

#### **NEWS FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER PROFESSIONAL**

#### Spring 2023 Edition 1

#### Supporting Water and Wastewater Systems in New Hampshire

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Jonathan Forbes of Farmington—Photo curtesy of NRWA

### Woohoo!...New Hampshire Takes the Bronze!

The highlight of this year's Rural Water Rally was watching Johnathan Forbes accept the bronze trophy as third place winner in the Great American Taste Test Contest. Representing Farmington, Jonathan earned the all-expense paid trip as runner-up winner of last year's New Hampshire Taste Test Contest held at Operator Field Day. When it was learned those who earned first place could not attend, Farmington and Jonathan stepped up to the plate. We are so glad they did.

Hosted by National Rural Water, the annual Rural Water Rally event supports over 300 stakeholders, who travels to Washington D.C. as water advocates. This year's event was launched with the keynote address from Radhika Fox, a top leader within the EPA Office of Water. Fox is a driving force behind positive water policies related to public health and infrastructure improvements, especially for those who are disproportionately impacted by environmental challenges.

Traveling to Washington D.C. to participate in Rally 2023 were, operator Jonathan Forbes, board member Bruce Bottomley, and executive director Heidi Lauricella. Their days were spent talking with New Hampshire delegate staffers, listening to policy makers, connecting with other state associations, competing in the drinking water taste test contest, and taking in some of the sites of our nation's capital.

#### **Our Mission**

Supporting public water and wastewater systems by providing training, onsite technical assistance, and legislative representation.

#### **Board of Directors**

Aaron Costa, President Keene Public Works

Jason Randall, Secretary/Treasurer Plymouth Village Water and Sewer District

Bruce Bottomley, Representative to NRWA Slope & Shore HOA

Tony Cavaliere, Member Jaffrey Public Works

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#### **Our Staff**

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Ethan Sudan, Admin Assistant Info@granitestatewater.org

#### **Board Director's Message**

Dear Members and Fellow Operators,

As we jump headfirst into spring, maple sap is flowing, snow is melting, ground is thawing out, and mud season is in full swing! This time of year, water is all around us here in NH and the Northeast, doing what it does best, supporting life! I hope you all have a chance to get outside and enjoy water in whatever form you may find it!

With everyone's budgets, warrant articles, and annual Town meetings now behind us, and all of the projects and maintenance activities we have on our plates to keep things flowing, let us not forget about the mission critical legislative advocacy that GSRWA and our "Four Associations" coalition provides.

Since 2020 GSRWA has joined forces with NH Water Pollution Control Assoc., NH Water Works Assoc., and NHMA to monitor, engage in and report on legislation and NHDES Rules that impact our State. The collaboration of the Four Associations with assistance and guidance from former NHDES Water Division Director, Tom O'Donovan, and GSRWA Policy Analyst, Bill Hounsell has been instrumental in forging relationships and credibility with our legislative leaders. This joint effort has produced great results, especially on the State Aid Grant (SAG) funding front.

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Governor Chris Sununu signed HB 398 into law, effectively making an appropriation to NHDES in the amount of \$12.6M to fund eligible wastewater projects including 11 current projects and 110 new projects for the biennium 2022-2023.

Continued on page 6



#### **From the Executive Director**



My worlds are colliding! For the past several months I have been focusing on the legislative aspect of my job. Many hours of preparation have been followed by presentations and personal sit -downs with both federal and state delegates. At the same time, I have been rehearsing for a local production of Urinetown. This darkly funny musical takes place in the not-so-distant future where a severe drought has led to a ban on private toilets. The government contracts out to the UGC (the Urine Good Company) to run the only public toilets in the town; where you can go... for a fee.

All of this means that by day, I am mentioning House Bill "XYZ" and by night I am dancing to "I See a River". At all times, to public servants and to castmates alike I I find myself proselytizing :

We need to remember no matter private well, or town tower, septic or sewer line the water all gets mixed together in the end. No one can say "It doesn't affect me."

I image that in a moment of confusion, instead of shaking a senator's hand I will break out into song. I just know that for all of us "It's a Privilege to Pee".

With hope for the future, Heidi

P.s. I'm not sure if it was my job or my extracurricular activity that inspired the

purchase, but here is what people have seen hanging off my ears.



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### **Your Letters!**



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Heidi Lauricella, Executive Director Granite State Rural Water Association PO Box 596 Walpole, NH 03608

March 17, 2023

Dear Heidi,

I'm writing to express my gratitude for the work Granite State Rural Water Associations has done to support our operator's educational needs as well as onsite assistance for the small water systems we operate and service.

