

**Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 7:00 p.m.  
Nowak Room  
10 Front Street, Exeter, NH**

**BUSINESS MEETING TO BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M.**

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Minutes & Proclamations
  - a. Regular Meetings: October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013
4. Appointments
5. Discussion/Action Items
  - a. New Business
    - i. Great Dam Report – Exeter River Committee
    - ii. Sportsmen’s Club RAP
    - iii. RSA 79-E Review
  - b. Old Business-
    - i. High Street Speed Limit Ordinance Reading
6. Regular Business
  - a. Bid Openings/Surplus Declarations
  - b. Tax, Water/Sewer Abatements & Exemptions
  - c. Permits & Approvals
  - d. Town Manager’s Report
  - e. Legislative Update
  - f. Selectmen’s Committee Reports
  - g. Correspondence
7. Review Board Calendar
8. Non Public Session
9. Adjournment

Don Clement, Chairman  
Board of Selectmen

Posted: 11/1/13 Town Offices, Town Hall, Website, and Departments

Persons may request an accommodation for a disabling condition in order to attend this meeting. It is asked that such requests be made with 72 hours notice. If you do not make such a request, you may do so with the Town Manager prior to the start of the meeting. No requests will be considered once the meeting has begun.

Meeting agenda is subject to change.

Draft Minutes

**Exeter Board of Selectmen**

**October 21, 2013**

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman Don Clement called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices building. Other members present were Vice Chairman Dan Chartrand, Selectman Frank Ferraro, Selectwoman Julie Gilman, and Selectman Matt Quandt. Town Manager Russell Dean was also present.

**2. Public Comment**

Selectman Ferraro said he has completed the solar ray analysis and will distribute it and would like to discuss it at a later meeting.

**3. Minutes & Proclamations**

**a. Regular Meeting: September 30, 2013**

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt to accept the minutes of the September 30 BOS meeting as respectfully submitted by Nicole McCormack, recording secretary. Motion carried – all in favor.

**b. Regular Meeting: October 7, 2013**

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt to accept the minutes of the October 7 BOS meeting as respectfully submitted by Nicole McCormack, recording secretary. Motion carried – all in favor.

No proclamations.

**4. Appointments**

No appointments.

**5. Discussion/Action Items**

**a. New Business**

**I. High Street Speed Limit**

Jason Proulx, who resides at 154 High Street, talked about his concerns about the excess speed on High Street. He said many cars drive in excess of the posted speed limit. He has a hard time getting out of his driveway because of the fast cars. He has talked to his neighbors and they share the same concerns. He has addressed the issue with Selectwoman Gilman and Mr. Dean, who also share concerns. He would like to see all of High Street reduced to 25 mph.

Tomasen Carey, of High Street, also spoke on the issue. She said the excessive speed has caused too much noise for her to be able to sit on her porch and have coffee. She said people won't go into her driveway because it is too dangerous to pull out. She would like to see a police presence on the street to enforce the speed limit.

Selectwoman Gilman, a High Street resident, agreed with Mr. Proulx. She has heard these complaints from residents for years. She passed these concerns onto the police. Vice Chair Chartrand has sympathy for the neighborhood. He has a concern about High Street being a major part of the Portsmouth Ave detour. He would like to hear from DPW.

Mr. Proulx said when the radar sign was out there was a dramatic difference. He has seen digital signs before and said they have made an impact in other communities. He went on to express concern about the crosswalks, saying it's virtually impossible to cross because of the fast cars.

Selectman Ferraro agrees with Vice Chair Chartrand and would like to hear from DPW and the police chief.

Mr. Dean has been talking to the police chief about this issue. The chief sympathizes with the issue. He said in the 1980's the speed limit was raised from 25 mph to 30 mph. He said the police chief did confirm that the speed trap had an impact.

Selectman Quandt asked what the process is to get the speed reduced. Chairman Clement said they would have to have three hearings. He asked if this counts as the first hearing. Selectman Quandt said it does not because it wasn't announced as a public hearing. Chairman Clement would like to see a formal report from DPW and the police chief. He also could consider this a first hearing. Selectwoman Gilman said the Board has to make a decision first on whether or not they agree to make a change before declaring it a first hearing. Vice Chair Chartrand suggested scheduling a first hearing for the next BOS meeting and get input from DPW and the police chief. Chairman Clement said he's all in favor to schedule a first hearing. He thinks it is reasonable to lower the speed limit. He talked about yield to pedestrian signs and would like input on those. Mr. Dean said DPW and the police chief can give a report before the Board's next meeting. He explained to the public why three hearing are necessary in order to change an ordinance. Selectwoman Gilman agreed with Mr. Proulx on the sidewalk issue, saying they need to pay some attention to making them safer. Chairman Clement said he would schedule a first hearing on the ordinance change for reducing the mph on High Street

and look for more information on the crosswalks. Mr. Proulx said he would like to hear DPW's input on the electronic speed limit signs.

## **II. Quarterly Financial Report**

Doreen Ravell, Finance Director, talked about the quarterly financial report. She wanted to note the new format change, saying general, water and sewer are now presented on separate pages. She went on to say \$65,659 from FEMA and a refund from LCG for \$328,736 were the big added revenues.

Ms. Ravell said everything looks status quo for spending. BOS budget is over and there is a slight overage in legal. Everything else is looking good. In debt service and capital, most of debt service is paid at the end of the third quarter point. She said \$1.8 million has been spent from the general fund. There are still expenses that have not been paid, like paving and the Linden Street and Court Street culverts. Chairman Clement asked if the Linden Street culvert project has begun. Mr. Dean talked about a possible encumbrance.

Vice Chair Chartrand asked if the legal includes the 91-A lawsuit. Ms. Ravell said she does not have all the invoices for that yet.

Ms. Ravell went on to say water funds are 77% collected or \$1.78 million in revenue. Selectman Ferraro asked if the revenues included receivables and Ms. Ravell answered no. She said sewer is at 71% collected, saying the new vactor truck has not yet been expensed. They are at 68% spent for total expenditures. The revolving fund for ambulance is at 80% collected. The lease for the ambulance has been paid and the fund is at 71% spent. The recreation revolving fund has projected \$413,000 total revenue. The cable TV fund is at \$63,000 collected. She went on to read numbers from water/sewer and said she would email those numbers to the Board, as this sheet was not included in the packet.

Selectman Ferraro said at the last Water/Sewer Committee meeting, which was the week prior, the committee expressed concern about the one huge outstanding account. He said something needs to be done. Chairman Clement said it is difficult to address without costing the town more money. He said the Board should have a non-public session about it. Selectman Quandt agreed it would be appropriate to have a non-public session.

Ms. Ravell talked about the property tax analysis. She said as of September 30 93% of all tax bills sent in May have been collected. From December 31, 2012 until September 30, 2013, property taxes in arrears have decreased an outstanding 64%. Vice Chair Chartrand thanks Ms. Ravell and Mr. Dean for all their hard work.

## **III. 2012 Audit Update**

Mr. Dean said he received the 2012 Financial Statements two weeks ago, and for the first time in several years the town received an entirely clean opinion. He thanked all

involved in making that possible. It is the town's goal to maintain this opinion. Chairman Clement said they have come a long way since 2009. The books have been balanced well. Statements of deficiency have cleared up. He is proud of all involved. Vice Chair Chartrand asked if "clean" meant there are no letters of deficiency. Mr. Dean said there is still one material weakness that needs to be taken care of, but all financial records are "clean".

#### **IV. Fund Balance Discussion**

Mr. Dean said DRA sets the tax rate this time of the year. The town decides how much of the fund balance to apply to the rate. The recommendation for this year is to apply \$596,063 to reduce taxes. This includes a \$328,736 LGC turn back and a surplus from 2012 from the EMS Fund of 95% of \$236,472. Last year there was a GAAP adjusted general fund unassigned fund balance of \$170,712. The recommendation is to use 25% of that amount to leave some general fund unassigned fund balance. If the \$596,063 is applied to this year's rate, the projected tax rate will be within a few cents of \$7.83 per \$1,000. Mr. Dean is waiting to hear on the other components of the rate such as the schools. The county will be up slightly that is a known. There will also be another Health Trust turn back in February 2014. The EMS surplus will drop in 2014 as well due to the ambulance lease payments.

A Motion was made by Selectman Ferraro and seconded by Selectman Quandt to apply \$596,063 from the EMS surplus, LGC turn back, and other fund balance to reduce the upcoming tax rate. Motion carried – all in favor.

#### **V. Fuel Contract**

Mr. Dean said every year the fuel contract is reexamined in the town. Maintenance said there is an opportunity to lock in \$2.89/gallon. Mr. Dean said they actually budgeted for a higher rate. If they lock in at this rate they will be in better shape and be able to cut some money out of the 2014 budget request. There was discussion about the possibility of a lower rate coming along.

A Motion was made by Selectman Quandt and seconded by Vice Chair Chartrand to allow the Maintenance Department to lock in to an as low as possible fixed rate for 12 months. Motion carried – all in favor.

#### **VI. RSA 79-E Recommendations & Discussion**

Mr. Dean gave a quick explanation of 79-E, saying it is a community tax relief incentive statute. He said the EDC has been looking at this. The statute has been around for a while. A town meeting would be required to adopt it and voters need to approve it. If the BOS is in support of it, they would have to figure out which districts it would apply to. Mark Magnilo, a UNH intern, did a lot of great work on this. The EDC voted to forward 11 districts to the BOS for approval.

Mr. Manganiello talked about the statute. He went over the application process and how it works, which involves the owner of a qualifying structure intending to rehab their property. The owner would then apply to BOS for the tax relief incentive. It is advertised as up to a five year tax relief. Chairman Clement asked if the approval process can be a case by case process for each applicant. Mr. Manganiello replied yes.

Mr. Dean said 79-E has been used very successfully. The town would benefit from this statute. Chairman Clement commented that this is rehab of an existing structure. Mr. Dean went through the appeals process. Vice Chair Chartrand said this gives the ability to get developers to invest more money in the town.

Brandon Stauber spoke, asking which portion of the tax rate this would apply to. Mr. Manganiello answered it would apply to all four tax rates. Chairman Clement asked how this would benefit the Town of Exeter. Vice Chair Chartrand said it would increase the commercial real estate tax base.

Mr. Dean said this has piqued a lot of interest. He has seen some reaction to this. Interest may translate into applications. It is important to have a program to reel in potential development. Chairman Clement said the Board should make a determination whether to go forward with putting this on the ballot and what eligible districts should apply. The Board all agreed that they would like to learn more about the districts. Mr. Stauber thinks they should look at the districts with a broad spectrum. Chairman Clement said this will go on the agenda again at the next BOS meeting for further discussion.

## **VII. Property Tax Agreements**

Mr. Dean said property tax payment agreements have to be approved by the BOS. This would only be applicable under limited circumstances. BOS has to give the green light to do these out of the tax office. Selectman Ferraro asked if both forms presented where for consideration of should they pick on or the other. Mr. Dean said one has more detail but they are essentially the same. Selectman Quandt asked if they have done pre-deeding payment plans before and Mr. Dean answered very few. Vice Chair Chartrand said he is comfortable with post-deed. Selectman Ferraro also thinks it should be post and have a 90-day payback period.

Mr. Dean said the purpose of this is to give people the opportunity to know they have 90 days to buy back the property. He said they will work out particulars with individuals who are interested in this then present those to the BOS. The Board agreed to approve this. Mr. Dean said the next time the Board sees this is when a case is presented to them.

### **b. Old Business**

#### **i. Fund Balance Policy**

Mr. Dean went over the reasons to have a Fund Balance Policy, including it sets a target to meet and auditors like to see a policy. He included a memo in the packet to this effect. He mentioned the tax rate is not set until October-November of each year. Pertaining to the Minimum Level of Unassigned Fund Balance, Selectman Quandt asked if 5-17% was the maximum. Mr. Dean said no, that is just a target. Vice Chair Chartrand asked where they are in the process. Mr. Dean suggested the Board could make a motion to adopt. Selectman Ferraro asked if the definitions in the audit report are the same as in this policy. Mr. Dean answered yes.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt to adopt the new Fund Balance Policy as presented in draft form. Motion carried – Quandt, Gilman, Clement, Chartrand yes, Ferraro nay.

## **6. Regular Business**

### **a. Bid Openings/Surplus Declarations**

None.

### **b. Tax, Water/Sewer Abatements & Exemptions**

None.

### **c. Permits and Approvals**

None.

### **d. Town Manager's Report**

Mr. Dean talked about the following:

- The office is very busy with the end of the year approaching
- The new Assistant Engineer started last week
- There will be a tour of the town facilities Saturday, October 26 at 1 which will be the equivalent of a site walk. Everyone is welcome.
- October 23 will be the all-day Budget meeting

### **e. Legislative Update**

None.

### **f. Selectmen's Committee Reports**

Selectman Ferraro reported Zoning Ordinance Review Committee met and there are 4-6 potential zoning changes being discussed. Also, Water/Sewer met and talked about abatements and the over 90-day receivables. Planning Board met, there is vacant land on Portsmouth Ave and they talked about a proposal for a small commercial building to go in there.

Vice Chairman Chartrand reported 10/8 EDC met and pushed for the 79-E proposal TO BOS. 10/16 was a budget subcommittee meeting.

Selectwoman Gilman reported Heritage Committee and HDC were cancelled. She said movies can now be shown at Town Hall so there will be one Saturday at 2.

Selectman Quandt had nothing to report.

Chairman Clement reported Conservation Committee met. They reviewed a grant from the green infrastructure project. He gave kudos to Kristen Murphy for all her work, saying it was an impressive turnout. He also reminded everyone of the upcoming Halloween Parade.

**j. Correspondence**

Chairman Clement talked about the following correspondence:

- A letter from Jennifer Perry to the EPA
- A letter from Andrew Stollar praising Exeter's staff
- A warrant from Rockingham County
- A letter to Mr. Berkenbush from the Sportsmen's Club

**7. Review Board Calendar**

Chairman Clement said the next BOS meeting will be November 4, 2013. At that time the Board will have a public hearing on the High Street issue. There will also be discussion on 79-E. There will be a non-public session on the outstanding sewer bill. He also reminded everyone of the all-day Budget meeting 10/23.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm. Motion carried – all in favor.

Respectively submitted,

Nicole McCormack  
Recording Secretary



# *Exeter River Great Dam Removal Feasibility and Impact Study*

Exeter, New Hampshire

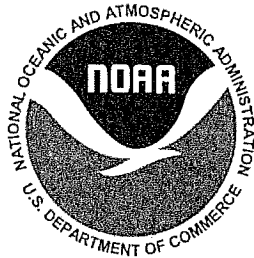
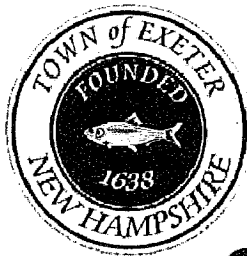
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Prepared for **Town of Exeter, NH**

Prepared by **VHB/Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.  
Bedford, New Hampshire**

In association with  
Weston & Sampson  
Kleinschmidt Associates  
Field Geology Services  
Tom Ballester, PhD

FINAL - October 2013



**Gulf of Maine  
Council on the  
Marine Environment**

*Funding for this project was provided in part by a grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services with funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, The Gulf of Maine Council and the Town of Exeter.*

# Executive Summary

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## ES-1 Background

The Great Dam is located in the Exeter River at the center of Exeter's business district, just upstream of where the river flows into the tidal Squamscott River. The dam impounds the river about 4.5 miles upstream, including a portion of the Little River.

The dam is a reinforced concrete run-of-river<sup>1</sup> dam consisting of a spillway, a fish ladder including a small lower dam or "weir" structure, a low level outlet and a penstock. The dam is approximately 136 feet long by approximately 16 feet high measured from its highest point to the streambed at its downstream face. The fish ladder was installed by the NH Fish and Game Department in the late 1960's to help restore upstream passage for certain fish that live in the ocean, but swim upstream to freshwater in order to spawn.

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Dam Bureau has identified safety problems with the Great Dam. Most notably, the dam does not meet dam safety regulations which require low-hazard<sup>2</sup> dams to safely withstand a 50-year storm event without overtopping the abutments. The town was notified of these problems in a Letter of Deficiency (LOD) issued by NHDES on July 25, 2000.<sup>3</sup> The NHDES has given the Town deadlines to either modify or remove the dam to meet this legal requirement. The most recent deadline passed on December 31, 2011, but NHDES is aware that the town is in the process of making a decision on how best to address the dam safety issue.

Various alternatives have been considered to solve this safety problem, including the permanent modification of the dam and removing the dam entirely. Previous studies indicate that the Great Dam would require significant modifications to increase its discharge capacity to meet NHDES requirements. The current report is intended to determine the feasibility of removing the Great Dam from the Exeter River and to compare the impacts, benefits and costs of dam removal to other options such as modifying the dam to increase its discharge capacity.



<sup>1</sup> "Run of the river" dams allow all of the natural river flow to pass over the dam in a relatively consistent and steady flow as opposed to other dams which may divert, store, or release water flow for various reasons.

<sup>2</sup> "Low hazard" is used in the regulatory sense. See NH Administrative Rule Env-Wr 101.07 for the regulatory definition of a "low hazard" structure.

<sup>3</sup> The original LOD was amended on June 1, 2004 and March 2, 2009 to allow the Town more time to study potential solutions.

This study will supplement previous studies and is not meant to be the sole piece of information on which to base a final decision. This report is not intended to make a specific recommendation regarding whether the dam should be modified or removed. Rather, the intent of this study is to provide specific information to allow the Town to choose an alternative at a future date.

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## ES-2 Alternatives Considered

A total of eight alternatives were considered during this study. Three of these alternatives were discarded due to issues related to regulatory, cost or constructability considerations. Five alternatives were brought forward for further analysis including:

- **Alternative A - No Action (Existing Conditions).** Under this scenario, the existing dam and fish ladder would remain as is, with no modifications. However, this alternative was eliminated based on safety and regulatory concerns. Nevertheless, its inclusion in the study provides a baseline against which other alternatives can be evaluated.
- **Alternative B - Dam Removal.** This alternative involves the removal of the entire existing dam structure, including the fish ladder and lower dam, and reshaping of the river channel within the footprint of the existing dam and immediately upstream and downstream. This alternative substantially changes river elevations upstream from the existing dam site and river hydraulics, both upriver and at the former dam site.
- **Alternative F - Partial Removal.** Under this alternative, the dam spillway would be permanently lowered by 4 feet. Because this would permanently lower the water level upstream of the dam, the existing fish ladder would no longer work properly. Therefore, this alternative also involves construction of a new fish ladder on the eastern side of the reconfigured dam (opposite of the position of the existing ladder).
- **Alternative G - Stabilize in Place.** During this study, it was determined that one potential solution would be to better anchor the existing dam to its underlying bedrock. Engineering calculations indicate that the dam could be made stable even if it is overtopped by a flood. This is a very different approach than trying to increase the hydraulic capacity of the dam. Thus, Alternative G would keep the dam more or less in its current configuration, with no changes to the spillway elevation, abutments or fish ladder. Based on the conceptual design developed as part of this study, ten "post-tension rock anchors" would be installed through



<sup>4</sup> Gray shading throughout this Final Report indicates changes made since the Draft Report was issued in June 2013 in response to public comments.

the dam to anchor it.<sup>5</sup> While this information has yet to be fully reviewed by the NH Department of Environmental Services Dam Bureau, preliminary indications are that this alternative meets dam safety rules.

- **Alternative H – Dam Modification – Inflatable Flashboard/Gate System.** This alternative would lower the spillway by 4.5 feet then replace this portion of the spillway with a 4.5 ft tall adjustable flashboard system. The existing low-level gate would be replaced with a 14 ft long by 7 ft tall adjustable gate. The recommended adjustable flashboard and gate would be an “Obermeyer” system, which has been installed on numerous dams around the world and relies on an inflatable bladder to support the flashboard/gate structure. Because the removal of so much concrete from the dam would impact its stability, this alternative also would require installation of 13 rock anchors.<sup>6</sup> The Obermeyer flashboard and gate will have the same crest elevation as the existing dam (i.e., Elev. 22.5 ft) under normal flow conditions, so would therefore maintain the functionality of the fish ladder. However, the flashboard and gate could be lowered in the event of a flood. This alternative would also require the construction of a compressor building adjacent to the dam (presumably in Founders Park) to control the flashboard and gate.

The main difference among the alternatives relates to their potential effects on the size and depth of the dam impoundment. Alternatives B and F would lead to the elimination of the impoundment, whereas Alternative G would maintain the impoundment at its current level. Alternative H would allow the impoundment to be raised and lowered depending on flow conditions.

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### ES-3 Impacts and Benefits

The safety problems associated with the Great Dam are a significant challenge, and the Town faces an important decision. This study attempts to provide enough information to allow the community to make an informed decision on how to move forward. Below, we summarize the key findings that have developed over the course of the study.



<sup>5</sup> All of the conceptual designs presented in this report are preliminary and have yet to be fully reviewed by technical staff at the NHDES. They are therefore subject to change during final design.

<sup>6</sup> All of the conceptual designs presented in this report are preliminary and therefore subject to change during final design.

## ES-3.1 Changes in Flooding and Hydraulics

Dam Removal and Partial Removal would substantially lower water levels upstream of the dam under normal flow conditions.

The removal of Great Dam would lower water levels and river widths substantially near the Great Dam. The changes would be less significant further upstream until they diminish to zero at the limits of the existing impoundment near the Amtrak (Boston & Maine) Railroad Bridge. For example, if the dam were removed or partially removed, the following changes are predicted to occur under the median annual flows:

- **Between the Dam and the Little River Confluence:** Current average depths would decrease from about 5.2 ft to about 2.5 to 2.6 ft and maximum depths of roughly 10 feet would drop to about 5.4 ft. Average river width is predicted to decrease 59 feet from 134 ft to 75 ft for the Dam Removal Alternative to about 100 ft for the Partial Removal Alternative.
- **From the Little River Confluence to NH 108 Bridge:** During the median annual flow, the average depth in this reach is predicted to drop 2.1 ft from about 6.2 ft to about 3.8 ft if Great Dam were removed either fully or partially. River width is predicted to decrease 15 feet from 75 ft to 60 ft wide under typical flows.
- **NH 108 Bridge to Railroad Bridge:** In the upper reach of the Great Dam impoundment on the Exeter River, from NH 108 to the impoundment limit, the hydraulic control of the Great Dam steadily diminishes. At the Linden Street Bridge, for example, the river depth would drop about 1.9 ft from 4.2 ft to 2.3 ft. The width of the river would also decrease, from about 40 ft wide to about 28 ft.
- **Little River, Confluence to Impoundment Limit:** The impact of dam removal or dam modification on river hydraulics is not limited to the Exeter River; the Little River reach from its mouth to Linden Street is also predicted to decrease in depth and width.

There would be no changes in river depths, widths or velocities downstream of the dam under any of the alternatives.

