

To prove eligibility, applicants must demonstrate their low-income status and that a drought, natural disaster or extreme weather event, as determined by NHDES, has adversely affected the supply or quality of water from their private well. The affected well must be associated with the eligible applicant's primary residence that they own, and the issue must be verified by a licensed New Hampshire water well contractor and/or pump installer. Low-income eligibility and the amount of financial assistance available is determined based on family size and total household income. Information on the [eligibility criteria](#) can be found on the DWGTF website and private well owners are encouraged to self-screen using these tables.

For more information, contact John Pasquale at john.pasquale@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-7179. ■

Helping small businesses in New Hampshire

For more than 30 years, the Small Business Technical Assistance Program (SBTAP) at NHDES has been providing environmental compliance assistance to small businesses in New Hampshire. Section 507 Title V of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendment required each state to create a program that supports small businesses to assist with the ever changing, sometimes confusing environmental rules.

Bottom of the Hill Auto, located in Antrim, is just one example of a small business to which SBTAP provided environmental compliance assistance. Bottom of Hill Auto opened in 2017. Brett Flagg, co-owner and operator, along with some help from his dad Mike Flagg, who is retired with over 40 years in the auto repair business, offers auto repair, New Hampshire state inspections and auto body work. Brett named his shop after his dad's shop, Top of the Hill Auto in Hancock, which open in the 90s.

"Our favorite part of owning our business is being able to help others in our tight-knit community. The three of us were born and raised in these very small towns where just about everybody knows each other," said Hannah Kulbacki, co-owner.

SBTAP provided compliance assistance to Bottom of the Hill Auto on New Hampshire Hazardous Waste Rules, including



Small Quantity Generator requirements.

"Visiting small businesses throughout New Hampshire is one of the best parts of my job. Meeting small business owners and their families face-to-face and one-on-one makes this work personable and creates connections that last for years," said Sara Johnson, SBTAP Manager.

If you follow NHDES on social media, you will see some other places SBTAP has visited. For more information on the program, visit the [SBTAP webpage](#).



35 Years at NHDES: perspective from staff who have helped shape the agency from the beginning

In honor of NHDES' 35th anniversary, we are asking staff who have been here since the agency's formation to look back at their time here and what they see for our future. In this edition, we hear from Walter Henderson Jr., the Limnology Center Coordinator at NHDES. Walt started in 1986 with the Water Supply & Pollution Control Commission, which became part of NHDES in 1987, as a Water Pollution Technician.

What made you want to work at NHDES in the first place?

I have always been an outside type of person. I wanted to work with/in the environmental field since for as long as I can remember. I wanted to make and leave this world a better place.

My major was in Wildlife Management but at the time of my graduation there were few, if any, jobs in that field. I found a temporary job with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, working on the restoration of Atlantic Salmon to the Merrimack River. I then found employment with New Hampshire Fish and Game (NHFG) raising trout and salmon at one of their hatcheries. After a while I realized with my wife's help that this was not what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. We saw an ad in the newspaper (yep, that's how you found jobs back then) for a job in the Water Supply and Pollution Control Commission. After a few phone calls, I determined that this would be a position that would allow me to work on making the environment and the world a better place.

How many and what types of positions have you held at the agency?

I have had three different positions, all three are similar in a broad way. As a technician, I helped conduct limnological surveys on New Hampshire's great ponds. I also did toxicity testing on effluents being discharged into our rivers and streams from businesses. Back then many companies discharged wastewater into the rivers. Many of these discharges were proven to be quite harmful to the ecosystem. We worked with companies to clean up the discharges and improve the water quality of the rivers. When I became a biologist, I continued to do limnological surveys, but handed the biotoxicity monitoring over to another person. The Biologist II position took me away from doing some of the lake survey work, and I started concentrating on exotic species within our lakes, ponds and rivers. This position also has me helping in the management and operation of the Jody Connor Limnology Center. All three positions have allowed me to work outside in the field where I always wanted to be; I was never meant to get behind a desk.