GSRWA has provided many educational training courses designed to meet the requirements that are needed to retain state licensing. These classes are informative, convenient, and affordable with vast offerings of virtual and in-person. Also, it is extremely helpful that many of the courses offered make it possible to earn credits for both water and wastewater.

We especially appreciate the leak detection program. GSRWA has always been successful in locating system leaks that were immediately repaired and saved the water systems vast amounts of time, resources, water and aggravation. This has been an invaluable service.

We would like to see GSRWA continue to receive federal funds so they can continue helping water systems throughout New Hampshire.

Sincerely, Nanch Nancy Oleson

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Your letters help secure funding for training and on-site technical assistance programs.

Please send your letters to: GSRWA P.O. Box 596 Walpole, NH 03608

### NH Takes the Bronze! (continued from page 1)

The GSRWA team was welcomed by staffers of Senator Shaheen, Senator Hassan, Congressman Pappas and Congresswomen Kuster. Hand delivery of the Association's annual report, written narratives highlighting GSRWA assistance to local systems, and several support letters from members helped to get our message across. This was an easy task given the strong support our federal delegates have shown throughout the years.

GSRWA encourages everyone to enter this year's Drinking Water Taste Test Contest and looks forward to escorting the winning system to Washington D.C. for Rural Water Rally 2024.



Water Contest Judges

Radhika Fox, EPA Office of Water



### Message from Jason Randall continued from page 2)

Prior to HB 398 there was a moratorium placed on SAG funding new projects for an eight-year period. During that time, it was a struggle to level fund the current projects, including some communities who rely on this funding as a source of revenue offsetting user rates.

Well, the SAG "saga" continues in 2023 with HB 311 to establish sufficient and sustainable funding for the SAG program, requesting appropriations of \$15M in 2024 and \$15M in 2025. It is important to maintain this level of funding into the future in order for the State to meet its statutory obligations under RSA 486 and for the State to be a trusted partner by making investments in public water. Since July 1, 1993 the law states that the State of NH shall pay 20% of the annual amortization charges, meaning principal and interest, on the costs resulting from the acquisition and construction of sewage disposal facilities by municipalities for the control of water pollution.

As GSRWA represents our NH communities through legislative advocacy, we ask that you please reach out to share your concerns and advice so that we can ensure and support practical, science-based rulemaking and legislation. Some of the most recent legislative topics that you may be aware of are testing for Lead in Schools, Fluoridation, PFAS in Water & Wastewater, SAG, rapidly rising energy costs, and non-flushable wipes. There are several bills that we are tracking, supporting (or opposing), and testifying on in 2023 including: HB 212, HB 276, HB 311, HB 1547, SB 138, SB 169, SB 230. NHDES maintains a bill tracking matrix of all related legislation and updates it every Friday morning. To view the NHDES bill tracking matrix please visit: https:// www.des.nh.gov/node/3066

Thank you for all that you do to provide water and wastewater services to the communities of New Hampshire. Happy spring and wishing you all the best in the new year ahead!

Sincerely, Jason Randall, Board Secretary & Treasurer

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### Making Connections at Water is Worth it—Legislative Breakfast

After a multi-year hiatus, the "Water is Worth It" Legislative Breakfast returned with approximately 40 legislatures and another 40 industry leaders attending. GSRWA's board of directors, lobbyist and executive director spent the morning actively engaged with representatives, senators and fellow system managers.

Executive Director Heidi Lauricella took the stage to educate the audience about where private septage goes and the importance of keeping disposable wipes out of both private and public wastewater systems. Photos of a septage hauler at the entrance of a treatment facility and of operators raking wipes out barracks brought the message home. The audience's "ahhas" and "ewws" were evidence of the presentation's impact. After the slideshow, Senator Ricciardi thanked GSRWA for their educational outreach and offered her support in getting the word out about what-not-to -flush.

As the event was wrapping up, several legislatures expressed an interest in touring their constituents' facilities. GSRWA encourages its members to invite policy makers and tell their own story. This is an easy way to have a big impact on future legislation and funding.









Senator Denise Ricciardi with GSRWA Exec. Dir.



### **Grabbing Lunch with Congressman Pappas**

On 24 February, the Four Water Associations Executives, and senior leaders from NHDES met with Congressman Chris Pappas, US Representative for the 1st NH District and staff member Kari Thurman. The importance of the meeting was underscored by the Congressman's role on the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee of the US House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The meeting was part of legislative outreach by the Four Water Associations (Granite State Rural Water, NH Municipal, NH Water Pollution Control, and NH Water Works Associations) at both the State and federal level.