The Great Dam is a “run of the river” dam. The existing dam allows all of the natural river flow to pass over the dam in a relatively consistent and steady flow; it does not divert, store, or release water flow. Therefore, the water levels and velocities downstream of the dam would remain unchanged, except in the immediate vicinity of the dam. Tidal forces within the Squamscott River will continue to exert a much greater influence on the downstream portion of the river than the dam.



For flood flows, the Dam Removal, Partial Removal and Dam Modification Alternatives would all have similar effects, reducing the depth of flooding substantially. The area subject to flooding would decrease, but not by a substantial amount.

While Dam Removal or Partial Removal would generally lower flood depths more than the Dam Modification Alternative, the differences between the two are not very significant. They would both be effective at reducing flood depths, generally by similar amounts. However, because the adjacent floodplain is relatively flat, most of the area that currently floods along the river would continue to flood, although with shallower water.

The Dam Modification Alternative could maintain the river in more or less its current state under normal flow conditions, but allow for management of river levels during floods.

The main feature of the Dam Modification Alternative would be a tall adjustable flashboard/gate system in place of the current static spillway. The system would be upright under normal conditions so that the normal river level is maintained. Under higher flows, the gate could be lowered to allow for higher flows to pass without as much upstream flooding. The current conceptual design could pass approximately 2,300 cfs through the lowered flashboard and side gate without the water surface elevation increasing over its normal level (22.5 ft NGVD), which is about the 5 to 10 year flood range. It may be possible to design a system that would maintain more or less constant water levels up to these flood flows.

The Stabilize in Place Alternative would meet dam safety rules, but would not mitigate future flooding damage, nor would it directly increase dissolved oxygen levels in the river or provide enhanced fish passage.

Because Alternative G - Stabilize in Place would not change the dam elevations, future flooding conditions would not change. Additionally, water quality in the river would not improve (i.e., improved dissolved oxygen levels, decreased thermal stratification, etc.), as is expected for partial or full dam removal. This alternative also would not provide enhanced fish passage and the associated benefit to habitat in the river.

The modification or removal of the dam is not expected to create hazards due to ice jams.

Ice dynamics can be important for rivers in New Hampshire. However, based on the lack of documented ice jams on the Exeter River and the lack of field evidence of ice jamming in the impoundment, the modification or removal of the Great Dam should have no effect of river ice dynamics.

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## ES-3.2 Sediment Transport and Potential Erosion

Removal of the Exeter Dam is unlikely to initiate a significant upstream migrating headcut, but could create some erosion of streambanks, as is normal for a free-flowing river.

Assessment of the Exeter River by a river scientist found that removal of the dam would not create a severe erosion feature known as a "headcut," because of the presence of ledge across the channel at the dam. A headcut is a type of erosional feature seen in flowing waters where a deep incision of the streambed forms, lowering the streambed and usually causing the riverbanks to erode and collapse. However, increased flow velocities are likely to increase channel migration along the meandering channel in the unconfined portion of the impoundment where a wide floodplain is present between the area where the Little River flows into the Exeter and the NH 108 Bridge. With little infrastructure in this marshy area, the increase in channel dynamics that might accompany dam removal or modification would have a positive impact on restoring normal river processes and improving aquatic habitat.

**Dam Removal, Partial Removal and Dam Modification would restore sediment transport to the river to normal or near normal conditions, leading to a substantial but temporary increase in the amount of sediment transported into the Squamscott River.**

River velocities would increase significantly near the dam, but that portion of the river bed is formed by bedrock which should be stable. Velocities and shear stress near Gilman Park and in other portions of the river will increase moderately. An engineering model of the river was constructed that suggests that sediment carried from the Exeter/Little River would increase from about 2,000 - 3,000 cubic yards over a five year period to about 10,000 cubic yards over the same period. This could affect ecological or recreational resources downstream, although these impacts would be temporary and are not expected to be very significant.

Testing of the sediment in the Exeter and Little River indicates the presence of some environmental contamination, but not at levels that would cause serious ecological or health risks.

Samples were taken from a total of six stations up- and downstream of the dam and tested for a wide variety of chemicals. While some chemicals were detected, the levels found do not raise serious issues that would eliminate any of the alternatives from consideration.



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### ES-3.3 Infrastructure

**Bridges, walls and foundations upstream of the Great Bridge and downstream of the dam should not be affected by any of the Alternatives.**

Changes in water surface elevations, water depths and water velocities can change scour potential and hydraulic loading conditions and therefore affect the foundations of buildings or other structures. These potential effects on existing infrastructure are reduced upstream of the Great Bridge and considered relatively minor. Additionally, there would be no risk to structures downstream of the dam.

**Regardless of the alternative chosen, additional investigation is needed to ensure that structures in the immediate vicinity of the dam are properly founded and not damaged.**

Some of the structures just above the dam may be adequately anchored to resist the increased loading and scour, while others may not. Further investigation is recommended for the Great Bridge abutments, northeast and southeast wing-walls, and the building foundations for the Loaf and Ladle and 11 Water Street Restaurant. This analysis is recommended for all alternatives. Additional monitoring of exposed foundations may also be necessary after implementation of either alternative.

**Surface water intakes would be adversely affected by the Dam Removal, but these impacts could likely be mitigated. Costs associated with this mitigation, however, could be substantial.**

As documented in the Water Supply Alternatives Study (Weston & Sampson, 2010a), after some modifications to the existing river intake, the Town should still be able to utilize the river as a water supply source. However, Phillips Exeter Academy utilizes the river for their steam heating system and irrigation, and their intake appears to be too high to capture river water under normal flow conditions if the dam were to be removed. Similarly, the intake associated with the Exeter Mills Apartments would be impacted by the elimination of the impoundment, as would the fire hydrant at the Exeter Library. Because no good plans of the Exeter Mills or hydrants were found during this study, the precise impact cannot be determined. However, it is likely that all three of the impacted systems could be retrofit. Further engineering analysis would be required during final design of the selected alternative. However, the cost of retrofitting these intakes could be very substantial – possibly as costly as the Dam Removal or Partial Removal Alternatives themselves. Further information on costs is provided below. If Dam Removal is the selected alternative, then the timeline of the dam removal will need to be closely coordinated with retrofits of these intakes. The intakes should be addressed prior to the permanent lowering of the impoundment.

**Public and private wells are not likely to be impacted.**

The Gilman Park Well and the Stadium Well are located on either side of the Exeter River, approximately 500 feet upstream (south) of the confluence of the Exeter River and the Little River. These two wells represent a potential yield of 1.2 million gallon

per day. The impact of lowered groundwater levels on the safe yield of these production wells was estimated using the pumping test and river drawdown data. Combined, the two wells are still projected to produce approximately 1.08 million gallons-per-day of safe yield under post-dam removal conditions. However, as discussed in previous studies sponsored by the Town, there are substantial costs to reactivating these wells. Additionally, the only known private water supply wells in the vicinity of the Exeter River are drilled in bedrock. Since these withdrawals are from the deep bedrock aquifer and the river is hydraulically isolated from the bedrock, no impact to private wells is expected as a result of the project.

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### ES-3.4 Cultural Resources

The Great Dam is a contributing element of Exeter's historic character. Its removal or modification would represent an impact to a historic structure important to downtown Exeter.

The Great Dam has served an important role in the town's industrial history for almost 100 years. Its location just upstream of the Great Falls has been the site of a dam since the 1640s, which provided the source of water power for numerous mills that lined the banks. The dam lies within the Exeter Waterfront Commercial Historic District, which was originally listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, with a boundary increase that added the former Exeter Manufacturing Company property in 1986. The dam has been determined eligible as a contributing resource to this district.

**Dam Modification would also create an adverse effect on Exeter's historic nature.**

Under Alternative H - Dam Modification, very significant modifications would need to be made to the dam in order to meet safety regulations, including removal of a large portion of the dam and the installation of a highly-engineered modern adjustable crest gate. The modified dam would not resemble the current dam. The impact of dam modification on the aesthetics of the dam would be significant, and would detract substantially from its historic nature.

**The area around the Great Dam is considered sensitive for archaeological resources which could be impacted by either removal or modification of the dam.**

Based on historical and environmental review and information gathered from the NHDHR archaeological site files, the area around the Great Dam should be considered archaeologically sensitive for Pre-Contact and Euro-American archaeological sites. Because of the level of construction expected during either alternative, steps should be taken to further investigate these resources and minimize impact if confirmed. Additionally, if the dam is removed, monitoring of archaeologically sensitive areas along upstream river banks is recommended.



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### ES-3.5 Recreation

The Stabilize in Place and Dam Modification Alternatives would not change the recreational experience on the river.

Because these two alternatives would maintain the current pool under typical flow conditions, there would be no change to the river and recreation opportunities and facilities that exist now would continue unaltered.

Dam Removal or Partial Removal would alter the recreational experience on the river, but opportunities would still be plentiful.

Both Dam Removal and Partial Removal would lower river elevations upstream from the existing dam site under low and normal flows which would alter recreational opportunities. The reduced river width would affect, but not eliminate, access at existing formal and informal launch sites. The river would continue to be navigable to non-motorized watercraft, but portage around shallows or bars may be necessary under low flow conditions. Cooler and faster flowing water may enhance opportunities for coldwater fishing for trout species and provide more insect forage for all game species. Generally speaking, the Partial Removal Alternative would have less impact on these resources relative to the Dam Removal Alternative.

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### ES-3.6 Natural Resources

**Removing the dam would likely result in decreased thermal stratification and improved dissolved oxygen conditions in the river, which would create a substantial net benefit on water quality. This same benefit would not occur if the dam were to be stabilized-in-place or modified.**

A decrease in residence time and surface area with a smaller impoundment would reduce the thermal gain that occurs in the reaches above the dam, which should improve dissolved oxygen conditions. Full dam removal, as proposed under Alternative B, would result in the greatest reduction in residence time and, would therefore have the greatest potential to improve dissolved oxygen levels relative to the other alternatives. In addition to the estimated reduction in residence time, the shallower water depths that would result from dam removal would allow for greater mixing and less temperature stratification at lower flows. Faster flow velocities could also lessen the accumulation of oxygen-consuming organic material and debris within the channel, and thus, reduce a source of oxygen demand. The Dam Modification Alternative would result in minimal change in the residence time for the typical flow conditions and would therefore not be expected to improve water quality.



The removal of the Great Dam would have a significant benefit to important fish populations.

The dam is a significant barrier to the upstream passage of fish, such as river herring, as well as other aquatic organisms. Removal of the dam would allow the fish to pass upstream to spawn, which would have a substantial benefit to the Exeter and Squamscott Rivers. Although the fish ladder currently allows some level of upstream passage, it is far less efficient than a free-flowing river.

**Dam removal or modification is not expected to result in significant adverse impacts to wildlife populations.**

The largest threat to wildlife habitat in the northeast is the excessive fragmentation of undisturbed blocks of land associated with increased urbanization, which is not a significant factor in the decision to remove or modify the dam. Indirect effects could occur based on changing flood regimes or hydrology of wetland adjacent to the impoundment which could create shifts in plant communities. Whatever indirect impacts may occur would likely be offset by beneficial changes associated the presence of increased numbers of forage fish, including adult and juvenile river herring.

The full or partial removal of the Great Dam could affect wetlands and floodplain forests which rely to some degree on flooding, including a rare swamp white oak forest community upstream.

Elimination of the impoundment could affect the existing wetlands within and adjacent to the impoundment by lowering surface and ground water elevations such that wetlands with a direct hydraulic connection to the river would be affected. Indirect effects to wetlands could also occur by falling local groundwater levels that are predicted to occur with removal or modification of the dam. Additionally, flood events would be shallower and would inundate less of the floodplain forests along the impoundment including a floodplain forest dominated by swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*). It is impossible to quantify precisely the effects that these changes might have on wetlands and forest community dynamics. However, it seems unlikely that these changes would cause a sudden shift in community composition. Rather, gradual changes may occur which could allow plant species typically occurring in drier sites to colonize the forest. Ultimately, the areal extent of the swamp white oak forest community could decrease.

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### ES-3.7 Technical and Cost Considerations

Removal, Partial Removal, Stabilize in Place and Dam Modification are all feasible from a technical perspective.

The study confirmed that all of the alternatives carried forward would be feasible from an engineering perspective and found no technical reason to eliminate any of these alternatives except the "No Action." Any of the five alternatives could be

designed and constructed. Additional engineering would need to be completed prior to implementation of the selected alternative, and any alternative would require permitting through state and federal resource agencies.

Partially removing the dam would have the highest initial investment costs to the Town, while stabilizing in-place would have the lowest.

The initial investment required for each alternative would include the design, permitting and construction of the alternative plus the cost of mitigating various infrastructure and environmental effects. These costs, shown in Table ES-1, would total an estimated \$1,244,758 for *Alternative B - Dam Removal*. *Alternative F - Partial Removal*, perhaps counter intuitively, would cost substantially more, about \$2,251,238, due to the fact that it would require demolition of the existing fish ladder and installation of a new one. Of the two alternatives that could maintain current water levels upstream of the dam, the *Alternative G - Stabilize in Place* would be the less expensive option, at about \$983,000, while *Alternative H - Dam Modification* would cost just over \$1,811,200.

**Table ES-1. Initial Construction and Mitigation Costs**

Alternative	Design, Permitting and Construction	Infrastructure and Environmental Mitigation	Total
Alt A - No Action	-	\$550,000	\$550,000
Alt B - Dam Removal	\$732,150	\$512,608	\$1,244,758
Alt F - Partial Removal	\$1,338,630	\$912,608	\$2,251,238
Alt G - Stabilize in Place	\$418,000	\$565,000	\$983,000
Alt H - Dam Modification	\$1,016,000	\$795,200	\$1,811,200

**Table ES-2. Total Costs including O&M and Replacement (30 Year Analysis)**

Alternative	Initial Cost	O&M and Replacement Costs	Total
Alt A - No Action	\$550,000	-	\$550,000
Alt B - Dam Removal	\$1,244,758	\$0	\$1,244,758
Alt F - Partial Removal	\$2,251,238	\$385,170	\$2,636,408
Alt G - Stabilize in Place	\$983,000	\$181,894	\$1,164,894
Alt H - Dam Modification	\$1,811,200	\$616,724	\$2,427,924

These totals include the amount not only for construction, but also for mitigating potential impacts such as the cost to retrofit publicly-owned water intakes at the Exeter River Pumping Station and the fire hydrants at the Exeter Library and Founders Park, further archaeological and historic studies, future fish passage monitoring studies, and future water quality studies. These totals do not include the



funds needed to retrofit intakes owned by Exeter Mills and Phillips Exeter Academy, which are discussed below.

However, construction costs and direct mitigation costs are only one component of the total cost of an alternative. Therefore, the cost estimates also considered operation and maintenance as well as 30-year capital replacement costs for each alternative and are reported in Table ES-2.

While cost estimates based on conceptual engineering are considered a reliable way of assessing the relative economic impact of each option, the actual cost can be expected to change as additional engineering is completed on the selected alternative or as the cost of energy or other factors change in the future.

In addition to the direct costs to the Town of Exeter, two privately-owned water intakes would be impacted by the Dam Removal or Partial Removal Alternatives:

Phillips Exeter Academy and the Exeter Mills currently withdraw water from the river for various purposes. If the dam were either fully or partially removed, these intakes would require modification. A 2010 study by Weston and Sampson estimated the costs for these modifications as shown in Table ES-3.

Table ES-3: Cost of Retrofitting Private Water Intake Structures

	Low Estimate (2013 dollars)	High Estimate (2013 dollars)
Exeter Mills Penstock <sup>2</sup>	\$271,000	\$542,000
PEA River Intake <sup>3</sup>	\$108,400	\$271,000
	\$379,400	\$813,000

Note:

Weston and Sampson reported costs in 2009 dollars, which have been adjusted to 2013 dollars by applying an 8.4% inflation factor.

Grant funding may be available to offset the cost of implementing the selected alternative.

Because of the importance of restoring coastal fisheries, a number of public and private grant funding opportunities exist for dam removal which could help to substantially offset the cost to the community if Alternative B - Dam Removal is selected. A sample of potential funding sources:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - Community-based Restoration Program
- NH Fish and Game - Fish Habitat Program
- NHDES - Watershed Assistance Grants, Clean Water Act Section 319

<sup>2</sup> Grant funding opportunities are described in greater detail in a technical memorandum dated September 30, 2013 from Peter Walker, VHB to Paul Vlasich, Town of Exeter.



- US Fish and Wildlife Service - Fisheries and Habitat Restoration Grants
- Natural Resource Conservation Service - Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Trout Unlimited - Embrace a Stream Grant Program
- NH Charitable Foundation - Community Grants Program
- NH Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership - Restoration Grant
- NH State Conservation Committee - Conservation "Moose Plate" Grant

An informal review of recent projects in New Hampshire indicates that grant funding typically covers a significant portion of the cost of removing a dam - between 50 to 100% of design, permitting and construction costs.

Additionally, grant funding opportunities exist for other alternatives, particularly those which would preserve the historic character of the dam or mitigate flooding issues. For example:

- NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program - Community Grant Program
- National Trust for Historic Preservation - National Preservation Loan Fund
- Society for Industrial Archeology - Industrial Heritage Preservation Grants Program

It is notable that these grant streams tend to have relatively small average awards, and there are no known examples of grant funds being awarded for dam repair or reconstruction in New Hampshire. Thus, while the grant programs listed above could possibly be applied to Alternatives F, G and H, it seems less likely funds would be available to offset a significant portion of the costs for these alternatives relative to the dam removal alternative.



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**Memorandum**

To: Paul Vlasich  
Mimi Becker  
Deb Loiselle

Date: October 31, 2013

Project No.: 52151.00

From: Peter J. Walker  
Director, Environmental Services

Re: Public Comments and Responses  
June 2013 Draft Feasibility Study

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Attached is the final summary of all public comments received on the June 2013 Draft of the *Great Dam Removal Feasibility and Impact Analysis*.

These comments were compiled by Mimi Becker and came from a variety of sources including emails, online comments and written letters. We received more than 50 individual comments from a total of 20 different parties. The attached document provides a response to each comment received. Several comments prompted clarifications or updated analyses which were included in the final report. (The changes made to the report are highlighted in gray shading in the final report document.)

**Comments of  
Sean McDermott  
3 Spruce Street, Exeter, NH**

Dr. Becker,

*My name is Sean McDermott. I live at 3 Spruce Street in Exeter. I have been following the study process and read select portions of the draft Exeter River dam removal feasibility study (June 2013). Below are my comments on the alternatives. My interests are principally the long term costs.*

*1. The scope of alternatives is quite good, particularly with the inclusion of full removal. Too often the removal is left out and engineered solutions are targeted. Unfortunately engineered alternatives, as covered in the draft, come with long term costs.*

**Response:** The committee appreciates this comment, and agrees that the number and type of alternatives examined in this report is quite extensive. The cost estimates provided in Chapter 2 do address long term costs associated with each alternative.

*2. Long term costs for engineered and no action alternatives are appropriately considered. Dam removal by nature would have no cost or minimal expenses over the 30 year window. That said, the summaries of costs are limited to known operations and maintenance. The unexpected costs, which by nature are difficult to capture, are not included. Specifically, what is the cost of partially or fully replacing the Obermeyer weir and flashboard system if alternative H is selected? In the event of failure, how rapidly can the structure be repaired? If the Town is unable to rapidly replace or replace the Obermeyer weir, what is the cost to upstream infrastructure that the Town may be required to cover? Such a failure could happen at any time. Although dam removal (option B) and the modification with Obermeyer weir (option H) are comparable in cost with similar environmental benefits, an understanding of the risk for failure should be part of the discussion.*

**Response:** The cost analysis did consider "Life Cycle Costs" which attempt to estimate the costs associated with some of the factors cited in this comment. Specifically, Section 2.11.2 of the report did discuss the total costs of each alternative not only for operation and maintenance, but also included the likely costs for capitol replacement, including the potential for replacement of the Obermeyer flashboards and weir. (See the summary in Table 2.11-2.)

Some of the items cited in the comment are risk factors (e.g., effects of a failure), which cannot be precisely quantified. With proper maintenance, the likelihood of a failure of the Obermeyer system is very low. The length of time required to repair or replace a failed system component would of course vary depending on the actual component and mode of failure. In general, though, repair of any failure requiring replacement of the inflatable bladder would take weeks to months to complete. While this risk cannot be precisely quantified, it is not unreasonable to consider this factor in choosing a final alternative.

*3. Long term costs of fish passage currently, presumably, covered by the state of New Hampshire. It was not clear if this cost was included in the analysis. Although an indirect cost, maintaining the dam requires an expenditure of time and resources to maintain and operate the fishway. There is no guarantee that state funds will be available to staff the fishway. Likewise, there is no guarantee that the Exeter River will remain a state priority for passing anadromous fish over the next 30 years. Only full dam removal (option B) is unaffected by this consideration. This factor should be part of the consideration for choosing an alternative.*

Comments of  
Sean McDermott  
3 Spruce Street, Exeter, NH

**Response:** The current annual operation and maintenance costs for the Exeter River fish ladder at Great Dam, owned and operated by the NH Fish and Game Department, is \$12,554/year. This includes personnel costs for monitoring and maintenance, equipment to maintain an operational fishway, and repairs. This would translate to a minimum cost of \$376,620 over 30 years.

4. Full dam removal (option B) is projected to be the second most expensive option. Dam modification (option H) is a close third with similar water quality, fish passage and habitat benefits. However, compared to all the alternatives, dam removal comes with closure. No major future action related to the dam will be needed. No flood concerns associated with the dam; no structural failure; no insurance issues; no maintenance or operations. Additionally, removal of the dam eliminates the need for specialized training of town staff, which over 30 years may require repetition with staffing changes. All of this has implications for future costs to the Town and should be considered in the decision process.

**Response:** So noted.

5. Partial removal of the dam (option F) requires a new fish ladder. In addition to the long term costs of operations and maintenance, there is the risk that it won't attract fish. Hopefully the design considerations vetted the need for a training wall similar to the current structure. This would increase the overall cost.

In addition, lowering the head height by four feet may make a rock ramp viable. While a rock ramp would eliminate some O&M requirements and provide volitional fish passage year round, the long term performance of these structures are not fully vetted.

**Response:** We are confident that the new fish ladder can be designed to attract fish. The current concept would located the fish ladder entrance at river right where there is additional flow due to the low level gate – which could be modified to improve attraction flow. The entrance would also be set at the base of the dam unlike the current fish ladder; there is therefore no need for a training wall. The flow from the fish ladder entrance and the auxiliary flow provided by the low level outlet should adequately attract the migrating fish.

A rock ramp could be considered in lieu of a fish ladder, but it would likely be more expensive. Successful rock ramps are generally less than 5% slope, so an eight foot high dam (i.e. the existing downstream dam height minus the 4 foot breach proposed under Alternative F – Partial Removal) would require a ramp approximately 400 feet long. That would require a great deal of material, placement of which could be quite expensive and involve potential design issues.