What were the biggest environmental challenges of the day when you first started?

Acid rain and industrial effluents were the highest priorities. It was not uncommon for the rain to have a pH in the high 3's or low 4's when I started; now most are in the mid to upper 5's and we even see some just over 6 now, it has been quite the change for the better and proof that we can do something that will change our environment in a positive way. At that time there were a lot of industrial discharges into our waterways. We used daphnia (water fleas) as a barometer to measure the toxicity of the effluent. I can remember a few that even at a 50% dilution killed all the test subjects in less than 24 hours. Now all discharges have permit requirements that require pre-treatment or actions before it can be returned to the rivers or lakes.

What do you feel has been the biggest environmental advancement over the last 35 years?

I would have to say the implementation and compliance with both the Clean Water and Clean Air Acts. Both have acted to greatly improve our environment. Close behind (very close) are the technological advancements in equipment and monitoring. We can now chemically look at effluents and not have to subject water fleas and fish to possible death. We can gather data sometimes continuous, using sondes and probes without having to have a person in the water. There are so many new (and for the most part better) ways to treat water, to control nutrients. We now use a lot less chemicals, and a lot more electronics in our testing. With computers, wireless networks, cell phones, etc., data can be collected and stored and analyzed much quicker than before.

How has the agency changed over the last 35 years? (The good, the bad, the size of the agency, the focus of the agency, etc.)

The size part is a no-brainer. When I started, what is now called the biology section of the Watershed Management Bureau consisted of five people. Now it has 12 people. And under normal conditions during the summer months that number is doubled by interns hired to help with the project and sam-



35 Years *continued from page 4*

pling load. It is similar with other sections within NHDES, too. As more and more issues are brought into focus, we have created more and new positions to handle them.

Over the years we have done much good: the reduction of acid rain; the reduction of sewage or wastewater being directly added to our lakes and rivers; the reduction of atmospheric transport and deposition of mercury; better underground storage to reduce the amount of gas, oil, and other chemicals from leaking into the soils and groundwater; and solid waste management has really changed. We used to just throw everything into a landfill. Now we recycle and create energy from waste. And NHDES is continuing in that direction.

Another good, and I speak for my section, are the volunteer programs we have started and are now in place and working well. Both the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program as well as the Volunteer River Assessment Program (VLAP and VRAP) have made it possible to get samples from so many more sites compared to when it was just our field personnel. We used to get 30 to 40 lakes a year while now we have 100+ lakes that have volunteers sampling for us.

Is there a project that you worked on that you are particularly proud of?

Not really, I have worked on so many, and I am proud of all of them. In the beginning, the lake survey work I did was just to establish baseline data on the condition of our lakes and to start a database that would after multiple years of surveying tell us if a particular lake was changing and in what way over time. I am proud of that because without that data we would have nothing to compare new data to and make suggestions to keep the lake from deteriorating more or faster.

I'm proud of the many diagnostic and feasibility studies we did on our lakes to determine inputs and issues that were causing the degradation of that lake. Beaver Lake in Derry put sewer lines in around the lake after our study showed the failing or leaking septic systems around the lake were contributing to algae problems. They also implemented changes in watershed management to reduce nutrient runoff from entering the tributaries and the lake. The Webster Lake study led to changes in logging procedures and other agricultural runoff issues that were determined to be causing a decline in water quality.

