



**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
and
NEW HAMPSHIRE RIVERS COUNCIL**

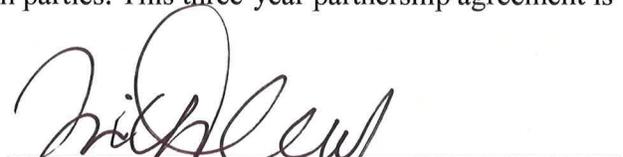
The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) and the New Hampshire Rivers Council (NHRC) share the common goals of environmental education, advocacy and the protection of the state's rivers and watersheds. DES was established in January 1987 under the provisions of Chapter 202, Laws of 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 NHDES New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP) was established in 1988 with the passage of RSA 483 to protect certain rivers, called designated rivers, for their outstanding natural and cultural resources. The Rivers Council began as the New Hampshire Rivers Campaign in 1985, a coalition formed to create a statewide river protection program. Buoyed by passage of the Rivers Management & Protection Act and the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act, and recognizing the need for a statewide rivers organization, the Campaign was incorporated in 1993 as the New Hampshire Rivers Council. Today, the NHRC fosters appropriate use and management of New Hampshire's rivers and watersheds through education, grassroots advocacy and cooperative programs with state agencies and non-profit organizations.

In the past, DES and NHRC have worked cooperatively and in partnership on a wide range of matters, including river, stream and watershed legislation, public education, aquatic resource mitigation, source water protection, designated rivers and shoreland protection. Based upon the successes of the previous Partnership Agreement and other cooperative efforts, and to bring greater recognition, effectiveness, structure, and efficiency to future partnership efforts, DES and NHRC hereby enter into this second Partnership Agreement. It is anticipated that this renewed Partnership Agreement will result in enhanced communication between DES and NHRC and improved environmental protection.

The specific areas of cooperation are detailed in the attached, updated work plan, which is the result of discussions between representatives of DES and NHRC. The tasks are nonbinding and voluntary, and can be revised at any time by agreement of both parties. This three-year partnership agreement is not a legally-enforceable document.


Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner, DES

Date: March 29, 2013


Michèle L. Tremblay, Executive Director, NHRC

Date: March 29, 2013

PARTNERSHIP WORK PLAN

I. Timeframe

This updated Work Plan shall be in effect from the date of signature through December 31, 2015, and shall be implemented as outlined below, as amended from time-to-time by mutual written agreement of the parties.

II. Program Areas and Goals

A. Education, Outreach, and Research

1. DES will:

- a. Organize and conduct one or more presentations for an NHRC Meeting in 2013, 2014 and/or 2015.
- b. Partner with NHRC to conduct educational programs for river and watershed organizations, advocates and the general public on various topics, including the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act, the Rivers Management and Protection Act, aquatic exotic species and other water quality monitoring, and related rivers and watershed planning activities.
- c. Provide, in cooperation with NHRC, website content specifically for river organizations and advocates, including a link to the NHRC website.
- d. Work on science and policy research on river conservation issues in cooperation with NHRC.
- e. Provide, as resources allow, ongoing assistance to monitoring groups participating in the Volunteer River Assessment Program.

2. NHRC will:

- a. Provide a link to the DES website on the NHRC website.
- b. Assist DES with preparation of website, brochure, Power Point and other educational content directed to river and watershed organizations, advocates, and the general public.
- c. Partner with DES to provide education for river and watershed organizations and advocates through conferences, workshops, the NHRC newsletter and other programs.

- d. Provide invasive aquatic plant species identification and monitoring workshops for the volunteer based NHRC's River Runners program, subject to funding from DES.

B. Responsible Growth

1. DES: Through targeted outreach and education, assist river and watershed organizations and advocates to: (1) better use available natural resource information in land use and land conservation planning; and (2) be more effective in land use planning and project reviews to protect critical natural resources and minimize negative environmental impacts.
2. NHRC: Assist DES to better understand the information and technical assistance needs of river and watershed organizations and advocates to achieve the above. Provide communication opportunities, through written materials, conferences, and workshops, for DES to publicize better land use and river management and protection practices.

C. Rule and Policy Changes

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

III. Resources to Implement Partnership Agreement

- A. DES will provide staff support to meet the goals of this partnership, as time and budgets permit.
- B. NHRC will provide staff and board time to meet the goals of this partnership, as time and budgets permit.