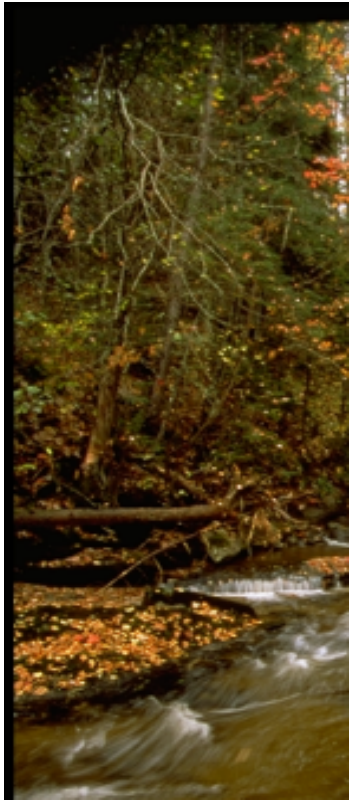


**ENABLING DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION:**  
*Aligning State Land Use and Water Protection Programs*

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ACTION PLAN**



**MAY 2009**

The *Enabling Drinking Water Source Protection* initiative, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is a partnership among The Trust for Public Land (TPL), The Smart Growth Leadership Institute (SGLI), River Network (RN) and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA). The project assesses state programs to recommend highest and best opportunities for program alignment that will support local communities in their drinking water source protection efforts. The national partners wish to thank the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning for their dedication and assistance with this project.



*The Trust for Public Land conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come.*



*The **Smart Growth Leadership Institute**, a project of [Smart Growth America](#), is dedicated to helping state and local elected, civic and business leaders design and implement effective smart growth strategies. SGLI's coalition includes many of the best-known national organizations advocating on behalf of historic preservation, the environment, farmland and open space preservation, and neighborhood revitalization.*



*River Network is leading a nationwide movement to preserve and restore clean and healthy waters. While rivers are our focal point, we work to protect the quality of all fresh waters and the health of all people and ecosystems dependent upon them.*



*The Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) is the professional association serving state drinking water programs. Formed in 1984 to address a growing need for state administrators to have national representation, ASDWA has become a respected voice for states with Congress, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other professional organizations.*



*EPA leads the nation's environmental science, research, education and assessment efforts. The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and the environment. Since 1970, EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people.*

# ENABLING DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION: *Aligning State Land Use and Water Protection Programs*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After a year of research and discovery, a national team of conservation, smart growth and drinking water experts identified ten key action strategies that the State of New Hampshire could take to improve efforts to protect the state's drinking water supplies. Building upon the state's current programs and policies, the national partnership focused primarily on how the state could support better land use decision-making at local levels. Strategies include providing local governments with access to critical information and technical assistance, clear direction on regulatory matters, and improving communication channels across watersheds and regions.

### Recommended Action Items

The recommended ten action items (see Table 1) fall into four opportunity areas that address regulatory incentives, conservation funding, access to important data and communication tools, and smart growth planning and development. Within these broad categories, the action strategies are often interdependent - where accomplishing one fosters implementation of another one – or they can be implemented simultaneously to use human and financial resources more efficiently.

Three action items stood above the rest, though, with broad support as high-impact initiatives. Two of these require low-to-moderate effort or investment to implement, while the third would require a more significant investment and long-term commitment:

- Revise surface water quality standards and protections, and groundwater classification to better protect drinking water sources, as well as other high-quality waters.
- Expand eligibility for the Water Supply Land Protection Grant Program.
- Expand and enhance New Hampshire's on-line geographic information resources to support local planning needs.



By pursuing these three action items, the state would make considerable progress in better aligning land use and drinking water source protection between the state and local governments.

### **Next Step**

A small amount of funding to initiate implementation of one or more of the recommended action items is available to New Hampshire. Following submission of this action plan, the national partners will work with state staff to identify the best use of the stipend.

