

Watershed-Based Plans and In-Lake Treatments

NHDES Current Activities:

Watershed-based plans: NHDES has a variety of programs focused on pollution reduction and prevention, one of which is supporting watershed-based plans. The Watershed Assistance section is a mature program that supports development of watershed-based plans. NHDES administers federal funds and state loans that are provided through a competitive process to applicants. Funding for projects is limited, as is NHDES staff support to administer the projects.

Technical Lake Investigations: Informally, the Biology section intensifies data collection on waterbodies with repetitive cyanobacteria blooms. These data support problem identification and nutrient loading estimates. Current capacity to support such investigations is severely limited and can only support minor efforts on 1-2 waterbodies per year.

In-lake Management: Currently there is no dedicated staff to this effort at NHDES. The biology section has staff with knowledge of these activities, but these staff are otherwise fully obligated to other duties. In-lake management activities will require a permitting mechanism and guidance. These do not currently exist at NHDES.

Questions for the Committee:

Watershed-based Plans:

- 1) What avenues should be pursued to increase the development of watershed plans that address cyanobacteria blooms?
- 2) How should watershed plans be incorporated into the prevention and eventual control of cyanobacteria blooms in New Hampshire?
- 3) What changes are needed to better control the nutrient pollution that causes cyanobacteria blooms?

Technical Lake Investigations:

- 1) How should the need for technical lake investigations be addressed?

In-lake Management:

- 1) Should a new program be established or existing programs refined to address lake management needs?
- 2) Does the committee support the development of an in-lake treatment permitting process?
- 3) How would in-lake treatment be funded?