

Preserving Public Rights to NH Water

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I. Abstract

Water is a basic human right that is critical to economic growth, therefore it should be kept in the public trust with collective ownership by the citizens. No economic activity takes place without it. This project looks at New Hampshire citizens involvement and stewardship of water. We need only ask what life would be like without water to realize how priceless this invaluable resource is. This project community is defined as the citizens of NH and the environment. Although an exact dollar amount cannot defiantly mark the economic value of this project, fundamentally our water resources are basic to our communities. As threats of privatization begin to make a commodity of our water resources we as citizens are banding together to ensure that sustainable future development maintains citizens natural rights to water. This project will build a coalition of citizens and organizations who evaluates water resources in NH. This coalition, known as the NH Water Table, has began to advocate the conservation, protection and management of NH's water supply for the common good and examine what steps can be taken to preserve our water supplies and hold it in trust for sustainable use now and for future generations. This coalition is evaluating the communities' watershed and what safeguards are needed in order to have a sustainable watershed plan. Citizens and groups who are currently working on water issues in the state of NH, were brought together to have an ongoing collective discussion about their work to create strong laws and strengthen existing laws. The objective of NH Water Table is to organize NH citizens to work together to strengthen zoning and planning regulations and monitor water users in their community especially proposed bottled water plants and municipal privatization of water supplies. This NH Water Table looks at communities interest in water supply and the future development related to water availability. This information is used to produce and distribute educational materials, which advance the communities' knowledge of water problems. The work done by promoting the discussion of sustainable use of NH's freshwater supply in the media, the state legislature, and local communities and by fostering a climate of interdependence and ability to work together regionally for the common good of our water resources.

The evaluation of the success of the project is based on what activities took place within the last two years. The NH Water Tables is a diverse sixty-eight members coalition show the strength and organizing abilities, which is growing in NH. We have begun the conservation, protection and management of NH's water supply for the common good. The coalitions first success was the citizens that participate in educational events and maintained a volunteer base to support efforts. This must continue as the monitoring of legislative initiatives, and strengthening laws must be a lifetime commitment.

II. Community Needs Assessment

Although New Hampshire is typically thought of as a water-rich state, it is currently experiencing extensive demand on water as its population and economy expand. Water is scarce. By and large, the amount of clean, available water is in decline. Almost all of the earth's water is salt water or locked in glaciers. Less than one percent of fresh water is available for human use and the environment (Freshwater Society, 2005). The United Nations states 1.1 billion people worldwide do not have access to clean or safe drinking water. Current predictions show that 2.7 billion people worldwide will face severe water shortages by 2025. (Deen, 2002) Water is inherently cheap; throughout history governments

have paid for public water systems and their infrastructure. The attitude toward water has been that it is a public service rather than a commodity, and rates have been kept low. Now, private companies see profit in raising these historically low rates, or selling us drinking water in small plastic bottles. Towns and cities usually have just one water company and one set of pipes, whether public or private; thus there is no competition to keep prices down and quality high. Instead, prices and water quality have been regulated by public agencies. Water is essential and there are no alternatives. Water is a basic human right for all people rich or poor; thus, it should not be treated as a market commodity, allocated through the marketplace to whoever can pay the price.

Fortune magazine has stated, "water is the oil of the 21 century" (*Fortune* magazine, 2000). Currently corporations are rushing to invest in the new get-rich economy of water. Water is a basic human need. Governments have a responsibility to ensure universal access to water and sanitation services. Publicly funded, managed, owned, and operated water systems and sanitation services are the most common approach to high quality water in New Hampshire.

The NH Legislature recognized that "Surface water and groundwater are an integrated public resource to be conserved, protected, and managed for the public good". (DES, Fact Sheet WD-WSEB-22-13, 1983) NH citizens are the trustees of our water supply and the Department of Environmental Services (DES) is the manager. Judging from the USA Springs case, currently the laws and administrative rules, which DES uses to manage our water supply, are slanted towards industry and corporate control over water rights. If our water supply is to be sustainable, the people need to educate our legislators with reasons why strengthening water laws which serve the citizens' best interests not the interests of companies wishing to profit from this public resource.

This coalition will explore a range of alternative models of publicly owned or collectively owned water services that focus on democratic participation, local accountability and community activism. The economic value of water in a community is fundamental; without water development cannot occur, no homes can be built, and no industry can flourish.

What this project suggests is that we should evaluate how valuable and vulnerable water is as a resource and set limits before it runs out. This project responds to the communities' need for water for drinking, cooking, household uses, municipal uses, agricultural uses, industrial uses and institutional uses.

Municipal Privatization

Many struggling local governments are fooled by the empty promise that privatizing their water will lead to extra money in the budget. This false claim is being made by the water barons was water privatization the easy solution. Water privatization is much more complicated than just fixing the water infrastructure, and in most cases of privatization, communities' water quality decreases while there are higher prices for consumers, and higher prices for the municipalities. Atlanta, GA and Stockton, CA are examples of privatization gone sour. In Nashua NH, citizens are trying to buy back their water system but are still trying to negotiate a price with the public utilities commission. There are some cities that turned down an option to privatize. They realized that privatization would not work in their favor. In Franklin NH, Lee MA and Lawrence MA citizens got organized, and education was provided so that the city councils voted not to privatize. Citizens are fighting for public control of their water supply all over the world. Atlanta, GA canceled its 20-year contract

with Suez/United Water, the biggest such contract in the United States, after just a few years because of poor performance. Suez slashed the workforce to dangerously low levels, failed to fulfill maintenance and repair duties called for in the contract and successfully billed the city for millions more than the annual contract fee. The much-vaunted savings from privatization didn't materialize, and the promise that rate hikes could be averted through savings turned out to be empty. Canceling this contract was more costly in the long run than fixing Atlanta's infrastructure would have been.