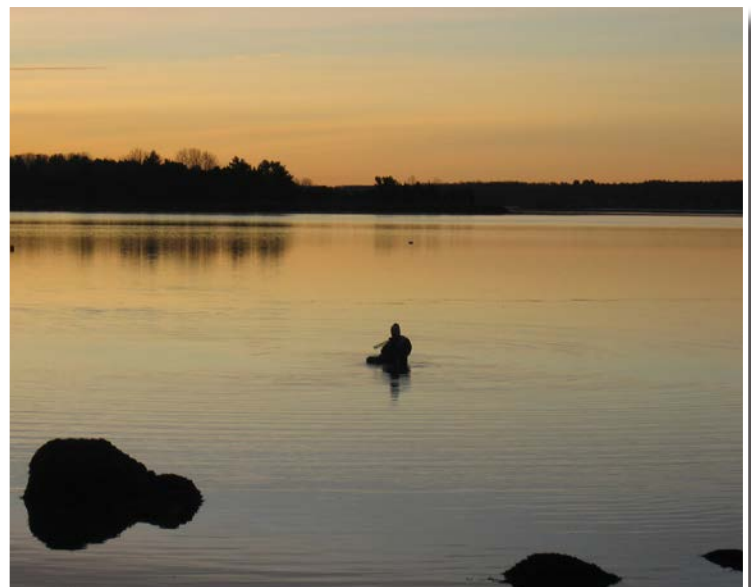
What do you think the biggest environmental priorities for the next 5, 10, 15 or 35 years? And what do you think NHDES can do to tackle these challenges?

The biggest I think will be climate change followed by water conservation and purification. As time moves forward, I think landfill leachates and solid waste disposal will continue to evolve as an issue, invasive species will continue to be an issue, and habitat protection/restoration will become more important. I also think ocean preservation will become more of an issue.

I think NHDES will need to continue to hire bright and enthusiastic people who are eager to take on these issues. Continue to work with the federal government, other states, and universities to keep up to date with new and upcoming methodologies, and to boldly go forward with new technologies. We have done a good job of being at the forefront of technology and ways it can be used to aid the environment. More than once I have heard that we were the first or one of the first to try out something, and we will need to continue in this way. We should embrace early detection rapid response. It is much easier to take care of issues as quick as possible; the longer one waits to act the more action they will need to take.

If you were making a "Back to the Future II" where they go ahead in time 35 years, what futuristic invention would you include that would help our environment?

I think they came up with one of the best options in the garbage-to-fuel fusion devices (Mr. Fusion). Converting waste, both food and non-food waste into clean non-polluting power solves a group of issues. Landfills and their waste byproducts, clean air, free power, freedom from fossil fuels. The clean air would lead to cleaner water as fewer air-borne contaminants would be deposited. Although this still would lead to an issue later on, if we convert matter to energy, that matter disappears and does not come back (no recycling) and eventually the world would start running out of minerals, nutrients, etc. If I had to come up with something different, I would probably come back with something that made de-salination and water purification cheaper and cleaner. I do believe one of our biggest issues in the future will be having enough clean water for drinking as well as farming. As polar icecaps thaw, we are slowly diluting the oceans, a device that could create freshwater for drinking or irrigation while also returning the removed chemicals to the oceans may give us needed fresh water and allow the oceans to maintain their salinity levels so that marine life will not be impacted. ■



Field work photo journal: VLAP

Come on a journey with NHDES field staff! This photo journal follows Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) staff and volunteers as they collect water samples in lakes across the state.

What is VLAP? VLAP was launched in 1985 to empower citizens to assist with analyzing the water quality of lakes across the state. Volunteers are trained on how to collect water samples and test for water clarity. The data collected helps us learn about the state's lakes and ponds and make educated decisions to protect them.

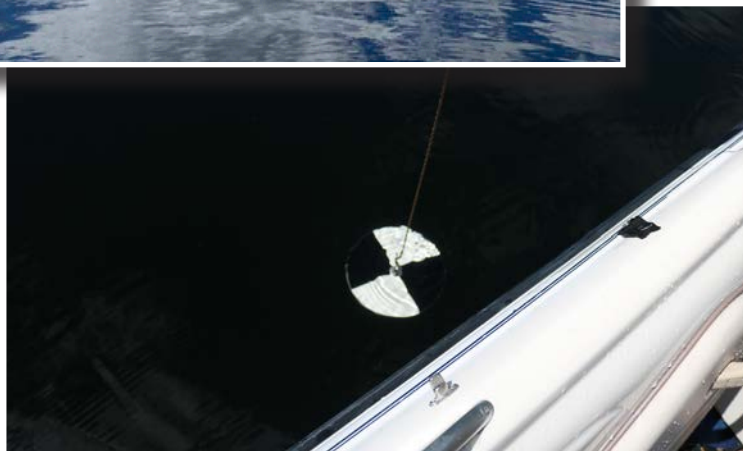
This photo journal was taken on a calm and sunny day at Stinson Lake in Rumney, NH.