6. Final selection of an alternative should not be simple cost (although see the next comment). If we as a Town intend to take on a large project, we should aspire to the broadest range of benefits. Stabilizing in place (Option G) does nothing for the Town except meet a narrow regulatory standard (not to belittle the requirement). We gain nothing for recreation, water quality or migratory fish, and next to nothing for flood mitigation. A great deal of money would be spent for a single goal. Dam removal (option B), and partial removal have similar potential benefits across a broad range of interests: fish passage, water quality, flood mitigation, etc. Although more expensive, more would be completed for improving the natural resources and the quality of life in Exeter.

**Comments of  
Sean McDermott  
3 Spruce Street, Exeter, NH**

**Response: So noted.**

*7. Whatever option is selected, the availability of outside funding should be a top criteria. If state or federal funds are available for specific options but not others, the Town voters should be informed. Such funding could make otherwise expensive options palatable to local tax payers.*

**Response: The report has been updated to include a discussion of potential grant funding opportunities. Please see Section 2.11 of the final report.**

*The draft report appears to address the social, economic and environmental concerns surrounding this project. Long term costs, outside funding sources and a broad spectrum of benefits should inform the decision process for advancing a preferred alternative. Thank you*

**Response: The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates these comments. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative.**

Comments of  
Allen Lampert  
Franklin Street, Exeter, NH

*I own property on Franklin Street and have worked and next to the river for 40 years. Having have suffered the effects of flooding and the negative economic impact, I feel removal will be the best long term course of action.*

*Allen Lampert*

**Response:** The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative.

**Comments of  
Tom Oxnard  
Greenleaf Drive, Exeter, NH**

*Hi, I am writing in response to the article, and for public response to the Great Dam. I would vote to take the dam down, because of the huge financial losses and misery created by regular floods. I hope these financial costs have been factored in.*

*Tom Oxnard, Greenleaf Dr, Exeter*

**Response: The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative.**

Comments of  
Dan Jones  
181 Kingston Road, Exeter, NH

*Dear Dr. Larsen Becker:*

*I have read with some interest the Executive Summary of the Committee Report with its attachments. My comments would be:*

1. *The fish ladder was rebuilt around 2010, not the earlier date mentioned in the introduction.*

**Response:** The date in the report refers to the original installation of the fish ladder, which occurred in the late 1960s; the date cited in the report is therefore correct.

2. *There is no discussion of the effect of the "Great Bridge" on the flooding upstream of the existing dam. In the "Mother's Day Flood," the flow could not pass under the bridge, while, of course, there was full flow over the dam below.*

**Response:** The full text of the report and its appendices has a very detailed discussion of the river hydraulics, including the restriction presented by the Great Bridge. The hydraulic analysis considers this effect, so all of the numbers in the report are accurate, as are the findings outlined in the Executive Summary.

3. *There is no discussion of the lack of management or the failure of the town to open the existing gate in advance of potential flooding. The dam suffered from creative neglect for many years under the prior town administration. I believe that it has since been the practice to open the gate and draw the impoundment down in anticipation of severe storms, with a reduction in flooding. Is an upgrade of the existing gate, or an exploration of the possibility of using the mill penstock in these cases included in the Stabilization option? Could the gate be enlarged?*

**Response:** These issues are addressed in detail in the full technical report. We examined both upgrading the gate and using the penstock in great detail in this and previous studies. We found that increasing the size of the gates does not provide adequate hydraulic capacity (i.e., would not pass the 50 year flow) and therefore would not eliminate the safety concerns and would not meet dam safety rules. Similarly, using the penstock would not provide adequate hydraulic capacity, and faces other constraints as well. However, reconfiguring and increasing the size of the gates is included in several of the alternatives, most notably Alternative H – Dam Modification.

4. *The report seems to treat the existing wetlands and wildlife habitat along the rivers as some sort of recent creation. They have been in existence since the original construction. Except for the white oak swamp I see very little concern in that direction.*

**Response:** Certainly, the river valley contained extensive wetlands and wildlife habitat prior to the construction of a dam on the Exeter River; these wetlands and wildlife habitats will continue to exist if the dam is removed. However, those natural systems have adapted to the increased water levels and more frequent flooding produced by the dam. Natural community changes, including a potential loss of wetlands as discussed in the report, is a concern to many in the community as well as to the natural

**Comments of  
Dan Jones  
181 Kingston Road, Exeter, NH**

resource agencies. It is appropriate to consider this effect in making a final decision about the fate of the dam.

5. *The report describes the drop in water level upstream. I do not see an analysis of the gradual drop in ground water level and the effect on the surrounding area. We all know that the developers who are pushing for the removal anticipate that their land along the river will become less restricted.*

**Response:** The effect of dam removal on groundwater levels is discussed in several sections of the technical report, most notably in the context of water supplies (Section 3.7.3) and wetlands and other natural resources (Section 3.11). If the dam removal alternative is selected and the dam is removed, in some areas along the river may eventually transition to upland, but these would tend to be areas located away from the river itself and not directly adjacent. Existing state and local regulations would apply to these lands accordingly. Tim Drew, NH DES, can provide more information about state regulations regarding shoreland areas and wetlands: [timothy.drew@des.nh.gov](mailto:timothy.drew@des.nh.gov).

6. *Has there been a survey done of the extent of the flowage rights owned by the town?*

**Response:** The Town is not aware of any survey of flowage rights. Such a survey is not considered a requirement before a decision can be made on which alternative to select.

7. *I own much of the Exeter frontage on the Pickpocket mill pond. Is the State going to push for its removal too? I would gain several acres of dry land.*

**Response:** The State does not have a preference regarding the alternative which a dam owner selects, as long as it meets Dam Safety Regulations. Dam removal is one means to achieving safety standards. The Pickpocket Dam is owned by the Town of Exeter and is currently under a Letter of Deficiency. It is the responsibility of the town, as the dam owner, to address the noted deficiencies and their choice to as to how they will comply with Dam Safety Regulations.

8. *Has the committee looked at the mess that other dam removals have caused?*

**Response:** The committee has received several public comments at the three public meetings that were held for this project regarding the outcome of other New Hampshire dam removal projects. As a result, public presentations of New Hampshire dam removal projects will be prepared and presented. The commenter is encouraged to attend the future public presentation to receive factual information and participate in discussions.

9. *I believe that stabilization and improvement and management of the existing gates is the best way to preserve Exeter's heritage.*

**Response:** These issues are addressed in detail in the full technical report. We examined both upgrading the gate and using the penstock in great detail in this and previous studies. We found that increasing the size of the gates does not provide adequate hydraulic capacity (i.e., would not pass the 50 year flow) and therefore would not eliminate the safety concerns and would not meet dam safety rules. Similarly, using the penstock would not provide adequate hydraulic capacity, and faces other



Comments of  
Dan Jones  
181 Kingston Road, Exeter, NH

constraints as well. However, reconfiguring and increasing the size of the gates is included in several of the alternatives, most notably Alternative H – Dam Modification.

10. *Although Exeter may not have a specific figure added to the appraisal for river frontage, it does affect the market value which is the basis for the value placed on the parcel.*

**Response:** The Town will continue its current property assessment process. The tax assessor does not assess riverfront property any differently than other property and the market dictates the value of property.

11. *I do appreciate the amount of work done on this study. Unfortunately, my illness over the past year has kept me from getting too involved. I have previously served on both the Planning Board and as chairman of the Z.B.A. for five years. I was also on the Sounding Board which wrote a soil type based master plan, long since buried, in the 1970's. The town does have maps which delineate the soil types, and probably those areas saturated by the mill pond.*

**Response:** The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative.

*Thank you for your attention,*

*Dan Jones  
181 Kingston Rd.*

**Comments of  
Carl and Sharon Anderson  
Exeter, NH**

*Good morning Ms. Larsen.*

*My wife Sharon and I have lived in Exeter for more than 40yrs and have enjoyed the beauty and harshness of the Exeter River. To us the total removal of the dam is the most practical and cost effective way of dealing with all the present and future potential unknowns if the dam remains.*

*Respectfully yours,  
Carl and Sharon Anderson*

**Response: The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative.**

Comments of  
Bonnie Flythe  
Exeter, NH

Hello,

*I have read the reports on the town site about the Great Dam and now think that the town should remove it. This would apparently be the most sound (sic) ecological move and would improve the quality of the water.*

*I am not persuaded that it has sufficient historical importance to preserve it. With the dam removed residents would be restoring the river to its condition when the earliest residence lived here. It would be interesting to know what Native American archaeological sites existed along the banks, but that is unfortunately not possible. It does not seem to me that removing the dam will seriously harm the picturesque nature of the downtown area. From so many angles, Exeter is very attractive and at least part of that is the result of some relatively natural areas along the river bank.*

*Thank you for considering what I have to say.  
Bonnie Flythe*

**Response:** The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative.

**Comments of  
Jeff Bouvier  
1 Hillside Avenue, Exeter, NH**

*Dr. Larsen Becker,*

*My feedback for the Great Dam is to go with Option G, stabilize the existing dam. First and foremost, it is by far the cheapest option and should be the obvious choice based on cost. Cost should always be the primary driving force when it comes to spending of the tax payers dollars. Second for me is to leave Exeter as it is. A dam has been there for over 350 years and it should remain there. It is what made Exeter, Exeter. Without the river and the dam, Exeter would be a dramatically different town.*

*Sincerely,  
Jeff Bouvier  
1 Hillside Ave.  
Exeter, NH*

**Response: The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative. Please note that cost estimates have been updated in the final report in response to public comments and additional information. Additionally, a discussion of potential grant funding opportunities for the project has been added to the report.**

**Comments of  
Philip Conlon  
Crawford Avenue, Exeter, NH**

*We live on Crawford Ave in the Court St area which sees significant flooding. After reading the report summary on the town's website, it seemed that as a taxpayer with no impact from the river as a homeowner, the decision to anchor the existing dam would be the most cost effective approach. One of the questions at the end of the report asked about grants for dam removal. The answer was somewhat ambiguous talking about modification not removal. We have a vested interest on this topic and strongly support the removal of the dam due to flooding problems. We received heavy damage to our home during the mother's day flood, and have been forced to leave several other times during heavy rain storms. When this topic of dam removal was first brought to our attention a few years ago, there were conversations of federal money for dam removal, not modification. The last article in the Exeter News letter detailed the costs on the front page of the newspaper showing the least expensive project being anchoring the current dam. I'm not sure if this is misleading the public if public money is available, since most voters would vote for the cheapest alternative. There are many other positive features to restoring this river to its original beauty as many river projects are doing so throughout the country. However, the bottom line of our viewpoint is it would be nice to feel a bit more secure when heavy rain storms are predicted.*

*Philip Conlon*

**Response:** The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative. Please note that cost estimates have been updated in the final report in response to public comments and additional information. Additionally, a discussion of potential grant funding opportunities for the project has been added to the report.

Comments of  
Brian Griset  
26 Cullen Way, Exeter, NH

Great Dam Removal Feasibility and Impact Analysis-  
Final Draft Report

Comments:

Brian Griset  
26 Cullen Way, Exeter, NH 03833  
(603) 772-0978 Email: grisetandsons@comcast.net

August 13, 2013

*Please accept the following comments on the final draft report and Executive Summary. As you are aware I have been involved in this project from the beginning on both the W&S Committee and River Advisory Committee as well as a private citizen and consultant. There are multiple areas of concern which are unaddressed or reflect inaccurate information.*

**Response:** The Committee appreciates the detailed comments provided by Mr. Griset and acknowledges that some clarifications and additional information would benefit the report, as is the case for all draft reports of this nature. However, we respectfully contend that this comment overstates the issue. Additional responses to specific items are provided below, and the report has been updated in response to some of Mr. Griset's comments.

*I would like to ask one question before I proceed. Is it the intension of the Committee and Consultants to actually update and correct the Final Report itself, rather than just adding "comments and answers" as a separate handout?*

**Response:** The ERSC has issued responses to each of the comments received. Additionally, the final technical report has been updated as needed in response to public comments received on the June 2013 Draft Report.

**Issues:**

**Methodology:**

*There is no consistency to the methodology or scope of work assigned to each alternative. As examples:*

**Dam Removal option:**

**Governmental Impacts: Positive**

*The report looks more globally and includes potential NEGATIVE infrastructure impacts (the 4 direct intakes into the river).*

Comments of  
Brian Grisct  
26 Cullen Way, Exeter, NH

*However, there is no evaluation or quantification of the POSITIVE impacts and the cost savings directly resulting from the reduction in flooding and lowering of the overall water table. We currently have multiple completed and ongoing studies covering some of these issues.*

*Example 1:*

*I/I, Inflow and Infiltration has been a hot topic as demonstrated by the CSO discussions, Wastewater Treatment capacity and operating expense discussions and the current Jady Hill project. There has already been a second I/I project identified, Westside Dr. Sump pump usage for underwater basements has been discussed at length and a town wide solution has not been developed. On multiple occasions, in multiple forums, I have raised the issue and premise that the lowering of the water table should result in some change in the volume of water being discharged by sump pumps or I/I into the sewer lines which would lower total operating costs for its treatment. Further, any reduction in volume would allow for less capital expenditures to reduce this problem. Not even a mention of the potential cost savings is included in the Dam report. These costs savings from reduced operating and diminished future capital projects impacting W&S users are not quantified or even mentioned in the report or Executive Summary. An "estimated" credit should be established for these items, both O&M and capital cost.*

**Response:** The commenter raises a reasonable point, but there is currently no accurate way to estimate these costs, so their inclusion in the cost estimate would be potentially misleading. The cost estimates as presented make a very significant effort to include all potential direct and indirect cost items in a balanced way so that the public will have a comprehensive view of the relative costs of each alternative. It is certainly appropriate to consider factors other than those included in the cost estimates when making a final decision on the best alternative. This potential benefit has been identified and discussed in a qualitative manner in the final report in a new section entitled "Other Potential Related Costs and Benefits."

*Example 2:*

*Currently the Town, or taxpayers, expend funds from property taxes to maintain and operate the dam. Licensing fees, repair and maintenance costs, utilities and personnel costs are budgeted annually. These costs should be also quantified for the same time frame (30 years) used for future O & M future expenses for the other options and listed as a credit for the Dam removal option in determining total cost.*

**Response:** The costs estimates already address the relative differences between the alternatives for operations and maintenance (O&M) costs. O&M costs are appropriately reflected in the cost estimates for the "build" alternatives. To include them as a credit for dam removal would essentially count them twice, which would not be appropriate.

*Example 3:*

*Another example is reduced road maintenance costs due to frost heaving. Most of our roads were laid out prior to the 1960's when the dam alterations began raising and restricting water flow and the operation of the mill water source began to be reduced and discontinued. As a result, road bed elevations were constructed based upon that periods water table and frost parameters. Presently, low lying roads like Court St. and Powder Mill Rd. suffer extreme frost heaving resulting in higher maintenance costs and shorter life expectancies. An estimate should be requested from the Highway Superintendent and included as a credit.*

**Comments of  
Brian Griset  
26 Cullen Way, Exeter, NH**

**Response:** Again, quantifying these types of indirect costs is extremely difficult, if not impossible, and is therefore not standard practice. The cost estimates as presented made a very significant effort to include all potential direct and indirect cost items in a balanced way so that the public would have a comprehensive view of the relative costs of each alternative. However, this potential benefit has been identified and discussed in a qualitative manner in the final report in a new section entitled "Other Potential Related Costs and Benefits."

*Example 4:*

*I won't even go into the funds spent by this town for emergency management, past emergency responses, overtime, etc. but a general review and presentation of town wide annual cost savings should be included in the report showing the offset to any projected expenses.*

**Response:** Available information on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) insurance claims and grants in Exeter was gathered and included in the report. Based on additional discussions with the town in response to this comment, it was determined that there would be no accurate way to quantify the potential savings to the Town from decreased emergency operations if the dam were to be removed, and the Town expects these savings to be relatively small. However, it may be appropriate to consider this potential benefit if the dam were to be removed (Alternative B) or Modified (Alternative H). Therefore, this potential benefit has been identified and discussed in a qualitative manner in the final report in a new section entitled "Other Potential Related Costs and Benefits."

*Private Property Owner Impacts: Positive*

*Example 1:*

*Currently FEMA is conducting studies to update FEMA flood maps based upon new rainfall information. It should be noted this data is based upon prior rainfall data, not projected future data related to Climate Change.*

*When making these updates the modeling will be based upon the rainfall data and existing infrastructure and topography. The projected net result is that the new FEMA mapping will incorporate an even greater geographic area in Exeter.*

*Since all property transfers now require flood zone certifications for transfer and mortgage purposes, we will see numerous new Exeter homeowners now required to purchase flood insurance. A current rate quote from last week for a \$250,000 home with a \$1,000 deductible in the 100 year flood plain is \$458. A home in a 50 year flood plain will be even higher and will affect many homes currently paying a premium based upon the 100 year event.*

*With the dam removal option, immediately upon removal the Town of Exeter can request updating of the FEMA mapping to reflect the diminishing affects and geographic area of flooding. This would result in immediate cost savings to present and future home buyers and sellers.*



Comments of  
Brian Griset  
26 Cullen Way, Exeter, NH

**Response:** Until new maps are available, any estimate would be speculative, but again, it is appropriate to consider this as an ancillary benefit of certain alternatives including Alternative B – Dam Removal. This potential benefit therefore has been identified in the final report in a new section entitled “Other Potential Related Costs and Benefits.”

*Example 2:*

*With a lowered water table back to natural conditions multiple areas in Town will see a reduction in moisture and water seepage into basements. This will likely lead the availability for use of these basements and the resulting drop in humidity will reduce cases of mold. Mold can be a significant health hazard to humans and can devalue a property for resale.*

**Response:** Again, quantifying these types of indirect costs is extremely difficult, if not impossible, and is therefore not standard practice. The cost estimates as presented made a very significant effort to include all potential direct and indirect cost items in a balanced way so that the public would have a comprehensive view of the relative costs of each alternative.

*Costs: Net Costs Required*

*Finally, on multiple occasions I have communicated the availability of grant funds for dam removal from multiple government and private sources. The executive summary of the report makes no mention of this. The full report, on page 84 of 274 has a one sentence disclaimer added at the end of their comparison chart simply stating government grant money is available. No source data, no amounts or limits, no reference list of agencies or private organizations. In 10 minutes on Google today I found a list of 20 programs and organizations, specifically for a dam removal project here in NH in 2007.*

**Response:** In response to this and other comments received on the draft report, the consultant has developed a discussion of potential grant funding opportunities for the dam removal alternative as well as other build alternatives. This discussion was presented to the town in a memorandum from VHB to the Town dated September 24, 2013 and is summarized in Section 2.11 of the revised final report.

*The report, and especially the Executive Summary and Tables, should reflect all cost savings, cost impacts, grant funding available and the resulting "net costs" for each alternative, including interest expenses of the bond.*

*As example, Alternative F has an initial cost of \$1.3 Million with no available grant funding. A 10 year, with equal annual principal bond payments of \$130,000 per year would incur total interest payments of \$214,500.*

*Whereas, if dam removal and all related impacts, after all grant funding had a principal balance of \$500,000 under the same terms, the interest impact would be \$83,500, a differential of \$131,000 in interest expense.*

**Comments of  
Brian Griset  
26 Cullen Way, Exeter, NH**

*If the report is purporting to reflect a 30 year look out period for impacts, this factor should be included in the tables for all alternatives.*

**Response:** The Town and consultant believes that the including financing costs is not necessary to allow the public to make an informed decision on the various alternatives. Inclusion of bond cost is unlikely to change the costs of the various alternatives relative to one another.

***Differing Methodology:***

*The methodology used in costing out impacts differs from that used in computing cost figures for the "Remain in Place" additional items.*

*The full report gives estimate ranges for the 4 intake modifications. As an example, River Intake is listed at \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 and the Mill intake at \$250,000 to \$500,000. All for projects combined have a range of \$1,225,000 to \$2,000,000. The combined cost number added to the Dam Removal option is \$1,747,950 in the report. I have attempted to run a methodology, average, median, etc. to explain this number. I can't determine one. The number used is equal to 87% of the high estimate and 108% of the averaged cost.*

**Response:** The calculation of this figure in the draft report was detailed in Appendix H, Page H-6, in the sheet entitled "mitigation costs." Note that this cost was updated as a result of this and other comments on the draft report. The revised cost to the Town for retrofitting public water intake structures (i.e., the Exeter River Pump Station and the dry hydrant at Founder's Park) is now estimated to be approximately \$392,408. (See Table H-10 of the final report.) Additionally, the cost to retrofit private intakes (i.e., the Exeter Mills intake at the penstock and the Phillips Exeter Academy intake) is estimated to be approximately \$813,000. (See Table H-11 of the final report.)

*I then compared the numbers and methodology for "the Remain in Place" only additional item, "water quality". In the full page report the range given was \$250,000 to \$1,000,000. The number used in the report is \$550,000. In this case the number is only 55% of the high estimate and is not even the average but 88% of the average. This disparity in methodology I cannot explain as it inflates the costs for "Removal" but diminishes the costs for "Remain in Place". A consistent methodology should be used.*

**Response:** The costs for retrofitting water intake structures are completely separate from the cost to address water quality issues. Thus, the methods used to arrive at the cost for these two items differ appropriately so that they will properly reflect the separate considerations involved in each issue.

***For the Stabilize Option G and Modification Option H***

*In addition to the methodology issue I just stated above, I find it disturbing that even additional cost items stated as probable costs in the full report are not cost estimated out or even mentioned in the Executive Summary or in the presentation. As an example, on the "stabilize option" they state that additional costs are highly probable for abutment modification to prevent over-topping. No investigation, no analysis, no mention in the Executive Report tables.*

Comments of  
Brian Grisct  
26 Cullen Way, Exeter, NH

*The last minute proposal for "Stabilize in Place" has been inadequately explored for total costs. Yet it is included in the report as if it has been studied to the same degree as the other options. Clearly, the average person will not be able to nor want to read a 274 page report plus the appendixes. In the Executive Summary, at the least a disclaimer should be included on this alternative stating that potential addition costs may occur from yet to be determined factors not considered by the Report.*

**Response:** The cost estimates for each alternative, including Alternative G – Stabilize in Place, were completed with the same level of detail and are in compliance with the appropriate engineering standard of care.

*From what I could determine for these two alternatives the existing and current expenses incurred by the town are not being adding into the calculation of O&M costs for determining the final 30 year cost. Not only should those costs be reflected as a credit on the "Removal Alternative", they should reflect as an expense on this and all other options.*

**Response:** As discussed in our response to a previous comment, the costs estimates already address the differences among the alternatives relative to operations and maintenance (O&M) costs. See Tables 2.11-2 and 2.11-3 of the report, as well as the additional details provided in Appendix H. O&M costs are appropriately reflected in the cost estimates for the "build" alternatives. To include them as a credit for dam removal would essentially count them twice, which would be inappropriate.

**Water Intake Assumptions:**

*Mill:*

*The report inaccurately states that the Mills has a deeded right (ownership) to the penstock. That is incorrect. The deed is silent on the ownership of the penstock but does transfer the land (Founder's Park and Library) to the Town. The only stated right reserved for the Mills is the right to access water for fire protection. The only obligation within the deed for the Town was that it could not do modifications which would deny the mill this "fire protection". I believe I even brought this up before the River Committee way back when it became an issue.*

*Updating these comments based upon a statement by Selectmen Don Clement, the Town recently found that there is another agreement which may grant additional rights to the Mill for air conditioning and irrigation. If this is so, then insuring their intake may be required.*

**Response:** The Town will continue to work with Exeter Mills to address concerns relative to water supply and potential impacts to their intake. This comment references certain legal rights which are still under review by the Town's attorneys.