In another example, the Mayor and City Council of Stockton, California, strongly believed that a private consortium, OMI/Thames, would do a better job of running Stockton's water and sewer system than city workers. The mayor opposed a public vote to let the people decide; believing he and the city council could best deal with the complexities of water management. In Stockton the mayor and city council were promised by OMI/Thames that privatizing the water supply would bring jobs, and cleaner and cheaper water to the community. This proved to be false; the rates went up and the quality went down. The citizens of Stockton sued the city and OMI/Thames and won. The court stated the citizens have the right to control their water system. Not all cities and towns have the financial resources to file law suits. Currently Stockton still fights this in Court on appeal.

In Michigan, Nestlé received \$9.6 million in tax breaks to site its Ice Mountain bottled water plant in Mecosta County. Yet within their state in Detroit, more than 40,000 families have had their water shut off because they were unable to pay their water bills when the state refused to provide a subsidy. Nationwide, water is up for grabs, and the water barons are coming to NH.

The mayor of Franklin, NH, was in favor of privatizing the city's water but the city council voted the plan down. They understood the need to have control over the city's water.

Citizens have to get to the mayor and town board members attention before the water companies do. They must look at who is buying the land and what their intentions are. The corporations are networking with the mayor in NH selling the need for privatization, unfortunately their profit comes at the expense of the community.

Communities need to support their own infrastructure, instead of turning to privatization. Case studies show that it is more costly and cause further damage to the environment, community, and economy. There is a need for communities to look at local zoning and planning regulations, how they fit in with state and federal regulations and how they can provide a sustainable system where the water supply is in the control of the public and not private corporations.

Bottled Water

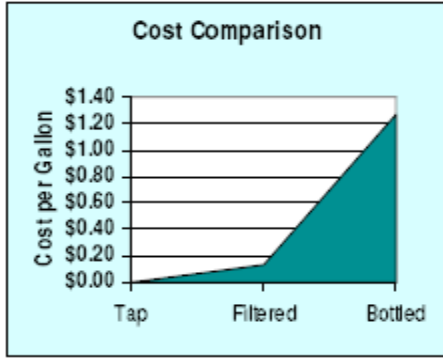
Although bottled water may be needed in emergency situations as when local drinking water is contaminated there are several reasons to support your local community water source versus buying bottled water. Several reasons not to support bottled water are:

- depletion of other communities' resources,
- myth that bottled water is safer,
- cost of bottled water versus tap water,
- public ownership of the resource.

The withdrawal of large quantities of water from springs and aquifers for bottling has led to depletion of vital water supplies. An example of this depletion is illustrated in USA

Springs permit application whereas citizen's wells in the area have dropped over 40 feet and prime wetlands were impacted when the water levels dropped by 2 feet. This impact occurred in a 10-day pump test (Gradient Report 2003).

The Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) found that bottled water is not necessarily purer than tap water. NRDC tested more than 1,000 bottles of 103 brands of bottled water. About 1/3 of the water tested contained levels of contaminated including bacteria, synthetic organic chemicals, and/or arsenic (NRDC, 1999).



Consumer Reports magazine explains that the standards for bottled water are weaker than tap water. Bottled water is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, while tap water is regulated by Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act (What's in that bottle, 2003).

On Average, Tap water costs \$.0015 per gallon (American Water Works Assoc. 2002), filtered water cost \$.13 per gallon (Water Filter Comparisons, 2000) and bottled water is \$1.27 (NRDC1999). Those that can't afford the luxury of bottled water must rely on the quality of tap water, which is not always being maintained especially in low income neighborhoods. Allowing the private market to control our water supply isn't a solution. Their will always be those who cannot afford water. Water is different from other resources because it sustains life; we cannot survive without it.

Surface water and groundwater, as an integrated resource, are held in public trust by the State of New Hampshire (DES 2005). Therefore, while *no individual owns groundwater*, every landowner has a right to use a "reasonable" amount. The question of what is reasonable has most often been settled in court on a case-by-case basis through civil suits brought by one or more landowners who are injured by a nearby withdrawal. The state also has the ability to protect the resource from over-use under the public trust doctrine.

The World Health Organization's public health literature makes it clear that expanding access to clean water has great human and economic benefits. United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated "Access to safe water is a fundamental human need and, therefore, a basic human right. Contaminated water jeopardizes both the physical and social health of all people. It is an affront to human dignity" (Deen 2004).

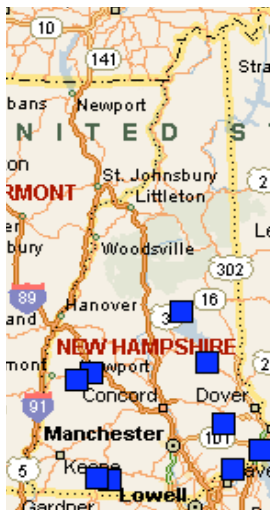
III. Problem Identification

1.) Problem statement:

The need for stronger laws and rules, which govern large groundwater withdrawals are a priority. The citizens of NH are affected by policy makers who instead choose to give priority to large commercial groundwater users for monetary gain. The consequences of poor management practices by our state would impact our water quality and quantity.

NH Public Water System statistics as of June 2003:		
COMMUNITY SYSTEMS	# Systems	Population Served
Groundwater Sources (only)	640	291,093
Surface Water Sources (only)	25	308,815
Combined Sources (Surface and Ground)	15	166,861
Purchased Sources (only)	22	33,316
Purchased Sources and Groundwater Sources	9	27,331
Total Populations Served by Community PWSs	703	800,000

The chart above shows the systems and the populations served in NH (DES 2003).



Over 90% of the water systems rely on groundwater sources, but they only supply 36% of the population. The entire population does not rely on water systems; there are a lot of communities that rely on private wells.

2.) The project's target community:

This projects targets communities in the state of New Hampshire. Of course, some resources will be focused in communities that are directly affected, but the intent is to fix NH water problems so that all NH residents can benefit. The communities impacted by water privatization (shown below). The map to the left indicates communities which are targeted in this project.

