March 20, 2019

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
Office of the Governor  
State House  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable Stephen J. Shurtleff  
Speaker of the House  
State House, Room 311  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable Donna Soucy  
Senate President  
State House, Room 302  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable Martha Fuller Clark, Chair  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
State House, Room 103  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable Suzanne Smith, Chair  
House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 305  
Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable Cathryn Harvey, Chair  
House Fish and Game Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 307  
Concord, NH 03301
Pursuant to RSA 233-A:2, IV, I am pleased to present the Public Water Access Advisory Board’s (“PWAAB” or “Board”) 2017 Annual Report. The PWAAB is made up of two members representing the general public and representatives of constituent groups from the following interests: motorized and non-motorized boating, hunting, fishing, rivers, lakes and coastal interests. In addition, it includes representatives from the State agencies that have public water regulation and access responsibilities. It also includes two state senators and two representatives from their bodies’ relevant committees.

The general charge of the PWAAB is to advise, coordinate, monitor, review and recommend as to state agency public water access efforts, including Fish and Game’s statewide public boat access program. It also recommends to Fish and Game priorities for the siting and development of public boat access. See RSA 233-A:2, II.

The Fish and Game Department has a duty to “establish priorities for the siting and development of public boat access areas, based on the demands and needs for different types of public boat access areas and public water bodies . . .”. RSA 233-A:4, I.

This report is organized starting with this general report of the PWAAB, followed by separate individual reports by the member state agencies of the Board as follows:

Office of Strategic Initiatives – Ken Gallager

Department of Environmental Services – Jim Gallagher

Fish & Game Department – Garret Graaskamp

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources – Bill Gegas
RSA 233-A:2, IV requires that the PWAAB’s Annual Report, "shall include a list of existing public access points, and a target date for publication of all access points". That information is found in a number of different sources and media. The most comprehensive source is available on-line through GRANITView, an on-line mapping application, at: https://granitview.unh.edu/ . (Once on this webpage click on the “View Layers” tab at the top of the page, then open [expand] and check the “Cultural Society and Demographic” and “label Features” layer boxes. Within the “Cultural…” layer open and check the box for the nested database titled “Access Sites to Public Waters”. Within the Label Features layer progressively open and check the boxes for the following nested databases: Label Recreation and Label Access Sites to Public Waters. The names of the access sites will appear near the access locations). That information is a product of an ongoing effort by the Office of Strategic Initiatives since the early 1990s to inventory all available public access to the State’s public waters, whether publicly or privately owned, whether they are free or charge a fee, etc.

The Fish & Game Department has published a “New Hampshire Boating & Fishing Public Access Map” since 1999. That map contains a list of, and directions to most publicly owned and operated access sites to the State’s public waters. It has been widely distributed throughout the state including the state highway information centers, state agencies and Fish and Game license agents. The current edition was published in late
2009. The most up to date version is available electronically on the Google Maps platform at: http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/boatfish/index.html. In addition, all of the more than 130 access sites to public waters managed by the Fish & Game Department, as well as many managed by other agencies, are listed with site details at that Department’s website: https://wildlife.state.nh.us/access/documents/access-sites.pdf. Bathymetry (depth) maps of over 400 lakes and ponds, with some showing access sites and information are also found at the Fish and Game website: http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/bathymetry.html. Efforts to update these lists are ongoing.

The DES Coastal Program has also developed a map of public water access facilities in the 17 communities that make up the coastal zone. Their “New Hampshire Coastal Access Map” is available to the public in either hard copy or on the Coastal Program’s website: http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/documents/coastal_access_map.pdf.

Using specific activity and facility filters the DNCR’s Division of Parks and Recreation website offers a “State Park Finder” tool that allows users to narrow down a target list of State Parks, Wayside Areas, and Historic Sites that provide various types of access to public waters: https://www.nhstateparks.org/. The website is also designed to be mobile device friendly eliminating the need for the Division to maintain a separate mobile app.

The ninth edition was recently published. That has an updated listing of “N.H. Public Access Sites” that included sites on 35 of the state’s largest lakes and impoundments.

Much of the Board’s work with regard to advising, monitoring and coordinating state agency public water access efforts, is detailed in the attached reports of the above State agencies. In that regard, the Board and these agencies have been particularly focused on inventorying and prioritizing access on the State’s major lakes and rivers, including all those in the State’s Rivers Management and Protection Program.

At the request of the Office of Energy and Planning (now Office of Strategic Initiatives), the Board has continued its review and updating of the State’s 1991 Public Water Access Plan, focusing on the criteria for the number and types of boat access sites and beaches on lakes and rivers. Since surveys have shown that the public is most interested in access to the State’s largest lakes and rivers, the Board has conducted an individual review of existing general public access at the State’s 35 largest lakes (500 acres or more in size), looking at the adequacy of boating access and swimming access separately for each such water body. Maps of the access sites on each of these lakes are available at: http://www.nh.gov/osi/planning/services/gis/public-access/index.htm. In 2013, the Board also began a process to review the adequacy of river access, identifying 23 major rivers to review. The Board worked with the Local Advisory Committees for those rivers in the Rivers Management and Protection Program to identify existing access sites and determine river stretches where access is inadequate. The Board also worked with OEP to develop customized maps showing existing access sites, dams and other pertinent information.
The Board generally meets every other month, except for the Summer. Its minutes, prior annual reports and other general information can be accessed from the Fish and Game Department website (http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/access/pwaab.html). The Board’s annual field trip in September 2017 visited 9 sites in the south/central part of the State, including Road to Public Waters sites (the program that preceded Fish and Game’s adoption of the statewide public boat access program in 1993), which were in various states of usability.

In addition, in 2017 the Board monitored legislation that concerned or affected public water access. It has also monitored state surplus land disposals, where it has an advisory role to the Department of Transportation and the Council on Resources and Development with regard to the sale or lease of state lands that do, or could, provide public access to the State’s waters.

Thank you for this opportunity for providing information about our Board and its work. If you have any questions or would like further information please do not hesitate to contact me at (603) 695-8641, tquarles@devinemillimet.com or our Board’s secretary, Tanya Haskell at (603) 271-3511, tanya.haskell@wildlife.nh.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Quarles, Jr., Chair
Public Water Access Board

cc: All Board members (by email)
PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by
NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

The role of the Office of Strategic Initiatives (formerly the Office of Energy and Planning) as a member of the Public Water Access Advisory Board (PWAAB) is: 1) to assist in providing information and planning guidance regarding the development of access to New Hampshire’s water bodies, and 2) to provide an up-to-date inventory of the water access sites in New Hampshire.

The Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) provides technical and information support, with an emphasis on providing mapping services using the available Geographic Information System (GIS) information. This information is readily available and can be used by state agencies and the general public to view, create, and disseminate information about public access sites, among other attributes. GRANITView, the most comprehensive public interface for the state’s geographic information system, is the main conduit for making this information available to the public. Additionally, OSI staff has assisted with research and site visits to verify access conditions and information.

In 2017, OSI staff conducted a review of the state’s Road to Public Waters (RTPW) access sites, working with the Department of Fish and Game to compare OSI’s comprehensive inventory of water access sites (“Allsites”) with the original RTPW records housed at Fish and Game.

Throughout the year, OSI continued to maintain the “Allsites” inventory, adding sites and updating info on existing ones as needed, based on input from PWAAB and from OSI field checks. OSI also supplied copies of the inventory to PWAAB members and interested members of the public upon request, in addition to supplying new updates to GRANITView.

PWAAB actively participates in the state’s surplus land review process by making recommendations to the Council on Resources and Development (CORD), which is chaired by OSI’s director. This process ensures PWAAB is able to review surplus land properties and offer comments and recommendations on properties that provide the opportunity to acquire and or enhance public access sites.
Ken Gallagher, principal planner and geographic information system specialist, has represented OEP/OSI on the board since September 2015 and continues to provide key GIS mapping and technical support.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Kenneth R. Gallagher
Principal Planner
During 2017, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) engaged in numerous programs and activities associated with recreational opportunities and public access to the state’s waters; these items are described below. NHDES continues to be active in its efforts to expand and improve public access opportunities across New Hampshire.

**DES Bureaus and Programs that Support Public Access**

**Dam Bureau**
The NHDES Dam Bureau owns and operates 111 dams, and also operates and maintains 100 dams belonging to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHF&G). NHDES provides boating recreational opportunities by regulating the water level of these dam-controlled waterbodies. Many of these dam sites have public access facilities, which require constant maintenance, repairs and enhancements. As part of the operation plans for each of the dams, the opportunity to improve public access is fully evaluated.

**Maintain and Monitor Existing Lease Agreements**
The Bureau owns lake and riverfront parcels on waterbodies across the state, and it leases many of these properties and facilities to several communities and other agencies across the state. NHDES works cooperatively with towns and agencies to provide public access opportunities at these locations: Bow Lake, Strafford; Lovell Lake, Wakefield; Goshen Lake, Goshen; Oliverian Brook Flood Control Impoundment, Benton; Deering Reservoir, Deering; Milton Three Ponds, Milton; and the Waumbek and Rowe sites on the Salmon Falls River, Milton.

**Site Enhancement Projects for Dams and Other Properties**
Due to budget reductions, NHDES did not receive funding for the Site Enhancement program.

**Major Repairs to Existing Dams and Impoundment Structures**

**Childs Bog – Harrisville:** This major reconstruction project to preserve this 155-acre impoundment was initiated in September 2017. The work includes removing the left and right abutment walls and reconstructing new walls with downstream drainage systems. The heights of the abutment walls are also being increased by 2 feet to improve the discharge capacity of the dam. There is a car top boat access site at the project.

**East Washington Dam – Washington:** This project consisted of replacing failing concrete in the outlet works of the dam to maintain this impoundment which includes a small beach that the public accesses. This 3-acre impoundment is located on Beards Brook in the center of the Village of East Washington.

**Mendum’s Pond Dam – Nottingham:** Work finished on the repairs needed to reduce the seepage and internal erosion that was occurring at this dam. The lake was drained beginning after Labor Day 2015, and the work was phased so that refilling of the reservoir was able to begin in November 2016 to restore the lake for the 2017 recreation season. The University of New Hampshire maintains a public boat ramp that is opened during the boating season between the hours of 11:30 AM and 7:00 PM.

**Land Resource Management Programs**
The Wetlands Bureau and Shoreland Program continue to work with permit applicants to ensure that public services are provided whenever a marina is proposed for a lake, a river, or the seacoast. Private
marinas may charge a launch fee that is unregulated by NHDES. The Programs are working with the NHF&G Public Access Program to develop maintenance plans, including schedules and protocols, for various public access sites owned by NHF&G across the State.

In 2017, the Wetlands Bureau and Shoreland Program issued 155 permits related to the installation, repair, maintenance, and access to docks and boat slips. Most of these permits were for private and commercial use; however, the Town of Gilford repaired and stabilized its public dock and NHF&G installed a floating pier at a state owned property adjacent to Umbagog Lake in Cambridge.

