

New Hampshire
Water & Watersheds
Conference ~ 2011

CALL FOR CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

The 2011 New Hampshire Water and Watershed Conference
From Our Headwaters to the Sea - Living in a Changing Water World
Friday and Saturday, March 25-26, 2011
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Hartman Union Building
Plymouth State University
High Street
Plymouth, NH

*****Abstract Deadline is October 29, 2010*****

Abstracts sought for oral presentations and two-hour hands-on workshops

Hosts: The organizing committees of the annual *New Hampshire Watershed Conference* and the *New Hampshire Water Conference* are once again offering a single, comprehensive event for 2011. The purpose of the merger is to combine talent, resources, and audiences from both events into a unique, two-day event designed to meet the information and networking needs of lake, river, and watershed groups; environmental organizations; volunteer monitors; municipal board and staff members; elected officials; local and regional planners; policy makers; scientists; educators; consultants and students. Our focus for the 2011 conference is to solicit presentations on effective strategies at the local, regional, state, and federal levels that address the changing environmental and societal conditions and their effects on New Hampshire's aquatic environment.

Conference Objectives: Conference participants will enhance their capacity to understand, protect, and manage New Hampshire's water resources by:

1. Learning about ground-breaking research and its application
2. Receiving latest updates on water related policies and agency programs
3. Gaining knowledge about effective water education and outreach
4. Participating in training sessions to improve organizational skills and functioning
5. Sharing understanding, concerns, accomplishments, skills and perspectives with others
6. Contributing to state-wide planning efforts for New Hampshire's water future

Conference format:

- Two days – Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26, 2011
- Plenary sessions each day
- Tracks across both days (**Friday** - Headwaters; Rivers and Streams; Lakes, Wetlands, and the Coastal Zone; Groundwater; and Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Infrastructure and **Saturday** - Land Use Change; Local and Regional Strategies; National and State-wide Strategies, and Skill Building)
- Different audience emphasis each day – Friday will again be geared more for technical/professional/academia audiences; Saturday geared more for lay/volunteer audiences; both days will offer valuable information for local officials and state policy makers
- Sessions of varying lengths (20, 30, 60 or 120 minutes)
- Facilitated discussions on future directions for water science, policy and practice interspersed in both days
- Ample opportunities for networking

Logistics:

- **Location:** The Hartman Union Building, Plymouth State University, High Street, Plymouth, NH
- **Meals:** Morning snack and lunch provided with registration.
- **Cost:** Reduced registration fee for presenters, no charge if not eating lunch.

Submit an abstract:

- ✓ Indicate oral presentation or two-hour hands-on workshop.
- ✓ Indicate which track the abstract is being submitted to. See the following list.
- ✓ Indicate preferred **day** (Friday or Saturday) and **time** (early morning, late morning or early afternoon) and **length of session** (Friday 20 or 30 minutes and Saturday 30, 60 or 120 minutes). Please note that the two-hour hands-on workshops will be held in the early afternoon on Saturday.
- ✓ Provide a title which accurately summarizes the subject of the presentation.
- ✓ Indicate names, titles and affiliations of all authors/presenters (include address, phone and email). Student presentations are strongly encouraged.
- ✓ Provide an abstract of 50-80 words.
- ✓ Abstract must state the project or program purpose, content and results.
- ✓ Abstracts should be produced in Microsoft Word.
- ✓ Provide biographical information (about 75 words) summarizing presenter education and experience as it relates to the presentation topic.
- ✓ Enter all information in the "Call for Abstracts Submittal Form."

Abstracts must be received by **October 29, 2010**.

Abstracts should be submitted via email using the enclosed form to Laura Weit-Marcum at laura.weit-marcum@des.nh.gov. If you have any questions, please call Laura Weit-Marcum, Acting Rivers Coordinator at 271-8811 or email her at laura.weit-marcum@des.nh.gov.

Notification of acceptance of abstracts for presentations will take place in mid-November. Presentations can often fit into one of several tracks. The conference organizers might ask you to present in a session or track other than the one you indicate in your submission. We appreciate your flexibility.

Guidelines for Presentations:

- ✓ Oral presentations must fit into one of the tracks.
- ✓ PowerPoint presentations are encouraged. LCD projectors and laptops will be provided. No overhead or slide projectors will be available.
- ✓ Presentations are allotted 20, 30, 60 or 120 minutes, which includes question and answer time.

