



**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
and
NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS**

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) and the New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions (NHARPC) share the common goals of maintaining a high quality of life for all citizens by protecting and restoring the environment and public health in New Hampshire; supporting sustainable economic development locally, regionally, and state-wide; conserving the natural, cultural, and historic resources that characterize all parts of the state of New Hampshire; advocating sound planning at the local, regional and state level; and encouraging the open exchange of information and ideas that relate to broad planning objectives.

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. Currently, DES implements these and other programs through a variety of regulatory, compliance, assistance, and educational efforts.

The New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions is a registered non-profit corporation and a voluntary association comprised of New Hampshire's nine regional planning commissions (RPCs). NHARPC seeks to improve coordination and communication between the nine regional planning commissions in New Hampshire. The regional planning commissions were established in August 1966 under the provisions of Chapter 36 to enable municipalities and counties to join in the formation of regional planning commissions to prepare coordinated plans for the development of a region, taking into account present and future needs with a view toward encouraging the most appropriate use of land, such as for environment, economic development, transportation, public utilities, and housing.

DES and NHARPC hereby enter into this Partnership Agreement. It is anticipated that this Partnership Agreement will result in enhanced communication between DES and NHARPC 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 DES and NHARPC.

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner, DES

Stephen C. Buckley, Chair, NHARPC

Date: _____

Date: _____

PARTNERSHIP WORK PLAN

I. Timeframe: This Work Plan shall be for the period from April 10, 2008 to June 30, 2010 and may be amended from time to time by mutual written agreement of the parties.

II. Program Areas and Tasks

A. Land Use Planning

1. NHDES

- a. Publish the *Innovative Land Use* guide and distribute copies to each planning board in the state.
- b. Organize a session on the *Innovative Land Use* guide at each annual Watershed Conference. Develop additional opportunities for outreach at other conferences and workshops.
- c. Prioritize funding to the regional planning commissions to implement local innovative land use techniques.

2. NHARPC

- a. Provide feedback on the *Innovative Land Use* guide based on direct experience working with municipalities implementing model ordinances and regulations.
- b. Provide speakers for workshops on the ILU guide.
- c. Provide and update a list of municipalities working on particular ordinances and regulations in the ILU guide.

B. Regional Environmental Planning Program

1. NHDES

- a. Meet with the RPC Executive Directors quarterly to discuss REPP work tasks, results, and potential improvements.
- b. Provide NHDES priorities for the 2010-2011 REPP Agreement by January 2009 and present final contract language by April 2009.
- c. Maintain the REPP web site, including the ILU guide and all products produced under the REPP.

2. NHARPC

- a. Place NHDES on the RPC Executive Directors' monthly meeting agendas at least quarterly to discuss REPP work tasks, results, and potential improvements.
- b. Provide REPP work products in electronic and paper formats, along with associated invoices, in a timely manner to facilitate dissemination of REPP products.