**Table 1. State of New Hampshire  
Land Use and Water Alignment Action Plan**

Implementation Task	Requirements						Time Frame			Level of Effort Required			Likelihood of Achieving Program Change			Impact on Source Water Protection (Outcome)			Overall Priority Ranking			Primary Agency	
	Additional	Funding	Legislation	Rule Change	Administrative	Inter-Agency	MOA	Short (1-3 yrs)	Med (4-6 yrs)	Long (7+ yrs)	High	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Low	High	Medium		Low
1. Revise Surface Water Quality Standards and Protections and Groundwater Classifications to Better Protect Drinking Water Sources, as well as Other High-Quality Water			X					X				X		X			X			X			NH DES
2. Expand Eligibility for the Water Supply Land Protection Grant Program	X	X	X	X				X				X		X			X			X			NH DES
3. Expand and Enhance New Hampshire's On-line Geographic Information Resources to Support Local Planning Needs	X	X		X	X					X		X		X			X			X			University of New Hampshire's GRANIT
4. Develop a Consistent Message and Communication Tools to Inform and Engage Local Governments and Individuals about Drinking Water Source Protection				X					X			X				X				X			NH DES
5. Provide Technical Assistance to Local Governments with Unprotected Sensitive Resource Areas to Create and/or Augment Local Conservation Funds to Protect Critical Source Water Areas within Their Jurisdictions				X					X			X			X		X				X		NGOs
6. Strengthen the role of Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) to Provide Technical Assistance and to Serve as Communication Channels to Local Governments				X					X			X			X		X				X		NH DES, NH OEP
7. Train Municipal Boards to identify potential impacts to drinking water sources as part of the development review process and to identify/suggest mitigation measures.				X					X			X			X		X				X		NE OEP
8. Improve Coordination Among Existing Programs and Incentives to Encourage Compact Development			X	X	X			X				X			X		X				X		NH OEP
9. Explore Modifications to the Current Use Tax to Encourage Private Landowners to Protect Land Critical to Source Water Protection		X		X				X				X			X		X					X	NH Dept. of Revenue
10. Coordinate New Hampshire's Department of Transportation Long-Range Plan with the State Development Plan				X				X			X				X			X				X	NHOEP



# ENABLING DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION: *Aligning State Land Use and Water Protection Programs*

## STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ACTION PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

The separation of state programs for land, drinking water and clean water programs often hinders local efforts to effectively and comprehensively protect surface and ground waters. These efforts grow even more complicated when a regional or county structure does not exist to help facilitate communication and planning across watersheds, which often cover multiple jurisdictions. New Hampshire offers some of the most coordinated policies and programs in the nation to enable drinking water protection; however, it is challenged in providing tools to support local land use decision-making for 234 separate municipalities and 25 other unincorporated areas.

On March 4, 2008, a broad-based group of New Hampshire's state water- and land-related programs, agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) convened as part of the U.S. EPA-funded *Enabling Drinking Water Protection* program to outline the issues that hamper better alignment in the state and identify broad opportunity areas where integration might best occur.

The national partnership of The Trust for Public Land (TPL), Smart Growth Leadership Institute (SGLI), River Network (RN) and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) assessed these opportunity areas, conducted research and analysis, and evaluated potential impacts and resource investments for implementation. These ideas and recommendations became the foundation of the *New Hampshire Opportunity Map (NHOM)*, a comprehensive document that explored New Hampshire's challenges and explored opportunity areas where enhancements or improvements could be made to better align land use decisions and source water protection. The NHOM articulated those opportunities by:



- Identifying specific state policies, programs or investments, or NGO programs that, with some revision, could better facilitate source water protection at the local level;
- Focusing on high impact actions that the state and statewide NGO partners could implement; and,
- Providing examples of other states that have taken actions to address similar programs with success.

Designed to spark discussion and innovation, the *NHOM* was organized into four opportunity areas that formed the basis of four workshops held in Concord on July 23-24, 2008, in which more than 65 people representing state agencies, non-profit organizations, water utilities and local governments participated. The primary goals of all the workshops were to discover which opportunities generated the most interest and to identify key action items to implement those ideas.

