



N H Association of
Conservation Commissions

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

and

NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) share the common goals of environmental education and the protection of the state's natural resources. 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. The Conservation Commission Enabling Act was enacted by the NH General Court in 1963, and is now codified at RSA 36-A. The NH Association of Conservation Commissions was formed in 1970. Today, the NHACC fosters conservation and appropriate use of New Hampshire's natural resources by providing assistance to, and facilitating communication and cooperation among, its member conservation commissions, which currently number 192.

In the past, NHDES and NHACC have worked cooperatively and in partnership on a wide range of matters, including wetlands education and permitting, aquatic resource mitigation, source water protection, designated rivers and shoreland protection. Based upon the successes of prior partnership and cooperative efforts and to bring greater recognition, effectiveness, structure, and efficiency to future partnership efforts, NHDES and NHACC hereby enter into this Partnership Agreement. It is anticipated that this Partnership Agreement will result in enhanced communication between DES and NHACC and improved environmental protection.

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


Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner, NHDES

Date: 11/3/2007


Carol Andrews, Executive Director, NHACC

Date: 11/3/2007

PARTNERSHIP WORK PLAN

- I. Timeframe: This Work Plan shall be for the period from November 3, 2007 to December 31, 2009 and 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 and Outreach
 1. NHDES
 - a. Organize and conduct one or more workshops for the NHACC Annual Conferences in 2008 and 2009.
 - b. Partner with NHACC to conduct educational programs for member commissions on various topics, including innovative land use techniques and watershed planning. These programs shall take advantage of opportunities for distance learning, as available or needed.
 - c. In cooperation with NHACC, provide website content specifically for conservation commissioners, including a link to the NHACC website.
 2. NHACC
 - a. Provide a link to the NHDES website on the NHACC website.
 - b. Assist NHDES with preparation of website content directed to conservation commissioners.
 - c. Partner with NHDES to provide education for conservation commissioners and other local officials through the NHACC newsletter and other programs.
 - d. Identify outreach needs of conservation commissioners and communicate them to NHDES.
 - B. Responsible Growth
 1. NHDES: Through targeted outreach and education, assist conservation commissioners to: (1) understand how to best use available natural resource information in land use and land conservation planning; and (2) be more effective in local land use planning and development project reviews to protect critical natural resources and minimize negative environmental impacts.

2. NHACC: Assist NHDES to better understand the information and technical assistance needs of conservation commissioners to achieve the above. Provide communication venues, through written materials, conferences, and workshops, for NHDES to discuss better land use practices with local conservation commissioners. Encourage local conservation commissioners to engage in local land use planning and project reviews and promote better land use practices.

C. Climate Change

1. NHDES: Provide outreach materials, and explain the use and purpose of the *ENERGY STAR* benchmarking tool to NHACC member commissions.
2. NHACC: Assist NHDES by distributing information and outreach materials for EPA's Community Energy Challenge.

D. Rule and Policy Changes

1. NHDES: Solicit input from NHACC on rulemaking and policy changes.
2. NHACC: Participate in rulemaking and other advisory groups, specifically as requested by NHDES.

III. Resources to Implement Partnership Agreement

A. NHDES will provide staff support to meet the goals of this partnership, subject to budgetary limitations.

B. NHACC will provide staff and board time to meet the goals of this partnership, as time and budget permit.