Key discussion topics included ARPA and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, long term infrastructure challenges, potential impact of earmarks on established programs, the importance of private wells, fluoridation, PFAS and related technical and funding challenges, workforce development, and communications. The Congressman was particularly interested in how loan forgiveness helps Towns and Cities fund key infrastructure investments, how regional approaches enhance public water services, and how cooperating among educators, employers and government can address workforce challenges. He was also interested in how lead service line work, including inventories, is progressing.

Congressman Pappas is committed to supporting water needs across NH. He was appreciative of our work to present key water issues from a unified position and would like to continue to hear from us. The Four Water Associations look forward to building on the success and momentum of our meeting!

We wish to thank Dave Miller and Phil Croasdale of Manchester Water Works for hosting our gathering, and Congressman Pappas and staff Kari Thurman for fitting us in to their schedule.



Pictured left to right: Phil Croasdale, Tom O'Donovan, Natch Greyes, Brandon Kernen, Rep. Chris Pappas, Heidi Lauricella, Tracy Wood, Boyd Smith, David Miller (Kari Thurman taking photo).

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### **Meet Our GSRWA Field Staff**



**Alexandra Herlihjo**ined as our new Sourcewater Specialist in early March after working for Eastern Analytical as a Lab Analyst. Alex recently graduated from Nova Southeastern University where she earned her B.S. in Environmental Science. While there was editor of the college newspaper. During her last summer, Alex interned at the South Florida Water Management District's GIS department where she worked on multiple projects including digitizing invasive vegetation in the Florida everglades.

Hailing from Henniker NH, Alex spends her free time skiing, hiking, and gathering together for a serious game of Dungeons and Dragons.



**Josh Worthen**'s our new Drinking Water Specialist. In March, Josh said yes to bringing his 16 years of water experience to GSRWA. Josh holds a B.S. from Colby-Sawyer College, and a Grade III Water licensures from The State of NH. Before coming to GSRWA, Josh was both operator and mechanic for the City of Lebanon's water treatment plant. With experience in both groundwater and surface water systems, Josh is ready to lend a hand.

Josh lives in his hometown of Springfield NH with his wife and daughter. With family or going solo, Josh enjoys all kinds of biking, be it up mountains, along gravel roads or through the snow with a specialized fat-tire bike.



**Vinnie Melendez**'s GSRWA's Wastewater Specialist and our most veteran field staff. As a Massachusetts's licensed dw and ww operator for over 35 years, Vinnie's experience is both deep and broad. As an industry leader, Vinnie is actively involved with MA & NH Water Pollution Control Assoc., New England Water Environment Assoc., and the MA Wastewater Certification board.

Vinnie resides in Greenfield MA with his wife of 38 years. They both enjoy visiting their grown son who lives in North Carolina. For many years, Vinnie has been the assistant head coach for his home's HS Baseball team. He loves to hunt, fish, and routing for all New England sports teams.



**Justin Shaw**recently shifted to become our Small System's Specialist. Justin's past work experience includes running an environmental lab, and operating both water and wastewater facilities. Justin now holds the distinction for serving in every fieldstaff position within the GSRWA organization. Since starting in 2016, Justin has assisted systems with their drinking water, wastewater and source water issues. This unique experience is allowing Justin to act as mentor to our newer staff. Justin and his wife call Charlestown NH home. After hours, Justin can be found either in his workshop creating everything from cutting boards to dining room tables; or settled into his easy chair strumming on his guitar.

#### **Granite State Rural Water Association**

### **Meet Our GSRWA Administrative Staff**



Morgan Carpenter-Pelletier works as our Training and Events Director. Morgan joined GSRWA two years ago and hit the ground running. Morgan can be found planning trainings, organizing Operator Field Day & Trade Show, putting together marketing material, and tackling countless association jobs.

From her home in Peterborough NH, Morgan with her husband, Eliot and Son Julian, enjoy laughing, traveling, playing outside, gardening, and seeing live music. When given some time to herself, she loves taking classes. Morgan is currently immersed in pottery and will soon be learning how to make pigments from plants.



Ethan Sudan holds the dual positions of Administrative Assistant and Traveling Training Facilitator. He is also our go-to guy for all the behind-the-scenes running around that happens at our events. Ethan graduated from Agnes Scott College with a degree in Math & Physics. He is currently working toward his MFA in Music Composition through Vermont College of Fine Arts.

Ethan is embracing his home in Bellows Falls, Vermont. He spends his free time acting and providing production support for a local community theater company.