More than 30 individual action items were identified under the four opportunity areas. The national partners in consultation with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (NHOEP) winnowed these items down to ten key action items. These ten action items were presented to workshop participants in February 2009 through an on-line feedback form to enlist their input on measurable strategies that would help the national partners prioritize recommended actions for the state to take to enhance efforts to protect drinking water supplies. More than 40 percent responded. The action plan was developed based on the results of the on-line survey, with further review and refinement by the state project team (NHDES and NHOEP staff).

## **OPPORTUNITY AREAS AND RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS**

The overarching theme of these recommended action items is to improve state land use decisions and support local government land use decisions by providing access to important source water and land information, and technical assistance, as well as clear direction on regulatory issues. The recommended action items fall within the original four opportunity areas, which are now prioritized based on participant feedback:

### **Opportunity Areas**

- **Improve the regulatory and grant frameworks for better coordination between land use and source water protection (Action Items 1 and 8).**

*This project identified a number of opportunities to improve coordination among existing programs, specifically involving New Hampshire's water quality regulations and the various grant programs that could be crafted as incentives to favor water resource-friendly development.*

- **Increase protection of lands critical to source water protection by expanding the eligibility criteria for those who may apply for grants under the state's**

**Water Supply Land Protection Grant (WSLPG) Program, by increasing local funding for conservation, and by considering revisions to the Current Use program (Action Items 2, 5 and 9).**

*New Hampshire ranks 19<sup>th</sup> among all states in per capita spending for land conservation. However, market fluctuations and budget considerations threaten the stability of funding levels. In favorable economic times, the WSLPG Program is able to protect only a fraction of critical land and water resources, and in lean times the funding often dries up completely. Local governments have a strong history of supporting conservation funding, but some of the most critical areas remain unprotected.*

- **Improve management of and access to land and water resource data for statewide use by local governments, non-profit organizations and others to facilitate improved decision-making, communication and planning (Action Items 3 through 7).**

*New Hampshire is comprised of 234 municipalities and 25 unincorporated areas, all with the primary responsibility for land use decisions and economic development. Many of these jurisdictions rely on volunteer land use boards and employ limited planning capacity and funding. They are often too overwhelmed with projects to devote time and resources to training on source water and natural resource protection and on how to access available resources to support critical decision-making.*

- **Direct infrastructure investments toward development and redevelopment in existing neighborhoods and away from sensitive lands to reduce impacts on water resources (Actions Item 8 and 10).**

*State infrastructure investments can potentially have a significant impact on growth patterns. Water, sewer and road construction send market signals regarding the suitability of an area for land development. More directly, the presence of infrastructure enables easy future development, both residential and commercial. For these reasons, one of the keys to guiding growth into areas where development or redevelopment is desired and preventing growth in ecologically sensitive areas can be found in better planning and coordination of state funding for infrastructure, such that various infrastructure investments support growth in the same areas, rather than working at cross purposes. In addition, state infrastructure investments should be coordinated with local land use and open space planning.*



**ACTION ITEM 1. REVISE SURFACE WATER QUALITY REGULATIONS AND GROUNDWATER CLASSIFICATIONS TO BETTER PROTECT DRINKING WATER SOURCES AS WELL AS OTHER HIGH-QUALITY WATERS.**



Almost 92 percent of survey respondents felt moderate to high urgency in “revising surface and ground water classifications and protections,” and 100 percent believed this action would achieve moderate to high positive impacts on protecting source

waters. With respect to groundwater classifications, the discussion during the workshop did not identify any specific changes. With respect to surface water classifications, DES’s Watershed Management Bureau has been working with the Water Quality Standards Advisory Committee for a number of years and has identified the water quality anti-degradation provisions as an appropriate area for revision to better protect source waters and other high-quality waters.