Ninety four permits were issued for beach replenishment, regrading, or creation of a perched beach, and six of these permits were for beach projects on public beach sites. The bureau also issued 10 permits to install, repair, or maintain boat ramps/launches for town, state, and commercial ramps that provide access to New Hampshire’s waters. Boat ramps were improved or repaired at many lake and ponds across the state including Mirror Lake in Tuftonboro where the Town’s boat ramp off Governor Wentworth Highway was repaired and upgraded; Kimball Pond Beach in Dunbarton; Lake Winnipesaukee in Gilford where the Town of Gilford repaired the ramp and dock at the Glendale Docking Facility; Umbagog Lake State Park in Cambridge; Pearly Lake in Rindge where the Town of Rindge repaired their boat ramp at 129 Kimball Road; Northwood Lake in Epsom where the existing boat ramp at McCallum’s Boat House was repaired; Bow Lake in Northwood where the Town of Northwood upgraded their boat ramp at 416 Bow Lake Road; Kanasatka Lake in Moultonborough where ruts were repaired in the NHDES-owned boat ramp located at the outlet of the lake; Sunset Lake in Alton where a private boat ramp at 193 Sunset Shore Drive was repaired; and Newfound Lake in Alexandria where the boat ramp at The Ledges at Newfound Lake was repaired. The boat ramp project on Pearly Lake in Rindge included stormwater improvements such as installing porous pavement or rain gardens designed to protect water quality.

Nineteen permits were issued to construct, repair and maintain public use trails. Several of these permits included projects to create, connect, or extend multi-use Greenway Trails along New Hampshire’s rivers and historical sites. For example, a project in the White Mountain National Forest replaced an existing deteriorated boardwalk and pedestrian bridge along Lost Pond Trail with a new elevated boardwalk and viewing platform. Another permit allowed the construction of a trail that would comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for accessibility at the Old Man of the Mountain viewing area and Profile Lake. Several permits were issued to improve public access to New Hampshire’s lakes including one on Newfound Lake at the Grey Rocks Conservation Area in Hebron which also restored habitat and soil, built fishing and seating alcoves, added an observation platform, and created a "no net runoff" facility. Also the Town of Wolfeboro undertook a large project to improve public access to Crescent Lake through repaving, grading, and implementation of stormwater treatment Best Management Practices.

Watershed Management Bureau
The Watershed Management Bureau uses a holistic and integrated approach to achieve clean water goals. Both regulatory and non-regulatory programs work together within the Bureau to integrate science, policy, planning and education to address water quality and quantity, nonpoint source pollution, stormwater, and exotic species. There are over 20 programs and activities within the Bureau several of which contribute to and support public access in New Hampshire.

Clean Vessel Act Program
The New Hampshire Clean Vessel Act (CVA) program is a cooperative effort between the NHDES and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The federal Clean Vessel Act provides funds to states for the construction, renovation, and the operation and maintenance of pumpout/dump services as well as education and
outreach. New Hampshire funding has been applied to the operation of a mobile pumpout service along the coast since 2002. A second mobile pumpout vessel was added in 2015 to service Hampton Harbor specifically. In addition to the mobile services, funding goes toward the repair or construction of new pumpout facilities. These grants have also been used to implement an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) funding program that has assisted marinas in general seasonal upkeep costs since 2006. Program participants ensure existing pumpout resources remain in proper working condition by using O&M reimbursement.

These options are key factors in maintaining a No Discharge Area (NDA) for New Hampshire waters. Federal law prohibits the discharge of treated or untreated boat sewage in water that is designated a NDA. All waters within three miles of the New Hampshire shoreline and the Isles of Shoals are part of the coastal No Discharge Area. Tidal and estuarine waters, including all bays and rivers to the tidal dams, are also incorporated in the coastal NDA. All inland waters are designated as an NDA and New Hampshire also enforces more stringent “no discharge” regulations for inland waters under state law.

Coastal Waters – Two stationary pumpout locations and two mobile pumpout boats are currently available to the recreational boating public along New Hampshire’s coast. Both stationary facilities have taken part in CVA funds at one point either for initial installation or seasonal repairs. One of the two marina locations (Great Bay Marine in Newington) was awarded 2017 CVA Operation and Maintenance funding for their stationary pumpout unit. One stationary facility that was out of order for the 2017 season has expressed an interest in replacing that stationary facility. A grant to provide funds for this replacement is currently pending.

The mobile pumpout services receive CVA funding through multi-year contracts. Since 2002, approximately 170,000 gallons of sewage have been removed from recreational boats through the use of the mobile pumpout services. During 2017, a mobile pumpout vessel operated in Hampton Harbor from May through October and a state-owned mobile pumpout vessel operated in all other coastal waters from May through November. The two services documented 1,210 captain hours, about 763 serviced boats, and the proper disposal of an estimated 14,018 gallons of sewage/wastewater. The popularity and effectiveness of the mobile pumpouts have been evident in the consistency in numbers of boats using the service and wastewater pumped since the program’s implementation. Seasonal activity within the recreational boating community varies from year to year depending on economic and weather conditions.

Inland Waters – New Hampshire has approximately 19 pump/dump facilities with 17 (13 of which are public access) devoted to Lake Winnipesaukee and one public facility on Lake Winnisquam. A public dump station is located within Sunapee Harbor on Lake Sunapee. Approximately 50% of the available pump/dump facilities have taken part in CVA funding at one point or another either for initial installation or seasonal repairs. Four marinas on Lake Winnipesaukee were awarded 2017 CVA Operation and Maintenance funding for their stationary pumpout units.

Promotion of proper boating practices and the No Discharge Area designation was continued in 2017 by conducting inspections of vessels with onboard plumbing, such as a marine sanitation device (MSD), that operate on inland waters. No marine toilet, sink, or shower on any boat operated upon fresh waters of the state shall be so constructed or operated as to discharge graywater or sewage (whether it’s treated or not) per RSA 487:2-3. The 2017 season boat inspections were done on Lake Winnipesaukee on ten separate events.
The CVA program anticipates funding construction, renovation, and maintenance of systems as necessary in 2018. Education and outreach to marinas, pumpout/dump stations, and the boater community in general will continue both for inland and coastal waters.

**Boat Inspection Program**
Promotion of proper boating practices and enforcement of the No Discharge Area designation was continued in 2017 by conducting inspections of vessels with onboard marine sanitation devices (MSD) that operate on inland waters. No marine toilet, sink or shower on any boat operated upon fresh waters of the state shall be so constructed or operated as to discharge graywater or sewage (whether it’s treated or not) per RSA 487:2-3.

The 2017 season boat inspections were done on Lake Winnipesaukee on ten separate events. The goal in 2017 was for inspections to occur once a week from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

**Public Beach Inspection Program (PBIP)**
PBIP personnel collect water from coastal and freshwater beaches to test for fecal bacteria to protect the public health of swimmers. During the summer swim season, NHDES personnel monitor about 170 freshwater public bathing beaches on a monthly basis and 16 coastal beaches on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. When bacteria counts at designated public beaches are higher than the state criteria, an advisory is issued to notify the public approximately 24 hours after sampling.

**Coastal Beach Program**
The coastal beach program of the NHDES Public Beach Inspection Program is a federally funded program that provides resources for coastal beach research and monitoring. NHDES inspected 16 coastal public swimming beaches in 2017. During the swim season, Memorial Day through Labor Day, six beaches were inspected twice weekly, four were inspected weekly, and six beaches were sampled twice a month according to a tiered monitoring assessment. In 2015, the summer sampling frequency was reduced from weekly to twice a month at both Sawyer Beach and Seabrook Town Beach because both had been removed from the 303(d) impaired list in the most recent NHDES report to EPA. The tiered monitoring assessment remained unchanged in 2017.

Staff members conducted 266 inspections and collected 842 samples plus 82 field duplicates for a total of 924 Enterococci analyses during the 2017 swim season. The 2017 swim season in New Hampshire was 95 days long, translating into 1,520 beach days collectively for all 16 beaches. There was an increase in the number of samples exceeding the state standard of 104 MPN/100ml for Enterococci. Bacteria results from coastal beach inspections resulted in one or more advisories from seven of the 16 coastal beaches. There were 21 total advisory days (1.38 % of swimming days) in 2017 compared to only six total advisory days (0.36 % of swimming days) in 2016. The only beach to issue coastal advisories in 2016 was North Hampton State Beach. In 2017, there were nine total coastal beach advisories issued at Bass Beach, Foss Beach, North Beach, North Hampton State Beach, Wallis Sands State Park, Wallis Sands Beach at Wallis Rd. and New Castle Town Beach. Three of the beaches are state parks. New Castle Town Beach had the most advisories with three separate advisories lasting a total of seven beach days. The mean length of advisory days was 2.3 days. Additionally, the NHDES Beach Program sampled an outlet (twice weekly during the swim season or 28 scheduled visits) from a creek to the popular swimming beach, Wallis Sands, in order to better understand the source of bacteria for this particular beach. Despite the apparent increase in advisories, over 98 % of coastal beach samples were considered “clean” falling below the state criteria. There are 16 short reports available on the [NHDES OneStop database](https://www.nhdes.state.nh.us) for each coastal beach monitored in 2017.
All 16 coastal beaches are accessible to the general public. All five state beaches have parking fees as do the beaches in Hampton and Seabrook Harbor. New Castle town beach charges all visitors an entrance fee. The remaining coastal beaches have parking areas for residents near the beach, but public parking is available in most areas of the coast.

Freshwater Beach Program
The goal of the freshwater beach program is to inspect each beach in the program three times between Memorial Day and Labor Day. In 2017, freshwater beaches were inspected by the Public Bathing Beach Inspection Program from June 5 to August 25. The Beach Program inspects about 170 freshwater (town, state, federal and private association beaches), plus nearly 30 New Hampshire beaches are sampled by other agencies and municipalities and reported to NHDES. During 2017, 593 beach inspections were conducted by NHDES and 162 were inspected by others for a total of 755 beach inspections of New Hampshire freshwater beaches. A total of 1,762 E. coli samples (plus 179 field duplicates) were collected and reported by the Beach Program. In addition to monthly sampling, two beaches (Weirs Beach of Laconia and Pawtuckaway State Park Beach of Nottingham) were sampled 4 times per week to be analyzed for a beach modeling assessment with the Department of Public Health and Human Services, DHHS. Samples were analyzed by the New Hampshire state laboratory and outside labs also reported to NHDES. In 2017, 224 E. coli samples exceeded the state standards, resulting in the issuance of 82 freshwater beach advisories. This is an increase of 3 advisories from the summer of 2016, with the highest number of bacteria advisories issued during the swim season since 2003. Most advisories only lasted 2 days due to efficient resampling and reporting turnover. To see result details for each beach in 2017, there are 199 short reports available on the NHDES OneStop database for freshwater beaches monitored.