The volunteers embark on their boat to collect water samples. This trip, they are joined by VLAP Coordinator Sara Steiner.



First, volunteers measured the water temperature and dissolved oxygen at different depths of the lake. Next, they collected drop water samples. These samples measure water quality and check for substances that could be harmful.



Water clarity is determined by measuring the depth to which the secchi disc remains visible.

VLAP, cont. page 7



Sara shows a net that collects samples of plankton in the water. Biologists at NHDES are able to see so many organisms with these samples.



The volunteers also collected samples from the tributaries that flow into the lake. The last of the sampling!



These samples will be taken back to the lab at NHDES for more testing. ■

Back to School... Is Your School AHERA Compliant?

As students and faculty return to school this month, make sure your schools' Asbestos Management Plans are up-to-date and in compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), 40 CFR 763, Subpart E. The purpose of AHERA is to ensure that local educational agencies (LEAs) safely manage asbestos containing building materials (ACBM) found in schools, to ensure students, faculty, and the general public are not exposed to asbestos. All public, non-profit private, and charter schools in the State of New Hampshire must:

- Appoint and train a "designated person" to ensure proper implementation of the AHERA requirements.
- Ensure all inspections, reinspections, surveillances, operations and maintenance (O&M) programs, management plans, and response actions are in compliance with all of the AHERA requirements.
- Train maintenance and custodial workers (Two-Hour Asbestos Awareness, additional 14 hours O&M for staff that disturb ACBM less than three square feet or three linear feet).
- Ensure the Asbestos Management Plan is available for inspection.
- Ensure that students, legal guardians, and school staff are notified at least annually about the availability of the Asbestos Management Plan for review.
- Ensure that short-term workers are provided the locations of ACBM so they can avoid contact and disturbance of asbestos.
- Ensure that warning labels are properly posted.

NHDES urges all schools to provide a safe and healthy educational environment. For more information, visit the [Asbestos Management Program webpage](#) or call (603) 271-4555.

Clean Watersheds Needs Survey

NHDES is collecting information on stormwater, nonpoint source (NPS) control and wastewater projects throughout New Hampshire for the 2022 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS). Results of this survey are used by the U.S. Congress and New Hampshire state legislature in their budgeting efforts, including the allocation of federal grant and loan program funds to states.

What is CWNS?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's CWNS is an assessment of the capital costs (needs) required to meet the water quality goals of the Clean Water Act to address water quality and water-quality-related public health concerns. These capital investment needs are reported periodically to Congress for all 50 states and territories. Although survey typically occurs every four years, the last one was completed in 2012, so participation in the 2022 survey is crucial to reflect up to date needs!

Purpose of the CWNS

EPA documents national and state needs in a Report to Congress and is used by Congress and state legislatures in their budgeting efforts, such as the allocation of funds to states through grant and loan programs. These data are also used to help measure environmental progress, contribute to academic research, provide information to the public, and help local and state governments implement water quality programs.

CWNS is the only nationwide survey that collects this type of information to determine appropriate funding!

Survey Scope

The CWNS covers all unfunded project(s) and associated capital costs that address a water quality or water quality-related public health problem existing as of January 1, 2022 or expected to occur within the next 20 years. Projects must be eligible for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to be included in CWNS.

NHDES is collecting data on:

- All three stormwater categories: gray infrastructure, green infrastructure, and general stormwater management.
- One NPS Control category, hydromodification, which includes dam removal and repair, streambank stabilization and more.
- Wastewater projects including facility updates and CSO management.

