

# Cyanobacteria Plan Advisory Committee Meeting 2

**DRAFT** Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2022, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Room 208C, NHDES, 29 Hazen Dr., Concord, NH

## **Members Present**

Kristin Conti  
Doug Darling, Chair  
Scott Decker  
Charles DeCurtis  
Laura Diemer  
Michelle Farnham (online)  
Don Kretchmer  
Abby Mathewson (online)  
Amanda McQuaid (online)  
David Neils  
Tom Shevenell  
Inga Sidor  
Patricia Tarpey  
Michele L. Tremblay

## **Representing**

Drinking Water Suppliers  
Tucker Pond Association  
Fish and Game Department  
The Nature Conservancy  
Environmental Engineers  
NH LAKES  
Environmental Engineers  
NH Department of Health and Human Services  
University of New Hampshire  
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
Volunteer Monitor of Lake Water Quality  
Veterinarians  
Lake Association  
NH Rivers Council

## **Members Absent**

Sara Holland  
Rep. Andrew Renzullo  
Senator Ruth Ward

Lakes Management Advisory Committee  
New Hampshire House of Representatives  
New Hampshire Senate

## **NHDES Staff Present**

Michele Condon  
Ted Diers  
Kate Hastings  
Erin Holmes  
Nisa Marks  
Liz Pelonzi  
Pierce Rigrod

Beach Inspection Program  
Assistant Director of the Water Division  
Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Blooms Program Coordinator  
Watershed Bureau Administrator  
Watershed Coordinator  
Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau  
Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau

## **Guests Present**

Rep. Rosemarie Rung  
Laura Colcord (online)  
Jodi Grimblas  
Andrea LaMoreaux (online)  
Liam O'Rourke

New Hampshire House of Representatives  
Tucker Pond  
NH Association of Realtors  
NH LAKES  
DHHS

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions:** Doug Darling opened the meeting at 9:00 AM. Members and guests introduced themselves.
- 2) **Approval of Oct. 13, 2022 Minutes:** Approval of minutes was deferred to the next meeting, due to problems distributing the draft minutes in time for this meeting.
- 3) **Update on Funds:** David Neils provided an update on the \$30,000 that the legislature allocated to NHDES to support preparing the cyanobacteria plan. NHDES received two bids in response to an RFP to conduct additional stakeholder outreach. Both responses are from committee members, but the committee will not be involved in scoring responses. NHDES is also pursuing a cooperative agreement with UNH to conduct toxin testing for toxins other than microcystin.  
  
Dave also described an RFP being prepared by the NHDES Drinking Water Groundwater Bureau, seeking proposals to do a year of monitoring at two surface water bodies with past cyanobacteria blooms and that are used as a public drinking water supply. The RFP includes preparing a monitoring plan for the Public Water Suppliers using those two waterbodies as drinking water sources.
- 4) **Overview and Discussion of the Current NHDES Cyanobacteria Program:** Kate Hastings gave an overview of the current NHDES Cyanobacteria Program, which response reactively to reports of potential cyanobacteria blooms and issues alerts or health advisories when warranted.
- 5) **Needs Assessment Discussion:** Members discussed needs in the areas of monitoring, coordination, and education/outreach. Members discussed the need for NHDES and/or the legislature to work towards:
  - Implementation of a standardized bloom reporting mechanism.
  - An enhanced system for sample collection/transfer and expansion of locations for sample analysis.
  - Expansion of NHDES staff positions to advance monitoring program capacity and redundancy.
  - Update the advisory framework and notification system to be more understandable and efficient.
  - Implementation of a toxin analysis testing program that assesses bloom toxicity when appropriate to better protect and inform public health.
  - Building targeted outreach and education tools and resources for specific communities of people including:
    - o Volunteers
    - o Veterinarians
    - o Medical professionals
    - o Realtors and renters
    - o Public drinking water suppliers
    - o People with household use of surface waters.

- Create a regular public forum for information sharing between stakeholder groups.

6) **Action Items and Next Meeting:** The next meeting will continue discussion of the needs assessment, focusing on lake management, bloom prevention, and policy and funding needs.

**Doug Darling adjourned the meeting at 12:01.**