The Beach Program also implements visual surveillance for cyanobacteria blooms per beach inspection. Since 2003, NHDES has issued cyanobacteria lake warnings if a bloom occurs at a beach, far away from a beach, or on a lake without a public beach. With close to 170 beaches monitored each month, nearly 500 total routine beach observations for cyanobacteria were conducted in the 2017 swim season. During routine inspections, only 1 % of these beaches had visible cyanobacteria occurring. There were an additional 175 samples observed by NHDES for cyanobacteria due to public complaints. Over 70 % of samples were confirmed to contain cyanobacteria. In 2017, there were 19 cyanobacteria advisories and lake warnings or about 15 % of samples requiring warnings between May 30 and October 6 of 2017. This season had the highest number of reported blooms (exceeding the 70,000 cells/ml threshold) on record probably due to increased public awareness. The earliest reported bloom was May 31, 2017 and the latest reported bloom was November 27, 2017. The average length of an advisory was 16 days, with 5 days as the shortest and 72 days as the longest # of days for the lake warnings. Anabaena circinalis (Dolichospermum) was the most common type of cyanobacteria observed by NHDES. Silver Lake of Hollis had a bloom almost the entire swim season. Silver Lake (Hollis) and Long Pond (Pelham) had two separate lake warning or advisory events, also requiring beach advisories for cyanobacteria (Silver Lake State Park Beach and Pelham Town Beach). Province Lake (Effingham) and Lake Waukewan (Meredith) had significant cyanobacteria blooms observed outside the swim season (extended to October 6) and therefore no warnings were issued. Blooms reported from public water systems were observed and response protocols for surface drinking water are in development in conjunction with the NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau. Cyanobacteria and harmful algal bloom monitoring efforts continue to develop with the NHDES Public Beach Inspection Program.

There are nearly 200 freshwater beaches sampled in New Hampshire between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Of those, there are close to 175 beaches sampled by NHDES staff, while some town and private beaches report results to NHDES. Of the town and private beaches that are sampled by NHDES staff, 102
limit entry to residents and guests only. Seven of the beaches charge entry fees to everyone and seven are for campers only. Only 38 of 175 private and town beaches sampled by NHDES allow unrestricted access to the swimming areas. Another 21 state beaches charge a daily fee.

**Exotic Species Program**

The exotic aquatic species program inspected 87 waterbodies in 2017 (several of them multiple times) for exotic plant species infestations. It anticipates conducting at least the same number lake inspections in 2018 for waterbodies with a high potential for exotic species infestations. The total number of management actions for exotic plant control in 2017 included hand pulling 18 times, suction harvest 37 times, and herbicide 2, 4-D 27 times.

The Exotic Species Program tracked 88 infested waterbodies in 2017, with 108 total infestations. There was one new infestation discovered in 2017. Most infestations of invasive aquatic plants in New Hampshire are variable milfoil. No zebra mussels have yet been reported in New Hampshire, but the Asian Clam has been documented in the Merrimack River, Long Pond in Pelham, Cobbets Pond in Windham and Wash Pond in Sandown in the past, and in 2017 new infestations were confirmed in Beaver Lake in Derry and in Great Pond in Kingston.

**Milfoil Control Funds**

NHDES provided milfoil grants (at the 30% match level) to 41 organizations to control the growth of exotic aquatic plants in 2017. Control projects included a mix of diver hand removal, diver-assisted suction harvesting and herbicide treatment. Some benthic barrier placement was also conducted.

**Milfoil and Other Exotic Plants Prevention and Research Fund**

No research grants were awarded in 2017 due to lack of formal submission of proposals.

**Public Education and Outreach**

NHDES distributed numerous boat launch signs and educational pamphlets throughout the state, including a new publication promoting a message of Clean, Drain and Dry. There are more than 500 volunteer Weed Watchers across the state working in cooperation with NHDES on more than 300 waterbodies.

**Management of Exotic Species**

Control activities funded with grants included a mix of non-chemical and chemical controls. Additionally, NHDES staff performed numerous diver and diver assisted suction harvesting activities on various waterbodies across the state.

**Mercury in Fish Program**

The NHDES Jody Connor Limnology Center (JCLC) organizes a fish tissue analysis program for both state and national fish tissue studies. Fish tissue is processed and analyzed for mercury content by the JCLC. In 2017, approximately 50 fish were analyzed as part of NHDES long term mercury in fish tissue monitoring program. As part of this program up to two lakes, from a repetitive ten lake rotation, are sampled annually with the hope of tracking mercury in fish tissue trends over time. In addition, fish are submitted by the general public for analysis from around the state.

JCLC plays a critical role in the state’s mercury in fish tissue study program. NHDES is responsible for organizing the collection of fish specimens for state and national fish tissue studies. All data collected in this program are used to support both state-wide advisories as well as individual lake advisories for human fish consumption. Fish are collected by VLAP volunteers using traditional fishing methods, by
NHDES and NHF&G staff using fish electroshock boats during the summer months, and at ice fishing tournaments during the winter. The number of fish collected and processed by JCLC over the past several years has ranged from a high of 341 in 2015 to a low of 42 in 2010. The number of fish processed in 2017 was 66.

The data are used to conduct risk assessments for mercury exposure for the game fish-consuming public. This risk assessment results in statewide and, if appropriate, waterbody-specific fish consumption advisories for various species of fish. The data are also used to track trends over time in the mercury content in fish tissue. A summary report was initiated in 2015 and was finalized in 2017. The report includes data from 1992 through 2016. For the most current information regarding the consumption of freshwater fish, please visit the NHDES Health Risk Assessment webpage at: http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/pehb/ehs/hrap/index.htm

Biomonitoring Program

In 2017, the biomonitoring program assisted other Watershed Management Bureau (WMB) staff with deployment and retrieval of 19 water temperature loggers and completing water quality monitoring at 40 trend monitoring sites and 20 synoptic monitoring sites between May and October. At 38 of these locations (28 trend, 10 synoptic), biomonitoring staff were responsible for coordinating the collection of macroinvertebrate data. With assistance from WMB staff, rock baskets were deployed and retrieved approximately 8 weeks later. Collection of fish data occurred at 79 locations (5 trend, 33 synoptic, 41 special project).

For the fourth consecutive year, NHDES and the NHF&G worked cooperatively to complete fish surveys at several trend sites. The biomonitoring program also assisted NHF&G with Eastern Brook Trout surveys.

The biomonitoring program is currently drafting a report summarizing a probability-based assessment of the state’s wadeable rivers and streams. It is anticipated that the final report will be ready for inclusion with New Hampshire’s 2018 303(d) water quality assessment report to USEPA.

Biomonitoring program efforts included in this report summarize the collection macroinvertebrate and fish data satisfying trend, synoptic and probability-based monitoring efforts. In 2017, biological monitoring included 118 macroinvertebrate samples (42 sample sites) and 78 fish samples, resulting in the generation of almost 39,000 combined data points. The number of macroinvertebrate data records is an estimate based on the average number of macroinvertebrates per sample collected from 2000-2013. Actual data will be available in mid-2018.

Fish identification data quality control measures relied on having an expert fish taxonomist on site during sampling. Any unknown species were documented with photos or retained for laboratory analysis and further consultation with other state agencies and partners. Several samples were preserved for laboratory identification in 2017, including common white suckers, longnose suckers and common shiners from several sites.

All field data are reviewed for quality assurance and entered into the biomonitoring program’s Ecological Data Application System (EDAS) database. Additional data checks for completeness and accuracy are performed prior to uploading data to the NHDES Environmental Monitoring Database and later to the Environmental Protection Agency’s Water Quality Exchange Database.

Surface Water Quality Assessments and Probabilistic-Based Sampling
The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to develop and adopt surface water quality standards that include designated uses for all surface waters, criteria to support the designated uses and an antidegradation policy. Designated uses are human uses of surface waters that are considered desirable and should be protected. Every two years NHDES must submit to EPA for approval a list of all impaired waters for which a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study is needed, commonly called the 303(d) List. EPA partially approved the 2014 303(d) list on March 16, 2018. The most recent submitted 303(d) List was for the 2016 assessment cycle on November 30, 2017.

Water Quality Monitoring of Rivers
Since site-specific water quality assessments tend to focus on rivers and streams with known problems, the results of the assessments are not indicative of water quality statewide with respect to designated uses, including “primary contact recreation” (i.e. swimming) and “aquatic life.” To create a broader picture of water quality in the state’s rivers for those designated uses, NHDES also conducted a probabilistic assessment of wadeable streams having a watershed area of greater than 2 square miles which was used for the 2016 water quality assessment report. In other words, streams were randomly sampled between 2013 and 2017 to make inferences about the water quality of all New Hampshire’s streams. The assessment found that by stream miles, 59.2 percent supported the “aquatic life” designated use and 18.1 percent did not, while NHDES was unable to assess the remaining 22.7 percent. The assessment found that by stream miles, 70.3 percent supported the “primary contact recreation” (i.e. swimming) designated use and 7.0 percent did not, while NHDES was unable to assess the remaining 22.7 percent.

Lake Assessment and Probabilistic-Based Sampling
As part of the Lake Tropic Survey Program (LTSP) a total of 30 lakes were sampled in 2017 (10 from those selected in 2017; 10 from the 2016 selection; 10 from the 2015 selection. In 2017 the LTSP reported on lakes that were selected in 2014. The reports have been completely revamped and are being made available on both the NHDES Lake Water Quality Reports website and the Lake Information Mapper. Additionally in 2017 LTSP participated in EPA’s National Lakes Assessment (NLA) by sampling eleven randomly selected waterbodies in New Hampshire. Over the next three years the LTSP will conduct state intensification sampling based on the NLA draw that will entail sampling 39 waterbodies beyond the eleven selected in order to conduct a probabilistic assessment of New Hampshire lakes and ponds. For 2017, the LTSP sampled six of these intensification waterbodies.

Water Quality Monitoring of Lakes
The probabilistic sampling of New Hampshire lakes was completed in 2009 and the evaluation of that data in terms of supporting designated uses was used for the 2016 water quality assessment report. Fifty lakes out of a sample set of 1,004 lakes greater than ten acres were sampled. The results showed that over 95% of the lakes supported the “primary contact recreation” (i.e. swimming) use. All lakes supported the swimming use based on bacteria; the non-support lakes were due to elevated chlorophyll (planktonic algae) levels or the presence of a cyanobacteria scum. All lakes fully supported the secondary contact (i.e. boating) use. Less than 4% of the lakes fully supported the “aquatic life” use. Lakes did not support “aquatic life” use for a variety of reasons, and a given lake could be impaired for multiple reasons. Low pH values were the main cause for non-support (84%), followed by nutrients as represented by chlorophyll and total phosphorus (56%). Many of the lakes sampled had public access facilities.

Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP)
During 2017, 446 individual sampling events were conducted at a total of 180 lakes and ponds by 500 volunteers and VLAP biologists, including 180 lake deep spot stations and approximately 500
river/stream stations which feed these lakes. VLAP generated 15,102 total sample results requiring approximately 3,600 hours of sampling time. By sampling a lake several times each year over a period of years, long-term water quality trends can be discerned. The sampling efforts of the volunteer monitors supplement the significantly reduced sampling and assessment efforts of NHDES, saving the state personnel and travel costs estimated at $88,000 during 2017. Only through the help of volunteer monitors can such a volume of sampling be accomplished throughout the state, providing data on the cleanliness of New Hampshire’s lakes for swimmers and boaters.

**Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP)**
During 2017, the VRAP supported 33 volunteer groups who monitored water quality at 229 river and stream stations monitored across 3,000 miles of streams. VRAP volunteers collected 7,152 field and laboratory parameters taking approximately 1,500 hours of volunteer time. The majority of these data will be used for the 2017 305(b)/303(d) water quality report. For many of the VRAP rivers and tributaries, the volunteers provide NHDES with its only source of water quality data. As with the VLAP, the VRAP volunteers provide the agency with high quality data while saving the state significant expense, estimated at a value of approximately $30,000 in 2017.