<i>Company</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Gallons per day</i>
Sunapee Springs	Sunapee	NH	79,200
Castle Springs	Moultonborough	NH	240,480
USA Springs	Nottingham	NH	307,528
Aquarion Water Company	North Hampton	NH	519,840
Merrimac Water Department	Newton	NH	534,000
Barking Dog Water Company	Sharon	NH	720,000
Victory Mountain Springs	Newport	NH	142,560

Chamberlain Springs Bottled Water	Alton	NH	250,000
Millipore Corporation	Jaffrey	NH	138,000
Pennichuck Corp.	Nashua	NH	Nashua wants to purchase water system.

3.) Project goal(s) in CED terms:

This project is a way for citizens to engage in economic development activities in the community by working to protect their water supply. NH citizens have begun advocating for collective ownership of this resource. By keeping water in the public trust we are proactively working to ensure an equitable future. The projects goals are:

- To create an organization to advocate for the conservation, protection and management of NH’s freshwater supply for the common good;
- To organize area citizens to work together to defeat proposed bottled water plants and municipal privatization of cities’ water supplies on the basis of scientific data, sustainability of the groundwater supply and environmental justice;
- To develop, produce and distribute educational materials that advance the communities knowledge of the water problems;
- To promote the discussion of sustainable use of NH’s freshwater supply in the media, the state legislature and local communities.

The NH Water Table defines the goals as proactive change for the NH water supply and continues to assess the feasibility of the project as the organization forms and reaches towards the established goals. Each member shares in responsibilities of coordinating meetings. Other responsibilities include cultivating membership, administrative tasks, bookkeeping, scheduling, oversight, bylaws, and donations. Currently, 68 participants engaged and involved, indicates the success of the project objectives.

4.) Project objectives:

- a. Legislative objectives
 - i. Jan-May 2005 advocated for House Bill 69, Jan- May 2006 advocated for eight additional water bills. If bills are passed they will strengthen the current groundwater law and provide local control to communities to have a partnership with the state in making decisions about how water is managed.
 - ii. Meet with the governor’s office, senators and house members about introducing several bills in the 2007 session.
 - iii. Barnstead, Hollis, Gilsom, Farmington, and Wentworth had a warrant article in March 2005. Unfortunately as the law stands, it may not effectively protect our water supply. We have been working hard in Barnstead with the selectman, the planning board, Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, Alliance for Democracy, and

citizens to get a ordinance passed 136 to 1 at town Meeting, March 18, 2006 which is a non regulatory approach. This ordinance is not a zoning ordinance, regulating activities, which is preempted by state law. It is also attacking corporations constitutional rights and paving the way for the community to decide what activities are happening in their borders. It is a unique approach, which the board of selectmen, the planning board, 56 citizens are in support of. The text of the ordinance in appendix.

iv. Keene, Newmarket and Derry Source Water Management plan define SWAP

1. Derry has the best shot of a successful management plan. A citizens group that has meeting monthly, with the Beaver Lake watershed council, the towns water council. The leader of this effort is a former town councilor of nine years, and has received support for this effort form the town council, water board and conservation commission. A program with Clean Water Action that was broadcasted on Public Access TV. A few newspapers articles have been written.
2. Since a severe 400-year flood hit Keene our work got washed away in that as well.
3. Newmarket plan has buy in for the town council, we are looking for more community support.

b. Bi-partisan support for the environment

- i. Jan-May 2005 and Jan-May 2006, citizens made numerous phone calls to state legislators to influence the legislative agenda. Measurable objective comes from community organizing need to have citizens putting pressure on their elective officials also the testimony from citizens at legislative hearings.
- ii. June - September 2005 meeting with legislators and governors office
 1. Minutes form the meeting that citizens had with the governors office and many state reps. Fruit is already starting to bear from these meetings as well as trust creditability and support.
- iii. Jan-May 2006 Grassroots advocacy and participating in legislative hearing
 1. With eight bills, covering different areas, by passing a few will be a success. NH Water Table, has come together, working to strengthen the current laws. The citizens, are up against a large lobbying force but are hoping for interesting debates. Currently, some bills have been voted inexpedient to legislate but hopefully they have left us in good positions for the next year.

c. Increase Interest/ Communities Marketing

i. LTE, Op-ed and Earned Media

1. Citizens groups in the NH Water Table, have had many articles; one activist has volunteered to keep a media book with the article. Others are assistance in collecting all the LTE that are printed in local papers across the state.
2. Spring of 2005 in the Union Leader with my photo, it was a human interest story about me and my water journey,

ii. Community present at forums and videos

1. There has been over a dozen forums in Dover, Portsmouth, Concord, three in Keene, three in Derry; one in Newmarket, and several in Barnstead.
2. Successful screening of the movie Thirst has raised public awareness and created opportunities for discussion and citizen action. These screenings took place in church basements, living rooms and town halls. This served as excellent opportunities to educate citizens and then work to begin to start the discussion and education. The most successful screens were in Portsmouth, Peterborough, Hanover, Manchester, York, N. Andover, and Nashua. Most of these screenings had over 60 citizens showed up and participated.

iii. NH Water Table conference October 22nd

1. To begin the story of the NH Water Table, we look back several years ago to a gathering of water activists at a conference in Miami. There, over fifty activists came together to strategize and discuss how we keep water in the public trust. One morning those of us from NH met and talked about how we needed a strategy on the statewide level. As you can imagine, we had so much wonderful energy at the conference as we shared our stories with each other, but when we got back home and got into our local fights the idea of the statewide network moved to the background. Then, this June 2005, the four of us came back together to meet and really think about what strategies would best suit the struggle here in New Hampshire. After our first meeting the NH Water Table continued to bring more people together. One of the first goals the members of the NH Water Table developed was to put on a conference therefore share our stories and expand the circle even more. Among our other initial goals is to establish a forum in which to share our resources and direct our efforts collectively to create the world that we all envision – one where access to safe, clean water is maintained in the public trust for all citizens of NH.