New Hampshire's Approach

New Hampshire municipalities will be contacted to provide information for all eligible projects through documents such as Capital Improvement Plans, watershed management plans and unfunded grant and loan applications, and other pertinent documents. Municipalities will be contacted by both the NHDES Wastewater Engineering Bureau, who is collecting wastewater data and Comprehensive Environmental, Inc. (CEI), who is collecting stormwater and NPS control data on behalf of the Watershed Management Bureau. To participate in the survey, municipalities are asked to respond to requests for information by both NHDES and CEI.

To better represent New Hampshire's stormwater needs, data from municipalities with documented projects will be used to estimate the funding needs of municipalities without documentation. This EPA-approved approach was used in 2012 to more accurately represent New Hampshire's stormwater needs.

Additionally, as was done during the 2012 CWNS effort, NHDES is leveraging the opportunity to also collect data for stormwater and NPS control projects that are not eligible for CWNS. This includes non-capital costs (such as operation and maintenance) and non-CWSRF eligible projects. The two data sets will be combined and used by the state to report on what NHDES terms "New Hampshire State Stormwater Needs."

For more information, visit the [NHDES CWNS webpage](#). ■

New lead in drinking water levels for schools and child care facilities

On July 8, 2022, Governor Sununu signed [House Bill \(HB\) 1421](#), "Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Licensed Child Care Facilities," which makes several changes to a 2018 law that requires New Hampshire schools and licensed child care facilities to test their drinking water for lead. Most significantly, HB 1421 decreases the allowable level of lead from 15 parts per billion (ppb) to 5 ppb. Under the new law, schools and child care facilities must correct all locations where previous testing results showed lead levels at or above 5 ppb. To support schools and child care facilities in meeting these

requirements, NHDES has launched the Get the Lead Out of Drinking Water Program. The program provides resources and technical support to schools and child care facilities testing for and correcting sources of lead in drinking water. Visit gettheleadoutnh.org for more information. ■



NHDES receives Brownfields funds from EPA

On August 8, 2022, the EPA New England Regional Administrator David W. Cash, along with Congresswoman Annie Kuster, Congressman Chris Pappas, NHDES, and Nashua Mayor Jim Donchess, highlighted \$4 million in Brownfields funds awarded to NHDES and other organizations to assess and cleanup sites across the state. This is part of a greatly increased Brownfields investment in New England this year made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to revitalize communities across the country by cleaning up contaminated and blighted sites and redeveloping them for productive use.



Three regional planning commissions (RPCs), Nashua, Southern New Hampshire and Southwest RPCs, were each awarded \$500,000 in assessment funds to perform investigations of potentially contaminated properties and assist in redevelopment planning and community outreach in their respective communities. NHDES also received a \$2 million assessment grant to address brownfields sites throughout the state. In addition, BRI Development LLC, a nonprofit organization, will receive a \$500,000 cleanup grant to help remediate the former Sinclair Hotel property in Bethlehem.