**Rivers and Lakes Management and Protection Programs**
The Rivers and Lakes Management and Protection Programs provide a mechanism for public recognition and management of important state waterbodies along with the development and implementation of statewide surface water management policies, including public access. Work conducted by staff and over 200 volunteers protects the state’s surface waters for the benefit of residents, visitors, and wildlife.

In 2017, Local River Management Advisory Committee (LAC) volunteers reviewed 186 permit applications to ensure that water quality and habitat in the state’s designated rivers would be maintained or enhanced by the projects proposed. Among the comments frequently submitted on these applications are requests to add or improve the public’s access to rivers or the lakes through which they flow. One project supported by the LACs conducted maintenance on the boat ramp on Franklin Pierce Lake through which the designated North Branch of the Contoocook River flows. Other permits included projects such as the one to create a multiuse Greenway trail along the designated Merrimack River in Concord.

Rivers and Lakes Program staff provided the PWAAB with information specific to proposed waterfront state surplus land disposals and worked with state agencies in support of state access sites. Among this work was the coordination of water quality data collection to determine the impact of heavy recreational use of the beach and waters adjacent to the Ossipee Lake Natural Area.

During 2017, the New Hampshire Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), the New Hampshire Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC), and LACs reviewed many proposed surplus land disposals, including sales, leases, and utility easements, of state owned property near rivers and streams to ensure that public access would be maintained or improved. Of significance were the sale of 1.59 acres on Mascoma Lake to the Town of Enfield and the lease of 25 acres along the Gale River in Sugar Hill, incorporating the entirety of Coffin Pond, to Sugar Hill for continued recreational use of the pond and surrounding property. Both disposals were approved on the condition that full public access would be maintained, and not restricted to town residents. The Connecticut River Headwaters LAC supported an easement for the installation of a water line along the North Stafford-Beecher Falls Branch Rail Trail adjacent to the Connecticut River in Stewartstown where construction would be done during a period of low use of the trail.
Finally, both the RMAC and LMAC track legislation relating to public access to, and use of, the state’s surface waters. The RMAC submitted a letter of support on House Bill 195, establishing a committee to study temporary seasonal docks, and both committees followed two other bills relating to docks.

**New Hampshire Coastal Program**

**Beach Cleanups**

In 2017, the NHDES Coastal Program supported the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation’s beach cleanup programs, including the Adopt-a-Beach Program, the annual New Hampshire Coastal Clean Up and opportunistic cleanups conducted with local businesses, schools and project partners. With Coastal Program grant funds, the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation achieved the following:

During the Adopt-a-Beach Program, project staff and volunteers conducted 160 beach cleanups in New Hampshire. This involved 2,219 volunteers who removed 5,437 pounds of litter from New Hampshire beaches. In total, adult volunteers dedicated more than 2,200 volunteer hours in cleaning beaches, plus an additional 1,535 hours in travel time. There were an additional 443 hours dedicated by volunteers under the age of 18. Over 41,000 pieces of litter were recorded.

During the 2017 New Hampshire Coastal Cleanup, 913 volunteers cleaned 14 miles of coastline and removed 1,841 pounds of litter, with a total of 33,220 pieces of litter recorded. This year’s data card was updated to include microplastics, plastics between 1-5mm in size. They can include fragments of larger plastics such as bottles, films from straw wrappers, pieces of foam, and filaments of rope or synthetic fibers. Plastic fragments and foams were the predominant form of microplastic pollution encountered during the 2017 Coastal Cleanup with a total of 7,721 tiny pieces collected.
The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department’s “Statewide Public Boat Access Program” focus is to provide fair, adequate and reasonable public access to the State's waters. Funding for the program primarily comes from two sources: 1) A five-dollar surcharge placed on New Hampshire boat registrations; where this five–dollar surcharge and any other public access funds donated to the State are placed in a non-lapsing, continually appropriated, statewide public boat access fund; and, 2) the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program, which collects excise taxes placed on sport fishing equipment, trolling motors, flashers, motorboat fuels, and import duties on tackle, pleasure boats and yachts. When a state accepts Federal Sport Fish Restoration Funds, it must use at least 15 percent of these monies for boating access projects. Federal boating access funds may be spent on the acquisition of land to develop new access facilities, or to renovate and improve existing facilities. Renovations and improvements may include items such as launching ramps, docks, fueling stations, buoys, retaining walls, parking lots, utilities and restrooms. Projects that help expedite access to open water may also be funded, including; channel improvements, vegetation clearance and the installation of navigational aids.

The Department uses the aforementioned funds to carry out the provisions of the Statewide Public Boat Access Program established under RSA 233-A. This statute directs the Department to acquire lands, construct, refurbish, maintain, operate, enforce and inspect new and existing public boat access facilities. During calendar year 2017, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department continued its work to expand and improve public access to State
waters. This report, as required under RSA 233-A:10, includes a summary of the Statewide Public Boat Access Program activities undertaken in 2017.

**LAND LEASE PROGRAM**

This program is designed to provide Department assistance to landowners who enter into a lease agreement with the Department and agree that the facility will remain open for public use for the life of the capital improvements. In return, the Department agrees to design, construct, operate, maintain, manage, inspect and/or enforce regulations pertaining to these public water access sites, or any combination of the aforementioned services. Access facilities that qualify for the program will be under control of the Department and will be operated as a Department facility for the life of the capital improvements.

The primary benefit of this program is that the public will enjoy increased boating and fishing opportunities, while the Department reduces its cost by not having to purchase land. The money that is saved can then be used towards additional construction projects and maintenance of existing facilities. Conversely, a participating town receives the benefit from a new access site, or an existing site repaired, with funds through the Statewide Public Boat Access Program.

Two towns are currently participating in the lease program. The Department is leasing the boat access facility on the Connecticut River in the town of Orford and the Webster Lake boat access facility in the City of Franklin. The Town of Hillsboro approached the Department about a joint venture to refurbish the boat ramp at Manahan Park on Franklin Pierce Lake. The Department declined the opportunity because of budgetary commitments to existing major projects and the Town was bequeathed substantial funds from the Manahan Estate to maintain Manahan Park and the park’s trailered-boat ramp, subject to the facility and amenities remaining open to the general public in perpetuity.

**ICE DAMAGE REMEDIATION**

In 2017, the Department continued to monitor the problems of winter ice-damage to Fish and Game boat ramps. Since New Hampshire waters are subject to a freeze up each winter, some ponds and lakes are susceptible to boat ramp damage caused by the horizontal and vertical forces exerted from these ice loads. The damage is mostly confined to the
concrete planks ("logs") used in the boat ramp design, and can be so severe that it renders a ramp inoperable the following spring. This damage requires the Department to prematurely replace these ramps. At this point all ramps with the newer design have held up well to forces from ice movement.

**POWER LOADING**

The Department is constructing longer and deeper ramps, where allowed under the wetlands rules, to deter the damage caused by loading and unloading boats from a trailer while under power, commonly referred to as “power loading”. In recent years power loading related damage has been repaired at Lake Winnipesaukee (interim ramp extension 2016, Downing’s Landing, Alton), Baxter Lake (2013, Rochester), Beaver Lake (2012, Derry) and Umbagog Lake (2010, Cambridge). These sites will be monitored to evaluate the success of the repairs. To this point the ramps have held up well. In the meantime, the Department will continue its ongoing education program to alert the public to the damage caused by loading a boat onto a trailer under power. Press releases, as well as signage at boat ramps are part of a program that alerts the public to the problem and asks for their cooperation.
LAKE HOST PROGRAM

Beginning in the summer of 2001, the Department has collaborated with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NHLAKES) with a “Lake Host Program”. A total of 22 NH Fish and Game Department facilities were covered in the program in 2017 (Table 1), down from 23 in 2016. Coverage was supplied by members of a lake association, or other interested third-party, under the auspices of the NHLAKES.

Table 1: 2017 Lake Host Program Monitoring at NHFG Department Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Lake Host Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Androscoggin</td>
<td>Errol</td>
<td>Town of Errol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River</td>
<td>Derry</td>
<td>Beaver Lake Improvement Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver Lake</td>
<td>Loudon</td>
<td>Clough Pond Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clough Pond</td>
<td>Enfield</td>
<td>Crystal Lake Improvement Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Lake</td>
<td>Grantham</td>
<td>Eastman Community Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastman Lake</td>
<td>Dunbarton</td>
<td>Town of Dunbarton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorham Pond</td>
<td>Northwood</td>
<td>Jenness Pond Shoreowners Assn., Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenness Pond</td>
<td>Brookline</td>
<td>Town of Brookline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Potanipo</td>
<td>Piermont</td>
<td>Lake Tarleton Assn., Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Tarleton</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>Town of Errol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Umbagog</td>
<td>Alstead</td>
<td>Lake Warren Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Winnisquam</td>
<td>Laconia</td>
<td>Lake Winnisquam Watershed Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrymeeting Lake</td>
<td>New Durham</td>
<td>Merrymeeting Lake Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newfound Lake</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>Newfound Lake Region Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pawtuckaway Lake</td>
<td>Nottingham</td>
<td>Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant Lake</td>
<td>Deerfield/Northwood</td>
<td>Pleasant Lake Assn. of Deerfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powwow Pond</td>
<td>Kingston</td>
<td>Powwow Pond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand Pond</td>
<td>Lempster/Marlow</td>
<td>Sand Pond Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squam Lake</td>
<td>Holderness</td>
<td>Squam Lakes Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stinson Lake</td>
<td>Rumney</td>
<td>Stinson Lake Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swain’s Lake</td>
<td>Barrington</td>
<td>Swains Lake Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webster Lake</td>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Webster Lake Assn.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The intent of the program is to educate boaters about exotic invasive aquatic plants and their accidental introductions into State waters by boaters. There is always the potential for invasive aquatic plant fragments to travel from lake to lake by being attached to fishing equipment, boat trailers, boats and their motors. Lake Hosts educate boaters and anglers on the proper way to inspect their equipment where plant fragments tend to collect. In addition,
anglers and boaters are taught how to properly dispose of invasive plant fragments so that accidental introductions can be prevented. The Lake Host Volunteer Program reaches thousands of boaters and anglers and will continue through the 2018 boating season.

**LAND ACQUISITION**

Each year, the Department receives offers and suggestions to purchase lands fronting public waters, as well as requests to address ownership issues associated with existing State-owned properties. In addition, the Department reviews State surplus land proposals, ensuring that State lands that harbor water access potential are not disposed of by the State. The parcels that have satisfactory conditions to capably provide public water access are transferred to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and are assimilated into the program for public use.