**Implementation Steps**

- Work with the Groundwater Commission or other study group to identify potential improvements to the groundwater classification program.
- NHDES Watershed Management Bureau to pursue changes to anti-degradation rules to better protect drinking water sources and other high-quality waters
  - Changes will be addressed through rule changes with legislative consultation.
- Inform towns and communities of process for designating certain waters under the anti-degradation rules to provide for enhanced review of project proposals
  - N.H. Citizen Planner Collaborative and RPCs could assist with training municipal boards.

**Measures of Success**

- Source waters become integrated into planning review processes.
- Identification and designation of high quality water supply sources that need protection.

## **ACTION ITEM 2. EXPAND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE WATER SUPPLY LAND PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM.**

The proposed changes to eligibility requirements and application scoring criteria put forth by NHDES drew strong support from workshop participants, and more than 80 percent of on-line feedback respondents expressed a moderate to high level of urgency for their approval. One hundred percent responded that these changes would result in moderate to high impacts on source water protection because they would result in more applications and in the selection of higher-impact projects.

While the timeframe and effort for implementation of the pending legislative (2009 HB 45) and rule changes are short-term, the state's ongoing budget concerns affected the long-term outlook for the program because the allocation for WSLPG Program is tied to legislative appropriations. On-line respondents offered that efforts were needed to stabilize funding for this program by communicating its return on investment to the legislature.

### **Implementation Steps**

- NHDES presented rule changes to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules in April 2009 to extend riparian coverage beyond five miles from intake.
- NHDES supporting 2009 HB 45, which would expand grant eligibility to land conservation organizations and expand project eligibility to include land protecting *future* water supply sources.
- Longer-term strategy to increase and stabilize funding for WSLPGP:
  - Goal is “to increase the pie, not reallocate the pie.”
  - Communicate need for stability of funding based upon demand vs. supply of funds
    - Amount of funding available
    - Tracking of funding cuts
    - Number of good projects that get turned away

### **Measures of Success**

- Increase in number of applications for programmatic funds.
- Number of acres of land critical to drinking water conserved.
- Number of requests for information about program, especially from rural communities.

## **ACTION ITEM 3. EXPAND AND ENHANCE NEW HAMPSHIRE'S ON-LINE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LOCAL PLANNING NEEDS.**

At the workshop and through the on-line form, consensus was achieved around designating the University of New Hampshire's GRANIT on-line geographic information resources as the state's official data clearinghouse and providing it with the support to

improve its functionality and reach as a resource for local planning boards. The system could be designed so that state agencies and local governments have the ability to directly upload new data as it becomes available, reducing some of the future maintenance costs. Given the cost of implementing this item and current state of the state budget, this item has been designated as a long-term item despite the high degree of support indicated in the on-line survey.

### **Implementation Steps**

- As indicated in the *State Strategic GIS Plan* and the *Business Plan for a GIS Coordinator*:
  - Officially designate the University of New Hampshire's (UNH) GRANIT as the state data clearinghouse/portal.
  - Create a State GIS coordinator position to coordinate with state agencies and organizations on mapping needs, quality control and conveyance of data to GRANIT.
- Expand functionality of GRANIT database, so that local governments, RPCs and NGOs can:
  - Create PDF reports and maps;
  - Create user mark ups;
  - Upload data sets;
  - Create links for pre-made maps, documents and websites;
  - Conduct analysis and queries; and
  - Save/share work sessions.
- NHDES, NHOEP and other state agencies should undertake strategies, including:
  - Conduct quality control of existing state data to meet GRANIT's standards for uploading and availability;
  - Identify and obtain outside funding for initial enhancements. Identify and obtain ongoing funding for operation, maintenance, and upgrades.
  - Revisit pin/password protocol so that state's on-line mapping resources are accessible to key NGOs;
  - Appoint a representative from Legislature/Governor to GIS Advisory Team; and,
  - Present a GIS demonstration to State Executive Committee to showcase its potential for improved communication with local governments.