2. Long term strategies that will be implemented in by taking one step at a time and working together over the coming years. October 22, 2005, at the NH Water Table conference, this was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about what has been done already to protect one of our most precious resources, and what we can each do to be guardians of water. The agenda for the conference included opening remarks, beginning with the Environmental Policy Advisor from the Governor's office. From New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, which is our gracious sponsor, we heard from Executive Director Cheryl King-Fischer. Following these will be the keynote address of internationally recognized water activist, Maude Barlow. Then we has a series of workshop sessions, include: International Trade and Water, Faith-based Organizing around Water Aspects, Municipal Ordinances, Private-Public Partnerships, Municipal Ownership and the Challenge of Public-Private Partnerships, Pumping for Profit: Bottled and bulk water, and Water Science and Hydrology. Out of each workshop came themes, goals and action items where people can return to their communities and work at protecting our water in the public trust.
3. The Conference was a tremendous success the attendance was over 100 people, and each workshop has tool themes and actions. Each person left making a commitment to make a difference in their community at the closing panel we collected 27 commitments and so far 20 have been completed. I had about 25 phone messages a day, as well as a flooding of emailing or people excited and reporting back on the work that they have begun.
4. The conference was a start to building members of a statewide network, legislate committees and the governors office is aware and excited about the grassroots organizing that is occurring to make a difference. We also have had two founders interested in putting resources money and staff into this effort.

IV. Project Design

			Increase Water Quality Standards		Increase Water Quantity Standards			
Goals:			Water for People not for Profit					
Purpose:			Management of Water Resources for current and future users in New Hampshire					
Output:								
Legislative and Government Affairs			Bi-partisan support for the environment				Increased Interest	
Activities:								
Strengthen Zoning and Planning		Strengthen Administrative Rules	Hold Accountable		Elect Officials		Media	Education
	New Laws			Citizen Pressure			Outreach	

1.) Review of the Literature:

When trying to understand how a company could think it “owned” our aquifer and could sell off our water supply for their profit, reading *“Blue Gold: The Global Water Crisis and the Commodification of the World’s Water Supply.”* by Maude Barlow and Tony Clark. It expands the understanding the global trade in water and how what was happening in NH was really connected to a scheme to “privatize” water. Barlow and Clark tell of the threat of privatization, promoting environmental justice and opposing economic globalization. Our water resource is precious; some call it “blue gold” or “the oil of the 21st century.” In New Hampshire and around the world, we are threatened by corporations that seek to control our water supply. “The water wars have already begun. The strongest and the richest must not be allowed to control the world's water. Water is not a commodity, it is a human right!” Maude Barlow, National Chairperson, The Council of Canadians (Barlow 2002). I have meet Barlow on many occasions and am always amazed at her passion and dedication.

Barlow is so understanding and compassionate and I hope to learn more from her vision toward a more equitable world.

To expand my knowledge of groundwater pumping, Robert Glennon "Water Follies" galvanized my thinking. Glennon is a professor of water law and knows the history and the future of our water supply. On page 31 of *Water Follies*, Glennon explains according to the US Geological Survey 61% of NH population used groundwater for drinking water in 1995. (Glennon 2002) The state representative Jim Ryan from Franklin published Glennon's book and we are working to bring Glennon to NH, hopefully this will be May 9, 2006.

In *Water Wars*, Vandana Shiva uses her remarkable knowledge of science and society to analyze the historical erosion of communal water rights. Shiva reveals how many of the most important conflicts of our time, most often camouflaged as ethnic wars or religious wars, but many in fact conflicts over scarce but vital natural resources. She examining the international water trade, damming, mining, and aqua farming, and exposes the destruction of the earth and the disenfranchisement of the world's poor as they are stripped of their rights to a precious common good. She calls us to preserve water access for all, and offers a blueprint for global resistance based on examples of successful campaigns like the one in Cochabamba, Bolivia, where citizens fought for and retained their water rights. I traveled to India in a February 2005, and meet Vandana as well as 75 international activists working in 15 countries on water issues.

This project is a patchwork quilt approach that links the efforts of existing non-profit and government agencies. The project takes the patches of existing river clean up efforts, toxins contaminating our water, all the local fights on projects, international trade issues, health impacts, warrant article, local control, local democracy, citizen activism, watershed associations, and other work that is improving our water supply into one unified movement. All of these efforts are just square pieces of cloth that need to be sewn together in the quilt. I want to see the work go into changing policy and making a difference for all projects now and for future generations. I hope to find the missing materials and put together a quilt that will create a sustainable water supply. I have been volunteering my time for the last five years on water issues and learned of sources and their experience in fighting to protect our water supply. I will incorporate the above research into this own work and share it with others to build community of those who are interested in making a difference locally and globally.

2.) Program:

What has been done to do is build a coalition that will advocate for the protection of our water supply. Currently I have four people that have worked as community organizers in NH and they are very excited about starting a coalition. Should I bring large groundwater users to the table? Would that be effective? Or should I just fight them? How can I equalize their effect? In a legislative hearing on HB, there were 17 lobbies trying to kill the legislation. But due to the citizen support this bill passed in the house and is currently in a senate committee. I think that we have enough votes to get it out of the committee, but it went into a different committee then the environment. I am nervous that this bill might not make it much farther then committee. Our environmental policy is based on compromise, but how can we compromise our future?

New Hampshire WAVE (Water Advocates for a Vibrant Environment) was formed this winter 2005. Our mission is to advocate for the conservation, protection and management of New Hampshire’s freshwater supply. We will organize area citizens to work together to defeat proposed bottled water plants and municipal privatization of cities’ water supplies on the basis of scientific data, sustainability of the groundwater supply and environmental justice. We will develop, produce and distribute educational materials that advance the communities’ knowledge of the water problems. We will promote the discussion of sustainable use of NH’s freshwater supply in the media, the state legislature and local communities.

A mission statement for the project will be developed by the board and is in progress. It might be something like, “Our water is a precious resource which we are using faster than it is being recharged. The safety and security of our water supply is critical to the survival of people, future generations of business, homeowners, and all life. We will look at the existing laws in NH and work at providing more protection of the water to the citizens.”