Each land offer requires staff to devote time to assess their access potential. Those properties that can provide opportunities to enhance water access, while meeting the legal, environmental, engineering and regulatory standards, are purchased for subsequent public access activities. In 2017, three property acquisition opportunities were in the queue of which two are on-going from previous years and require action and decisions by third-parties if they are to move forward (Table 2).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body</th>
<th>City/Town</th>
<th>Access Type</th>
<th>Project Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elbow Pond</td>
<td>Andover</td>
<td>Carry-in Cartop; 8 acres +/-</td>
<td>2015 August- Inquiry by current owner (Jim Emerson) of NHFG's interest to acquire his property for water access facility. 2015 September- Site visit made with Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust. NHFG's Land's Team preliminarily supports contributing funds to purchase easement or fee ownership. ASLPT is taking the lead in finding more donors. 2016-2017- ASLPT continues to pursue donors to move this project forward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin Pierce Lake</td>
<td>Hillsboro</td>
<td>Trailered Boat Ramp</td>
<td>The Town of Hillsboro approached the Department about a joint venture to refurbish the boat ramp at Manahan Park on Franklin Pierce Lake. The Department declined the opportunity because of budgetary commitments to existing major projects. The Town was bequeathed substantial funds from the Manahan Estate to maintain Manahan Park and the park’s trailered-boat ramp, subject to the facility and amenities remaining open to the general public in perpetuity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Success Pond</td>
<td>Success</td>
<td>Trailered Boat Ramp</td>
<td>2017- The Conservation Fund organization (TCF) has not completed its work to secure the overall conservation project that includes this ramp property. This must be done before NHFG can purchase and take control of the ramp area from TCF.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROGRAMMATIC, LEGAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY ISSUES

Programmatic, legal, environmental and regulatory issues involve securing all necessary permits; evaluating potential sites for hazardous wastes; investigating sites for potential historic resources; wetlands delineation; site design; legal package preparation; threatened and endangered species reviews for plants and animals; National Environmental Policy Act compliance and preparing funding grant applications. This work must be completed before the Department can purchase property for subsequent access development, or to improve an existing Department-owned site. The tasks associated with this work exemplify the Department’s pro-active approach in addressing State and Federal requirements. This saves time and monies by addressing any issues that may create costly delays, or in the worst case, stop a proposed action from occurring. One construction project permitted in previous years and not constructed in 2017 due to shifting priorities and funding allocations involved the cartop facility at Eagle Pond in Wilmot. During the past year, programmatic activities were conducted at the following water bodies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Project Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eagle Pond</td>
<td>Wilmot</td>
<td>To construct a cartop access site.</td>
<td>Five year extensions of the Wetlands and Shoreland permits were approved by NHDES thorough September 2021. Construction will commence when funds become available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Hole Pond</td>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>Refurbishment of boat ramp and fishing pier.</td>
<td>Permitting complete; The ramp was refurbished with larger Type B concrete planks in 2015. Five year extensions of the Wetlands and Shoreland permits were approved by NHDES thorough June and March 2021, respectively to allow time for refurbishment of the ADA Fishing Pier which was postponed because of a lack of funds in the Fisheries portion (85%) of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Act appropriation that covers this type of infrastructure. At this time, the Fisheries portion is dedicated and fully allocated to funding the NH Fish and Game Department fish propagation programs and hatchery infrastructure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Town</td>
<td>Work Type</td>
<td>Details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Umbagog</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>Construct floating dock</td>
<td>Design and permitting completed; Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division's Federal Lands Access Program grant approved and obligated funds for construction in the late fall. The dock segments will be built during the winter and installed in the spring of 2018.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine River (Ossipee Lake)</td>
<td>Ossipee</td>
<td>Refurbishment and upgrade of site.</td>
<td>Construction was completed in the spring of 2018 and the double-lane ramp was opened fully to public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunapee Lake</td>
<td>Newbury</td>
<td>Development of new site.</td>
<td>Appeal process concerning wetland permitting and conservation status of the land was settled in the State Supreme Court in favor of the Department on December 13, 2014. The Shoreland (SWQPA) Permit which expired during appeal (January 2014) was resubmitted and approved. The Alteration of Terrain Permit was not affected by the renewal and remained in-force. In August 2017, a request to extend the Wetlands permit for a 5-year period in order to construct the project was removed from the Governor and Executive Council agenda and expired on August 28th. In September 2017 the Governor convened the Lake Sunapee Public Boat Access Development Commission with members from select state agencies and the Towns of Sunapee, Newbury and New London to review the project and evaluate alternative locations for the boat ramp. The Commission will report to the Governor by March 1, 2018. The Alteration of Terrain permit expired on December 14, 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnipesaukee Lake</td>
<td>Alton</td>
<td>Redesign and Upgrade</td>
<td>Refurbishment of the site began in the second half of 2017. A site survey was completed and work on state environmental permits was begun.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

Refurbishment of the Pine River Boat Access Area to improve public access to Ossipee Lake was completed in the spring of 2017. Improvements include reconstruction of the gravel access road and enlarging the parking lot to provide 30 trailer-vehicle and 5 cartop spaces, including one trailered and one cartop space for recreationists with disabilities.

A pre-existing single-lane ramp was replaced with a double-lane ramp using the Department’s Type-B precast concrete-plank design with a removable floating dock system between the two ramps. A new timber-terraced gravel footpath leading to a non-motorized (cartop) boat access point was created. The addition of concrete-plank ramps eliminated erosion of a degraded bituminous ramp surface and will improve the water quality at and around the launch area. In addition, the construction and delineation of designated parking spaces optimized the available area to eliminate the inefficient haphazard first-come-first-served parking practices of the past.

To control stormwater runoff discharges to the Pine River and protect water quality, the parking area surface was constructed with a pervious stone-filled grid to increase stormwater infiltration and control stormwater runoff discharges to the Pine River. Two bioretention stormwater treatment basins were created to assist in collecting and infiltrating stormwater from the parking lot and driveways slowly into the ground.

MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING FACILITIES

Considering the useful life of a facility is directly correlated to its upkeep, a pro-active maintenance program is a necessity. The Department currently performs maintenance at 143 access facilities. Maintenance activities are divided into two categories: Type I – Construction Crew Maintenance Activities; and Type II - General Maintenance Crew Activities. Construction Crew Maintenance Activities are those jobs that require the use of heavy equipment, whereas, General Maintenance Crew Activities are jobs of a lighter nature, and are usually done on a routine basis. Regularly scheduled operation and maintenance activities ensure safe, functional, attractive, and user-friendly public access sites. In addition, pro-active maintenance initiatives prevent little problems from becoming bigger problems that require costly repairs. As new access sites are constructed, the costs of operation and maintenance of these sites continues to increase.
Type I Activities – 2017

Gravel placement and grading work by Department forces was needed at Big Diamond Pond in Stewartstown, Saltmarsh Pond in Gilford and three ramps along the Connecticut River: Bedell Bridge, Haverhill; Ashley Ferry, Claremont; and the cartop ramp in Cornish. At the Cornish ramp flood deposits that had mounded up on the soil-filled sheet pile-walled bulwark adjacent to the ramp were removed and perimeter fencing reinstalled. Seasonal flood-related silt was dredged from the Ashley Ferry ramp in Claremont under the auspices of a wetlands permit from the NH Department of Environmental Services.

Type II Activities – 2017

Keeping abreast of minor maintenance issues is important. All sites required mowing, brush removal and/or trimming to some degree. Trash is still an issue that is addressed each and every operating season. As in past years, seasonal employees collected several hundred 30-gallon bags of refuse from Department access sites. Installing informational signage at access facilities is effective informing visitors of our “carry-in/out” policy and does reduce the volume of litter.

The entrance access sign for the Cornish cartop site on the Connecticut River was replaced.

Degraded kiosks were replaced at the Cornish, NH ramp, the ice fishing access on the Lamprey River in Newmarket and as part of the refurbishment of the Pine River ramp servicing Lake Ossipee. The wooden roof on the Warren Lake kiosk was replaced with sheet metal (Alstead, NH).

Additional metal parking designation and “no swimming” signs were placed at Pawtuckaway Lake, Nottingham; Warren Lake, Alstead; Connecticut River (Bedell Bridge facility), Haverhill; and Merrimack River (Lambert Park), Hooksett.

Twenty sites were covered by contractor-maintained portable toilets. Each site received a handicap accessible and regular toilet unit except for the following locations. An additional regular toilet unit was added to the ramp facility to Lake Winnisquam in Laconia (Water Street Ramp) and to Lake Winnipesaukee in Alton (Downing’s Landing) to address the above average effluent volumes generated at these popular double ramps on major lakes. A Handicap Accessible unit was placed at the new Pine River access facility. A total of forty-one rental toilets were deployed.
Table 4: 2017 Portable Toilet Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Service Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Androscoggin River</td>
<td>Errol</td>
<td>ADA and Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbadoes Pond</td>
<td>Madbury</td>
<td>ADA and Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Diamond Pond</td>
<td>Stewartstown</td>
<td>ADA and Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarksville Pond</td>
<td>Clarksville</td>
<td>ADA and Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clough Pond</td>
<td>Loudon</td>
<td>ADA and Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Lake</td>
<td>Enfield</td>
<td>ADA and Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish Pond</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>ADA and Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Umbagog</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>ADA and Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Winnipesaukee</td>
<td>Alton</td>
<td>ADA and Two (2) Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrymeeting Lake</td>
<td>New Durham</td>
<td>ADA and Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Williams Pond</td>
<td>Weare</td>
<td>ADA and Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nay Pond</td>
<td>Milan</td>
<td>ADA and Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pemigewasset Lake</td>
<td>New Hampton</td>
<td>ADA and Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine River (to Ossipee Lake)</td>
<td>Ossipee</td>
<td>ADA only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant Lake</td>
<td>Deerfield</td>
<td>ADA and Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powder Mill Pond</td>
<td>Greenfield</td>
<td>ADA and Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squam Lake</td>
<td>Holderness</td>
<td>ADA and Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swains Pond</td>
<td>Barrington</td>
<td>ADA and Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turtletown Pond</td>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>ADA and Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnisquam Lake</td>
<td>Laconia</td>
<td>ADA and Two (2) Standard</td>
</tr>
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</table>

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Many of the big lake boat launches see heavy activity during the boating season to the point of filling the parking areas to capacity with boaters waiting to launch. Such situations can result in confusion and tension while boaters wait to launch or retrieve their craft. For this reason, Fish and Game staffed five of our launches in 2017 with Conservation Officers to keep the peace and assist with traffic flow on weekends and holidays. Details begin on the Memorial Day weekend and run through the Labor Day weekend at the following sites:

- Newfound Lake, Bristol
- Pleasant Lake, Deerfield
- Squam Lake, Holderness
- Winnipesaukee Lake, Alton
- Winnisquam Lake, Laconia
Conservation Officers also respond to complaints regarding rule violations at any boat access facility during their regularly scheduled patrols.