*The numbers/estimate for adjusting the Mill intake state they are estimated on the high side due to the unavailability of engineering information. I have provided you with the contact information for Gene Lambert, past engineer for the Mills who is familiar with the present design of both the Mill intake and the dry hydrant. Updated estimates should be reflected in the report and Executive Summary.*

**Comments of  
Brian Griset  
26 Cullen Way, Exeter, NH**

**Response:** The draft report relied on an analysis presented in the Town's study of water supply alternatives developed by Weston and Sampson in 2010, as well as additional information provided by Exeter Mills to Weston and Sampson in 2011 and 2012. In response to this comment, VHB contacted Mr. Lambert, who graciously provided some additional information which has been taken into consideration in reviewing the estimate for the mill intake retrofit. This supplemental information helped to confirm that the earlier opinion of cost for retrofitting the mill intake was appropriate.

*Based upon review of the granite formation underlying the dam, it is apparent that the northern end of the outcrop is 1 foot lower than the remainder of the out crop. In addition, directly upstream of this area is a depression in the granite formation of sufficient depth to install an intake by extending the 8 inch ductile iron pipe to this location.*

*To insure adequate and additional availability of water for the mill and raise the lowest static level of the impoundment, I would suggest raising this 10-15 foot lower area of the granite outcrop by one foot to match the elevation of the remaining bedrock formation. It could be done in a way to simulate the natural granite formation and blend in for esthetics. This should not add much to the cost of the intake extension and would possibly eliminate any need to jack hammer or blast as recommended for other options.*

**Response:** The approach suggested by Mr. Griset may prove to be a feasible in addressing the mill intake retrofit. A final design for any necessary intake retrofit would be undertaken once the community selects an alternative to pursue, whether it is dam removal or another alternative.

PEA:

*For the dam removal option the report's methodology includes costs that the Town is potentially not legally liable for. As previously stated, the PEA property was originally owned by Gilman, one of the original mill owners and one of the partners who formed the Exeter Manufacturing Company and Exeter Water Company. In the incorporation documents for both you will see that all riparian and flowage rights were transferred to the owner of the dam.*

*The fact that PEA chose to install a dug well for irrigation verses a river intake reinforces that they are aware they have no legal rights to rely upon the river for watering purposes.*

**Response:** This comment references certain legal rights which are still under review by the Town's attorneys. However, in response to this comment and informal feedback from the Academy, the cost for retrofitting the PEA withdrawal has been removed from the direct costs to the Town but is still presented in the study in a new section of Chapter 2 entitled, "Other Potential Related Costs and Benefits."

**Comment/My Biggest issues:**

*While on the W&S Committee from 2005-2008, during those 4 years we implemented a strategic plan and encouraged DPW to institute those processes. It is clear that both the DPW and the Town Manager are not doing so.*

**Comments of  
Brian Griset  
26 Cullen Way, Exeter, NH**

*Using the "\$800,000" river intake item as the example: I went and read the specific section of the Weston & Sampson 2010 report. I had already done a cursory review of the whole report previously. The report is supposed to be a strategic plan for our water needs. It essentially continues what the old W&S Committee started, a transition to a 100% groundwater source system to reduce costs and avoid catastrophic failures.*

*The approved groundwater plant was designed to be expandable to add additional sources after Gilman, Stadium and Lary Lane wells were online. These 3 could be permitted faster than other new sources that had been located. The 2010 report included a provisions, actually two, that allowed for an interim solution if the dam was removed prior to permitting of the new sources. The first, a \$100,000 aeration system for the reservoir to allow year round withdrawals from the water works pond. Second was supposed to be a \$65,000 extension to the intake pipe based upon our recommendation at that time. Instead, a \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 total restructuring of the intake system at the pump-house is being proposed.*

*If we are intending to remove surface water infrastructure from our system and go to a total groundwater system, and, the 2010 report estimates bringing a new well online will cost \$1,000,000, why would we expend \$1,000,000 (or even \$800,000) retrofitting and upgrading a surface pump station when a \$100,000 or \$60,000 temporary "solution" is available?*

**Response:** As discussed in response to comments above, the cost of addressing the retrofit of the Exeter River Pump Station as a result of partial or full dam removal has been updated in the final report. The original estimate presented in the June draft report was \$948,500. The revised report now carries a cost for this item of \$338,208. See Section 2.11 and Appendix H of the revised final report. This reduction was appropriate for two reasons: 1) The Town had already completed some of the work included in the estimate included in the draft report, and 2) Some of the costs included in the original estimate related to work needed regardless of the fate of the dam. The revised cost estimate is considered a reasonable amount for planning purposes and is more directly tied to the partial or full dam removal alternatives.

*In essence, nobody is coordinating the game plan and explaining it to both the public or the consultants. No one is looking for the synergies to save the taxpayers and the ratepayers money. Nobody is looking at the total ramifications of each and every decision and how they impact the other decisions.*

*Right now the citizens are going to be facing the costs and decisions on projects 99% of the Town is unaware of. Here's a list of those items current issues being studied or planned for:*

***Mandatory***

*Flooding liabilities*

*Dam deficiencies*

*Section 401 Water Quality (dead river) and BMPs*

*Inflow/Infiltration*

*CSO's*

*New Sewer Treatment Plant*

**Comments of  
Brian Griset  
26 Cullen Way, Exeter, NH**

*Additional Provisions of Federal Sewer Permit*

*"Climate Adaptation Plan for Exeter" (additional flooding levels above those in Dam Report, forecast not even being considered by Dam report)*

*Infrastructure demands to deal with Climate Change Plan.*

*Interconnection Agreement with Stratham*

*Stormwater Separation, groundwater, non-source point pollution*

*Start Paying for Groundwater Treatment Plant*

*Start developing and permitting 2 additional wells. additional*

*Waterline Improvements specifically for Ground Water Treatment Plant NOT disclosed to public but required prior to putting GWTP on-line.*

*Sewer line improvements and replacement schedule*

*Undersized and failing Bridges- Court St., Linden St., String Bridge.*

***Wish List of Someone***

*Epping Road Corridor Gateway improvements*

*Portsmouth Ave Gateway improvements*

*Downtown TIFF*

*Downtown "Redevelopment"*

*Parking Garage*

*2nd Fire Station*

*Upgraded Communications system*

*Facilities Plan*

*Schools?????*

*Conservation land*

*Raynes Farm- again!*

***Summary:*** *Unless the Report is corrected, or people start speaking out and start looking into this by asking their own questions, the Selectmen might make the wrong choices for the warrant article and then it will be up to just the citizens to figure this out. In reviewing the draft report recently released, I have a few, no, many concerns.*

*First, the report adds \$1.74 Million to the actual \$784,000 cost of dam removal specifically for "intake adjustments". Four are listed in the executive summary. First the river pump station at \$800K- \$1.0M. This is not for an extension of the intake pipe. They have proposed building a totally new intake consisting of a dry well in the river bank at a depth below the riverbed with a metal screen built into the side of the riverbank. A lot more expensive than our less than \$60K modification of the pipe as a temporary measure until the groundwater sources could be brought on-line.*

*Second constructing a new dug well for PEA's athletic field irrigation at up to \$250K which is not even our responsibility. PEA has no riparian rights to the river or is the Town required to maintain any level of water for their benefit. These water rights were stripped off by the original owners back in 1828. That is why PEA constructed a well instead of a river withdrawal in the first place. Third, the issue of the Mill's water right withdrawal is back. The engineers use a number between \$250K- \$500K claiming they do not know how the withdrawal is accomplished as there are no engineering drawings. Not only did I inform*

**Comments of  
Brian Grisct  
26 Cullen Way, Exeter, NH**

*the committee on more than one occasion that Gene Lambert was the engineer at the time and had knowledge, I spoke with the Mill property manager and he stated he knew how it was constructed. Finally, they have added up to \$250K for changing the intake for a dry hydrant in Founders Park once again claiming they have no knowledge of the actual intake.*

*In general, the report uses O&M expenditures to add some costs to some options but is silent on the costs and impact cost savings currently being expended in maintaining the dam. Even existing O&M savings by dam removal are ignored. Methodology for assumptions between the various options listed is not consistent and results in inflated costs for dam removal and understated or non stated additional costs for the other items.*

**Response: Please see our responses to similar comments above.**

*Finally, years ago when we first discussed this I gave the River Study Committee a list of federal, state and public/private institutions that gave grants for dam removal efforts. The Executive Summary is silent on this fact. At the meeting this issue was raised and the consultant and town engineer admitted to 50% funding availability. The day after in 10 minutes on-line I found a source listing, I believe, 16 organizations that participated in a 2007 NH dam removal project providing grant money totaling 92% of the costs, \$40K was required from the dam owner.*

**Response: The Executive Summary and Chapter 2 of the final report have been updated with a discussion of grant funding opportunities.**

***Recommendation:***

*The benefits to Dam Removal, regardless of the real costs, far outweigh keeping it in place.*

*Environmentally it corrects all of the damage to the ecosystem that has occurred since 1968. It will bring back natural wildlife patterns, ranging from deer, to fish to birds and insects.*

*It corrects and reduces flooding and the resulting costs, not just now but in the future times based upon the Climate Change projections. We are planning for the future and that should not be forgotten.*

*It not only saves both taxpayers and Water and Sewer users current expenses, it but reduces future increases and the building of un-need additional infrastructure.*

*And most importantly, it protects the future lives and property of the many of Exeter's citizens who have been put at risk and suffered damages again and again in the past.*

**Response: The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative.**

**Comments of  
Mary E. Bourgault  
Franklin Street, Exeter, NH**

*Hello - I want to comment on the dam. After reading the executive report, I favor Alternative H. I do not want to see the dam removed, nor lowered, etc. As a resident of Franklin St., it is in my interest to have the river level above the dam stay as it is. As a native of Exeter, I also think the cultural/historical aspects of the dam and its surroundings are the very core of the town's unique identity, and it is worth the cost to preserve it.*

*Thank you.  
Mary E. Bourgault*

**Response:** The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative.



Comments of  
Allan W. Corey, CPA  
3 Kathleen Drive, Exeter, NH

*Ms. Becker,*

*I would like to see the dam removed. If left standing in whole or part, it would only continue to cost tax payers money without purpose.*

*Sincerely,*

*Allan W. Corey, CPA  
3 Kathleen Drive  
Exeter, NH 03833*

**Response:** The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative.

**Comments of  
Alice Hill  
1 Bell Avenue, Exeter, NH**

*My name is Alice Hill and I live at 1 Bell Ave. here in Exeter. Our home is right across the street by the little Exeter River. My husband and I are urging you to remove the Great Dam, keeping the spill way. Through all the ups AND down times of the river we feel there will be plenty of water and ice in the winter for recreational activities.*

*Thank you for your attention.*

*Alice Hill  
1 Bell Ave., Exeter, NH*

**Response: The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative.**

Comments of  
Atty. Mark Beliveau on Behalf of  
Exeter Investment Company, Inc.  
Donald Robie, President

*Hi Mimi,*

*On behalf of my client, Exeter Investment Company, Inc., Donald Robie President, attached are comments, questions and proposed edits to the draft report. As you know, Exeter Investment Company is the owner of 4 String Bridge, also known as Kimball Island. You, the committee and consultants have worked long and hard and have done an outstanding job and deserve high praise for your efforts. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.*

*Mark*

*Note: Comments are attached separately to this document as they are on the accompanying text.*

**Response: The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative. Several changes and additions have been made to the final report in response to the specific comments offered by Atty. Beliveau.**

**Comments of  
Timothy Miller  
Exeter, NH**

*Comments Per The Seacoast Online Article Request;*

*My family and I would like to see the dam stay in place and be fixed to be brought up to standards.*

*Exeter Riverfront Residents 17+ Years*

*-The Millers  
(Timothy)*

**Response: The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative.**

Comments of  
John Richards

*Dear Dr. Becker,*

*I have read Sean McDermott's comments and agree with them*

*Sent from my iPhone [John Richards]*

**Response:** The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative.

**Comments of  
Carol Gasses  
Juniper Ridge Road, Exeter, NH**

Mimi,

*Per the article below, having been a resident of Exeter since 2007 and living along the Exeter River as a riparian (Juniper Ridge Road), I would like to see the dam returned to its primitive state. While people consider the dam historic, the fish (now needing to be stocked in my own lifetime) and the natural flow of the river came before any and all the dams in the Seacoast. I've walked the Juniper Ridge trail and have been both disappointed and shocked by the lack of knowledge of being a positive custodian of a riverfront property. I've witnessed the chemical covered lawns lacking any weeds and drastic erosion caused by excessive clearing and mowing! With that said, I believe strongly it is up to the community to come together to restore the once pristine environment in town that supported the aquatic life that we can only imagine in Alaska today. Every day holds the possibility of a pristine, historic Exeter riverfront restoration.*

*Working in the marketing profession for most of my professional life, I believe the audience will need a visual of what the removal of the dam will look like. Let's change the conversation from one of loss to one of historic restoration. I suggest a social media education blitz including images and mocked photos depicting a phased approach to riverfront restoration - and the less costly option in terms of funding! Instead of wording the dam removal as a perceived "loss" with the wording "dam removal" standing alone, I like the idea of calling the project Exeter Riverfront Restoration project -dam removal. Or, another catchy phrase that expresses a positive outcome and not the loss of something familiar. As they say in the world of sales, it is often safer to be complacent, than to make a decision. Images and a positive frame around the message, will allow residents to visualize the process and journey of our changing river waterfront whereby they can make the right decision.*

*On a much needed economic note, I believe the footprint of the summer activities within the community will then expand to include the riverfront in town near the surrounding businesses not isolated to the park.*

Thanks!

Carol Gasses

channelbizgrowth@yahoo.com

Channel Biz Growth

603.778.7929

603.312.1256 (cell)

**Response:** The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative.

Jeff McMenemy

newsletter@seacoastonline.com

August 13, 2013 2:00 AM

EXETER — The co-chair of the town's River Study Committee's working group is urging residents to e-mail the committee their comments about what they want to see done with

**Comments of  
Carol Gasses  
Juniper Ridge Road, Exeter, NH**

*the town's Great Dam.*

*Mimi Larsen Becker, a co-chair of the working group and an University of New Hampshire professor, said the group has only received about 10 to 12 comments about the dam, which is located in the Exeter River in the center of the downtown.*

*"That's not very many," Becker said. "If people really are concerned it's important to understand we don't have an option to do nothing. We're currently in violation of safety standards and we are going to be held accountable."*

*Anyone with comments or feedback must e-mail them to Becker at [mimilarsenbecker@comcast.net](mailto:mimilarsenbecker@comcast.net) no later than Wednesday or comments may be mailed to the Town Manager's Office.*

*Asked why she believes the group hasn't received more comments, Becker said, "It's summer-time. Unfortunately our deadline is the 30th of September and we have to have the final report completed by then with all public comments and input."*

*The final report will also include updated cost estimates for the various options of how to deal with the dam, according to Becker, who said Sunday "additional figures have been obtained which will make the cost information much more specific and explicit."*

*She urged people to read the executive summary of the Great Dam Removal Impact Study, which is available online at [exeternh.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/executive\\_summary.pdf](http://exeternh.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/executive_summary.pdf)*

*The state Department of Environmental Services issued a letter of deficiency in July 2000 stating Great Dam does not meet safety standards, which require low hazard dams to "withstand a 50-year storm event without overtopping the abutments," according to the executive summary.*

*The alternatives range from spending a total of \$2.5 million for dam removal, \$983,000 for stabilizing the dam in place, \$3.5 million for partial removal or \$1.7 million for dam modification, which would include installing an inflatable gate system.*

*Becker said the most realistic solutions she sees are complete dam removal or stabilizing the dam in place.*

*She doesn't believe the option to modify the dam would win the support of selectmen and town residents, who will ultimately make the decision.*

*"It's not very attractive to have that in the middle of the downtown," she said. But she emphasized that even when the committee completes its final report, it will not make any recommendations.*

**Comments of  
Carol Gasses  
Juniper Ridge Road, Exeter, NH**

*"We are not going to take a position. That's a job for the selectmen and people of Exeter," she said. "They are the deciders. They are going to have to pay for it and live with the results."*

*She also stressed that many of the options have other repercussions besides financial ones.*

*"If we leave the dam in, how are we going to deal with the water quality?" She asked.*

*The executive summary states that stabilizing the dam in place "would not mitigate flooding damage nor would it improve water quality in the river or provide enhanced fish passage."*

*But the report states that dam removal, partial removal and dam modification would "substantially" reduce the amount of flooding.*

*Totally removing the dam would also "alter the recreational experience on the river, but opportunities would still be plentiful, the report states.*

*And, unlike the option to stabilize the dam in place, there is likely federal or state money available to help pay for total dam removal, Becker said.*

*"Either people want to see it gone and the river made back into its natural state, although it will never be what it was 360 years ago, or they want it to stay," she said.*

*She also noted if people ask questions through their public comments, the committee will seek to answer those questions and include its response in the final report.*

*She acknowledged some people may have been put off because the report is "fat and technical," but said "it is in pretty plain English."*

*"If people do their homework, I think that for the most part the essential facts are there," she said. "I don't know of another study since I've lived here that's been subjected to the same kind of scrutiny."*



Comments of  
John Mueller  
John C. Mueller Norwood Group

Hi Mimi,

*My wife and I own 8+ acres on the river, ¼ mile downstream from the Pickpocket Dam. We are in favor of removal of the great dam. A restoration of the river flows, now that the dam is no longer supplying power, is an appropriate course of action. At the recent meeting, the sources of funding for the removal were discussed. Before the project is placed on the ballot, I would like to have greater clarity on the alternative sources of funding so that the pricetag is not seen as something that must be born entirely by the local taxpayer. If the options and alternatives about funding sources is not clarified, then the voters will most likely vote against the removal, as it is an expensive proposition.*

*Sincerely,  
John Mueller  
John C. Mueller Norwood Group*

**Response:** The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative. Please also note that the final report has been updated with a discussion of funding opportunities for the dam removal and other alternatives as well.

**Comments of  
Merkle/Clement/Olney  
11 Water Street, Exeter, NH**

**Comment received of Xeroxed Notes via US Mail --originally submitted to Select board Chair, Don Clement and forwarded to Mimi Becker.**

*Great Dam Modification*                      8/5/13 11 Water Street: Merkle/Clement/Olney

*Recent Studies of Great Dam seem to favor removal but:*

- *Fishladder seems to work, but not optimally*
- *100 yr flood overflow to Founders Park exceeds dam height by 12", little damage downstream to tidal basin; little damage except @ Gr Bridge, L&L (Loaf & Ladle?)*
- *F.E.M.A. regs, depending on \_\_\_\_\_ [word not decipherable] prevent constr. on empty lot.*
- *Width, seasonal flows, impoundment will be altered visually and practically by dam removal*
- *Structures near dam will be jeopardized by removal: foundations, footings exposed; hydraulic pressure increased*
- *Ownership of water rights by mill, Town (water & f.d.), PEA complicate cost*

*2. Overtopping by more than 12" during flood event is threshold trigger.*

*Possible solutions:*

- 1. Remove Dam*
- 2. Open emergency draw down prior to flood*
- 3. Provide a surface, relief by-pass @ Founders Park*
- 4. Provide rapid dam ht reduction @ flood (bladder)*
- 5. Reduce Dam Height*

*C. How flood mandate is satisfied has other implications for the future of downtown. Removing dam may not be best alternative for other town needs. Making small target changes may be preferable to bold modifications:*

- *Unforeseen negative consequences: fire ponds, water ownership, wetlands drainage, low dry season flow, vegetation growth in former impoundments, foundation damage*
- *Visual, historic, symbolic significance of river in downtown will be affected.*
- *How can this be quantified, assessed?*
- *Best solution may be least costly, but long term benefits may trump initial costs anyway.*

*D. SOLUTIONS    Define before/after data collection (increasing in magnitude)*

- 1. Retain existing dam with some repairs*
  - *Modify fishladder for better operation – retain it*
  - *Keep current dam height, but limit freebd to 12" above rim*
  - *Operate emergency sluices*

Comments of  
Merkle/Clement/Olney  
11 Water Street, Exeter, NH

- Automate emergency sluices
  - Emergency overflow @ Founders Park
  - Announce goal of 12" overflow max
2. Above, plus modify existing sluices
  3. Above, plus install bladder release
  4. Lower dam 24", anchor dam, alter ladder
  5. Remove Great Dam, leave Lower dam, buy back water rights, fund foundation damage
  6. Remove Great & Lower Dams (all costs in #5 plus)
    - additional destruction costs
    - additional vegetation maintenance
    - additional silt scouring
    - additional foundation damage
    - NO impoundment except Tidal Basin

E. F.E.M.A. problems for development of empty lot. 100 yr flood line incorrect. Jurisdiction line in dam impoundment.

**Response:** The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative.

**Comments of  
Brad Rice**

*I do hope they remove it and return the natural flow of the river. It will not be effected (sic) by drought as the damn (sic) only holds back a limited distance of the river closest to the damn (sic). The damn (sic) is not needed anymore. It will also help with flood zone in and around the Exeter area during the spring time snow melt and heavy rains. Nothing but good.*

*Submitted by Brad Rice via the Town of Exeter's Facebook page.*

**Response: The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative.**

Comments of  
Kris Vaughan and Eileen Cusick  
348 Water Street, Exeter, NH

*Greetings Mimi!*


*Thanks to you and the committee for the great work on the river/dam impact study and report! We REALLY appreciate the summary - very clear and concise! It would be nice to have a "perfect" solution! But overall we both think that removal wins out.*

- 1) Unless the dam is removed, it will continue as an expense and environmental concern forever.*
- 2) Despite some loss of wetland and swamp oak habitat, the overall environmental and flood protection advantages seem to favor removal.*
- 3) Financially, the possibility of grant money for removal and the fact that it is only a one-time expense makes removal a sensible plan.*
- 4) We've seen the effects of dam removal on the Kennebec River in Maine, and it has been a real success story!*
- 5) The "H" option would be very expensive over time, and esthetic considerations may be a concern (are there models to look at)?*

*Hope all is well with you -- summer flies by too quickly!*

**Response:** The Exeter River Study Committee acknowledges and appreciates this comment. The commenter is encouraged to participate in future public discussions regarding the selection of an alternative.

**TOWN OF EXETER  
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Board of Selectmen  
FROM: Town Manager   
RE: Sportsmen's Club Meeting of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013  
DATE: November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013

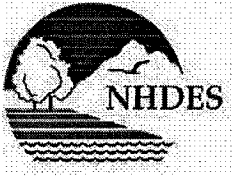
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On Friday morning November 1<sup>st</sup>, Chairman Clement, Ken Berkenbush, and myself met with Mr. Butch York and two other representatives from the Sportsmen's Club in order to discuss costs related to execution of items 1, 2, and 3 approved by DES as part of Phase I of the RAP for the site at waterworks pond.