### **Measures of Success**

- A fully populated, large-scale database with established mechanisms for updating at appropriate intervals, a robust set of web-based tools to access and utilize data (including direct applications that enhance the analysis of threats to specific water supplies), and the training/outreach to ensure communities understand and benefit from the tools.
- Increased hits to the GRANIT website, especially from NGOs and local governments (could be captured through on-line feedback and tracking).
- Cost-savings from reduced duplication of information and services.

## **ACTION ITEM 4. DEVELOP A CONSISTENT MESSAGE AND COMMUNICATION TOOLS TO INFORM AND ENGAGE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND INDIVIDUALS IN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION.**

The key to an effective communication strategy is to stay on message, but New Hampshire lacks a cohesive drinking water source protection message that relates to different audiences and markets. On-line feedback respondents ranked developing a consistent message as urgent, and expressed that this consistent message would have a high impact on source water protection. Respondents also believed that existing tools, such as the state web site and brochures, and inter-agency cooperation frameworks, could be revisited to carry this message, thus reducing levels of effort and investment to implement. The on-line mapping resource discussed in Action Item 3 represents but one communication tool to broadcast the land-use-source-water correlation message across agency and governmental jurisdictions, as well as to the wider public.

### **Implementation Steps**

- With NHDES in the lead, articulate a clear and compelling message with the goal of protecting drinking water sources. The message should be supported by information about the economic benefits of source water protection. Consult with the advisory committee for DES's source water protection strategy and outreach staff to craft and pilot the message. The message could be disseminated through and supported by the Council on Resources and Development (CORD).
- Expand the discussion about land conservation from simply preservation/conservation to the economic and environmental benefits of public investment in land conservation.
- Determine the most effective means of providing source water protection technical assistance, education, and outreach to municipalities throughout the whole state;
- Ensure that communities working with the Natural Resources Outreach Coalition have access to the full range of technical and financial assistance available from NHDES's Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSPP), and,
- Evaluate NHDES Local Source Water Protection Grant Program to consider enhancing the role of Regional Planning Commissions in communicating the source water protection message and providing technical assistance to municipalities.

### **Measures of Success**

- The development of a single Drinking Water Source Protection message statement that is created, supported, and used by state agencies, commissions and NGOs.
- Evaluate number of media hits, and the use of language or the message from the communication strategy.

- Also track the number of earned media opportunities, such as public radio and television announcements and requests.
- NHOEP could track the number of local zoning ordinances that address the source water protection mission statement and other communication tools.

**ACTION ITEM 5. PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH UNPROTECTED, SENSITIVE RESOURCE AREAS TO CREATE AND/OR AUGMENT LOCAL CONSERVATION FUNDS TO PROTECT CRITICAL SOURCE WATER AREAS WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTIONS.**

The most effective way of protecting drinking water sources is conserving the land within their watersheds or wellhead protection areas. But no one entity – federal, state or local government, or water supplier, or NGO – has the capacity to acquire and maintain all of these lands. Local funding is essential in leveraging multiple funding sources. Respondents agreed, stating that moderate investment of money and effort could result in high impacts to source water protection (100 percent combined moderate and high).

**Implementation Steps**

- NGOs and state agencies work with local governments to develop strategic conservation plans to identify the most critical, resource-rich conservation priorities.
- NGOs, such as the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, The Nature Conservancy, and The Trust for Public Land, could:
  - Identify a phased strategy of local government outreach, targeting those communities with the highest amount of unprotected lands that have either a history of or that have expressed an interest in creating local conservation funding;
  - Provide local governments with technical assistance on how to prepare for and pass local conservation finance measures.
- Explore the Rhode Island Penny per Hundred Program for applicability in N.H. as a means of raising funds for source water protection.
- Protect existing local funding sources for conservation, such as land use change tax, by creating incentives for technical assistance and matching grant funds, if a percentage is dedicated for source water protection.
- Build incentives into existing grant programs to encourage water resource protection and land use training of local government officials.

**Measures of Success**

- Increased number of ballot measures and local funds generated for land conservation.
- Amount of land protected through acquisition and easements that is critical to source water protection.