Respectfully submitted,

Garret W. Graaskamp, P.G.
Coordinator, Statewide Public Boat Access Program
2017 REPORT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

STATEWIDE PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS PROGRAM
## REVENUE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>000</td>
<td>Federal</td>
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<tr>
<td>009</td>
<td>Statewide Public Boat Access (Agency Income)</td>
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**TOTAL REVENUE:** $903,113.28

## EXPENSES:

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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**TOTAL EXPENSES:** $636,570.11 $72,358.80
2017 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

1. Pine River Boat Ramp, Ossipee, NH (Access to Lake Ossipee)
2. Cornish Cartop Site, Cornish, NH (Access to Connecticut River)
Pine River Access to Lake Ossipee (Ossipee, NH)
Ramp Refurbishment 2017
Pre-Construction (July 2015)

Degraded asphalt ramp (View looking west)

Degraded asphalt ramp (View looking northwest)
Parking area (View looking east)

Parking area (View looking west)
Pine River Access to Lake Ossipee (Ossipee, NH)
Ramp Refurbishment 2017
Pre-Construction (July 2015) – Continued

Access Road (View looking northwest to Route 25)

View of ramp from near entrance from Rte. 25 (View looking southeast)
Pine River Access to Lake Ossipee (Ossipee, NH)
Ramp Refurbishment 2017
Post-Construction (July 2017)

View of refurbished ramp looking southeast

View of refurbished ramp Looking northwest
Pine River Access to Lake Ossipee (Ossipee, NH)
Ramp Refurbishment 2017
Post-Construction (July 2017) – Continued

View of terraced steps to canoe/ kayak launch (View looking west)

View of low-abrasion canoe/ kayak launch
Pine River Access to Lake Ossipee (Ossipee, NH)
Ramp Refurbishment 2017
Post-Construction (July 2017) – Continued

View of parking area looking east

View of parking area looking west
Pine River Access to Lake Ossipee (Ossipee, NH)
Ramp Refurbishment 2017
Post-Construction (July 2017) – Continued

View of access road looking toward Rte. 25 (View to northwest)

Facility view from near the entrance from Rte 25 (View looking southeast)
Cornish Cartop Access to Connecticut River (Cornish, NH)
Bulwark grading and Signage Replacement 2017
Pre-Construction (June 2017)

Eroded approach to ramp and bulwark

Bulwark adjacent to ramp
Cornish Cartop Access to Connecticut River (Cornish, NH)
Bulwark grading and Signage Replacement 2017
Post-Construction (July 2017)

View of regraded approach to ramp and new signage

View of refurbished bulwark adjacent to ramp
The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Division of Forests and Lands, and Division of Parks and Recreation (DNCR) manages 219 State owned properties (including but not limited to state forests, parks, trails, natural areas, beaches, waysides, scenic areas, and historic sites) comprising 169,169 acres, 42 conservation easements comprising 244,823 acres, and 3 federal owned properties comprising 13,446 acres for a range of natural resource values including public recreation and forest management. Many of DNCR managed lands have water resources including developed beaches, boat launches, and shore access to the Atlantic Ocean and numerous lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. The DNCR also manages several federally funded grant programs that may be used to acquire and/or develop state, local or private lands for public water access purposes. The following is a report of activities relative to public water access within the 2017 calendar year.

**DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

**Operations/Planning/Development**

At Mollidgewock State Park (Errol) a 20’ long x 4’ wide milled wooden stairway was constructed from the remote Osprey campsite bluff down to a land shelf just above the high-water mark of the Androscoggin River for viewing, fishing, and car-top boat access.

At Umbagog State Park (Errol) new boat docks were installed at the remote Ellis Camps.

At White Lake State Park (Tamworth) a new boat dock for paddle boat rentals was installed within the day-use beach area.

At Livermore Falls Pemi Access Area (Holderness) two new single stall vault toilets were installed, one within the parking area, one closer to the river access area.

At Kingston State Park (Kingston) the old day-use beach area restroom building was renovated and reopened for public use.

At North Hampton State Beach (North Hampton) parking lot modification was begun to accommodate a new NHDOT crosswalk across NH Route 1A/Ocean Blvd, connecting the Beach Plum restaurant to the State Beach facilities. Completion of this project is anticipated for May 2018.

At Odiorne Point State Park (Rye) a new gate, replacing the old broken gate, was installed at the boat launch area parking lot. This site offers trailer boat and car-top access to the tidal waters of Seavey Creek/Little Harbor. The gate is opened daily at
7am and closed nightly at 8pm during the summer park operational season, and is left open through the winter off-season. This area was not subject to user fees in 2017, however the Division will be re-installing a tollbooth at this location for future operations.

At White Island Historic Site (Rye) roof replacement of the lighthouse’s former generator building was started.

**Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (Office of Community Recreation)** LWCF is a matching grant program funded by the National Park Service and managed in NH by DNCR. Local government entities are eligible for recreational land acquisition and/or development for public use.
- No new relevant projects to report

**Recreational Trails Program (Bureau of Trails)**
RTP is a matching grant program funded by the Federal Highway Administration.
- No new relevant projects to report.

**DIVISION OF FORESTS AND LANDS**

**Natural Heritage Bureau**
Ossipee Lake Natural Area: Annual monitoring of plant populations continues around established recreational use area. No new access has been added and no further restrictions have been implemented. The designated public use area remains as access by boat only. New plant inventory completed in September 2017. The sustained and improving population trends of several species of plants listed as threatened in NH are signs of the success of the management plan. Two plant species listed as state endangered were discovered in the restricted area. No new access has been added, and no further restrictions have been implemented. The designated public use area remains as access by boat only.

**Forest Legacy Program**
The NH Forest Legacy Program, through Conservation Easements, protects and secures public pedestrian outdoor access and recreational rights. Outdoor recreation is defined as low-impact, non-commercial activities pursued during leisure time and by free choice that provide their own satisfaction and that make use of nature and the elements in nature including, but not limited to, hiking, nature study, bird watching, walking, snow shoeing, camping, fishing, hunting and cross-country skiing; riding snowmobiles, mountain bicycles, and horses on designated trails, if any; and constructing and maintaining unpaved paths and trails.

Motorized recreational opportunities may be permitted upon written mutual agreement by the Fee Owner and Easement Holder. Specific snowmobiling rights are secured through a recorded Agreement.
The right to issue special use permits to enthusiasts for special recreational pursuits on the Easement area is allowed.

There were no new Forest legacy projects that affected public access to water in 2017

**Land Management Bureau**
A 396 acre parcel, referred to as the “Lafayette Brook Tract,” abutting the northern end of Franconia Notch State Park was acquired by the Department. The parcel is located on the north side of Route 18 approximately one mile east of Cannon Mountain/Peabody Base Lodge Area, and currently provides undeveloped passive public access to Lafayette Brook (a tributary to the Gale River), which comprises the northern boundary of the parcel, for shore bank viewing and fishing. The parcel will be managed as part of Franconia Notch State Park. Possible recreational facility development of this area may include a campground and multi-use, year-round trails.

**Forest Management Bureau**
No relevant activity to report.
The Division of State Police Marine Patrol is the only boating law enforcement agency with jurisdiction on all of the State’s Great Ponds. This includes all bodies of water ten acres or more in size.

The Marine Patrol’s mission is to ensure that all who use our public waters may do so in a safe environment and that a reasonable balance is maintained among the many competing uses. The Marine Patrol endeavors to maintain the high standard of residential, recreational and scenic values that have made New Hampshire a popular recreation destination.

The eight full-time sworn officers of the Marine Patrol possess a wide range of experience and skills. Most have instructor level certifications in the use of force disciplines including defensive tactics and firearms, as well as specific boat related certifications. Specialties include Boating Accident Reconstruction/Advanced Crash Reconstruction, Tactical Boat Operation, Personal Watercraft Operation, Boating Safety Instructors, Seated Field Sobriety Testing and Search and Rescue. Officers routinely assist and offer training at the Police Standards and Training Council (PSTC) Academy and at local police and fire departments.

Marine Patrol’s sworn personnel routinely patrol over 265 of the state’s 975 public bodies of water during the boating season. The Lake Winnipesaukee patrol, the largest covering 72 square miles, covers eight towns and two counties. The Atlantic Ocean patrol covers 158 miles of shoreline from Great Bay to Seabrook. In 2016, Marine Patrol employed 36 seasonal officers. The peak recreational boating season in New Hampshire typically runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day with significant traffic on weekends from late April through late October.

The 2017 season brought continued growth in boating activity on our State’s waterways. Most activity remained consistent with the last two years with a few exceptions. Arrest numbers doubled from 25 to 51, accidents dropped from 78 to 50 (with a reduction in personal injury accidents from 38 to 18 and fatalities from 9 to 5).

For the reporting year 2017, Seasonal Marine Patrol Officers generated the following activity:

- Responded to 2,304 calls for service
- Issued 2,187 warnings
- Issued 800 summonses
- Issued 135 defective equipment tags
- Made 51 arrests
- Assisted 178 boaters in distress
- Performed 54 water rescues
- Conducted 10 courtesy boat inspections
Investigated 50 accidents, 30 property damage accidents, 18 personal injury accidents and 5 fatalities.

- Responded to/Investigated 2 boat fires
- Investigated 11 Drownings (Not boat related)
- Investigated 71 reports of hazards to navigation

The Marine Patrol not only conducts waterborne law enforcement operations, it also serves as the primary responder to many inhabited islands for both law enforcement and medical emergency calls. All officers are certified in basic first aid and CPR and are trained in the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED’s). Officers responded to 24 medical aid calls and performed 8 welfare checks.

Marine Patrol Officers also responded to 6 trespassing complaints, 6 disturbances (domestic, etc.), 8 wildlife complaints, 18 reports of missing persons, recovered 78 missing/drifting boats, and performed 32 outside agency assists.

In addition to the sworn personnel, Marine Patrol employs 11 full-time civilian employees and three seasonal counter clerks. These employees provide a tremendous amount of support to the sworn personnel and are often the “face” of the Marine Patrol for those members of the boating public conducting business transactions. Civilians provide boating education opportunities, issue permits for moorings, swim lines, water events and parasailing. They also provide commercial boat inspection and license opportunities. Both sworn and civilian personnel maintain all the navigation aids on our lakes, ponds and rivers with floats and buoys assembled by the Maintenance Mechanics.

**Commercial Vessel Section**

Any vessel for hire, excursion vessels, and boats operated in association with schools or camps are required to be inspected annually for seaworthiness and proper safety equipment. In addition to thorough inspections, the boat can only be operated by a licensed commercial boat operator.

For the reporting year 2017, Marine Patrol Officers inspected 624 commercial boats and administered 570 Commercial Boat Operator Exams. Civilian staff scheduled all exams and inspections in addition to processing 611 new license and renewal license applications. Officers conducted 11 regional public inspection days and 30 public exam sessions at the request of the Commercial Boating Community.
Water Event Permits Section

The Permits Section of Marine Patrol issues permits for water events such as fireworks displays over the water, races, triathlons, long distance swims, various fundraising events and fishing tournaments. In addition, permits are issued for every swim line and water-ski slalom course placed on public waters.

For the 2017 season, Marine Patrol issued 498 water event permits, 93 swim line permits 43 slalom course permits, two ski jump permits and one parasail permit.

Navigation Maintenance Section

The Marine Patrol Navigation Mechanics currently maintain the Division’s fleet of approximately 80 boats. Mechanics are factory trained in the repair of both Mercury and Bombardier Marine Engines. These certifications allow Marine Patrol to maintain “Dealer Status” with these manufacturers giving the Marine Patrol warrantee center benefits.

Marine Patrol boats range in length from 10 feet (Yamaha 4 stroke personal watercraft) to 40 feet (twin diesel jet drives on Winnipesaukee and the Atlantic Ocean). All routine maintenance and major repairs are completed in-house on these boats.

In addition to the boats and engines, approximately 75% of the Marine Patrol’s boats are routinely towed around the state on trailers. These trailers are also maintained and repaired on site in Gilford and Belmont. The Mechanic Section is also certified as a Motor Vehicle Inspection Station and performs routine maintenance and annual state inspections on the fleet of boats and boat trailers.