As a result of the meeting, the Sportsmen's Club is going to forward to the Town a proposal for contributing to the berm project for items #1, #2 and #3 contained in the letter from the DES to the Town dated October 24, 2013.

Assistant Chief Berkenbush has received a proposal from URS in the amount of \$4,000 to address items 1, 3, 4, and 5 in the comments section on page 2. Assistant Chief Berkenbush has relayed to me (and I have confirmed) there is not enough money in the water quality testing line item in 2013's budget to support this expense.

Once we have an understanding from the ESC of the total costs on items 1, 2, and 3 and their suggestions for funding those pieces, we will be taking up the issue again.



The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

October 24, 2013

Ken Berkenbush, Assistant Fire Chief/Health Officer  
Town of Exeter  
20 Court Street  
Exeter, NH 03833

**SUBJECT:** Exeter – Exeter Sportsman's Club, Waterworks Pond Road  
DES Site #200212050, Project #12496

**Lead and PAH Sampling Results**, URS letter to Assistant Chief Berkenbush, dated June 17, 2013

**Proposed Schedule for Remedial Action Plan**, dated April 8, 2013 (received August 13, 2013)

**Request for Corrective Action Prior to Remedial Action Plan Approval**, dated September 17, 2013

Dear Mr. Berkenbush:

The Department of Environmental Service (Department) has reviewed the subject documents related to the shooting range located on property owned by the Town of Exeter and used by the Exeter Sportsman's Club (ESC). The Town as the owner of the property and ESC as the operator of the ranges are both responsible for the investigation and remediation of contamination at the site. The reports were done on behalf of the Town. A portion of the work is proposed to be done by ESC and is intended to allow them unrestricted use of Area 1, likely for use as an archery range. The Department assumes that both parties are in agreement with the work that has been proposed. Additionally, while different remedial tasks may be performed by the individual parties, both parties have an obligation to ensure that the work is performed in accordance with the Department's approval.

#### **Discussion**

The September 17, 2013 letter from URS proposes corrective action for the portion of the former range referred to as Area 1 prior to approval of the remedial action plan for the entire site. The proposed corrective action is based on previous site investigation information on the extent of contamination including the lead and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) sampling results transmitted in a URS June 17, 2013, letter sent to Assistant Chief Ken Berkenbush. The September 17, 2013 letter also includes a revised schedule of activities that replaces the schedule contained in the URS April 8, 2013 letter.

The corrective action proposed for Area 1 includes the following:

1. Removal of the berm in the open portion of the trap range that contains clay targets for off-site disposal. The trap berm constructed of targets is approximately 8 to 10 feet wide and 70 to 80 long and contains about 30 cubic yards of broken targets which will be placed in a rolloff container to for off-site disposal.
2. Removal of the top 15 inches of soil from the entire Area 1 and to a depth of 24 inches in the vicinity of PR1-3 or until clay target fragments are no longer visible, and relocation of the soil to the small bore range. 500-700 cubic yards of soil are proposed to be removed and used to construct a berm on the east side of the small bore range. The relocated soil is proposed to be covered with a minimum of 3 inches of loam and seeded to support a vegetative cover.

3. Backfill, loam and seed the excavated areas.

#### Comments

1. The proposed location where the soil will be placed in the construction of the eastern berm of the small bore range is not shown on Figure 2 or 3. The trap berm is not shown on Figure 2. These features should be added to the site plan and submitted to the Department.
3. The plan does not include confirmation samples. Confirmation samples must be collected for lead and PAHs to verify that the soil remediation standards were met.
4. A remediation plan implementation report (Env-Or 606.07) summarizing the work performed must be submitted within 60 days after completion of the work. In accordance with Env-Or 606.14 (b) the results of this self initiated remediation shall be incorporated into the remedial action plan that is to be submitted
5. Please provide a typical cross section of the eastern berm of the small bore showing the placement of the soils from former trap range and the loam cover.

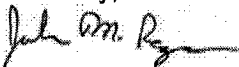
#### Future Actions

The Department concurs with the proposed work for correction prior to remedial action plan approval subject to the above comments and the following:

1. Lead ammunition and clay targets should be removed from the soil removed from the trap area to the extent practicable. Samples of lead concentrations in soil are below the soil suggesting that limited quantities are present in the soil but if lead ammunition and clay target are encountered during the excavation and relocate the lead should be separated and either recycled or properly disposed of and the clay targets should with the materials from the trap range berm. This reduces the amount of lead and clay targets that will require remediation in the future.
2. The Department strongly encourages the Town and ESC to implement BMPs including periodic removal of lead ammunition for the ongoing use of the small bore range.
3. Additionally, the Department recommends that the Town and ESC to develop a plan to evaluate different alternatives to finance the future investigation and remediation of contamination associated with ongoing use of the range and from the former range activities.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



John M. Regan P.G.

Hazardous Waste Management Bureau

Tel: (603) 271-3744

Fax: (603) 271-2181

Email: [john.regan@des.nh.gov](mailto:john.regan@des.nh.gov)

Waste  
Management  
Division

Digitally signed by Waste Management  
Division  
DN: cn=Waste Management Division,  
ou=DES, ou=Waste Management  
Division,  
email=kimberly.dunin@des.nh.gov, c=US  
Date: 2013.10.24 08:55:12 -0400

cc: Board of Selectmen  
Russell Dean, Town Manager  
Sylvia VonAulock, Town Planner  
Butch York, President, Exeter Sportsman's Club  
Gary Garfield, P.E., URS



**RSA 79-E**

# Legislative Intent of RSA 79-E

- I obtained written and audio committee minutes from both the state senate and house on this law.
- A lot was said in regards to what kind of economic development tool this law should be.
- I could not find any legislative intent on following topics:
  - Defining what is a "Downtown", "Municipal Center", and "Town Center"
  - Describing a scenario where a town takes an expansive approach

# Recommended Changes to the District

- Original: 11 Districts: The EDC took a very broad interpretation of the law which led to the recommendation of 11 districts.
- Revised: Recommended 4 Districts: The Town's legal counsel recommended a reduction of 7 districts. The rationale for the reduction is because the law only applies to the town center and Exeter only has one town center. In order to justify the 11 districts, then the town would have to prove that we have more than one town center.



4 Districts as Potential Places for RSA 79-E

# Revised Language for the Warrant Article

- Shall the Town adopt the Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive outlined in Chapter 79-E of state law and to designate four commercial areas as meeting the standards for an eligible district as set forth in RSA 79-E:2? (The four districts will consist of areas zoned C-1 & WC. A map of these districts is available on the Town's website and Town Clerk's Office.)

# The 4 Districts Kept

- What do we keep?
  - C1-Central
  - C1-Lincoln
  - C1-Portsmouth Ave (Starts at Walgreens as you drive into Town)
  - WC-Water Front Commercial
- Positives
  - High concentration of buildings and businesses.
  - C1-Lincoln is a district that has been a focus of the EDC
  - Potential can be found in each district.
  - We lose a lot of area, but keep a lot of structures and businesses which is important for this policy to be effective.

# Estimated Changes in Reach of this policy

Area	Structures	Businesses
11 Districts	343	429
7 Districts Lost	153	174
4 Districts Kept	190	255

# 7 Districts Lost

- What do we lose?
  - C2-Portsmouth Ave
  - C2-Epping Rd
  - H- Hospital
  - CT-Corporate Technology
  - PP- Professional/Technology Park
  - NP-Kingston Rd
  - NP-Hampton Rd
- **Negatives**
  - C2-Epping Rd has been a focus of the EDC, but will not be included.
  - Policy has less reach.



# Process: moving forward

- - Board of Selectmen support warrant article
- - Voters adopt warrant article (simple majority)
- - 79-E goes into effect April 1, 2014 if approved
- - All applications subject to public hearings
- - Applications must be approved via a Board of Selectmen public vote

**AMEND TOWN ORDINANCES:**

20325 – miles per hour

Add:

After Garfield Street add High Street so the ordinance reads:

203 25 – miles per hour

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in excess of 25 miles per hour on any of the following streets, highways and/or public ways.

Crestview Drive  
Court Street from Front Street to Bell Avenue  
Front Street from Water Street to Westside Drive  
Garfield Street  
High Street  
Main Street  
Riverbend Circle  
Water Street

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of November, 2013

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Clement, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Chartrand, Vice-Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Gilman, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Quandt

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Ferraro

**CHAPTER 2 SPEED LIMITS****201 Speed Limits**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle on a public way in the urban compact area of the Town of Exeter at a speed greater than 30 miles per hour, unless otherwise provided by subsections of this Chapter.

**202 20 – miles per hour**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in excess of 20 miles per hour on any of the following streets, highways and/or public ways:

Bayberry Lane  
Westside Drive subdivision

**203 25 – miles per hour**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in excess of 25 miles per hour on any of the following streets, highways and/or public ways.

Crestview Drive  
Court Street from Front Street to Bell Avenue  
Front Street from Water Street to Westside Drive  
Garfield Street  
Main Street  
Riverbend Circle  
Water Street

**204 35 – miles per hour**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in excess of 35 miles per hour on any of the following streets, highways or public ways.

**205 20 – miles per hour / School Zones**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in excess of 20 miles per hour in any school zone while children are at recess or going to or leaving school.

**206 Basic Rule and Maximum Speed**

No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and having regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing. In every event, speed shall be so controlled as may be necessary to avoid colliding with any person, vehicle or other conveyance on or entering the highway in compliance with legal requirements and duty of all persons to use due care.

**207 Speed Exception**

The speed limitations set forth in this Chapter shall not apply to vehicles when operated with due regard for safety under the direction of the law enforcement

officers in the case of apprehension of violators of the law or of persons charged with or suspected of any such violation, in response to a fire alarm, nor to public or private ambulances or other emergencies. This exemption shall not, however, protect the driver of any such vehicle from the consequences of a reckless disregard of the safety of others.

210 Penalties

A person violating any provision of Chapter 2 of the traffic code shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred (\$100.00) dollars for each offense.



# Application for Use of Town Facility

Forms can be mailed: Town of Exeter, 10 Front Street, Exeter, NH 03833  
Faxed #: 603-772-4709 or emailed: [townmgr@town.exeter.nh.us](mailto:townmgr@town.exeter.nh.us)

Additional Oct 22, 23  
6-8pm  
Rehearsals (T, W, Th) (Sun)  
Oct 29-Dec 2  
~~6-8pm~~ 5-9pm 3-6pm  
(Flexible)

Facility Requested: Town Hall (Main Floor)  Town Hall Stage  Bandstand   
Signboard Requested: Poster Board  Week: 10-22 Plywood Board  Week: TBD

### Representative Information:

Name: Jim Fellows Address: 9 Sanborn St  
Town/State/Zip: Exeter, NH Phone: 603-583-8110  
Email: jamesd.fellows@gmail.com Date of Application: Oct 16, 2013

### Organization Information:

Name: Exeter Parks + Rec Address: 32 Court St  
Town/State/Zip: Exeter, NH Phone: 773-6151

### Reservation Information:

Performances "A Christmas Carol"  
Type of Event/Meeting: Play rehearsals, set building Date: Dec 20-21-22  
Times of Event: Fri, Sat 7-9:30pm, Sun 4-5:30pm Times needed for set-up/clean-up: 5pm-10pm, 2pm-7pm (Sun)  
# of tables: 6 # of chairs: Full main floor  
List materials being used for this event: set pieces, props  
Will food/beverages be served? Yes Description: snacks (brownies, cookies, fruit, drinks - no alcohol)

### Requirements:

**Cleaning Deposit:** A cleaning deposit of \$100 is required of any user serving food or beverages. If the town determines after use that the building was acceptably cleaned, the deposit fee will be returned to the user. No food is allowed in Main Hall of the Town Hall. If food is to be served and/or prepared in foyer of Town Hall, the electrical outlet cannot exceed 20 amps. For more information call Kevin Smart, Maintenance Superintendent at 773-6162 prior to use.

**Liability Insurance Required:** The Town requires liability insurance to be submitted with this completed application. Required insurance amounts: General Liability/Bodily Injury/Property Damage: \$300,000/\$1,000,000. The Town of Exeter must be listed as additional insured.

**Rental Fee:** For Town Hall use there is a fee of \$75.00 per day, a payment of \$250 may be required for use of main floor and stage for more than a single day. You may request a waiver of the rental fee in writing.

**Keys:** Access to a town building after normal business hours requires a key sign out. Forms and keys can be obtained from the Town Manager's office at the Town Office during normal business hours (there is no other option for obtaining a key). A key can be collected up to 24 hours before your event (with the exception of Sunday events).

Signing below acknowledges receipt of and agreement to all rules, regulations and requirements pertaining to the use of a town facility. Permit approvals are contingent upon proper insurance and fees paid to the Town of Exeter.

Applicant signature: Jim Fellows Date: 10-16-13  
Greg Bussen 10/16/13

Authorized by the Board of Selectmen/Designee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Office Use Only:

Liability Insurance: On file  In-process  Will receive by \_\_\_\_\_  
Fee: Paid  Will pay by \_\_\_\_\_ Non-profit fee waiver requested



# Application for Use of Town Facility

Forms can be mailed: Town of Exeter, 10 Front Street, Exeter, NH 03833

Faxed #: 603-772-4709 or emailed: [twamgr@town.exeter.nh.us](mailto:twamgr@town.exeter.nh.us)

Facility Requested: Town Hall (Main Floor)  Town Hall Stage  Bandstand

Signboard Requested: Poster Board  Week: Plywood Board  Week:

### Representative Information:

Name: Katherine Roberts/Jenna Riley Address: 30 Linden St  
Town/State/Zip: Exeter, NH 03833 Phone: 603-235-9893  
Email: director@musicalarts.org Date of Application: 10/17/13

### Organization Information:

Name: Musicalarts Address: 30 Linden St  
Town/State/Zip: Exeter, NH 03833 Phone: 6037784862

### Reservation Information:

Type of Event/Meeting: Music Recital Date: ~~12/18~~ 12/16  
Times of Event: 6:30-9 Times needed for set-up/clean-up: 9am set up/pm breakdown  
# of tables: 1 # of chairs: 150  
List materials being used for this event: \_\_\_\_\_  
Will food/beverages be served? yes Description: cookies

### Requirements:

**Cleaning Deposit:** A cleaning deposit of \$100 is required of any user serving food or beverages. If the town determines after use that the building was acceptably cleaned, the deposit fee will be returned to the user. No food is allowed in Main Hall of the Town Hall. If food is to be served and/or prepared in foyer of Town Hall, the electrical outlet cannot exceed 20 amps. For more information call Kevin Smart, Maintenance Superintendent at 773-6162 prior to use.

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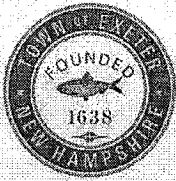
Applicant signature: Katherine Roberts Date: 10/17/13

Authorized by the Board of Selectmen/Designee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Office Use Only:

Liability Insurance: On file  In-process  Will receive by \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: Paid  Will pay by \_\_\_\_\_ Non-profit fee waiver requested



# Application for Use of Town Facility

Forms can be mailed: Town of Exeter, 10 Front Street, Exeter, NH 03833

Faxed #: 603-772-4709 or emailed: [twmMgr@town.exeter.nh.us](mailto:twmMgr@town.exeter.nh.us)

Facility Requested: Town Hall (Main Floor)  Town Hall Stage  Bandstand

Signboard Requested: Poster Board  1/6 - 1/12 Plywood Board  Week:

### Representative Information:

Name: Kitty Beller-McKenna Address: 8 Beech Hill Road

Town/State/Zip: Durham, NH 03824 Phone: 603-969-6286

Email: kbmck@comcast.net Date of Application: October 23, 2013

### Organization Information:

Name: Oyster River Players, Kelly Egger, Director Address: 44 Birch Hill Rd

Town/State/Zip: Lee, NH 03861 Phone: (603) 767-7386

### Reservation Information:

Type of Event/Meeting: play Date: January 4-12, 2014

Times of Event: Shows are Friday, Jan. 10 at 7 pm, Sat Jan 11 at 1 pm and 7 pm and Sunday Jan 12 at 1 pm

Times needed for set-up/clean-up: we will be rehearsing there most of the day throughout the week

# of tables: 8 # of chairs: chairs that are there will be fine

List materials being used for this event: sets, furniture, props; we will contact Kevin Smart about plans for the set

Will food/beverages be served? Not in hall Description: Just snacks in the foyer

### Requirements:

**Cleaning Deposit:** A cleaning deposit of \$100 is required of any user serving food or beverages. If the town determines after use that the building was acceptably cleaned, the deposit fee will be returned to the user. No food is allowed in Main Hall of the Town Hall. If food is to be served and/or prepared in foyer of Town Hall, the electrical outlet cannot exceed 20 amps. For more information call Kevin Smart, Maintenance Superintendent at 773-6162 prior to use.

**Liability Insurance Required:** The Town requires liability insurance to be submitted with this completed application. Required insurance amounts: General Liability/Bodily Injury/Property Damage: \$300,000/\$1,000,000. The Town of Exeter must be listed as additional insured.

**Rental Fee:** For Town Hall use there is a fee of \$75.00 per day, a payment of \$250 may be required for use of main floor and stage for more than a single day. You may request a waiver of the rental fee in writing.

**Keys:** Access to a town building after normal business hours requires a key sign out. Forms and keys can be obtained from the Town Manager's office at the Town Office during normal business hours (there is no other option for obtaining a key). A key can be collected up to 24 hours before your event (with the exception of Sunday events).

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Permit approvals are contingent upon proper insurance and fees paid to the Town of Exeter.

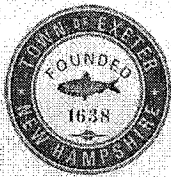
Applicant signature: *Kitty Beller-McKenna* Date: 10/23/13

Authorized by the Board of Selectmen/Designee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Office Use Only:

Liability Insurance: On file  In-process  Will receive by \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: Paid  Will pay by \_\_\_\_\_ Non-profit fee waiver requested



# Application for Use of Town Facility

Forms can be mailed: Town of Exeter, 10 Front Street, Exeter, NH 03833  
Faxed #: 603-772-4709 or emailed: [townmgr@town.exeter.nh.us](mailto:townmgr@town.exeter.nh.us)

Facility Requested: Town Hall (Main Floor)  Town Hall Stage  Bandstand

Signboard Requested: Poster Board  Week: May 12-18 Plywood Board  Week: \_\_\_\_\_

### Representative Information:

Name: Kitty Beller-McKenna Address: 8 Beech Hill Road  
Town/State/Zip: Durham, NH 03824 Phone: (603) 969-6286  
Email: kbmck@comcast.net Date of Application: November 1, 2013

### Organization Information:

Name: Oyster River Players, Kelly Eggers Address: 44 Birch Hill Rd  
Town/State/Zip: Lee, NH 03861 Phone: (603) 767-7386

### Reservation Information:

Type of Event/Meeting: PLAY Date: May 10-18, 2014

Times of Event: 5/16 1pm, 5/17 1 pm and 7 pm, 5/18 1 pm Times needed for set-up/clean-up: \_\_\_\_\_ Rehearsals there every day throughout the week

# of tables: 8 # of chairs: whatever's there

List materials being used for this event: sets, furniture, props; will contact Kevin Smart about set plans

Will food/beverages be served? not in hall Description: Just snacks in the foyer

### Requirements:

**Cleaning Deposit:** A cleaning deposit of \$100 is required of any user serving food or beverages. If the town determines after use that the building was acceptably cleaned, the deposit fee will be returned to the user. No food is allowed in Main Hall of the Town Hall. If food is to be served and/or prepared in foyer of Town Hall, the electrical outlet cannot exceed 20 amps. For more information call Kevin Smart, Maintenance Superintendent at 773-6162 prior to use.

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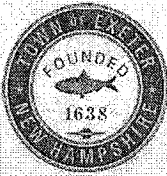
Authorized by the Board of Selectmen/Designee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Faxed #: 603-772-4709 or emailed: [twmMgr@town.exeter.nh.us](mailto:twmMgr@town.exeter.nh.us)

Facility Requested: Town Hall (Main Floor)  Town Hall Stage  Bandstand   
Signboard Requested: Poster Board  Week: July 7-13 Plywood Board  Week: \_\_\_\_\_

### Representative Information:

Name: Kitty Beller-McKenna Address: 8 Beech Hill Road  
Town/State/Zip: Durham, NH 03824 Phone: (603) 969-6286  
Email: kbmck@comcast.net Date of Application: November 1, 2013

### Organization Information:

Name: Oyster River Players, Kelly Eggers Address: 44 Birch Hill Rd  
Town/State/Zip: Lee, NH 03861 Phone: (603) 767-7386

### Reservation Information:

Type of Event/Meeting: PLAY Date: July 5-13, 2014  
Times of Event: 7/11 1pm, 7/12 1 pm and 7 pm, 7/13 1 pm Times needed for set-up/clean-up: Rehearsals there every day throughout the week  
# of tables: 8 # of chairs: whatever's there  
List materials being used for this event: sets, furniture, props; will contact Kevin Smart about set plans  
Will food/beverages be served? not in hall Description: Just snacks in the foyer

### Requirements:

- Cleaning Deposit:** A cleaning deposit of \$100 is required of any user serving food or beverages. If the town determines after use that the building was acceptably cleaned, the deposit fee will be returned to the user. No food is allowed in Main Hall of the Town Hall. If food is to be served and/or prepared in foyer of Town Hall, the electrical outlet cannot exceed 20 amps. For more information call Kevin Smart, Maintenance Superintendent at 773-6162 prior to use.
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Applicant signature: *Kitty Beller-McKenna* Date: 11/1/2013

Authorized by the Board of Selectmen/Designee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Office Use Only:

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Facility Requested: Town Hall (Main Floor)  Town Hall Stage  Bandstand

Signboard Requested: Poster Board  Week: \_\_\_\_\_ Plywood Board  Week: \_\_\_\_\_

### Representative Information:

Name: Julie Gilman Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/State/Zip: Exeter, NH Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: juliedgilman@comcast.net Date of Application: 10-25-13

### Organization Information:

Name: 375th Committee Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reservation Information:

Type of Event/Meeting: Movie night Date: <sup>15</sup> 11-4-13 and ~~11-2-13~~ 11-15-13

Times of Event: 2-4pm (11-2) 7-9 (11-15) Times needed for set-up/clean-up: 1-5pm

# of tables: \_\_\_\_\_ # of chairs: 120

List materials being used for this event: \_\_\_\_\_

Will food/beverages be served? Yes Description: popcorn

### Requirements:

**Cleaning Deposit:** A cleaning deposit of \$100 is required of any user serving food or beverages. If the town determines after use that the building was acceptably cleaned, the deposit fee will be returned to the user. No food is allowed in Main Hall of the Town Hall. If food is to be served and/or prepared in foyer of Town Hall, the electrical outlet cannot exceed 20 amps. For more information call Kevin Smart, Maintenance Superintendent at 773-6162 prior to use.