## **ACTION ITEM 6. STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS (RPCs) IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SERVING AS COMMUNICATION CHANNELS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

Almost 93 percent of on-line respondents felt that empowering the RPCs to assist with training and communication would result in moderate to high impact on source water protection, and almost 60 percent expressed a high level of urgency for implementing this action. One respondent wrote, “This could be the key to better source water protection land use in New Hampshire.”

### **Implementation Steps**

- NHDES and NHOEP develop a training module to enhance RPC’s capacity to conduct local outreach. Funding to coordinate regional technical assistance could come from 319 and source water protection funds.
- NHDES to add evaluation of groundwater reclassification program to its Source Water Protection Strategy to clarify it and make it less complicated/easier to implement at local levels.

### **Measures of Success**

- Number of requests coming in to RPCs for technical assistance with source water protection
- Greater number of groundwater reclassifications.

## **ACTION ITEM 7. TRAIN MUNICIPAL BOARDS THROUGH RPCs AND INCREASED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO DRINKING WATER SOURCES AS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCESS AND TO IDENTIFY/SUGGEST MANAGEMENT MEASURES.**

Establishing partnerships to build toward regional cooperation is a recurring theme throughout the action items. Again, on-line respondents articulated a high level of urgency to implement as well as a high likelihood of this action’s implementation, in conjunction with Action Item 6, but they also cautioned that this action would take longer to implement and that it should be addressed incrementally. Because of its focus on communicating and working with local governments, the resulting impacts to source water protection would be highly positive. This action would not require any legislative or rule changes and could be pursued jointly by NHDES, with existing DWSPP staff and funding sources, and by NHOEP with existing Municipal and Regional Planning Assistance staff and programs. Existing NHDES Regional Environmental Planning Program (REPP) and NHOEP Target Block Grant funding could also contribute toward fulfilling this action item.



### **Implementation Steps**

- Determine the most appropriate and effective means of providing source water protection training to supplement DES's annual workshop.
- Create a map that shows where responsible development can occur that corresponds with priority conservation areas.
- Clearly define potential water resource impacts from land use developments relative to the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) statutes
- Develop and implement a training program and schedule.

### **Measures of Success**

- Increased demand by local governments for RPCs to provide training and technical assistance.
- Source water protection measures included in development review processes on the local level as well as the development of regional impact review process on the regional level.

## **ACTION ITEM 8. IMPROVE COORDINATION OF EXISTING PROGRAMS AND INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE COMPACT DEVELOPMENT**

The majority of respondents expressed a high level of urgency and likelihood for this action's implementation, because it takes advantage of existing programs to improve coordination (bundling of funds and incentives) to direct development/redevelopment into areas with infrastructure and services. While it would require moderate levels of investment and effort, the long-term impacts to source water protection would be high, though not immediately apparent.

### **Implementation Steps**

- NHOEP to explore how to coordinate (or bundle) existing programmatic funds and incentives in conjunction with other state agencies and non-profits, including, but not limited to, the Department of Education, NHDES, NHDOT, the Community Development Finance Authority and others (e.g. school construction, WSLPG Program, NROC, SRFs, NHDOT, brownfields, CDBG, and any other programs offered through NHDOT, USDA Rural Development, and NHDRED)
- Explore/investigate Ohio's reduced-rate interest loan program, New Jersey's smart growth loans and incentives, and Massachusetts's Commonwealth Capital Fund for applicability to New Hampshire.

### **Measures of Success**

- The number of communities implementing regulations and zoning changes to allow for more compact development in redevelopment areas.
- Model ordinances created and adopted.
- Percentage of redevelopment (vs. green field development) projects receiving funding assistance from participating programs/agencies.

## **ACTION ITEM 9. EXPLORE MODIFICATIONS TO THE CURRENT USE TAX TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE LANDOWNERS TO PROTECT LAND CRITICAL TO SOURCE WATER PROTECTION.**

While viewed as potentially having high impacts to source waters and a low level of investment to implement, respondents also articulated low to moderate support for implementing this action because of a concern over the possibility of decreasing revenues generated by municipalities. One respondent offered that some analysis first be done to determine whether lands currently enrolled in the Current Use program provide drinking water protection.

