



PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

and

GRANITE STATE RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and the Granite State Rural Water Association (GSRWA) share the common goals of improving the technical, managerial and financial capability of regulated public drinking water and wastewater treatment systems in the State of New Hampshire.

NHDES was established in January 1987 under the provisions of Chapter 202, Laws of 1986 and brought together programs from four previously separate state agencies that had responsibility for such matters as water and air pollution control, water supply protection, dams and flood control, and waste disposal. Today DES implements these and other programs through a variety of regulatory, compliance assistance and educational efforts. Rural Water has operated in New Hampshire for more than twenty years. In 2005 a state affiliate, Granite State Rural Water Association, was formed to meet the specific needs of its New Hampshire members. GSRWA is a private non-profit corporation run by and for its members. The Association provides technical assistance, onsite training, and support services to water and wastewater systems throughout New Hampshire.

In the past, NHDES and GSRWA have worked cooperatively and in partnership by providing technical assistance and training to hundreds of rural water and wastewater systems throughout New Hampshire, including municipalities, fire districts, schools, condominium associations, mobile home parks, campgrounds, restaurants, and others who provide drinking water and wastewater services to the public. Based upon the successes of prior partnership and cooperative efforts and in an effort to bring greater recognition, effectiveness, structure, and efficiency to future partnership efforts, NHDES and GSRWA hereby enter into this Partnership Agreement. It is anticipated that this Partnership Agreement will result in enhanced communication between NHDES and GSRWA and improved protection of public health and the environment.

The specific areas of cooperation are detailed in the attached work plan, which is the result of discussions between representatives of NHDES and GSRWA. The tasks are nonbinding and voluntary, and can be revised at any time by agreement of both parties.


Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner, NHDES


Kevin Lincoln, President

Date: September 15, 2009

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PARTNERSHIP WORK PLAN

I. Timeframe: This Work Plan shall be for the period from September 15, 2009 to September 15, 2011 and the tasks identified herein shall be implemented pursuant to this work plan, as amended from time to time by mutual written agreement of the parties.

II. Program Areas and Tasks

A. Education, Outreach, and Technical Assistance

1. NHDES will:

- a. Participate in appropriate GSRWA activities (e.g., Annual Membership Meeting, Operator Field Day, Annual Training Needs Symposium, etc.), as resources permit.
- b. Communicate educational goals and partner on specific, mutually beneficial trainings (e.g., Campground Operator Training) for drinking water and wastewater operators.
- c. Provide a link to the GSRWA website on the NHDES website and post GSRWA training opportunities.
- d. Inform water and wastewater systems of the availability of GSRWA's services (e.g., board training, vulnerability assessments, emergency preparedness and security, camera based inspections, leak detection, source water protection, etc.) in an effort to better develop systems' technical, financial, and management capabilities.

2. GSRWA will:

- a. Participate in appropriate NHDES events (e.g., Source Water Protection Conference, Drinking Water Expo, etc.) and partner on specific, mutually beneficial trainings.
- b. Provide a link to the NHDES website on the GSRWA website and post or otherwise inform membership of NHDES training opportunities.
- c. Provide technical assistance and training to augment systems' technical, financial, and managerial capabilities to further progress toward the two organizations' shared goals.

B. Public Drinking Water and Wastewater System Financial Assistance

NHDES and GSRWA will work cooperatively to help small systems access funding opportunities, including annual drinking water and clean water state revolving loan funds, and other available grants and loans.

C. Communication

NHDES will keep GRSWA informed of NHDES activities and goals related to improving the capacity of rural water and wastewater systems. GSRWA will keep NHDES informed of GSRWA activities and goals, as appropriate and acceptable to GSRWA members, and will strive to keep NHDES informed of the challenges and needs of rural drinking water and wastewater systems.

D. Public Drinking Water and Wastewater System Related Rule and Program Changes

NHDES will solicit input from GSRWA on rulemaking and program changes affecting rural water systems via advisory committee participation and other mechanisms and GSRWA will participate as resources and member interest permit.

III. Resources to Implement Partnership Agreement

- A. NHDES will provide staff support to meet the goals of this partnership, subject to budgetary limitations.
- B. GSRWA will provide staff and board time to meet the goals of this partnership, as time and budget permit.