Appointing to board:

Chair: C. Olivia Zink, Durham/Seacoast Regional Coordinator

Vice Chair: Scotty Nichols, Keene Regional Coordinator

Secretary: Lindsay Hanson, Plymouth/ North Country Regional Coordinator

Treasurer: Zandra Rice, Southern NH Regional Coordinator

Member: Jaime Contois, Claremont/Hanover Regional Coordinator

The bulk of this project’s work will take place over the next two years. Moreover, the institution and changes created should have a much longer existence, and its importance will grow as NH’s water resources become more and more scarce.

3.) Participants:

The number of expected participants is a few hundred people. Participation can come in the form of attending a meeting, hearing, workshop, caucus, or other activities, which the new organization sponsors. I will hope that their characteristics of participants will range in age, and represent the state of NH. The sources of participants will come from the sweat equity of building relationship and encouragement of participation and or membership.

Stakeholder	Stakeholder Interest and Participation	Assessment of Impact	Potential Strategies for Obtaining Support or Reducing Obstacles
Citizens of NH	Continuous participation in the upkeep	Fairly important	Outreach via earned media, social networks, or direct contact.
Department of Environmental Services	Policy changes in the practices of large groundwater withdrawal and citizen input in the permitting process	Extremely important	Building relationships with Water Engineering Bureau, scientist and the governors office might be a messenger in the gaining support of the department
Corporations (this might be separated into those who will play by the rules	Potential loss of revenue, more regulations	Neutralize Impact which is Fairly important	Consider interest in the planning phase

and those who can not)			
Water Guardians	Education of future water users	Fairly important in the future, not as important for present mission of strengthen water laws	Organize efforts to increase awareness of local efforts
Local Leaders	Political pressure in both directions	Extremely important	Building relationships and support in conservation commissions and planning boards
State Legislators and Governor	Political pressure in both directions	Extremely important	Building relationships and support
Lawyers	Advisor	Fairly important	Cultivate pro-bono services

The whole state of New Hampshire will be impacted by this project. Roughly one dozen volunteer participants will work in their communities and be the backbone of this organization; the sources of participants will come from recruiting social networks of volunteers.

One major objective of the project is the creation of committees whose members will work with the Department of Environmental Services, testify at public hearings, and contact other community groups to link water issues across town political boundaries and encouraging watershed planning. One measure of our success in this goal would be the coalition’s continuing growth.

4.) Community role:

The community will be involved by asking what ways can an organization help your city or town with the water problems. Since this project hopes to change policy local town-by-town and statewide each community’s elements will be unique:

- The stakeholders’ participation could assist in the outcomes, goals and objectives of this project. But the ability to be flexible will be crucial.
- There are companies that seek to rape the resources of NH for monetary gain. In the case of USA Springs the citizens have affected their bottom line by delay the project five years and having them have to bring expert after expert to planning meetings. USA Springs has refused to play by the rules from the start. If a company who wishes to play by the rules and gain citizen support we hope that they will be a stakeholder that participates and which community participation hopefully both objectives can be meet. This project is not against business; it is about creating sustainable development, which all business needs. Since we are dealing with an issue relevant to the “commons” it will be interesting to see how those that wish to take more of the common will interact.
- The stakeholders will participate by working to get support for stronger ordinances. They would be in charge of planning events and activities outreaching to members of the community. The outreach activities would include, among other things, volunteers speaking at events and community organizational meetings to advocate for the protection and wise use of NH’s water supply. It would also be helpful to develop a wide range of educational materials that can be distributed at such events. As constituents, we need to work with local legislators and the Governor’s office to

develop and promote bills pertaining to water protection. The communities' role is holding politicians accountable and participating in the political process by electing officials that support their values.

5.) Host organization:

1. The organization that this project creates will host the project, and Save Our Groundwater, NH American Friends Service Committee, Life-wise Community Projects, Unitarian Universal Service Committee and faithful democracy, NH Fair Trade Campaign, Clean Water Action, Stone Hill, NH Citizen Alliance, NH Rivers, Lamprey River Watershed Association, USGS Seacoast Water Sustainability Study Commission, Senator Green's water advisor board, and others will act as affiliates to facilitate specific components of the project.
2. The missions of these organizations are:

Save Our Groundwater, is a citizen action group dedicated to advocating that water is a natural resource to be held in the public trust and to be protected now and for the future. SOG formed in response to the request for a large groundwater withdrawal permit by USA Springs, Inc. on a parcel of land located in Nottingham and Barrington, NH.

NH American Friends Service Committee, The overall goal of AFSC's New Hampshire program is to advance the cause of peace and justice by supporting the growth and development of an effective, sustainable New Hampshire's social justice movement. (AFSC, 2005)

Life-wise Community Projects, "Future Water Guardians of NH" (FWGNH) was developed in 1999. This environmental education program is funded by NH Dept. Environmental Services and NH Coastal Program. A program is delivered to over 6,000 elementary & middle school students throughout NH each year. Trained volunteers explain the Water Cycle, Watershed, Point Source & Non-Point Source Pollution and demonstrate the cause and effect of contamination in groundwater. Professional Groundwater Models and Non-point Source (watershed) Models are used in the classrooms, engaging individual student participation. FWGNH has become a "Public Safety Initiative." The EPA has recognized, Bruce Montville, the curriculum designer and Project Director as their 2004 Environmental Educator (EE) of New England. (Montville, 2004)

Unitarian Universal Service Committee and faithful democracy, works on economic globalization, water and trade policy. Unitarian Universalism's vision of the world as an interconnected web challenges us to turn from self-serving individualism toward a relational sense of ourselves in a global community, and toward practices that help create economic structures designed to serve the common good. (Friede, 2004)

NH Fair Trade Campaign, focus on educating citizens about international trade rules using examples of how New Hampshire groundwater is being bottled and sold by Nestle, a Swiss corporation and USA Springs, though based in New Hampshire, intends to market bottled water in Europe. The rules for the global economy are being set through international agreements. (Alpert, 2004)