### **Implementation Steps**

- The state project partners should work with NH Department of Revenue to:
  - Determine whether existing Current Use provisions are adequately protecting lands that provide drinking water protection.
  - Identify land uses that may offer opportunities for better source water protection and determine the economic impact should these land uses be incorporated into existing laws.
  - Establish stakeholder group to study the Vermont model, including:
    - Penalty provision
    - Aquifer recharge protection as an added criterion
    - Provide extra percentage tax incentive if area protects drinking water supply
  - Identify revisions to Current Use laws and work with legislators to introduce legislation to implement those revisions

### **Measures of Success**

- Passage of changes to Current Use law to further source water protection goals.
- Number of private landowners enrolling in program.
- Number of acres of additional land enrolled in program.

## **ACTION ITEM 10. COORDINATE THE NH DOT LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN WITH THE STATE DEVELOPMENT PLAN.**

This action was seen as requiring low investment of effort or finances, and achievable in the short-term by integrating into existing review processes. Its impact on source waters would be seen longer-term, however, because of the lag between transportation planning and implementation.

### **Implementation Steps**

- NHOEP and NHDOT establish a consistent forum for concurrent review and participation in one another's planning efforts to identify opportunities to minimize duplication of efforts and conflicting messages, and to raise the awareness of source water protection needs and requirements.

- Provide technical assistance and source water protection information to RPC Technical Advisory Committees during the development and community feedback process to develop the long-range plan.

### **Measures of Success**

- Conformity among planning documents, with fewer conflicting messages and more coordinated priorities.
- Reduced duplication of efforts and cross-referencing.

## **FINAL THOUGHTS**

The fact that New Hampshire applied for and was selected to participate in the *Enabling Drinking Water Source Protection* initiative shows that it has a commitment to the public's health through the delivery of safe, clean drinking water, natural resource protection, outdoor recreational opportunities and growth management. The broad collaboration among agencies, organizations and local governments in this project, also, exhibits a sense of innovation and partnership in bringing these recommended actions to fruition.

A small amount of funding to initiate implementation of one or more of the recommended action items is available to New Hampshire. Following submission of this action plan, the national partners will work with state staff to identify the best use of the stipend.

## Legend of Acronyms

- ASDWA = Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
- CIPs = Capital Improvement Programs
- CDBG = Community Development Block Grant
- CDFA = Community Development Finance Authority
- DRI = Development of Regional Impact
- DWSPP – NHDES’s Drinking Water Source Protection Program
- GRANIT = Geographically Referenced Analysis and Information Transfer System. Complex Systems Research Center, University of New Hampshire
- HCPP = Housing and Conservation Planning Program
- LCHIP = Land and Community Heritage Investment Program
- LUMP SIG = Land Use Management Permit State Innovation Grant
- NGOs = Non-Governmental Organizations
- NHDES = NH Department of Environmental Services
- NHDOT = New Hampshire Department of Transportation
- NHOEP = NH Office of Energy and Planning
- NPDES = National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
- NHDRED = New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development
- NROC = Natural Resources Outreach Coalition
- NSDI = National Spatial Data Infrastructure
- ORW = Outstanding Resources Waters
- RN = River Network
- REPP = Department of Environmental Service’s Regional Environmental Planning Program
- RMPP = Rivers Management and Protection Program
- RPC = Regional Planning Commissions
- SGLI = The Smart Growth Leadership Institute
- SIG = EPA State Innovation Grant
- SPNHF = Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
- SRFs = Drinking Water (DW) and Clean Water (CW) State Revolving Funds
- TMDL = Total Maximum Daily Loads
- TNC = The Nature Conservancy
- TPL = The Trust for Public Land
- UNH = University of New Hampshire
- US EPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency
- USDA = United States Department of Agriculture
- WSLPG = Water Supply Land Protection Grant