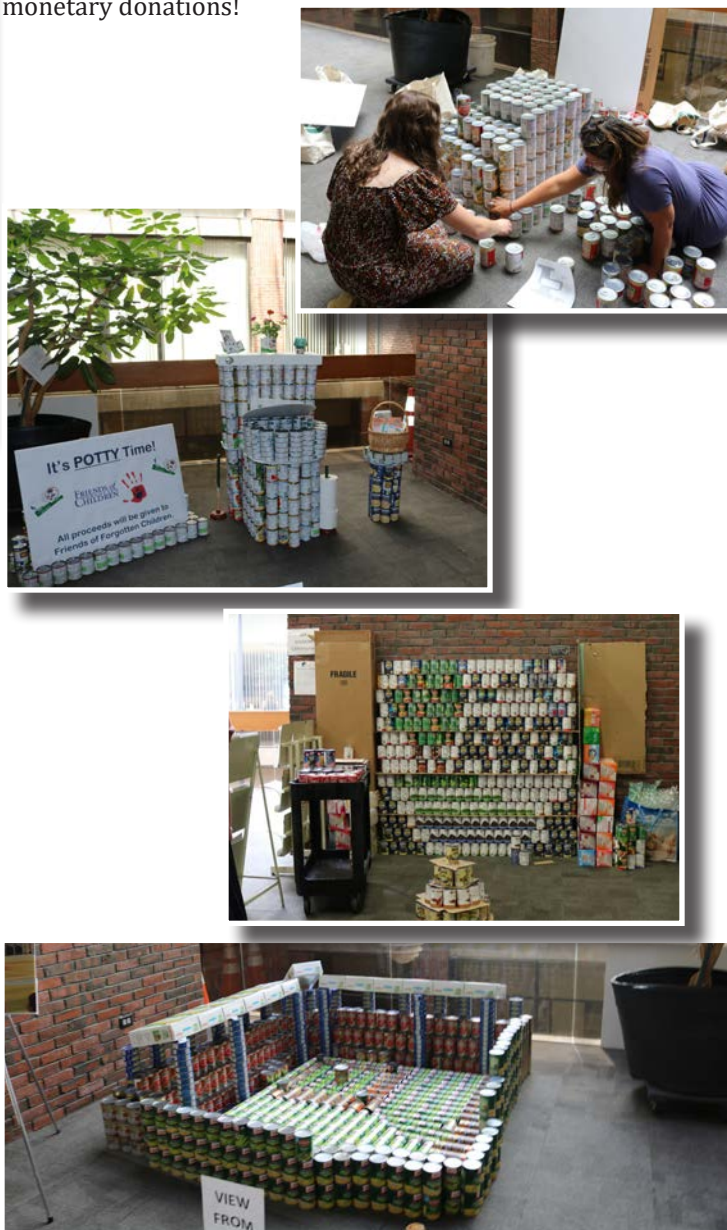
State-wide cleanup funding is also currently available from the NHDES Brownfields Program, which has made at least \$400,000 available for two or more Cleanup Grants and is soliciting applications from interested eligible entities. Individual Grants will be limited to no more than \$200,000 per site. The Cleanup Grants will provide funding to conduct cleanup activities on underutilized and abandoned properties where the redevelopment or reuse is complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance or contaminant. Additional information and applications are available on the [Waste Management and Remediation Grants webpage](#). The deadline for submitting applications is September 15, 2022. ■

NHDES Summer Food Drive

NHDES took its annual summer food drive to a whole new level this year with a CANstruction competition between the agency's four divisions: Waste Management, Water, Air Resources and the Commissioner's Office. In years past, NHDES would encourage and incentivize staff to donate food items and/or money during the summer months. This year, the divisions were asked to take their donated cans and other food items and engineer a 3D sculpture of their choosing.

For one week in August, the four teams took over a section of the NHDES lobby, building up their structures and adding some finishing touches. The finished structures were then on display for all staff, the public and the judges to view before being broken down and donated to the Friendly Kitchen.

In total, NHDES raised about \$4,000 in canned goods and monetary donations!



Throwback Brewery recognized as New Hampshire's first sustainable craft beverage producer

Throwback Brewery in North Hampton has set the bar high for sustainability and this achievement was honored in August as the farm, restaurant and brewery became the first craft beverage producer to be recognized by the New Hampshire Sustainable Craft Beverage Recognition Program.

Founded on the principle of sustainability, the brewery's company policy is "to always strive to improve business operations to lessen the impact on the local and global environment by conserving energy, water and other natural resources, reducing waste generation, recycling, and reducing our use of toxic materials." The brewery saves more than 65,000 gallons of water a year through reuse and is an innovator in treating brewery wastewater on-site. Its 174 solar panels produce 20% to 50% of its electricity needs depending on the season, while preventing 33 metric tons of greenhouse gas from being released into the atmosphere – that's equivalent to planting 2,530 trees! Throwback's commitment to making great food and beer sustainably is shown in all that they do.

NHDES' Pollution Prevention Program, with the help of the New Hampshire Brewers Association, launched the Sustainable Craft Beverage Recognition Program as a way to publicly recognize craft beverage producers who are making sustain-



able choices, preventing pollution and conserving resources, while also encouraging other producers to implement these practices.