The Marine Patrol also maintains approximately 2,140 navigation aids. This includes 1,700 buoys, 315 floating regulatory buoys, and 130 floating light buoys. The Marine Patrol purchases the raw materials for the buoys and the mechanics build them at a significant savings to the state.

Buoys are maintained by both officers and mechanics throughout the boating season. In addition to the installation and removal of navigational aids every spring and fall, personnel responded to replace and/or repair 246 aids in 2017.

Moorings Program

A mooring permit is required before placing a mooring on any of the seven lakes to which the law applies. Those lakes include Winnipesaukee, Winnisquam, Sunapee, Newfound, Ossipee, Squam and Bow. Effective October 1, 2017, Pleasant Lake in Deerfield was added to the moorings permit required list.

The Program permitted 2,628 moorings in 2017, issued 5,412 mooring decals and processed 145 new applications. In addition, they processed 737 boat registrations.
Boating Education Program

During the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, the Boating Education Program conducted 164 boating classes (an increase of 34) and 151 (an increase of 59) public proctored exam sessions at 23 different venues around the state. The boating classes yielded 3,171 newly certified boat operators while 3,658 persons received their certificates after completing the online course and taking a proctored exam. One person was issued their “NH Only” certification by successfully completing the test-out option.

Since the mandatory education requirement became law, Marine Patrol has certified approximately 193,643 persons.

Decibel Testing on Lake Winnipesaukee
Heated patrol boat in the snow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy C. Dunleavy ID #003
Captain, Marine Patrol Bureau
Mr. Thomas Quarles  
Chairman  
Public Waters Access Advisory Board  
11 Hazen Drive  
Concord NH 03302

Dear Chairman Quarles:

Throughout 2017 the Department of Transportation actively participated as a member of the Public Waters Access Advisory Board (PWAAB). The Department has continued to monitor and provide our transportation expertise on various PWAAB related projects.

- The Department has been able to provide transportation related insight to various surplus land reviews that were of interest to the Board. When requests have been submitted for disposition of the Department’s surplus lands where a public water access interest exists, the Department has coordinated with the Board and considered recommendations from PWAAB related to the conditions for disposal of the property. One such example is the surplus property in Enfield located on Mascoma Lake, which the Department brought to the attention of PWAAB in 2017. Recommendations from PWAAB are being incorporated into the deed for the parcel being transferred from the Department to the town of Enfield.

- The Department has played an active role in investigating public water access issues pertaining to State Highway Right-of-Way. For example, the Department coordinated with the Androscoggin River Watershed Council to provide a temporary use agreement to facilitate a new access site upstream of the Seven Islands Bridge on the Androscoggin River in Errol.

- The Department has responded to requests regarding investigation of and resolution of incongruities related to the nature of railway crossings for public water access points. For example, the Department participated in investigating and resolving the access issue across the Pan Am Railroad in Nashua. The Hills Ferry Road railroad crossing in Nashua was determined to be a public crossing. In 2017 the Department also assisted with investigation of and removal of a ‘State Property No Trespassing’ sign posted at a legal public access to the Pemigewasset River in Woodstock off of Route 175.

- The Department has also been able to provide transportation related insight to various projects that are active on the PWAAB project matrix as well as for projects not on the matrix but of interest to the board.

- The Department has responded to inquiries, and facilitated sign installation where suitable, regarding installation and/or replacement of signs for public water access points on State Highways. Examples include the installation of the sign for the Merrimack County Boat Launch and information sharing between PWAAB and the Department’s Bureau of Traffic relative to potential future signage for car-top access sites in Henniker.

- The Department’s Division of Project Development investigates opportunities to improve access to public waters during the design process of our projects as well as through our regularly scheduled inter-agency coordination meetings with various natural resource agencies.

January 8, 2019
The Department shares the goal of the Board to provide adequate access to public waters of our State and is glad to be a willing partner.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Martin  
Senior Environmental Manager
State of New Hampshire
Governor’s Commission on Disability

The Honorable Christopher T. Sununu, Governor

Executive Council Members

Councilor Joseph D. Kenney
Councilor Andru Volinsky
Councilor Russell E. Prescott
Councilor Christopher C. Pappas
Councilor David K. Wheeler

Charles J. Saia, Executive Director
December 31, 2017

His Excellency Christopher T. Sununu, Governor
State House
107 North Main St.
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu:

On behalf of the New Hampshire Governor’s Commission on Disability, it is our privilege to submit the annual report of activities of the Commission and staff from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, as required by RSA 275-C:6 VI.

According to the University of New Hampshire’s Institute on Disability, there are over 166,000 individuals with disabilities in the State of New Hampshire alone. While the GCD takes on many tasks in the interests of these individuals, its primary duties are to advise and inform the governor, state agencies and the public on disability-related issues.

During FY17, the GCD exercised its flexibility in the face of a changing culture. Thinking out of the box and facing challenges in a way that only a small agency can, the GCD continued to embrace social media, launched a new logo to better brand, dynamically supported other agencies in their accessibility focused agendas, branded and adapted Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) materials to answer the public’s questions, oversaw a lively Legislative Committee and other subgroups as a means to fulfill its mandate to inform, advise and educate regarding policy and administration of programs and services for those with a disability.

Whether it was partnering with the Department of Resources and Economic Development on the acceptance and placement of water worthy accessible wheelchairs, or co-partnering with the Treasury to launch an ABLE Savings and Investment plan in New Hampshire for those with disabilities in New Hampshire, “Going forward—working together” was our chosen path. The monumental goal to make an ABLE plan live by year’s end often involved intense collaboration with Legislators, Advocates, Attorney General’s office, Treasury, and the Governor to ensure better futures for those with disabilities.

The GCD received ongoing grants to administer programs essential for communications for those with a disability. In addition, the Client Assistance Program, which is 100% federally funded, continues to be a source of information and intervention regarding employment issues for those with a disability.

The GCD looks forward to continuing our collaborative efforts across New Hampshire.

Charles J. Saia
Executive Director
Governor’s Commission on Disability
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Governor’s Commission on Disability
Organization Chart
Commission Members - Gubernatorial Appointed

As of July 1, 2017

Paul VanBlarigan, Chairman
H. Dee Clanton
Barry Conway
Laura Davies
Ann Dillon
Lisa DiMartino
Nancy Druke
Ellen Keith
Paul M. Kelley
Mark Lemieux
Irene Lover
Mariellen MacKay
Thomas Manning
Anne Martin
Edmund Meskys
Michael Racette
John Richards
Frederick Roberge
Patrick Shannon
Susan Stearns
Clyde Terry
Sandra Teti

Ex-officio Members

William Finn, Department of Education, Services for Blind and Visually Impaired
Kenneth Merrifield, Commissioner, Department of Labor
George Copadis, Commissioner, Department of Employment Security
Jeffrey Meyers, Commissioner, Department of Health & Human Services
Lisa Hinson-Hatz, Department of Education, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
Committees

Internal Committees of the Governor’s Commission on Disability

Executive Steering Committee
Nomination/Governance Committee
Architectural Barrier Free Design Committee
Legislative Committee
Governor’s Accessibility Awards Committee
Telecommunications Equipment Assistance Program Committee
Accessible Parking Work Group

External Committees of which this Governor’s Commission on Disability is Statutorily Assigned or Affiliated with

Commission on Deafness & Hearing Loss
Legislative Commission on PTSD & Traumatic Brain Injury
Statewide Coordinating Council for Community Transportation
Medical Care Advisory Council
Public Water Access Advisory Board
New Hampshire State Rehabilitation Council
Statewide Independent Living Council
Executive Director
Charles J. Saia

As the Executive Director, Charles J. Saia is responsible for all operations of the Governor’s Commission on Disability. The Executive Director ensures operational efficiency and compliance with governing statutes and regulations. He acts as a liaison between the Commission, the Governor’s Office, the public, the Agency office, and the State legislature. In conjunction with the Executive Steering Committee, he provides the vision for the future of the Commission and ensures that its intended mission is fulfilled. The Executive Director works closely with other State agencies, gubernatorial-appointed commissions, committees, and boards to improve and expand accessibility throughout the State of New Hampshire. Other responsibilities include drafting legislation and testifying before legislative bodies, conducting Commission meetings alongside the Chairman of the Commission, overseeing several internal committees, and supervising the functions of all day-to-day operations of the Commission. Most recently, at the Governor’s request, the Executive Director spoke at events focused on disability when the Governor’s schedule will not allow his attendance.
Staff Operations

Each member of the staff of the Governor’s Commission on Disability performs a variety of tasks essential to the agency’s success. Although each position is defined by specific skills and responsibilities, collaboration within the Commission is considerable, as the members of the staff will come together to contribute to the success of the office. For example, a general inquiry from a member of the public is typically directed to the Administrative Secretary at the onset, but it could and may be taken by any member of the staff.

As the first line of communication between the Commission and the public, the Administrative Secretary manages all incoming correspondence. The Administrative Secretary coordinates professional public meetings with various bureaus, committees, and commissions and plans public events and activities. The position develops procedural, computer-based systems and implements various, creative, and highly technical projects and services, under the supervision of the Executive Director.

The Business Administrator fields a large number of inquiries, as well. As the office’s fiscal agent and manager of the Commission’s financial functions, the Business Administrator is responsible for the coordination and integration of a variety of business activities. This includes management of Federal grant fund responsibilities, administration of fiscal operations, developing and implementing agency budgets, purchasing, processing of incoming funds, reconciling payroll, cost containment, and various budget matters. In addition, the Business Administrator maintains detailed department records, and provides personnel and human resource support.

General inquiries are often directed to the Research and Information Specialist, who explains to the public the central mission of the Governor’s Commission on Disability. The position hosts educational events that inform people of the opportunities available to people with disabilities and of issues pertaining to them. Much of the position’s research involves compliance with laws related to disability in both the public and private sectors, which may involve coordination with other State agencies and departments. The position requires a wide range of knowledge of disability-related legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, the Architectural Barriers Act, and the Family and Medical Leave Act.
Inquiries pertaining to accessibility and architectural design fall under the domain of the Accessibility Specialist, who reviews State and public properties for compliance with both the Americans with Disabilities Act and the New Hampshire Code for Barrier-Free Design. The position consults with public entities and individuals to ensure compliance with existing law and to identify methods for improving access for individuals with disabilities to goods and services. To this end, the Accessibility Specialist performs site visits and provides technical assistance related to architectural compliance. Additional activities include, under the supervision of the Executive Director, tracking and reporting legislative activity, serving on committees, and assisting with grant fund efforts.

An inquiry made by a client of Vocational Rehabilitation will likely be taken by the Ombudsman for the Client Assistance Program (CAP). CAP is a service that provides vocational training, mediation, and rehabilitation for individuals with disabilities. The CAP Ombudsman is well versed in Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act and as such, is in a position to offer solutions to common problems encountered with workforce accommodations, the Family Medical Leave Act, and the like. The Ombudsman acts as a facilitator between the CAP and its clients, developing solutions to complicated problems in the workplace. Requiring substantial knowledge of occupational practices and laws, this position is a pivotal component of the State of New Hampshire’s effort to provide educational outreach to the disability community. In addition, this position involves considerable interaction with other State agencies, thereby fostering interagency relationship development.