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Applicant signature: [Signature] Date: 10/25/13

Authorized by the Board of Selectmen/Designee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Fee: Paid  Will pay by \_\_\_\_\_ Non-profit fee waiver requested

## Warrants

<b>Type</b>	<b>Checks Dated</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Payroll	10/16/2013	\$164,646.78
Payroll	10/16/2013	\$200.00
AP	10/18/2013	\$524,356.59
Payroll	10/23/2013	\$164,856.82
AP	10/25/2013	\$52,159.75
AP	10/25/2013	\$74,345.60
Payroll	10/30/2013	\$167,381.72

*Town Manager's Office*

OCT 21 2013

*Received*

Tonry Farm  
314 Exeter Road  
Hampton Falls, NH 03844

October 17, 2013

Exeter Selectmen  
Court Street  
Exeter, NH 03833

RE: SIGNS

Dear Selectpersons:

Last year you approved the placing of the Tonry Christmas Tree signs on the end of Route 88, conditional on obtaining yearly approval. This letter is to request that you allow us to place the same sign in the same location as last year. This year we will not be placing our sign throughout the fall weekends but would like to have it up from November 28<sup>th</sup> through December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 603-770-6157.

Sincerely,



Abigail Tonry

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**SECOND SESSION ON MARCH 11, 2014**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

- November 11, 2013 First day for 25 or more registered voters to submit a petition to amend a zoning ordinance, historic district ordinance, or building code. RSA 675:4, I; RSA 40:13, VII.
- December 11, 2013 Last day for 25 or more registered voters to submit a petition to amend a zoning ordinance, historic district ordinance, or building code. RSA 675:4, I; RSA 40:13, VII.
- January 14, 2014 Last date to give public notice, which must be at least 7 days in advance, of *selectmen's* public hearing on any proposed bond or note issue in excess of \$100,000. Notice of the public hearing should be posted in at least 2 public places and published in a newspaper of local circulation. RSA 40:13, II-a(c); RSA 33:8-a.
- January 14 Last date for voters to submit petitioned warrant articles to the selectmen. RSA 40:13, II-a(b); RSA 39:3.
- January 14 Last date to give public notice, which must be at least 7 days in advance, of the selectmen's public hearing on the budget. All purposes and amounts of appropriations to be included in the budget and special warrant articles must be disclosed or discussed at the final hearing, even a proposed bond or note large enough to require a separate public hearing (see next entry). RSA 40:13, II-a(a & c); RSA 32:5, I.
- January 21 Last date for *selectmen* to hold a public hearing on any proposed bond or note issue in excess of \$100,000 (see appropriate entry for January 14 for notice of this hearing). RSA 40:13, II-a(c); RSA 33:8-a.
- January 21 Last date for the selectmen to hold the final public hearing on the proposed budget and special warrant articles. RSA 40:13, II-a(c); RSA 32:5, I (see appropriate entry for January 14 for notice of this hearing).
- January 27 Last date for selectmen to post the warrant with a certified copy of the budget at the place of the meeting and at least one other place in town;

copies must also be available to the public. RSA 40:13, II-a(d); RSA 39:5; RSA 32:5, VII.

- January 27 Although the "Senate Bill 2" law is not clear, by this date, official copies of the final proposal to adopt or amend a zoning ordinance, building code, or historic district ordinance should be placed on file with the town clerk and made available to the public (January 27 is the deadline for posting the warrant, which must include these items). RSA 40:13, II-a(d); See also, RSA 675:3, V.
- February 1 -- February 8 The first session of the annual meeting must be held between these two Saturdays, inclusive of these two days, at a time chosen by the selectmen. RSA 40:13, III.
- March 4 Last day to make annual report available to the legislative body; the final budget and ballot questions must be printed in the annual report. RSA 40:13, II.
- March 11 The date of the second session. Town officers shall be elected by official ballot. Also, all warrant articles, as they may have been amended at the first session, and questions required by law to be inserted on the official ballot (zoning amendments, for example) shall be voted on by official ballot. RSA 40:13, VII.

## PLANNING BOARD

- December 27, 2013 Last date to give notice of the planning board's first public hearing on proposals to adopt or amend a zoning ordinance, building code or historic district ordinance, *in order to leave enough time to hold a second public hearing if needed*. Notice must be posted in at least 2 public places and published in a newspaper of local circulation. RSA 40:13, II-a (c); RSA 675:3, IV, V; RSA 675:7, I.
- January 7, 2014 Last date for the planning board to hold the first public hearing on proposals to adopt or amend a zoning ordinance, building code or historic district ordinance, *in order to leave enough time to hold a second public hearing on January 21 if needed*. **NOTE:** If a second public hearing is needed, notice of it must be posted, and published in a local newspaper, by January 10 (see below). RSA 40:13, II-a (c) RSA 675:3, IV, V; RSA 675:7, I.
- January 10 Last date to give notice for the planning board's final public hearing on proposals to adopt or amend a zoning ordinance, building code or historic district ordinance. Notice must be posted in at least 2 public places and published in a newspaper of local circulation. RSA 40:13, II-a (c); RSA 675:3, II, V; RSA 675:7, I.

January 21 Last date for planning board to hold the final public hearing on proposals to adopt or amend a zoning ordinance, building code or historic district ordinance. After the final public hearing the planning board shall vote to determine the final form of the proposal. RSA 40:13, II-a(c); RSA 675:3, III, IV, V.

## **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

January 14 Last date to give public notice, which must be at least 7 days in advance, of the budget committee's public hearing on the budget. All purposes and amounts of appropriations to be included in the budget and special warrant articles must be disclosed or discussed at the final hearing, even a proposed bond or note large enough to require a *separate* public hearing before the selectmen (see section on Selectmen). Notice of the public hearing should be posted in at least 2 public places and published in a newspaper of local circulation, although the type of notice required is not spelled out in the law. RSA 40:13, II-a(c); RSA 32:5, I.

January 21 Last date for the budget committee to hold the final public hearing on the proposed budget and special warrant articles. RSA 40:13, II-a(c); RSA 32:5, I.

## **SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST**

January 7 If the first session of your town meeting falls between February 1 to February 4, both days inclusive, this is the last day to post copies of the current checklist at the town clerk's office or the town hall. Notice of the day, hour and place of the supervisor's upcoming session to correct the checklist shall be included on the posted checklist. RSA 669:5; RSA 654:26; RSA 654:27.

January 14 In towns with the non-partisan ballot for election of town officials, this is the last day to publish newspaper notice of the day, hour and place of the supervisor's session on January 21 (the day before the candidate filing period begins) to correct the checklist. RSA 669:5; RSA 669:19; RSA 654:27.

January 14 If the first session of your town meeting falls between February 5 to February 8, both days inclusive, this is the last day to post copies of the current checklist at the town clerk's office or the town hall. Notice of the day, hour and place of the supervisor's upcoming session to correct the checklist shall be included on the posted checklist. RSA 669:5; RSA 654:26; RSA 654:27.

- January 21 Supervisors hold session to correct the checklist from 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. because this is the day before the filing period for candidates for elected town offices under the non-partisan ballot system. RSA 669:5; RSA 669:19.
- January 18 If the session to correct the checklist will be on January 25 in your town, this is the last day to publish newspaper notice of the day, hour and place. RSA 669:5; RSA 654:26; RSA 654:27.
- January 24 If the supervisors met on January 21 in your town, the additions and corrections to the checklist must be made to the previously posted checklist, or a new checklist must be posted, by midnight tonight. RSA 654:28.
- January 25 If the session to correct the checklist will be on February 1 in your town, this is the last day to publish newspaper notice of the day, hour and place. RSA 669:5; RSA 654:26; RSA 654:27.
- January 25 If the first session of your meeting falls between February 1 and February 6, both days inclusive, this is the date the supervisors meet to correct the checklist. At a minimum, the supervisors must meet for half an hour between 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. RSA 669:5; RSA 654:27; RSA 654:28.
- January 31 If the supervisors met on January 25 in your town, the additions and corrections to the checklist must be made to the previously posted checklist, or a new checklist must be posted, by midnight tonight. RSA 654:28.
- February 1 If the first session of your meeting falls between on February 7 or February 8, both days inclusive, this is the date the supervisors meet to correct the checklist. At a minimum, the supervisors must meet for half an hour between 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.. RSA 669:5; RSA 654:27; RSA 654:28.
- February 7 If the supervisors met on February 1 in your town, the additions and corrections to the checklist must be made to the previously posted checklist, or a new checklist must be posted, by midnight tonight. RSA 654:28.
- February 11 Last day to post copies of the current checklist at the town clerk's office or the town hall. Notice of the day, hour and place of the supervisor's session on March 1 to correct the checklist shall be included on the posted checklist. RSA 669:5; RSA 654:26; RSA 654:27.



- February 22 Last day to publish newspaper notice of the day, hour and place of the supervisor's session on March 1 to correct the checklist for the town election - second session. RSA 669:5; RSA 654:26; RSA 654:27.
- March 1 Supervisors meet to correct the checklist for the town election/second session of the annual meeting. At a minimum, the supervisors must meet for half an hour between 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. RSA 669:5; RSA 654:27; RSA 654:28.
- March 7 Additions and corrections to the checklist must be made to the previously posted checklist, or a new checklist must be posted, by midnight tonight. RSA 654:28.

#### **TOWN CLERK**

- January 22 Filing period begins for candidates for elected town offices under the non-partisan ballot system. RSA 669:19.
- January 31 Last day for candidates to file for elected town offices under the non-partisan system. RSA 669:19.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- January 14 "Budget Submission Date" for calculating certain deadlines affecting collective bargaining with public employees. RSA 40:13, II-a(b); RSA 273-A:1, III.

2013

**PARTICIPANT SURVEY RESULTS  
EXETER-STRATHAM-NEWFIELDS-EAST KINGSTON-EPPING  
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION**

1. Community		2. # of Households			3. Attended HHW before								
109	Exeter	32	Newfields	39	Epping	275	One	1	Three	137	Never	41	Plus 4 Times
94	Stratham	16	E Kingston			13	Two	1	3 Plus	112	1-3 Times		
<b>4. Hazardous Waste Materials Collected</b>													
37	Household cleaners	2	Lead			48	Flyer		44	Website			
14	Automotive Batteries	1	Asbestos			73	Sign		6	TV/Radio			
39	Fluorescent Lightbulbs	49	Pesticides			61	Newspaper		85	Other			
31	Rechargeable Batteries	5	Pool Chemicals			<b>6. Are you willing to DONATE</b>							
8	Mercury Containing Products	67	Used Motor Oil			249	YES		41	NO			
220	Oil based paints, solvents, thinners	3	Photo Chemicals			<b>SUGGESTED DONATION \$5.00</b>							
76	Antifreeze & Other Automobile Liquids					<b>\$1,518.00 total collected</b>							

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CARS: 290  
(EST. NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 308)**

**TOTAL FUNDS COLLECTED \$ 1,518.00**

**VOLUNTEERS:**

8:00 to 10:00 +	10:00 to 11:30 +	11:30 to 12:45
Pat Elwell, Stratham Don Clement, Exeter Katherine Woolhouse, Exeter	Bob Goodrich, Stratham Will Sinnott, Exeter Gwen English, Exeter Jenn Rowden, Epping (reserve)	Gwen English, Exeter Will Sinnott, Exeter Annette Pettengill, Newfields



October 24, 2013

Mr. Russell Dean  
Town Manager  
Town of Exeter  
10 Front Street  
Exeter, NH 03833

Dear Mr. Dean:

Enclosed are the medical program renewal rates for the period of January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. Also included are the renewal rates for dental, life, short- and long-term disability coverage, if applicable. These rates were developed by HealthTrust, Inc.'s (HealthTrust) consulting actuaries and staff and were approved by HealthTrust's Board of Directors on October 17, 2013.

Medical Rates:

The HealthTrust Board reviews the program rating methodology each year and approves program rates based on input from consultants, actuaries, underwriters and staff. The overall average rate change for all Member Groups renewing medical coverage for January 2014 is 9.3%. Your specific plan rates will vary from this overall increase and are based in part on your Group's own claims experience. It is important to note that the HealthTrust Board has made a change to their definition of a small group for purposes of rating. Beginning January 1, 2014, groups with 50 or fewer eligible employees and/or retirees will be redefined as the "50 and Under Pool." Groups with 51 or more eligible employees and/or retirees will be rated individually while those with 50 or fewer eligible employees and/or retirees will be pooled together and receive one common rating. If you are a Group in the "50 and Under Pool," or part of a combined rating unit, your increase reflects the claims experience of that combined group.

Medical Rate Exhibit:

On the enclosed rate exhibit, we have included monthly rates for your current medical and prescription plan options as well as some additional options that you may be interested in considering. Cost-sharing schedules for these options can be provided upon request. This is not meant as an exhaustive list of the options available through HealthTrust, but instead as a guide to help you determine what may be available.

Return of Surplus (Medical and Dental):

In addition to taking action on the rates outlined above, the HealthTrust Board voted to return \$13,963,954 in surplus (undesignated net assets) in excess of our capital level allowed amount of 15% of claims to HealthTrust Groups (January and July Pools combined for both medical and dental). These returns will take the form of a check on March 3, 2014 unless a *Contribution Holiday* is requested in writing by February 3, 2014. As with previous returns, reporting is available to assist with understanding the enrollment detail that was utilized for CY2012 to determine your Group's specific return amounts.

The following chart contains the specific amounts of return for the January medical pool, and a single return for the entire dental pool. The chart further shows your Member Group's return by coverage type, if applicable.

Coverage	Total Surplus Being Returned	Amount of Group Return
Medical	\$2,662,744.85	\$103,260.74
Dental	\$886,251.18	\$5,896.09

Your Member Group's share of return of surplus is based on your Group's percentage of the total invoiced contributions in CY2012 for all January medical groups including adjustments, COBRA beneficiaries and any individually-billed retirees. This percentage was then applied to the overall amount of surplus being returned. This same process was then completed for all dental groups, including both January and July dental renewals.

Below is a chart for your Group's return of 2012 medical surplus by billing group.

Medical Billing Group Name	Amount of Return
EXETER FIRE	\$20,905.37
EXETER HIGHWAY	\$13,902.36
EXETER LIBRARY	\$4,515.92
EXETER NHRS	\$12,824.32
EXETER POLICE	\$21,390.55
EXETER TOWN	\$18,674.00
EXETER WATER/SEWER	\$11,048.22

Below is a chart for your Group's return of 2012 dental surplus by billing group.

Dental Billing Group Name	Amount of Return
EXETER FIRE	\$1,266.77
EXETER HIGHWAY	\$916.91
EXETER LIBRARY	\$211.88
EXETER NHRS	\$530.94
EXETER POLICE	\$1,244.50
EXETER TOWN	\$1,050.43
EXETER WATER/SEWER	\$674.66

It is important to note that in order to be eligible for this return of surplus, Member Groups had to have been enrolled in the specific coverage for which surplus is being returned as of December 2012 and continuously participating in that coverage until the distribution date of March 3, 2014.

Short-term Disability Rates:

For Member Groups with short-term disability coverage, it is important to note that the rating methodology for this coverage is changing effective January 1, 2014. HealthTrust will be moving from a community rating model with adjustments for demographic changes only to a partial experience rating model that reflects adjustments for both individual group experience as well as changes in demographics for Groups with more than 50 employees. Groups with 50 or fewer employees are not considered large enough to rate on their own experience and as such will be adjusted in accordance with the overall pool experience and then adjusted for their individual demographics.

Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA):

For those Member Groups currently participating in HealthTrust's FSA administration, there is no change in the FSA administration fee for CY2014. The FSA administration fee will remain at \$4.75 per employee per month (or \$6.25 per employee per month if you have elected the debit card option).

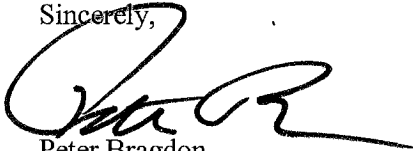
Coverage Changes:

Your Benefits Advisor, Melisa A. Briggs, will be contacting you to discuss the renewal and work with you to review available options and assist with any changes that you may be considering. Please note that requests for any coverage changes for January 1, 2014 must be communicated to us and completed prior to November 29, 2013. Changes in coverage completed after this date but prior to December 31, 2013 will have an effective date of March 1, 2014, depending on the ability to distribute Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC) documents within the new sixty (60) day advance notice requirement under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

Renewal Deadlines:

Signed renewal transmittal forms must be returned to HealthTrust by December 13, 2013 to renew coverage for January 1, 2014. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Melisa at 800.527.5001.

Sincerely,



Peter Bragdon  
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Richard Curtis, Union Representative  
Mr. Patrick Mulholland, Union Representative  
Mr. Joseph Pelchat, Union Representative

# Town of Exeter

## Medical Coverage and Rates *Traditionally-rated Group*

### January 2014 Medical Renewal

The following rates are guaranteed from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

Anniversary Month      January  
Probationary Period      1M

Pool Placement      Individual

Coverage	Single	2-Person	Family
JYMC(01)-M\$1	\$1,175.19	\$2,350.37	\$3,173.00
BC3T5RDR(01)-R\$3/15M\$1	\$933.19	\$1,866.39	\$2,519.62
BC3T20(01)-RX10/20/45	\$846.49	\$1,692.99	\$2,285.53
MTB5(01)-R\$3/15M\$1	\$843.62	\$1,687.23	\$2,277.76
MTB20(01)-RX10/20/45	\$761.83	\$1,523.67	\$2,056.95
MC3(01)-R\$100M\$1	\$591.79		
MC3(01)-RX10/20/45	\$562.17		
MCNRX(01)	\$224.84		

*Monthly rates are based on at least 75% participation of eligible employees.  
HealthTrust, Inc. reserves the right to revisit these rates if there is a +/- 10% change in enrollment.*

#### \*PROBATIONARY PERIOD EXCEPTIONS

None

#### SPECIAL NOTES

Coverage also includes Domestic Partner (same sex and opposite sex) Rider effective 5/1/03

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# Dental Coverage and Rates

## January 2014 Dental Renewal

The following rates are guaranteed from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

Anniversary Month     January  
Probationary Period    1M

Coverage	Single	2-Person	Family
OPTION 1B	\$41.61	\$80.48	\$145.60
OPTION 3	\$40.37	\$77.63	\$136.16

*Monthly rates are based on at least 75% participation of eligible employees.*

*If there is an employee contribution for dependents, 50% of subscribers with dependents must agree to enroll all of their eligible dependents and keep them enrolled for the term of the contract year.*

### BENEFIT SCHEDULE

Coverage	Cov A	Cov B	Cov C	Cov D	Ortho	Ded	BPM
OPTION 1B	100%	80%	50%	50%	\$1,000	\$25/\$75	\$1,250
OPTION 3	100%	80%	50%	N/A	N/A	\$25/\$75	\$1,000

### \*PROBATIONARY PERIOD EXCEPTIONS

None

### SPECIAL NOTES

Coverage also includes Domestic Partner (same sex and opposite sex) Rider effective 5/1/03

# Life Coverage and Rates

## January 2014 Life Renewal

The following rates are guaranteed from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

Anniversary Month     January  
 Carrier ID #            LGC80021-026

### BASE LIFE BENEFIT SCHEDULE

Class	Class Name	Prob Period	Base Coverage	Base AD&D	Base GI	Maximum Benefit
1	All Eligible Department Heads and Salaried Employees	1M	1 x BAE	None	\$50,000	\$50,000
2	All Other Eligible Employees	1M	\$25,000	None	\$25,000	\$25,000
3	All Eligible Elected Officials	1M	\$25,000	None	\$25,000	\$25,000

### CONTRIBUTORY STATUS AND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Class	Class Name	Base Contributory Status Y/N	Dependent Contributory Status Y/N	Base Participation	Dependent Participation
1	All Eligible Department Heads and Salaried Employees	N	Y	100%	NONE
2	All Other Eligible Employees	N	Y	100%	NONE
3	All Eligible Elected Officials	N	Y	100%	NONE

### DEPENDENT LIFE SCHEDULE

Spouse	\$5,000
Child < 6 Months	\$1,000
Child > 6 Months	\$2,000

### RATES

BASE LIFE FOR EACH \$1,000 OF BENEFIT	\$0.20
DEPENDENT LIFE RATE PER MONTH/ PER FAMILY	\$1.02

### \*PROBATIONARY PERIOD EXCEPTIONS

None

### SPECIAL NOTES

Base Life Evidence of Insurability required for: Any amount in excess of the GI; all late applicants (contributory groups only); salary increases of \$25,000 or more that are greater than the GI.

Dependent Life Evidence of Insurability required for: All late applicants (contributory groups only)

Life and AD&D Benefits Reduce to 50% at age 70.



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## Long-term Disability Coverage and Rates

January 2014 LTD Renewal

The following rates are guaranteed from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

Anniversary Month     January  
 Carrier ID #           LGC95100-026

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### BENEFIT SCHEDULE

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Class	Class Name	Prob Period	% of BME	Max Mnthly Benefit	Waiting Period
1	All Eligible Department Head Employees	1M	60.00%	\$6,000	90 days

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### CONTRIBUTORY STATUS AND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

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Class	Class Name	Contributory Y/N	Participation
1	All Eligible Department Head Employees	N	100%

---

### RATE

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Per \$100 of Covered Monthly Payroll	\$1.31
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### BENEFIT DURATION

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Age at Disability 59 or younger	Paid to Age 65
Age at Disability 60	Paid to 5 Years
Age at Disability 61	Paid to 4 Years
Age at Disability 62	Paid to 3.5 Years
Age at Disability 63	Paid to 3 Years
Age at Disability 64	Paid to 2.5 Years
Age at Disability 65	Paid to 2 Years
Age at Disability 66	Paid to 1.75 Years
Age at Disability 67	Paid to 1.5 Years
Age at Disability 68	Paid to 1.25 Years
Age at Disability 69 and Over	Paid for 1 Year

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### \*PROBATIONARY PERIOD EXCEPTIONS

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None

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### SPECIAL NOTES

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Evidence of Insurability needed for all late enrollees (contributory groups only).

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**INDIVIDUAL BILLING**  
=====

Member Group enrolled in Individual Billing for:

COBRA     Retirees  
=====

Employer hereby authorizes HealthTrust, Inc. to execute and deliver any and all documents necessary to effectuate the enrollment of the Employer and its Employees into the plan(s) listed on this transmittal.