CJ Haines, Executive Director of the New Hampshire Brewers Association, commented, "As part of the Sustainable Craft Beverage Program, breweries will be recognized for being proactive in reducing their environmental impact, as well as finding innovative and sound methods of reducing costs. An outcome that is mutually beneficial to both our planet and small businesses."

The recognition program is free, confidential and open to all craft beverage producers interested in implementing sustainable practices. Producers must meet certain sustainability requirements and provide information on an environmental initiative instituted at their business that reduces the amount of water, energy, waste or greenhouse gas emissions it generates.

"We are thrilled that Throwback Brewery will be the first sustainable brewery recognized by the program, since Throwback has worked with our program from the start. They are leaders in environmental excellence and pollution prevention, protecting resources for future generations, and we are excited to recognize them as a member of the New Hampshire Sustainable Craft Beverage Recognition Program," stated Kathy Black, NHDES Pollution Prevention Program Administrator.

For more information about the recognition program and for resources for craft beverage producers, please visit our [Sustainable Craft Beverage webpage](#). ■



2022 Gulf of Maine Council Awards

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment recently announce their award winners for the 2022 Award Ceremony in late July up in Portland, ME. Several New Hampshire residents were recognized, including NHDES' Water Division Director Rene Pelletier.



Rene Pelletier, previous Gulf of Maine Council Chair, was presented with the Distinguished Service Award. The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions toward protecting and conserving natural resources in the Gulf of Maine through their

exceptional service to the Gulf of Maine Council. Rene has provided thoughtful leadership to the Gulf of Maine Council and his insights and expertise helped the council to foster binational relationships and launch initiatives aimed at protecting the natural resources, economy, and communities that define this unique watershed.

Other New Hampshire recipients included, Bryce Stenson, a coastal research volunteer with the New Hampshire Sea Grant Extension Program, was awarded the Longard Volunteer Award. The award, named in memory of Art Longard, a founding member of the Gulf of Maine Council, recognizes volunteer commitment to environmental protection and sustainability within the Gulf of Maine. Bryce embodies the volunteering spirit. Driving an hour to go out into the field throughout the year, he profiles beaches by monitoring changes in elevation, on top of volunteering to monitor rainbow smelt populations. Bryce's extensive contributions are helping communities on the seacoast understand how coastal storms impact them and how they should respond to such conditions.

Gretchen Young, Environmental Projects Manager for the City of Dover, was recognized with a Visionary Award. The Gulf of Maine Council Visionary Awards are presented to individuals or organizations within each of the five Gulf of Maine jurisdictions who display innovation, creativity, and commitment to promoting a healthy Gulf of Maine. Gretchen has helped to reduce pollution from stormwater runoff into the Gulf of Maine. She helped secure funding and resources to improve Dover's stormwater system by partnering with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership to bring residents as well as seven developers and non-profit organizations together to investigate alternative funding strategies that worked for everyone. ■

Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Interconnection Project milestone celebrated

On August 30, project partners, stakeholders and consultants gathered at an event in Plaistow to celebrate the completion of phase 1 of the Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Interconnection Project. Project partners were presented a plaque commemorating the monumental project, including Governor Chris Sununu, State Senator Chuck Morse, NHDES Commissioner Bob Scott, Manchester Water Works, Town of Derry, Town of Windham, Town of Salem,

Town of Plaistow, The Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc., Pennichuck East Utility, Former Plaistow Town Administrator Mark Pearson, State Representative Norm Major, Department of Justice Senior Assistant Attorney General Allen Brooks, From Orr & Reno in Concord, NH Attorney Susan Geiger, Weston & Sampson out of Portsmouth, NH, Underwood Engineers out of Portsmouth, NH, DeFelice (Dracut, MA), HAWSCO/Lewis Builders (Atkinson, NH), Revoli (Franklin, MA), American Excavating (Derry, NH), Northeast Earth Mechanics (Pittsfield, NH), DN Tanks (Wakefield, MA). ■