Any questions regarding the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) are answered by the SILC Program Assistant. The Program Assistant supports the functions of the Statewide Independent Living Council and is a liaison between the Statewide Independent Living Council and the Governor’s Commission on Disability. The position is housed at the Governor’s Commission on Disability under an agreement with the Department of Education. The SILC Program Assistant informs the public about the responsibilities of the Council and explains how to apply for Council membership. In addition, the Program Assistant completes special projects under the supervision of the Executive Director.
Purpose

The Governor’s Commission on Disability is statutorily created pursuant to RSA 275-C, and is a statewide agency whose purpose is to serve people with disabilities. Through the provision of the following non-comprehensive list and supporting descriptions, the Governor’s Commission on Disability fulfills its purpose.

1. Advise the Governor, State Agencies and the NH Legislature on the needs, rights and interests of citizens with disabilities;

2. Coordinate and monitor state agency compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act;

3. Make recommendations regarding the adequacy of state programs, plans, and budgets for services for persons with disabilities;

4. Recommend legislation while monitoring and reporting on bills of interest to persons with disabilities;

5. Sponsor programs to educate the public about disability related issues;

6. Implement and operate the 100% federally funded Client Assistance Program designed to resolve problems that arise between persons with disabilities and vocational rehabilitation;

7. Administer the Telecommunications Equipment Assistance Program to distribute telecommunication devices to persons with specific impairments impacting telephone use;

8. Serve as the State affiliate for the New England ADA Center;

9. Operate an information resource and problem-solving center;

10. House the Statewide Independent Living Council, an independent cross-disability council, which provides leadership and advocacy in support of the independent living philosophy; and,

11. Implement the statutory requirements imposed by RSA 275-C:11 regarding the Governor’s Commission on Disability, Architectural Barrier Free Design Committee.
The Governor’s Commission on Disability’s Initiatives

The Governor’s Commission on Disability has a number of initiatives designed to raise awareness of disability-related issues in the State. By working to ensure that the maximum number of people possible understand the challenges faced by, and opportunities available to, individuals with disabilities, the Commission fosters a more compassionate cultural environment and builds towards its perpetual goal of access for all. Part of this work involves the distribution of educational materials, such as manuals and pamphlets on the Americans with Disabilities Act and the rights of individuals with service dogs, to provide the public with immediate answers to everyday questions pertaining to disability. The Commission promotes guidelines for accessible parking, through online posting of educational materials, and distribution of brochures at public events and tradeshows. Supporting Justice Broderick’s Campaign to Change mental health initiative, the Commission has partnered at events as a speaker and distributes literature both through social media and at public events. The Governor’s Commission recently completed a guide on the Americans with Disabilities Act, pocket-sized, and plans to make it available online.

The monumental step of Legislators appointing NH State Treasurer Bill Dwyer and Executive Director Chuck Saia co-administrators of an ABLE program propelled them to go forward and vet out programs across the country that would be beneficial to the state of New Hampshire.

Other work involves Legislative Training, a program in which individuals with disabilities learn about the legislative process and how they can participate in the democracy. In its partnership with the Union Leader, the Commission submits a monthly publication announcing upcoming events, trainings, workshops, and seminars on disability-related issues; and once a year, the Commission, in conjunction with the New England ADA Center, presents a public workshop in which architectural plans can be read and discussed. In addition, the Governor’s Accessibility Awards recognizes the outstanding accomplishments and leadership within a business, organization, or individual that supports independence, inclusiveness, accessible environments, and/or services for individuals with disabilities. The Commission remains grateful for the Governor’s support and ongoing participation in this event.
Client Assistance Program (CAP)

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) is a 100% federally funded and mandated program originating from the Rehabilitation Services Act of 1973, as amended. The primary focus of CAP is employment and associated topics as relevant to individuals with disabilities. CAP provides services to clients of Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living Services as well as to citizens with questions relative to Title I of the ADA (Employment).

CAP is an unbiased source of information, resources, and policy interpretation. CAP also provides advocacy and mediation on both individual and systemic levels. CAP strives to find resolution among involved parties at the lowest possible level of intervention with the least amount of disruption in services possible. This year, the first regional meeting of CAP leaders from New England was hosted and organized by the CAP Ombudsman.

The program, under the supervision and guidance of the Executive Director of the GCD, is administered by the CAP Ombudsman.

- CAP empowers the GCD to provide services to consumers of both Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living services at no cost to the consumer or general funds.

- CAP activities complement the work of the GCD and strengthen the ability of the GCD and CAP working together to assist those with disabilities in removing barriers to program participation and employment.

- CAP is able to provide counsel, training, and services to individuals, collaborative partners, and agency staff utilizing a variety of forums and mediums lending to effectiveness.

- CAP strives to resolve issues before they escalate and saves time and costs associated with involved litigious activities. Benefits to NH citizens include improved program access and equitable service delivery.

- CAP can provide relevant evaluation and interpretation of policy to providers of Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living service providers to inform systemic changes to procedure and program delivery.
Telecommunications Equipment Assistance Program (TEAP)

RSA-362-E establishes the Governor’s Commission on Disability to administer the Telecommunications Equipment Assistance Program. The program enables qualified persons in New Hampshire to access telephone service through the use of telecommunications equipment assistance.

The Telecommunications Equipment Assistance Program provides access to those persons whom, without appropriate equipment, would not be able to use telecommunication services effectively and thus would be unable to access public safety programs. As a part of the outreach function, application will be made widely available to ensure that those qualified to be equipment recipient have the opportunity to apply.
**Statewide Independent Living Council**

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) was created through Title V of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It is a non-partisan, non-governmental organization of volunteers, who work to promote equal rights and access for individuals with disabilities in the State of New Hampshire. It provides leadership and advocacy in the realm of independent living, fosters a culture of informed choice, individual control, peer support, and self-sufficiency for all people with disabilities.

The Statewide Independent Living Council is housed in the Governor’s Commission on Disability and is fully funded by federal resources from Title VII through the New Hampshire Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation. The Statewide Independent Living Council works closely not only with the Governor’s Commission on Disability and Vocational Rehabilitation, but with other organizations, such as Service Link, Granite State Independent Living, the Developmental Disabilities Council, Northeast Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Services, and the Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire, among others, to ensure that it is reaching the maximum number possible of individuals with disabilities.
The National Federation for the Blind’s “Newsline for the Blind”

The Governor’s Commission on Disability is annually appropriated to fund the National Federation of the Blind's "Newsline for the Blind," otherwise known as, “NFB Newsline”. Newsline for the Blind is an audio information service that provides access to over four hundred written publications.

This electronic service gives any blind, visually impaired, or print-disabled person access to newspapers, magazines, and television listings, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. The service can be accessed by using a telephone, the internet, and by downloading to a digital talking book player or MP3 playing device. Subscribers can also choose to have publications sent directly to their email addresses, allowing them to read on their computer or portable device.
Various Highlights

* Collaborated with the New Hampshire State Treasury, to develop an ABLE program for New Hampshire, by vetting out various programs across the country which would be complimentary to the state of New Hampshire, its funding, and its citizens. Program development required working steadily with Legislators.

* Collaborated with the Department of Cultural and Natural Resources to receive a donation of five water accessible wheelchairs for recreational use at New Hampshire beaches and recreational water sites.

* Collaborated with the Department of Motor Vehicles to distribute updated public distribution materials, including:
  - Accessible parking information and fact sheet
  - Winter parking reminder

* Developed a fluid, social media campaign to provide accurate and updated information, with
  - Website Postings
  - Facebook Interactions
  - Twitter Updates
  - Promotional Material Distribution

* Created universal, accessible documentation for all materials disseminated by the Governor’s Commission on Disability, including:
  - Rack Cards, both GCD and CAP
  - Service Dog Brochure, updated
  - Accessible Parking Brochure
  - ADA Assistance Request Form—various formats
• Public Meeting Documents
• Power Point Presentations on Governor’s Accessibility Awards and Mental Health, with Campaign to Change

* Public meetings provide accessible elements for each meeting or upon request, including:
  • CART reporting
  • Event/Personal Assistants
  • American Sign Language Interpreters
  • Ubi-Duo Communication Devices
  • Public Announcement System
  • Large Print Material
  • Video Remote Interpreting, under review

* Client Assistance Program
  • Spearheaded and hosted first New England Regional meeting of CAP leaders for collaboration and problem solving,
  • Participated in transition aged youth informational sessions,
  • Presented to a peer support agency for people having experienced mental health challenges,
  • CAP has endeavored to build and maintain positive, productive and mutually beneficial relationships with Vocational Rehabilitation staff to promote open communication and quality service delivery to New Hampshire citizens.
Mental Health & Wellness Initiative

The Governor’s Commission on Disability has partnered with the Department of Personnel's Employee Assistance Program, and Wellness Coordinator to bring an increased awareness of mental health and wellness to State of New Hampshire employees. With support from the Campaign to Change Direction, and the former Chief Justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court, John T. Broderick Jr., the Governor’s Commission on Disability’s vision to decrease the barriers and stigma of mental health issues.

Agency and Public Education

The Governor’s Commission on Disability intends to build upon its existing commitment to education of the public and State Agencies. With its Wellness Initiative, Architectural Plan Reading Workshops, partnering with the staff at the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Community Accessibility Site Visits, and plans for further, statewide education regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Governor’s Commission on Disability will move to the forefront of disability issue education.
Summary of Receipts and Expenditures
FY 2017

The Governor’s Commission on Disability strives to ensure that all of its financial resources are applied to the most productive purpose and with the maximum efficiency. To ensure transparency in this process, below please find a summary of the Commission’s receipts and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2017.

Approved Budget 741,285.00

Expenses:
Operating Costs 52,393.04
Program Costs 146,529.00
Personnel Costs 478,945.60

Total Expenses 677,867.64

Revenue Sources:
SILC (32,770.73)
NEADA (24,650.00)
CAP 113,879.41
NFB 28,000.00
TEAP 96,000.00

Subtotal Revenue 180,458.68
General Fund 497,408.96

Total Revenue 677,867.64
Vision

The GCD’s new logo suggests strength and forward motion and the Governor’s Commission on Disability chooses to increase its visibility within the State in the coming months. Our hope is to solidify and deepen our pattern of partnering with our sister agencies and be a front line resource. We anticipate that with NH’s ABLE program, STABLE NH, we will have a ready-made project to be proactive in promoting better futures for those with disabilities.

We also see ourselves involved in panel discussions that bring together stakeholders who will roundtable and problem solve on ADA related issues throughout the State.

Grant development is a focus of the Governor’s Commission on Disability and will be an asset to the current programs, such as the TEAP, Newsline for the Blind, and the Client Assistance Program.

With the recent history of fast paced progress, it is foreseeable that the Governor’s Commission on Disability will continue to over achieve in its endeavors, while remaining true to its mission... Access for All.
The Governor’s Commission on Disability wishes to thank the constituents of New Hampshire for the unrelenting support towards the mission and purpose of the GCD. In addition, elected officials, legislative members, and the Governor and Council are recognized and praised for their commitment to access for all persons with disabilities.

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Page Four Photo: GCD Executive Director Chuck Saia at Hampton Beach for the ceremonial acceptance of the donated water wheelchairs to NH.; service dog, courtesy of NEADS.org