**SBC Compliance: HealthTrust, Inc. agrees to prepare and provide Employer with a Summary of Benefits and Coverage (“SBC”) for each medical plan coverage option listed on this transmittal. Employer agrees to distribute the SBCs to applicable eligible individuals. These obligations will be performed in accordance with (i) the statutory and regulatory requirements for SBCs under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and (ii) related SBC compliance information provided to Employer by HealthTrust, Inc..**

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Employer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
For HealthTrust, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Town of Exeter

Current Benefit Renewal:

Coverage Type	Contract Type	Employee Counts	1/13 Rates	1/14 Rates	% Change
JYMC(01)-M\$1	1 Per	0	\$1,070.51	\$1,175.19	9.8%
	2 Per	0	\$2,141.03	\$2,350.37	9.8%
	Family	1	\$2,890.38	\$3,173.00	9.8%
BC3T5RDR(01)-R\$3/15M\$1	1 Per	18	\$850.07	\$933.19	9.8%
	2 Per	18	\$1,700.15	\$1,866.39	9.8%
	Family	27	\$2,295.20	\$2,519.62	9.8%
BC3T20(01)-RX10/20/45	1 Per	0	\$771.10	\$846.49	9.8%
	2 Per	0	\$1,542.19	\$1,692.99	9.8%
	Family	0	\$2,081.96	\$2,285.53	9.8%
MTB5(01)-R\$3/15M\$1	1 Per	2	\$768.48	\$843.62	9.8%
	2 Per	3	\$1,536.95	\$1,687.23	9.8%
	Family	5	\$2,074.88	\$2,277.76	9.8%
MTB20(01)-RX10/20/45	1 Per	0	\$693.98	\$761.83	9.8%
	2 Per	0	\$1,387.95	\$1,523.67	9.8%
	Family	0	\$1,873.74	\$2,056.95	9.8%
MC3(01)-R\$100M\$1	1 Per	8	\$546.18	\$591.79	8.4%
MC3(01)-RX10/20/45	1 Per	14	\$518.87	\$562.17	8.3%
MCNRX(01)	1 Per	10	\$207.55	\$224.84	8.3%
<b>Monthly Total</b>		106	\$140,996.07	\$154,586.01	9.6%

Benefit Options for Consideration:

We have reviewed your current plan offerings and enrollment. Below are some lower cost alternative options available for your consideration. If you are interested in learning more about these plans or other plans offered by HealthTrust, Inc., please contact your Benefits Advisor.

Coverage Type	Contract Type	1/14 Rates
BC2T20(01)-R10/25/40M10/40/70	1 Per	\$816.87
	2 Per	\$1,633.75
	Family	\$2,205.56
MTB20IPDED(01)-R10/25/40M10/40/70	1 Per	\$730.17
	2 Per	\$1,460.35
	Family	\$1,971.47
MC3(01)-R10/25/40M10/40/70	1 Per	\$543.82



*Town of Exeter*

**Current Dental Benefit Renewal:**

Coverage Type	Contract Type	Employee Counts	1/13 Rates	1/14 Rates	% Change
Option 1B	1 Per	17	\$41.61	\$41.61	0.0%
	2 Per	37	\$80.48	\$80.48	0.0%
	Family	28	\$145.60	\$145.60	0.0%
Option 3	1 Per	18	\$40.37	\$40.37	0.0%
	2 Per	22	\$77.63	\$77.63	0.0%
	Family	36	\$136.16	\$136.16	0.0%
<b>Monthly Total</b>		158	\$15,098.21	\$15,098.21	0.0%



The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner



OCT 21 2013

*Received*

October 17, 2013

Peter Foster  
Emery & Garrett Groundwater Investigations, LLC  
P.O. Box 1578  
Meredith, NH 03253

*transmitted via email to [PeterFoster@eggi.com](mailto:PeterFoster@eggi.com)*

**RE: Review for Administrative Completeness  
Preliminary Large Well Siting/Large Groundwater Withdrawal Permit Application  
Epping Water and Sewer Department, PWS ID 0761010  
Epping Crossing Well Field - Wells D2, E1, and F1  
Epping, New Hampshire**

Dear Mr. Foster:

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) has reviewed the preliminary community well siting and large groundwater withdrawal permit application (Preliminary Application) titled "Preliminary Hydrogeologic Investigation for the Epping, New Hampshire Water & Sewer Commission, Groundwater Development at Epping Crossing Well Field, Production Wells D2, E1, and F1" prepared by Emery & Garrett Groundwater Investigations, LLC (EGGI) on behalf of the Epping Water and Sewer Department (Epping), dated September 10, 2013 for Administrative Completeness, in accordance with Env-Wq 403.12(a). A Preliminary Application is considered Administratively Complete when all of the materials required by Env-Wq 403.05 have been submitted to DES.

The purpose of this letter is to notify EGGI that DES finds that the above-referenced Preliminary Application is Administratively Complete. Note that per Env-Wq 403.12(d), DES' determination that the Preliminary Application is Administratively Complete is **not** a determination that the Preliminary Application is approvable as submitted.

At this time, per RSA 485-C:21, II, please send a complete copy of the Preliminary Application with a copy of the "Large Groundwater Withdrawal Permit Application Notification Form" via certified mail to the governing body of each municipality and public water supplier in the potential impact area of the proposed withdrawal. Please note that an updated version of the form is available on DES' website at [http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/lg\\_withdrawals/documents/lgwp\\_app\\_notification\\_form.pdf](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/lg_withdrawals/documents/lgwp_app_notification_form.pdf). According to the Preliminary Application, copies are to be sent to the governing body of each of the following municipalities: Brentwood, Epping, Exeter, and Newfields; Epping is the only community public water system in the potential impact area. Please provide copies of the return receipts to DES as soon as they are available.

Per RSA 485-C:21, III, **the deadline for a municipality or public water supplier to request a public hearing for this project is fifteen (15) days from the date they receive their copy of the Preliminary Application.** If a public hearing is requested, DES will inform EGGI and Epping and coordinate with the entity that requested the hearing to arrange the date, time, and location of the hearing to be held within 30 days after the request. Following the hearing, there will be a 45-day period during which written comments on the Preliminary Application may be submitted to DES. If a public hearing is not requested, the 45-day written comment period will commence on the date of receipt of the application.

DES Web Site: [www.dcs.nh.gov](http://www.dcs.nh.gov)

P.O. Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

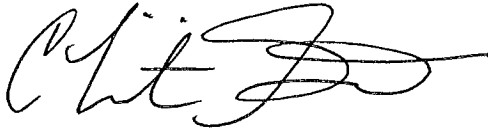
Telephone: (603) 271-2513 Fax: (603) 271-5171 TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

Peter Foster, EGGI  
Review for Administrative Completeness  
Preliminary Large Well Siting/Large Groundwater Withdrawal Permit Application  
Epping Water and Sewer Department, PWS ID 0761010  
The Epping Crossing Well Field - Wells D2, E1, and F1

October 17, 2013  
Page 2 of 2

If you have any questions about this letter or any other groundwater permitting issues, please contact me at (603) 271-8866 or [christine.bowman@des.nh.gov](mailto:christine.bowman@des.nh.gov).

Sincerely,



Christine Bowman  
Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau

cc: Epping Water and Sewer Commission (email)  
Board of Selectmen, Town of Brentwood  
Board of Selectmen, Town of Epping  
Town Manager, Town of Exeter  
Board of Selectmen, Town of Newfields

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ROCKINGHAM  
  
PLANNING  
COMMISSION

*Town Manager's Office*

OCT 23 2013

*Received*

156 Water Street, Exeter, NH 03833  
Tel. 603-778-0885 ♦ Fax: 603-778-9183  
[email@rpc-nh.org](mailto:email@rpc-nh.org) ♦ [www.rpc-nh.org](http://www.rpc-nh.org)

October 15, 2013

Daniel Chartrand, Chairman  
Board of Selectmen  
10 Front Street  
Exeter, New Hampshire 03833

**RE: Dues Request for 2014**

Dear Mr. Chartrand: *DAN,*

I am writing to thank you for Exeter's continued support and membership in the Rockingham Planning Commission and to provide you with updated information as you budget for membership for the coming year. Our services are available to Exeter and the other towns in the region through continued financial support in the form of dues paid by our member communities. Local dues provide our most important source of funding. They support the core operation of the agency and allow us to match grant funding from other sources.

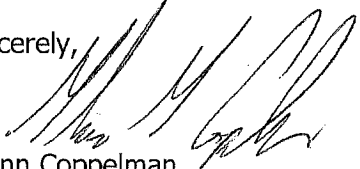
Our dues request from Exeter for the coming year will be \$11,696. This is calculated based on the 2012 Office of Energy and Planning population estimate for Exeter of 14,366 and a dues rate of 96 cents per capita.

I want to acknowledge that this represents a 3.1% increase in our dues rate from what it has been over the past 6 years. We have been holding that dues rate steady despite increasing costs on our part in recognition of the financial stresses facing local government as a consequence of the 'great recession' that began in 2008. Our Board of Commissioners has determined that we must now resume the practice of periodically adjusting dues to account for cost inflation. At this point, while six years has elapsed, amounting to 11% in cost inflation, the dues rate increase we have adopted is less than one-third of that.

Attached for your information is our work program for the current fiscal year, which summarizes the regional and local projects that we are presently working on.

The dues support we receive is more important than ever. As always, the Commission is grateful for your support and is eager to assist your town. If you would like to discuss this request or any other aspect of RPC membership or the work we are doing, please feel free to call me at 772-5355, or call Cliff Sinnott, our Executive Director, at the RPC office at 778-0885. We will be pleased to meet with you at your request and convenience.

Sincerely,

  
Glenn Coppelman  
Chairman

cc: Kenneth Knowles, Planning Board Chair  
Russell Dean, Town Manager  
Sylvia von Aulock, Town Planner  
Gwen English, Langdon Plumer and Katherine Woolhouse, RPC Commissioners

Encl.

## Regional Work Program

### Land Use Planning

#### TARGETED BLOCK GRANT

*(Funding Source: NHOEP; Total Funds available: \$11,570)*

#### **Task A – Geographic Information System Support** (30% of TBG work program\*)

- **Standard Map Set Update:**

In FY 2014 the RPC will update our complete set of 12-14 standard GIS based maps, which comprise the RPC's "standard map set". This undertaking will be funded through a combination of NHDOT/UPWP and TBG funds. Regional GIS coverages will be updated from GRANIT or internal sources and then produced as separate town-by-town compositions for each of the RPC member communities. The content of the full map set includes transportation infrastructure, zoning, land use, digital orthophotos buildout data, surface water, stratified drift aquifers, composite tax data, conservation lands, community facilities, soils data, and. A new digital topographic layer was added to the set last year (through TBG funding) based on new high resolution LiDAR data acquired in 2011. \$2500 in TBG funds will we used to support this task, representing 20% of the total project cost.

- **Local Technical Assistance and Support:**

The balance of funding (\$1000) for Task A will be utilized to support general day-to-day requests for assistance on municipal mapping projects and local GIS support which are not otherwise supported through specific project funding.

#### **Task B - Developments of Regional Impact** (6.5% of TBG work program)\*

To assist in fulfilling RPC obligations under RSA 36:58, conduct reviews of development of regional impact. This task will include providing RPC DRI committee support; convene Committee as needed; prepare written responses and attend local land use board meeting concerning developments of regional impact as required. Monitor and amend rules of procedure and DRI community guidance documents for the DRI Committee as needed.

#### **Task C - Matching Planning Grant Assistance Program for Member Communities** (56% of TBG work program)\*

This component of our program will support a matching grant program the RPC will make available approximately \$7500 in TBG funds for planning assistance projects in RPC member communities. These funds would be made available to the communities as a 50/50 matching program for planning projects. Specific projects will be solicited from the communities and evaluated for funding based on the project description, demonstrated need, past TBG supported project assistance and availability of local match. Non-dues paying- members will be ineligible for these matching grant funds.

#### **Task D - Support for Granite State Future / Sustainable Communities Initiative** (7.5% of TBG work program\*)

The RPC will utilize \$1000 in FY-2014 targeted block grant funds for staff time associated with Task 2 – Statewide Coordination of the Granite State Future project. Sustainable Communities Initiative. These



funds are reserved to fulfill the commitment for matching funds made in the 2011 Sustainable Communities Initiative application to HUD submitted by NRPC on behalf the New Hampshire regional planning commissions and statewide partner consortium

## **NH COASTAL PROGRAM**

*(Funding Source: NH CZP; Local Dues, Community match; Total: \$13,330; 50% match required)*

### **Task 1. Support RPC staff participation the Coastal Adaptation Workgroup (CAW).**

*Coastal Program: \$3,521*

The Coastal Adaptation Workgroup plays a central role in our region in coordinating efforts to assist communities to respond to climate change risk. Both through the development of CAW sponsored projects as well as through the coordination of effort of other partners such as New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Granite State Future CAW coordinates the work of multiple agencies in educating and assisting communities to address these issues. The RPC's role as one of the CAW partners is important for its success, especially with respect to the delivery of technical assistance to communities in the areas of land use planning and hazard mitigation planning. This task will fund RPC staff to provide 100 hours of support to CAW in fiscal year 2014. The estimated total cost for this task is \$7042. The RPC will be responsible for assuming the required 1:1 match.

### **Task 2. Provide technical assistance to communities to implement the SWA model stormwater management ordinance. Coastal Program funds Requested: \$4000**

This task will provide technical assistance to two coastal communities, through the adoption or amendment of local ordinances or regulations, to incorporate the Southeast Watershed Alliance's (SWA) stormwater management standards. RPC staff will assist communities through the complete process of customizing and adopting the SWA model stormwater standards. The required 1:1 matching funds will be provided by the communities selected to receive the assistance, and supplemented with RPC funds (local dues) as required. Deliverables: Copies of outreach efforts and the community solicitation process as well as copies of the ordinances developed for the three communities.

### **Task 3. Coordinate with the Natural Resources Outreach Coalition (NROC) to bring the NOAA Road Map for Coastal Adaptation Planning to one coastal community**

*Coastal Program funds Requested: \$3812*

This task would fund 125 hours of staff time to coordinate with NROC to guide one coastal community through the NOAA Roadmap for coastal adaptation planning. RPC staff will assist NROC in training local officials to understand and better plan for climate change and coastal hazard impacts. The RPC will be responsible for assuming the required 1:1 match. Deliverables: Copies of the outreach information developed for the Roadmap process; final report of the effort as well as steps to be taken by the selected community to reduce risks for future damage from coastal hazards.

### **Task 4. Assist Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership to Update Planning Assessment**

*Coastal Program funds Requested: \$2000*

RPC staff will gather municipal data from a variety of land use documents including: master plan, zoning ordinance, site plan regulations, subdivision regulations and other planning documents and studies in order to complete the indicator form and update the Piscataqua Region Environmental Planning Assessment (PREPA), including a climate change component. This task would fund 72 hours of staff time to collect municipal data and fill out and update the Piscataqua Region Environmental Planning Assessment indicator form. The estimated total cost for this task is \$4,000. RPC will be responsible for assuming the required 1:1 match. Deliverables: updated assessment forms for each coastal watershed community, provided to PREP for use in its published report.

## **NH HOUSING AND FINANCE AUTHORITY – Community Planning Grants**

**Seabrook: North Village District and Route 1 Access Management** – RPC staff is working with the Town of Seabrook to prepare a new zoning and land use regulations to enhance growth potential and development patterns and improve access management on the north section of the Route 1 corridor. Elements that may be incorporated include development standards, site design guidelines, roadway improvements and pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. In addition, the Planning Board and project steering committee will append additional access management specifications in the Route 1 Access Management Memorandum of Understanding with the NH DOT. Award: \$16,340

**Seabrook: Route 107 Land Use and Resource Protection Plan** – The Route 107 Land Use and Resource Protection Plan will evaluate options to implement the highest and best future development along the Route 107 corridor in the Town of Seabrook, as well as identify inherent environmental and infrastructure related limitations of the surrounding lands. The project goal is to develop zoning, access management, land development standards and natural resource protection standards for the Route 107 corridor from the intersection of Route 1 westward to the Town of Kensington boundary. The Plan will focus on creation of a long-range development framework for the corridor by incorporating the following concepts: Permitted Uses, Natural Resource Protection, Zoning Standards, amendment to the NH DOT MOU and Access Management Plan and Collaboration with the Town of Kensington on zoning, access management and protection of the existing public drinking water supply. Award: \$19,200

**Hampton Falls: Rezoning and Upgrading the Route 1 Corridors** – The Town of Hampton Falls is currently working with the RPC to develop zoning, transportation and land development standards along the Hampton Falls' Route 1 Corridor. The standards developed will focus on the creation of a Town Center/Village District and multiple business districts on both the Hampton and Seabrook town borders. In addition to establishing firm district boundaries, the town is developing new permitted uses, parking and pedestrian facility standards, Route 1 transportation access management standards and architectural guidelines in time to present them for vote at the 2014 Town Meeting. Award: \$22,000

## **Natural Resources and Environmental Planning**

### **REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING PROGRAM (REPP)**

*(The REPP program has been eliminated from NHDES budget)*

### **Exeter River Management Plan; Assistance to ERLAC (604B)**

*(No 604B funding is available for assistance to ERLAC in FY 2014)*

### **PREP Management Committee**

*(Funding: Local Dues)*

The RPC will continue to participate on the Piscataqua River Estuaries Program (PREP) Management Committee and in the Great Bay Initiative sponsored by PREP representing RPC communities and regional interests.

### **Southeast Watershed Alliance**

*(Funding: Local Dues; CZP; UPWP)*

RPC staff continues to be an active participant in the Advisory Committee to the Southeast Watershed Alliance, a multi-jurisdictional organization authorized by legislation in 2009 for the purpose of coordinating water quality planning and implementation in the NH Coastal Watersheds (Great Bay and Hampton-Seabrook estuary watersheds). RPC staff participates on the groups Advisory Committee and has provided technical assistance on a variety of subjects related to non-point source pollution and stormwater management. As funding permits, this will continue in FY 2012.

## **EPA Brownfields Site Assessment Program**

*(Funding: EPA; RPC Dues)*

The RPC has spent all grant funds awarded by EPA to maintain the Brownfields Program and conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental Site Assessments. A grant application for additional funds was submitted in October 2012, but was not selected for funding. The RPC will submit another grant funds request in November 2013. Additional funding for the RPC's regional brownfields site assessment program was not approved in the most recent round of applications to the EPA. The existing Petroleum and hazardous materials assessment programs will continue until existing assessment projects are completed and funds exhausted. The list of candidate sites and any assessments completed (Phase 1 and Phase 2) assessments will be made available to prospective development interests. A new regional Brownfields assessment application will be prepared in the Fall/Winter of 2013-14 in hopes to continue the program. Staff will continue to participate in Statewide Brownfields Advisory Committee as funding permits.

## **Green Infrastructure for Sustainable Coastal Communities**

*(Funding: UNH Stormwater Center, NOAA/NERRS Science Collaborative)*

RPC will provide staff assistance to a 2-year project to assist communities in the NH Coastal Watershed to develop and implement low-impact-development and green infrastructure projects to reduce stormwater and other non-point source pollution, and improve water quality. The project is intended to build a cooperative framework between communities, regional planning commissions and the UNH Stormwater Center to address non-point pollution in the coastal watersheds.

## **Integrated Planning for Exeter/Squamscott**

*(Funding: UNH Stormwater Center, NOAA/NERRS Science Collaborative)*

This project will develop the foundation for Integrated Watershed Plan for the communities of Exeter, Stratham, and Newfields and their portions of the Exeter/Squamscott watershed. The Plan is intended as a pilot approach to help communities meet new wastewater and stormwater permit requirements and improve water quality in the Squamscott River and the Great Bay, while supporting the economic viability of participating communities. Integrated planning is a new concept, endorsed by the EPA, that allows municipalities to target scarce financial resources where they will have the most public health and environmental benefit. This research project will explore a multi-town subwatershed application of integrated planning across jurisdictional boundaries that will address some of the region's highest priority Clean Water Act issues: wastewater treatment plant upgrades for total nitrogen removal; improved stormwater management for developing and re-developing areas; and adaptive management to achieve nutrient reduction and other water quality goals in local and downstream waters. The RPC's role in the project is to serve as an intended user to help ensure that results have broad applicability to municipalities in the region facing similar issues and to facilitate municipal official participation in the project.

## **Transportation Planning**

### **Unified Planning Work Program for FY-2014 & 2015**

*(Funding Sources: FHWA; FTA; NH Toll Credits; Local Dues)*

The RPC's transportation planning work program is developed and adopted by the Commission in its capacity as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the region. This transportation planning work program, called the *Unified Planning Work Program*, covers a two-year period and was last adopted and approved in April 2013 to cover the period July 2013 through June 2015. Planning priorities or emphasis areas covering this two-year period were jointly developed by the RPC, FHWA and NHDOT and reviewed and approved by participating communities. The work encompassed in the UPWP is summarized below. The full UPWP full work program document and budget is available at [www.rpc-nh.org](http://www.rpc-nh.org).

The work tasks identified and addressed in the UPWP reflect the transportation planning needs and priorities within the Rockingham Planning Commission region identified from several sources:

- Consultation with staff from FHWA, New Hampshire Division, FTA Region I, NHDOT Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance, COAST, and CART;
- Consultation with the MPO Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee.
- The requirements for implementing MAP-21 and current Metropolitan Planning Rules (CFR 450.300);
- The specific needs and circumstances of the MPO,
- Completion of certain tasks begun under the previous UPWP,
- Addressing findings and recommendations made during the MPO Planning Reviews conducted by FHWA and FTA in January of 2009 and 2013.

In addition, during the preparation of the UPWP, the FHWA New Hampshire Division Office and FTA Region I Office recommended that 11 specific emphasis areas be addressed as planning priorities. The priorities that have been developed for the RPC region from these various efforts are the following:

1. **MAP-21 Compliance, Planning Performance Measures:** Ensure that the MPO complies with the provisions of MAP-21 and the forthcoming planning regulations developed by FHWA and FTA. As part of this, the MPO will begin transitioning to a performance based Federal-aid program and the establishment of performance measures and standards that will be required.
2. **Congestion Management Process implementation:** Now that the CMP has been established, focus shifts to effective implementation of the process through monitoring and evaluating the performance of the identified network. MAP-21 re-defines the National Highway System (NHS) and requires that all NHS facilities be included in the CMP and this may require changes to the included network.
3. **Data Collection for HPMS and the CMP:** Continue to assist with the collection of Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) data and implement the data collection necessary for the Congestion Management Process (CMP).
4. **Freight Planning:** Identify resources and work elements necessary to develop a metropolitan freight plan that assesses the condition and performance of the region's critical freight network and identifies solutions to freight bottlenecks and other deficiencies.
5. **Fiscal Constraint and Financial Planning:** Continue to improve methods and practices regarding showing fiscal constraint (by year) of planning documents and of projecting finances available to the MPO. Support the periodic updating of project scopes and estimates during the planning and programming stage of project development and estimating tools that can be consistently used by RPCs/MPOs or other agencies for typical transportation projects.
6. **Project Monitoring:** Take a more active role in tracking projects as they move from planning to implementation and support effective development of the MPO annual listing of obligated projects.
7. **Metropolitan Travel Demand Model Maintenance:** Ensuring that the MPO is maintaining the function and capacity of the travel demand model and keeping it up-to-date.
8. **Continuing Integration of 2010 Decennial Census Data:** Continue work to integrate the 2010 census data into transportation planning activities such as the Travel Demand Model and Long Range Transportation Plan.
9. **Planning and Environmental Linkages:** Work with Federal and State planning partners to deploy innovative planning techniques that can shorten project delivery times and can integrate environmental analysis, project purpose and need, and preliminary alternatives analysis into corridor studies and the Long Range Transportation Plan.
10. **Climate Change:** Ensure that the LRTP and other planning efforts address climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.
11. **Livability and Sustainability:** Integrate the livability principles of more transportation choices, equitable, affordable housing, enhanced economic competitiveness, support for existing communities, coordinated policies, leveraging investments, and valuing communities and neighborhoods into the transportation planning process.