Heid Lauricella slid into the Executive Director role a little over two years ago after acting as the GSRWA Training – Events – Membership Coordinator. After earning her B.S. in Biology and her M.S. for Teachers of Science from the University of Vermont, Heidi settled, just over the river, in Saxtons River, Vermont. Her professional background includes teaching middle school and high school science and managing a non-profit arts organization.

When not immersed in the world of water, Heidi enjoys being a part of community theater, biking, kayaking, and playing her ukulele. While her son and daughter are out launching their adult lives, Heidi is blissfully empty nesting with her husband Rob.

### **Training Class Schedule**



Date	Course	TCH's	DES Approved	Mem/Non- Mem	Location
4-4-23	Small Systems Aren't Small Potatoes: Cybersecurity	2	DW & WW	Free	Virtual
4-6-23	Emerging Contaminants	4	WW	\$70/\$94	Gorham, NH
4-18-23	Manganese: Regulations & Treatment	6	DW & WW	Free	Dover, NH
4-20-23	Lab Skills for Operators	4	DW & WW	\$70/\$94	Keene, NH
5-2-23	Selecting Underground Materials	6/dw 4/ww	DW & WW	\$105/\$138	Peterborough, NH
5-4-23	Pipe Location, Repair & Maintenance	6	DW & WW	\$105/\$138	North Conway, NH
5-9-23	Water Metering & Chemical Feed Pumps	5	DW & WW	\$90/\$115	Enfield, NH
5-11-23	Collection System: Management & Maintenance	3/dw 6/ww	DW & WW	\$105/\$138	Groveton, NH
5-23-23	Wastewater Exam Prep Course Day 1	6	WW	\$500/\$600	Franklin, NH
5-24-23	Wastewater Exam Prep Course Day 2	6	WW	bundled	Franklin, NH
5-25-23	Wastewater Exam Prep Course Day 3	6	WW	bundled	Franklin, NH
6-6-23	Polymer Owner's Manual & Corrosion Control	5	DW & WW	\$90/\$115	Lincoln, NH
6-8-23	Distribution Health: Innovative Solutions & Best Practices	6/dw 4.5/w w	DW & WW	\$105/\$138	Milford, NH
6-13-23	Climate Change: Impact on Water Supply	5	DW & WW	Free	Grantham, NH
6-20-23	Cybersecurity and Scada for Medium Systems	3	DW & WW	\$38/\$54	Virtual
6-29-23	Understanding your Motor Control Panel	5	DW & WW	\$90/\$115	Concord, NH
9-12-23	Operator Field Day & Tradeshow	4	DW & WW (DW & WW approval pending)	\$95/\$115	Newbury, NH

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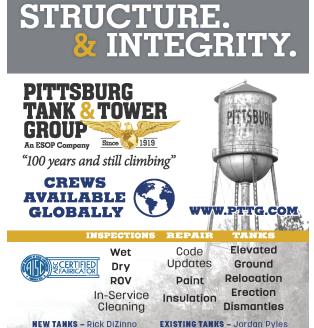
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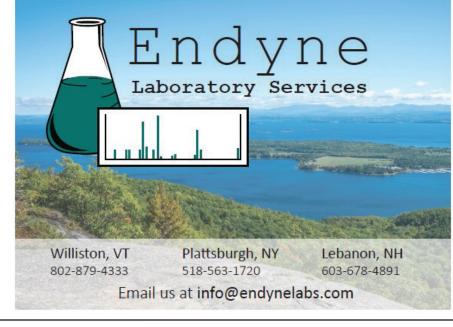
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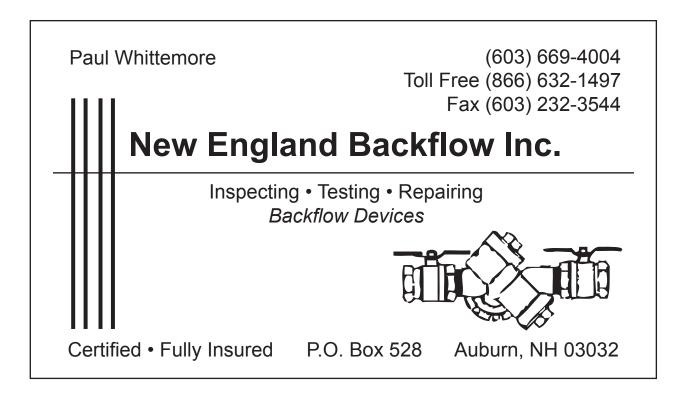
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