Clean Water Action (CWA) is a national citizens' organization working for clean, safe and affordable water, prevention of health-threatening pollution, creation of environmentally safe jobs and businesses, and empowerment of people to make democracy work. (CWA, 2006)

NH Citizen Alliance makes environmental protection and social justice a priority. They have worked to eliminate the threats to public health and the environment and have focused on ensuring that local land use decisions safeguard local economies and communities' natural and cultural heritage. NHCA does this work by assisting local citizens in filing complaints with appropriate agencies, blowing the whistle on political contributions by polluters, and working with allied organizations on statewide environmental initiatives. Currently this project has influenced NHCA framing the issue of bottled water. (NH Citizens Alliance, 2005)

The New Hampshire Rivers Council is the only statewide conservation organization wholly dedicated to the protection and conservation of New Hampshire Rivers. Since its incorporation as a non-profit organization in 1993, the Rivers Council has worked to educate the public about the value of the state's rivers, designate rivers in the state's protection program, and advocate for strong public policies and wise management of New Hampshire's river resources. (NH Rivers, 2005)

NH Watershed Association, local groups working on the protection of their watershed. Active groups include the Oyster River Watershed association and the Pennichuck Watershed Council.

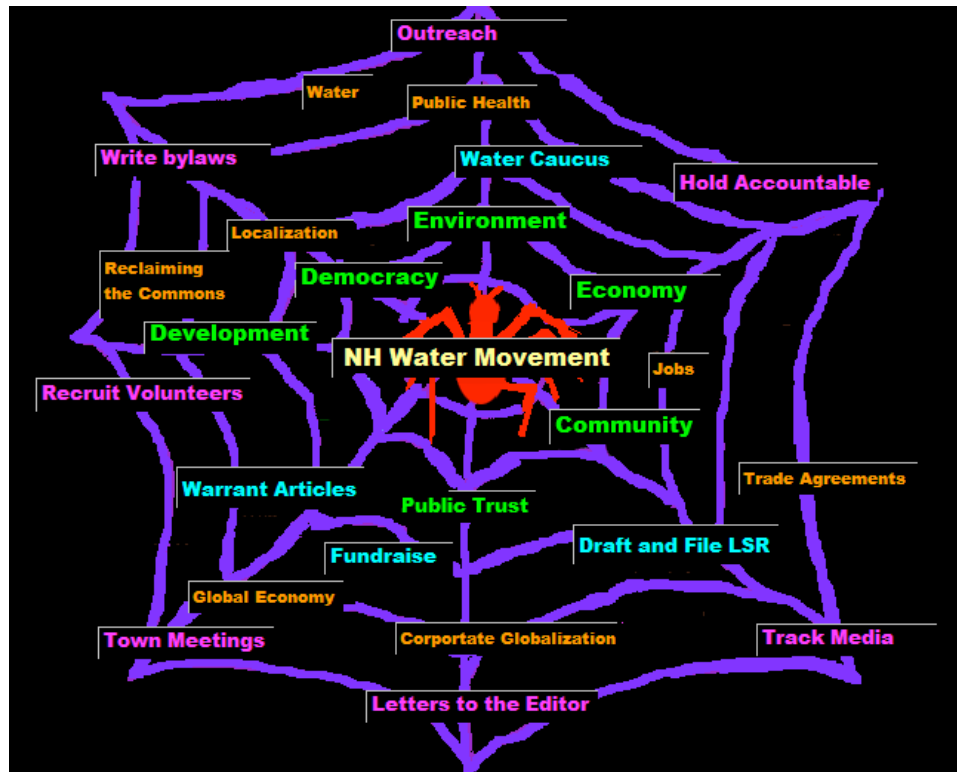
Grassroots NH is a coalition of NH activists who focus on progressive issues. This is a network of citizens that are working on many different issues in their communities but are focusing on creating a better world through education.

NH Municipal Association's mission is to provide programs and services that strengthen the quality of its member governments and the ability of their officials and employees to serve the public by being a catalyst for dialogue and action, an advocate on issues, an advisor on problems, a provider of benefits and risk-

management services, an educator/trainer in skills, and a resource for information. (NHMA, 2005)

The USGS Seacoast Water Sustainability Study Commission, addresses population growth and accompanying development which have led to an increase in ground-water use from surface and fractured-bedrock aquifers in southeastern New Hampshire. New roads, parking lots, buildings, homes, and other development-related changes have created impervious surfaces that decrease land needed to recharge the aquifers. The combined effects of the recharge losses and increased withdrawals raise serious questions about the sustainability of the ground-water resources in the region. (USGS, 2005)

3. The participation of each group has been to network with each other. They are working toward furthering the activities and mission of the NH Water Table.
4. My role in the project is providing sweat equity as a coordinator, a board member of NH WAVE and web master of NH Water Table.
5. My responsibilities are to keep the project together, and to pick up the pieces when it all falls apart. I am the chair of NH WAVE board of directors and coordinate the volunteer efforts.
- 6.) The organizational chart is more an organizational web, please see below. Also an objective has been developing a web site that provides a national link as Water Allies does for grassroots community groups seeking to protect their water supply from corporate greed.



7.) Method:

The method of this project is to promote the discussion of sustainable use of NH's freshwater supply in the media, the state legislature and local communities and foster a climate of interdependence and ability to work together regionally for the common good of our water resources.

Four NH activists attended the National Water Allies meeting and saw the creation of NH Water Table. The talk about forming a statewide coalition has been going on for two years before the group came to the table and began investing in building relationships.

The primary scope is to look specifically at Barrington, Nottingham and Northwood communities affected by USA Springs; the second scope is to look at communities where water problems already exist. The final scope is to look at all of the communities in NH.

8.) Products & outputs.