### **Hampton Intermodal Transportation Feasibility Study**

*(Funding Sources: FHWA; FTA; NHDOT; Local Dues)*

The Hampton Intermodal Transportation Feasibility Study is included as a Special Study within the FY 12-13 Unified Planning Work Program. Work on the project will continue into FY14 under a UPWP contract extension.

The Rockingham Planning Commission, on behalf of the Town of Hampton, is conducting a combination Feasibility Study and Conceptual Planning Study to evaluate the potential of establishing an intermodal transportation facility at the present interchange of US 1 and NH 101 adjacent to Hampton's town center. The proposed intermodal center has been identified in multiple regional plans, and is seen by the Town, the Planning Commission, and other public and private stakeholders as supporting a range of regional transportation goals. Chief among these are improved access to intercity and regional transit for residents of Seacoast communities south of Portsmouth, and economic and environmental benefits associated with improved access to Hampton Beach State Park for visitors and residents alike. Key components of the study will include demand assessments for intercity, regional and local circulator transit services; a Brownfields site assessment of the NH101/US1 interchange area, and conceptual design of the interchange and the intermodal facility itself. The Planning Commission will be responsible for managing the study; while Credere Associates, McFarland-Johnson Associates and DHK Architects are under contract to develop the site assessment and interchange conceptual design components.

### **Coastal Route 1A/1B Scenic Byway Management Plan Update**

*(Funding Sources: FHWA; FTA; NHDOT)*

The current Management Plan for the NH Coastal Scenic Byway (NH 1A/1B) was completed by the RPC in 1995. It is now considered too outdated to support project funding applications made under the FHWA Scenic Byways program. In response to several project application rejections and the need to consider the disposition of excess rights of way in parts of Rye and North Hampton, the RPC successfully applied for a grant to update the management plan. The project has faced considerable delay in receiving project scope and process approval from the NHDOT operating under the new "Local Project Administration" manual. As a result project timeline has been delayed by one year and commenced in the fall of 2012 and will conclude in the spring of 2014. The update will follow the general format of the previous Plan, including extensive visitor and coastal community residents surveys, but incorporate relevant recommendations and elements of the Hampton Beach Master Plan, Nh Conceptual Design East Coast Greenway, bicycle and pedestrian needs and other supporting projects.

### **Robert Frost/Old Stagecoach Scenic Byway Management Plan Development**

*(Funding Sources: FHWA; FTA; NHDOT; Local Dues)*

During FY 2013, RPC staff has worked with Southern NH Planning Commission and representatives from Atkinson, Hampstead, Chester, Auburn and Derry to develop a Nomination and Corridor Management Plan for the Robert Frost/Old Stage Coach Scenic Byway, which follows NH121 from Atkinson to Auburn, then local roads through Derry connecting back to Hampstead. This work is expected to continue in FY 2014. Work on this project is being funded through the UPWP.

## **Economic Development Planning**

### **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

*(Funding: Rockingham Economic Development Corp., Local Dues)*

Provide assistance to the REDC in updating of the 2013 Rockingham County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), in support of on-going regional economic development planning efforts. The RPC's responsibilities will include updating demographic and economic data and associated analyses, assisting with reviewing and updating goals, objectives and recommendations, including the priority project list, researching status of major regional economic development projects and providing

support and input at Steering Committee and REDC Board meetings. The original CEDS was completed in 2000; a major rewrite was completed in 2005 and 2010. Annual updates are completed for intervening years. REDC completed a major redesign of the CEDS document in 2013.

#### **EPA Brownfields Site Assessment Program**

*(Funding: EPA; RPC Dues)*

See the program description above under "Natural Resources & Environmental Planning"

#### **Broadband Mapping and Planning**

*(Funding: SWRPC/UNH/National Telecommunications & Information Administration/US Dept. of Commerce)*

The New Hampshire Broadband Mapping & Planning Program (NHBMPP) is a multi-year, multi-agency effort to map areas in the state that are currently served and underserved by the State's 70+ broadband providers. The initial broadband access mapping effort was completed in 2011 with annual updates in subsequent years. The Broadband Planning effort has been underway for two years and will be completed in 2014. The purpose is to help the region plan for existing and future broadband capacity and infrastructure by enhancing town and regional master plans to address broadband barriers and needs and create appropriate development strategies. Mapping and assessment tasks have been completed. The focus of effort in the final year of the project will be the preparation of a regional Broadband Infrastructure Plan.

### **Other Regional Programs**

#### **Regional Master Plan Development / Granite State Future**

*(Funding: through NRPC from HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative; TBG; UPWP; Local Dues)*

The RPC is developing a new comprehensive regional master plan that will address the regional master plan components defined in RSA 36:47 and 9:B. The Plan will consist of elements including regional vision, goals, housing transportation, water resources and infrastructure, environmental quality, economic development, adaptation and climate change. The RPC is also participating in statewide coordination efforts involving all nine RPCs and several state agencies working to develop shared statewide elements, templates and a common framework for the regional plans being prepared by each individual regional planning commission in New Hampshire. This includes elements for outreach and communication, community engagement, data collection and assessment, scenario planning methodology and others. The project concludes in February 2015; the focus this year will be on region-specific outreach and developing draft chapters of all the components of the plan. Outreach efforts in the coming year will focus on topic-specific regional visioning sessions and meeting with focus groups representing specific interests and areas of concern.

#### **Hazard Mitigation Planning**

*(Funding: FEMA/NH Homeland Security/Emergency Management, RPC)*

Continue development and begin an update cycle of Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans for communities in the region. In FY 2013-2014, the RPC will complete Hazard Mitigation Plan updates for Danville, New Castle and Brentwood; and begin consultations with Sandown and Newfields.

#### **Coastal Vulnerability Assessment**

*(Funding: FEMA/NH Homeland Security/Emergency Management)*

The purpose of this project is to assist our ocean front communities to assess and plan for potential impacts from forecasted sea level rise and storm surge. The project will produce a regional vulnerability assessment report and map set for the seven coastal communities, utilizing newly available LiDAR based elevation maps, revised FEMA FIRM data for the coastal floodplain, current sea-level rise estimates to 2100, and other existing models and information to assess the potential impact on buildings, infrastructure, and natural resources. Detailed maps, showing areas at risk and impact analyses and adaptation and mitigation, strategies will be developed at both the regional and municipal levels. Specific

project deliverables include: 1) A customized Coastal Flood, Hazards and Adaption Chapter to be incorporated within coastal community Hazard Mitigation Plans including adaption and mitigation strategies; 2) A regional coastal vulnerability assessment report and maps; and 3) Public outreach and guidance tools to enhance preparedness, and improve Planning and resiliency in the built environment and safety and natural systems. This project will conclude in early 2015.

### **Developments of Regional Impact Review**

*(Funding: Local Dues; OEP)*

Continue to staff the Developments of Regional Impact Review Committee which reviews and comments on proposed development in the region that may have region-wide impact. (RSA 35:54-58). Work on strengthening the regional impact review process and local awareness, and complete follow-up on Planning Advisory on Regional Impact Guidelines distributed in FY 07. Attend local planning board meetings as warranted to provide testimony on regional impact projects.

### **Hazardous Waste Collection: (Exeter, Stratham, Newfields, East Kingston and Epping)**

*(Funding: Local Dues)*

Coordinate multi-town cooperative hazardous waste collection each year, including grant application, volunteer and other logistics coordination.

### **Legislative Policy Development**

*(Funding: Local Dues)*

Develop and distribute RPC legislative policy priorities for the 2011-2012 Legislative Session.

### **Information Distribution**

*(Funding Source: Local; NHDOT; FHWA)*

Newsletters; Website updates; Zoning Amendment Calendar; Other Planning Advisory Memos; Census Distribution; Law Lecture Series; Press Releases

### **Website Overhaul**

*(Funding Source: Local; GSF; NHDOT; FHWA)*

The is in the process for contracting with a website design and development team to completely reconstruct the RPC website, including sections on transportation, regional planning/GSF and general information on commission services and projects. This work is expected to be complete in the fall of 2013.

### **Commission Support**

*(Funding: Local; Administrative overhead)*

Provide staff support as needed to the Commission and its standing committees, including Executive, Personnel, Nominating, Legislative and Regional Impact Committees. Support includes preparing for and attending meetings, preparing meeting agendas and materials, and carrying out other tasks as requested.

**LOCAL WORK PROGRAM FOR FY 2013-2014**  
**Rockingham Planning Commission**

**July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014**

- Atkinson:** Circuit rider services; assistance to planning board including revisions to zoning and regulations; review of Site Plan and Subdivision applications; TA contract to provide assistance on Master Plan update including the preparation of a new Community Vision Chapter and update of the Future Land Use Chapter; assistance with Old Stage Coach (NH121A) scenic byways designation; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; update to the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.
- Brentwood:** Circuit rider services; Site Review and Subdivision regulation amendments as necessary and Zoning amendments as necessary; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; Water Quality Planning Support via the Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee; assistance to the Capital Improvements Program committee; Hazard Mitigation Plan update; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies. Supplied GIS data to town Fire Department. Supplied the town with several maps to help with planning around resources (i.e., aquifers, floodplains...aerials).
- Danville:** General technical assistance as requested; assistance to Planning Board in revisions in Zoning Ordinance as requested; update Site Review and Subdivision regulations as requested; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; Water Quality Planning Support via the Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee; Hazard Mitigation Plan update 2013-2014; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.
- East Kingston:** Circuit rider services; assistance to planning board with revisions to Zoning Ordinance; review of Site Plan and Subdivision applications; and a comprehensive update of Subdivision Regulations in 2013; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; coordination of and informational presentations to the Agriculture Commission; coordination of Exeter/Stratham/Newfields/East Kingston and Epping household hazardous waste collection; Water Quality Planning Support via the Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee; update the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.
- Epping:** General technical assistance as requested; assistance to Planning Board in revisions in zoning ordinance as requested; update Site Review and Subdivision Regulations as requested; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; follow through with hazard mitigation plan update beginning in FY 2013 as needed; coordination of the Exeter/Stratham-/Newfields/East Kingston and Epping household hazardous waste collection; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.
- Exeter:** Technical assistance through the Green Infrastructure project to complete a stormwater retrofit and community engagement project for the Marshall Farms Crossing neighborhood and Brickhouse Pond; follow-up support regarding the Exeter/Stratham Sewer and Water feasibility study for shared services; facilitation assistance to the Exeter Economic Development Commission and all Boards goal setting meeting; coordination of the Exeter/Stratham-/Newfields/East Kingston and Epping household hazardous waste collection; TASC volunteer driver program



assistance; staff support for COAST; Exeter Local Transportation Committee assistance; participation in the Exeter Station Committee (Downeaster) and West Ex Committee; support for the Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee; technical assistance as requested; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies; assist town with Safe Routes to School program implementation as needed.

**Fremont:** Circuit rider services; assistance to Planning Board in revisions to Zoning Ordinance, Site Review and Subdivision regulations and applications; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; Safe Routes to School technical assistance; conduct public input sessions and update the Vision/Goals Chapter of Master Plan; Water Quality Planning Support via the Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.

**Greenland:** Circuit rider services; assistance to Planning Board on revisions to Zoning Ordinance, review of Site Review and Subdivision regulations and applications; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; transit coordination assistance; update of Stormwater Regulations; TASC volunteer driver program assistance; staff support for COAST; participation in the Energy Technical Assistance Program; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.

**Hampstead:** Technical assistance as requested; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; CART regional transit system implementation; update to the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan; assistance with the Old Stage Coach (NH121A) Scenic Byways designation; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.

**Hampton:** Technical assistance as requested; technical assistance through the FY14 Coastal Program grant to amend stormwater management ordinance/regulations; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; Safe Routes to School technical assistance; TASC volunteer driver program assistance; completion of Route 1 Corridor Study and implementation strategy; initial work on NH Coastal Byway (NH1A/NH1B) Corridor Management Plan update; completion and follow-up to the HBAC parking study; complete feasibility study for the Hampton Intermodal Transportation Center; conducting NH Stream Crossing Assessment Inventory for hazard mitigation planning; technical assistance and participation in Coastal Adaptation Workgroup and community outreach; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies; continue with efforts to develop the East Coast Greenway including State acquisition of Hampton Branch rail right-of-way and implementation of multi-use path; continue to participate in the Town Center Planning Advisory Committee. Created maps of vacant land at the request of the town planner.

**Hampton Falls:** Circuit rider services; assistance to Planning Board in revisions to Zoning Ordinance; review of Site Review and Subdivision regulations and applications; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; parcel map updates; continue Route 1 Corridor Study outreach; TASC volunteer drive program assistance; develop a new Route 1 Corridor Commercial District(s); assistance via special contract to implement NHHFA Community Planning Grant re: Route 1 Corridor; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.

**Kensington:** Circuit rider services; assistance to Planning Board in revisions to Zoning Ordinance; Site Review and Subdivision regulations and applications; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; Re-codification of zoning ordinance; Water Quality Planning Support via the Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee; update

the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan; Natural Resource Inventory and Natural Resource Master Plan Chapter; TASC volunteer driver program assistance; assist town with addition of updated trails to NRI maps; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.

**Kingston:** Circuit rider services; assistance to Planning Board in revisions to Zoning Ordinance, Site Review and Subdivision regulations; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; assistance with CIP; assistance with NH 125 project implementation; Water Quality Planning Support via the Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee; assistance with impact fee implementation; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.

**New Castle:** Technical assistance as requested; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; assistance with addressing workforce housing compliance options as requested; initial work on NH Coastal Byway (NH1A/NH1B) Corridor Management Plan update; participation in RPC regional vulnerability assessment project; conducting NH Stream Crossing Assessment Inventory for hazard mitigation planning; Hazard Mitigation Plan update (2013); update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.

**Newfields:** Technical assistance as requested; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; coordination of Exeter/Stratham/Newfields/East Kingston and Epping household hazardous waste collection; Water Quality Planning Support via the Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.

**Newington:** Technical assistance as requested; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; monitoring of Newington-Dover bridge expansion project and review of design changes; staff support and COAST service expansion; GIS assistance as requested; completion of a 5 year update to the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.

**Newton:** Circuit rider services; assistance to Planning Board in revisions to Zoning Ordinance, Site Review and Subdivision regulations; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; Safe Routes to School technical assistance; provide assistance to update the local Master Plan with the Planning Board; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.

**North Hampton:** Circuit rider services; assistance to Planning Board in revisions to Zoning Ordinance, Site Review and Subdivision regulations; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; complete Route 1 Corridor Study and work with Town on access management strategy and MOU; transit coordination assistance; initial work on NH Coastal Byway (NH1A/NH1B) Corridor Management Plan update; TASC volunteer drive program assistance; preparation of revised Master Plan including Future Land Use Chapter as it relates to the recommendations of the Route 1 Corridor study; participation in the Energy Technical Assistance Program; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies; continue with efforts to develop the East Coast Greenway including State acquisition of Hampton Branch rail right-of-way and implementation of multi-use path; participate as member/advisory to the North Hampton Economic Development Committee.

- Plaistow:** Technical assistance as requested; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; assistance with NH 125 project implementation and MBTA commuter rail extension project; (layover and station site assessments; participation in environmental assessments and alternatives analysis); Safe Routes to School technical assistance; assistance with implementation of traffic calming study on portions of NH 121A; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.
- Portsmouth:** Technical assistance as requested; technical assistance through the Green Infrastructure project to install a bioretention BMP and water quality monitoring at the City's snow dump site on Pierce Island; assistance with re-establishing Seacoast Commuter Options TMA; staff support for COAST; downtown bicycle parking planning assistance; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; NH Coastal Byway (NH1A/NH1B) Corridor Management Plan update; technical assistance and participation in Coastal Adaptation Workgroup and community outreach; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies; continue with efforts to develop the East Coast Greenway including State acquisition of Hampton Branch rail right-of-way and implementation of multi-use path.
- Rye:** Technical assistance as requested; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; complete Route 1 Corridor Study; TASC volunteer driver program assistance; Safe Routes to School assistance; initial Master Planning assistance to the Rye Long Range Planning Committee; initial work on NH Coastal Byway (NH1A/NH1B) Corridor Management Plan update; conducting NH Stream Crossing Assessment Inventory for hazard mitigation planning; technical assistance and participation in Coastal Adaptation Workgroup and community outreach; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies; continue with efforts to develop the East Coast Greenway including State acquisition of Hampton Branch rail right-of-way and implementation of multi-use path. Supplied the town with updated maps of the beach areas.
- Rye Beach District:** Zoning Ordinance amendment assistance as requested.
- Salem:** (NON-MEMBER); Participation in MPO transportation planning process; Participation in Granite State Future/Regional Plan development.
- Sandown:** General transportation planning (MPO) assistance; Water Quality Planning Support via the Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee; provide technical assistance; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.
- Seabrook:** Technical assistance through two NHHFA community planning grants to create new zoning and development standards for the North Village section of Route 1, new zoning and land use regulations for Route 107 to the Kensington border and amend the existing access management MOU with NHDOT as needed; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; TASC volunteer driver program assistance; Safe Routes to School technical assistance; NH Seacoast Greenway/Seabrook Rail Trail planning assistance; transit coordination and service expansion through COAST/Lamprey Health Care; initial work on NH Coastal Byway (NH1A/NH1B) Corridor Management Plan update; traffic impact review for developments as requested; provide technical assistance; conducting NH Stream Crossing Assessment Inventory for hazard mitigation planning; annual conversion of CAD based tax maps to GIS format and linkage of assessing data; provide mapping assistance to compile and review an updated zoning map; technical assistance and

participation in Coastal Adaptation Workgroup and community outreach; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies; continue to provide assistance to Friends of Seabrook Recreation Trail group with implementation of multi-use trail on the Hampton Branch rail right-of-way.

**South Hampton:** Technical assistance as requested; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; review of development plans as requested; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.

**Stratham:** Technical assistance through the Green Infrastructure project to prepare new stormwater management standards in the form of zoning and/or regulations based on the SWA Model Standards; technical assistance as requested; follow-up support regarding the Exeter/Stratham Sewer and Water feasibility study for shared services; general transportation planning (MPO) assistance; coordination of Exeter/Stratham/Newfields/East Kingston and Epping household hazardous waste collection; TASC volunteer driver program assistance; staff support for COAST; tax map update; Water Quality Planning Support via the Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee; update the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan; update of standard map set, including new maps and distribution of hard copies.

start something soon



**Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of the Greater Seacoast**  
4 Greenleaf Woods #201  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

OCT 25 2013

*Received*

T 603 430 1140  
F 603 430 7760

www.bbbsgs.org

October 22, 2013

Mr. Russell Dean  
Town of Exeter  
10 Front Street  
Exeter, NH 03833-2792

Dear Mr. Dean,

The power of the recent \$2250.00 donation by the Town of Exeter reaches far beyond what you might imagine. Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast is celebrating 35 years serving the Seacoast community.

Thirty-five years of providing children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally-supported relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

***Autumn, a 10 year old Little Sister, recently said to her Big Sister at their match meeting, "Ever since I heard about you, I haven't been able to wipe the smile off my face."***

Thirty-five years of partnering with parents and guardians, volunteers and others in the community to help children achieve higher aspirations, greater confidence, and better relationships; avoid risky behavior; and succeed academically.

***"What a great role model he has been for my son. There is a sense about his Big Brother that has taught him the important things in life, he is the father he never had. I can only hope this comes full circle for my son. I hope one day he will become a Big." said the Mom of a Little Brother.***

Thirty-five years of making a difference in the lives of children.

***Little Sister Monica, 13, said, "My Big Sister is so easy to talk to, so giving, accepting, and optimistic. She is like my actual sister."***

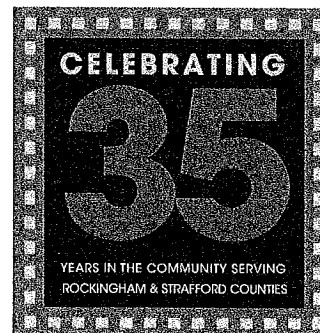
On behalf of our board of directors, our staff, and most importantly, our Bigs and Littles, we are forever indebted to you. Your gift has a tremendous impact as we strive to recruit volunteer mentors for not only the children on our waiting list, but all children in the greatest need. Thank you for supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast and 35 years of making a difference in the community!

With gratitude,

Stacy W. Kramer, MSW  
Executive Director

*Thank you very much for that ongoing support!*

Our Federal Tax ID number for your records is: 02-0348477.





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1

5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100  
BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

*Town Manager's Office*

OCT 21 2013

*Received*

OCT 18 2013

**Re: The Health of Your Buried Water Infrastructure Will Ensure the Health of Your Community**

Dear Budget Official/Financial Committee:

Municipal officials have seen great benefit from programs that assess the condition of their infrastructure assets and from developing sustainable user rates based on keeping those assets in good condition. These programs preserve the value of the billions of dollars worth of water and wastewater assets that have been constructed with EPA, state, and municipal investments over more than forty years. These investments across the nation have improved the quality of our water, our lakes, rivers and streams. The water pollution control program has been extremely successful in restoring our nation's waters and we should all be proud of what we have accomplished.

One of the greatest challenges we face is sustaining our investment. So much of the process of wastewater collection and treatment takes place out of sight, as much of our infrastructure is underground and out of public view. Many of New Hampshire's treatment facilities have now reached their expected design life, and many sewer systems have exceeded their life expectancy. As our valuable infrastructure begins to show its age, it becomes critically important to engage in preventive maintenance activities and to conduct capital planning activities. The enclosed brochure spells out the tasks and provides some insight into programs to ensure sustainability of your underground infrastructure.

The costs of infrastructure maintenance and repair can be high, but these costs will only continue to mount as aging infrastructures continue to erode. With the average cost to replace a major sewer line at one million dollars per mile, wastewater collection and treatment facilities can be the most expensive infrastructure for many communities. When these systems fail due to age or maintenance issues, fines can add to the cost of repair or replacement. We hope that you will take a proactive approach to addressing and improving your community's wastewater treatment system by providing adequate funding during this upcoming budget cycle. Some of the most difficult challenges facing local wastewater facilities are balancing the need to sustain infrastructure while also financing new equipment and capital facilities.

EPA will continue to reach out to local officials to stress the importance and value of properly maintaining wastewater infrastructure. Viable and reliable infrastructure is also critical to the local economy. While there is little glamour in discussing a community's wastewater needs, we trust that the sentiment among the local officials and citizenry of New Hampshire is one of support for this basic need of public health and clean waterways.

Sincerely,

*Susan Studlien, acting for*

Susan Studlien, Director  
Office of Environmental Stewardship  
U.S. EPA - New England Region

cc: NHDES

Toll Free • 1-888-372-7341

Internet Address (URL) • <http://www.epa.gov/region1>

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