Abstracts should reflect the session tracks. Examples of possible topics are bulleted in each track:

Friday Sessions – Focusing on New Hampshire’s Water Resources – From our Headwaters to the Sea

1. Headwaters – “Where it all starts”:

Headwater streams are often overlooked as a resource when water quality and or water supply issues are addressed. Yet, these first and second order streams are prevalent across the landscape and serve as the origins of our important rivers and even groundwater resources. At the same time, this resource can be especially sensitive to land use, atmospheric deposition, and climate changes. This session will explore what we know about the condition of New Hampshire's headwater streams, the role they play in defining the condition of our larger watershed, and their susceptibility to changing landscape and climatic conditions. There will be a focus on high elevation headwater streams.

2. Rivers and Streams – “How and where it flows”:

How are changing conditions affecting water and water use? Topics might relate to causes and effects of temperature change on aquatic life, changes relating to the removal or addition of riparian buffers,

effects of recent rules for shorelands and stream crossings, and the impacts of human disturbances such as stream flow modification, dam management, water withdrawals and floodplain development.

3. Lakes, Wetlands, and the Coastal Zone – “Where it evolves”:

On its way from headwaters to the sea, water often collects in lakes, wetlands and coastal water bodies where it physically, chemically and biologically changes. This track will host presentations and workshops that focus on recent research, outreach, education, and management projects related to lakes, wetlands and coastal waters. Possible topics include:

- Cyanobacteria
- Lake monitoring programs and their effectiveness
- Wetland restoration
- Economic value of wetlands
- Nitrogen sources in coastal waters
- Coastal communities and sea level rise

4. Groundwater – “Long-term storage”:

Groundwater in New Hampshire is stored in two major aquifer systems: surficial materials (e.g., stratified drift), and fractured crystalline bedrock. And while approximately 96% of all new wells are drilled into, and obtain water from the bedrock aquifer, a significant amount of groundwater storage occurs in the overlying surficial materials. Planning for sustainable use, and estimates of groundwater availability requires an understanding of both systems, as well as their degree of interconnection, identification of groundwater basins and capture zone, and water quality issues that can constrain its use. Topics in this track will include:

- Groundwater monitoring
- Groundwater/surface water interaction
- Methods for estimating groundwater availability
- Aquifer mapping and modeling
- Artificial storage and recovery
- Trends in groundwater storage

5. Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Infrastructure – “Our use and management”:

Presentations geared toward the public works community regarding their management of water, wastewater and stormwater systems in relation to broader water resources:

- What are systems doing to adapt to changing environmental conditions management of their systems to meet more stringent water resource regulations regarding water quality and withdrawals?
- How are systems dealing with aging infrastructure and public expectations?
- What innovative programs have been created to deal with regional watershed issues across multiple communities such as the Seacoast/Great Bay watershed?
- How are communities dealing with pending stormwater regulations and management?
- How are water and wastewater systems dealing with changing water use patterns and demographics (water efficiency)?

Saturday Sessions – Focusing on New Hampshire’s Water Resources for Living in a Changing Water World

1. Land Use Change:

The greatest threat to New Hampshire’s water quality is land conversion. For the past 40 years, New Hampshire’s population has grown twice as fast as the rest of New England and this rapid growth is

projected to continue. In areas of the state where the most development and land conversion are occurring, land conservation has lagged behind land development.

- Landscape Change
- Land Development
- Economic Growth
- Floods and Droughts
- Data Needs/Water Info.
- Climate Change

2. Local and Regional Strategies:

Cities and towns across New Hampshire have used numerous strategies to effectively manage the state's changing landscape. This track will showcase local and regional case studies to demonstrate how their successes can be applied in other cities, towns and regions throughout the state.

- Impervious Surface Coverage
- Low-Impact Design
- Stormwater
- Invasive Species

3. National and Statewide Strategies:

This track will focus on recent policy and program changes at the state and federal level which describe new approaches that preserve both water quality and pre-development hydrologic conditions, and provide hands-on training on innovative land use techniques, such as low-impact development.

- Instream Flow Pilot Program
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II
- Section 401 Water Quality Certification Program
- Stormwater Manual
- Data Needs/Water Info.

4. Skill Building:

Municipalities, volunteers, and non-profits all benefit from learning new skills and techniques to improve their effectiveness. This track helps organizations improve their communication, technical skills, and organizational abilities to take advantage of limited financial resources.

- Geographic Information Systems
- Capacity Building
- Volunteer Recruitment
- Fundraising
- Grant Development
- How to Run Effective Meetings

Organizing Committee: New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Drinking Water Source Water Protection Program, New Hampshire Geological Survey, New Hampshire Lakes Management and Protection Program, New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program, Watershed Assistance Section and Watershed Management Bureau; New Hampshire Lakes Association; New Hampshire Rivers Council; Center for the Environment, Plymouth State University; Weston and Sampson Engineers, Inc.; New Hampshire Water Works Association, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and NH Sea Grant; United States Geological Survey; naturesource communications; NH Water Resources Research Center; Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee; and NH Department of Fish and Game