Inputs	Process	Outputs	Short Term	Intermediate Outcome	Long Term Outcome
Volunteers, Paper	- Write letters to the Editor	- Articles printed in local papers	- Increase volunteer activities	- Neutralize impacts of other side.	- Increased interest and awareness
Objective 1: Develop a formal coalition	- Hold forums - Send out press releases	- Identify populations of interest - 8 monthly forums with 40 people in attendance - Identify why groups might want to participate.	- Increase community support		
Stakeholders, Volunteers, Politicians, Non-Profits, Agencies, Faith Based Organizations,	- Give presentations - Outreach via telephone meetings, website, list serve, etc.		- Establish regular gatherings	- Develop Taskforce - Create larger voice to address issues	Develop formal coalition
Objective 3: Minimize/reduce privatization					
fax, email					
Objective 2: Increase interest and awareness water policies,	- Research existing policy/law - Conduct presentations	- Amending legislation - Meetings with legislators and public officials	- Legislator and public official support - New regulations and legislation drafted	- Establish new policy	- Non-partisan Support for water protection minimizing and/or reducing privatization of water
coalition members, volunteers, media, computer, printer, paper, pens, fax, telephone, email	- Participate in public hearings - Conduct and attend events - Hold press conferences				

The products and outputs are create more regulation, bi-partisan support for the environment and to increase citizen interest in the cause. The outcomes will be to generate a sustainable plan for the future of the water supply.

Determination of Membership

- i. All that are interested who agree with the mission will be allowed to participate
- ii. Determine work/education plans for all potential volunteers/members
- iii. Recruit volunteers

Fundraising efforts

- iv. Determine budget and funding needs
- v. Discuss other funding sources if needed

Implementation

- vi. Begin grassroots organizing campaign
- vii. Establish bylaws, rules, and regulations
- viii. Hold elections and establish schedule for elections

Maintenance

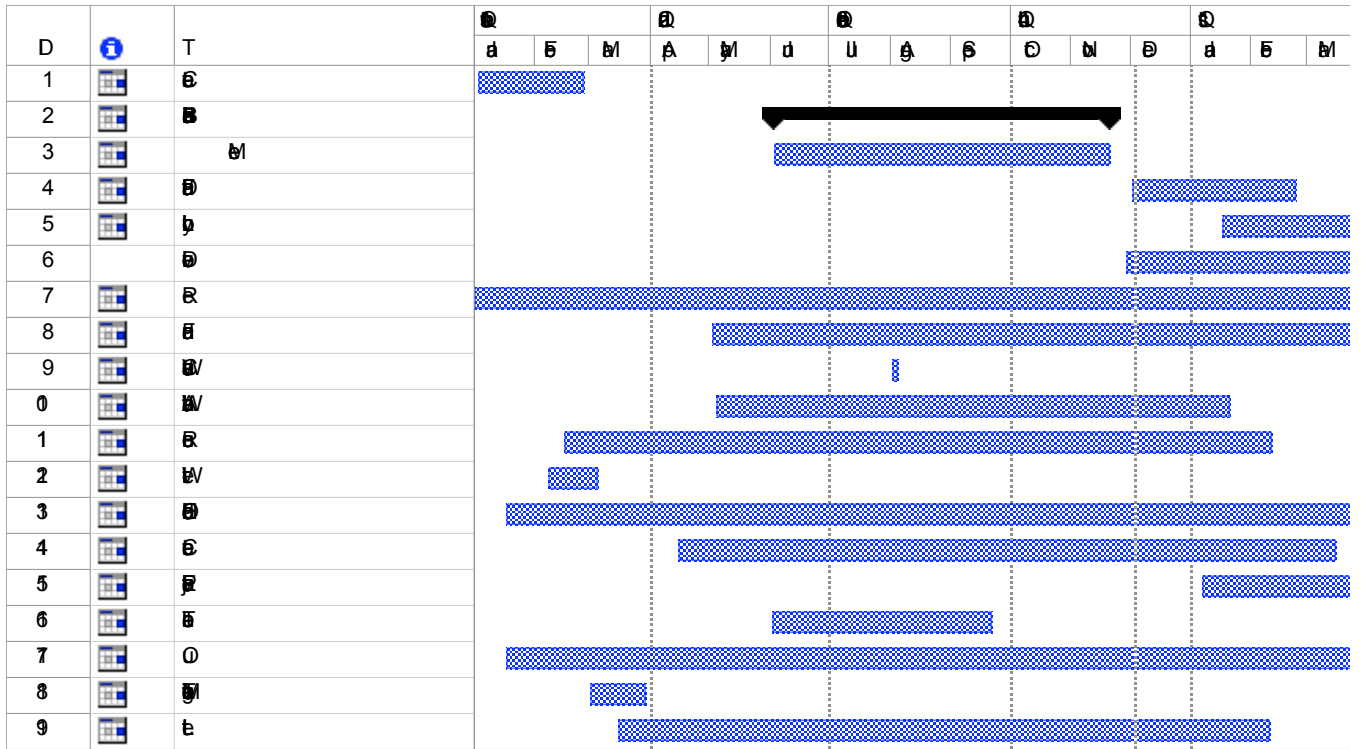
- ix. Meet monthly to welcome new members, discuss any business, and network
- x. Elections may be held annual

Evaluation

- xi. Is membership and participation growing?
- xii. Have the bylaws been created?
- xiii. Have the board of directors been elected?
- xiv. Has fundraising been completed?
- xv. Has water management increased?
- xvi. Has public control increased?
- xvii. Have regulations increased?
- xviii. Have zoning and planning regulations increased?
- xix. Have administrative rules increased?
- xx. Have laws increased?
- xxi. Has bi-partisan support for the environment increased?
- xxii. Have successful attempts to hold politicians accountable been made?
- xxiii. Have we elected officials that share our values?
- xxiv. Has citizen's pressure and interest increased?
- xxv. Has the organization increased levels of earned media?
- xxvi. Have more people been education increased on where their water supply comes from?
- xxvii. Have outreach materials been created?

V. Project Implementation

1.) Gantt Chart



2.) Implementation Plan:

Activities needed to accomplish	People responsible	Timeframe	Status
Ordinance			
Local education in Barnstead, Milton, Gilson, Farmington, Wentworth	Grassroots NH	March Town Meeting	Completed
Strengthen Barnstead Ordinance	Barnstead citizens	3/19/06	Completed
Education	Bruce	5/4/2005	Completed
Training	Bill, Thomas and Ruth	4/22/05-4/24/05	Completed
Selectman's Meeting	Barnstead Selectman	7/12/2005	Completed
Citizens Meeting	Diane, Gail, Bruce	8/5/2005	Completed
Selectman's Meeting	Barnstead Selectman	8/23/2005	Completed
Meeting	Barnstead	9/26/2005	Completed
Source Water Protection			
Training	DES	5/12/2005	Completed
Meeting	Derry	5/23/2005	Completed
Training	Derry	7/27/2005	Completed
Training	Derry	8/1/2005	Completed
Training	Keene Conservation Committee	8/19/2005	Completed
Training	New market Town Council	9/21/2005	Completed
Training	Derry Televised on Public Access TV	10/6/2005	Completed
NH Water Table			
Meeting	Coalition	5/16/2005	Completed
Meeting	Coalition	6/1/2005	Completed
Meeting	Coalition	6/29/2005	Completed
Meeting	Coalition	7/20/2005	Completed
Meeting	Coalition	8/24/2005	Completed
Meeting	Coalition	9/8/2005	Completed
Meeting	Coalition	9/15/2005	Completed
Meeting	Coalition	9/22/2005	Completed
Meeting	Coalition	9/28/2005	Completed
Conference	Coalition	10/22/2005	Completed
Meeting	Coalition	11/19/2005	Completed
Support Local Grassroots Organizing			
Nottingham Planning Board	10 seacoast communities, SOG	5/25/2005	Completed

Rally	10 seacoast communities, SOG	5/27/2005	Completed
Board Meeting	SOG	5/31/2005	Completed
Tabling	Sustainability Fair	6/5/2005	Completed
Meeting	SOG	6/7/2005	Completed
File Review	DES	6/7/2005	Completed
Meeting	SOG	6/9/2005	Completed
File Review	DES	6/10/2005	Completed
Meeting	SOG	7/6/2005	Completed
Planning Board	Nottingham	7/13/2005	Completed
Meeting	SOG	8/2/2005	Completed
Meeting	SOG	8/22/2005	Completed
Planning Board	Nottingham	8/24/2005	Completed
Rally	SOG	9/9/2005	Completed
Nottingham Days	Nottingham	9/10/2005	Completed
Meeting	SOG	9/15/2005	Completed
Meeting	Oyster River Watershed	9/30/2005	Completed
Meeting	SOG	10/4/2005	Completed
Planning Board	Nottingham	10/5/2005	Completed
Meeting	SOG	10/13/2005	Completed
Planning Board	Alton	10/17/2005	Completed
Meeting	SOG	11/1/2005	Completed
Meeting	SOG	11/10/2005	Completed
Planning Board	Nottingham	11/16/2005	Completed
Meeting	SOG	11/20/2005	Completed
Meeting	SOG	11/27/2005	Completed
Meeting	SOG	12/1/2005	Completed
Outreach			
Solar Fest	NH and VT Residents	7/16-17/05	Completed
Grassroots Organizing Workshop	NH and ME Residents	6/16-19/05	Completed
Environment and Health	NH Citizens	9/13/2005	Completed
Kittery Adult Ed	NH and ME Residents	10/11/2005	Completed
Legislation			
HB69	NH Water in the Public Trust	Spring 05	Failure
Meeting with Gov. Lynch	NH Water in the Public Trust	8/24/2005	Completed
Work with 7 bills in the NH House	NH Water in the Public Trust	Spring 06	Ongoing
Sub-committee meeting	NH Water in the Public Trust	9/14/2005	Ongoing

Supreme Court	NH Water in the Public Trust	9/15/2005	Ongoing
Meeting with Gov. Lynch	NH Water in the Public Trust	9/15/2005	Completed
Accountability Coalition	Rye	10/2/2005	Completed
Bird dog Presidential Candidate	Franklin	10/30/2005	Completed

3.) Staffing Pattern:

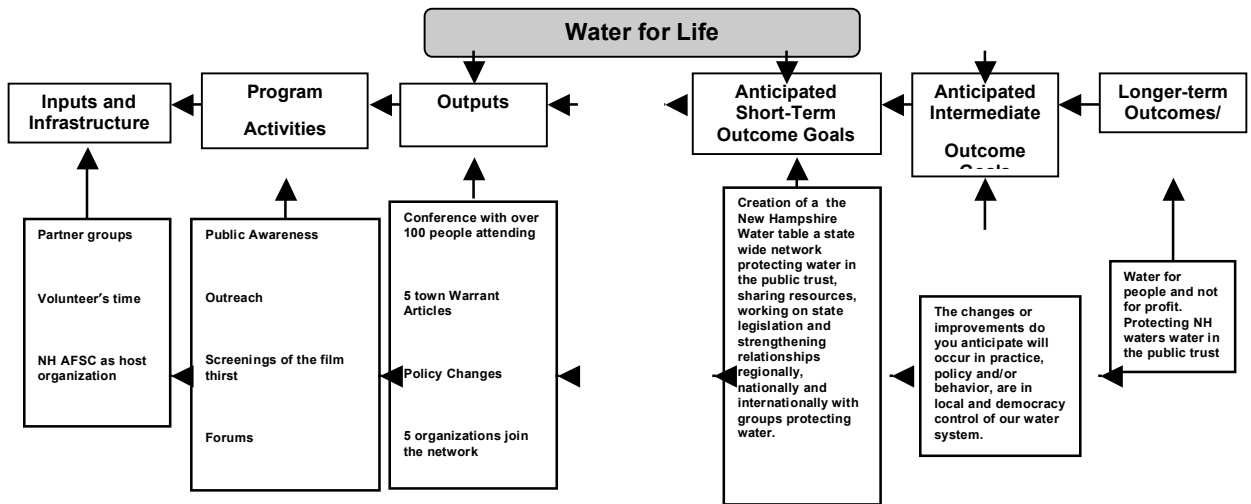
There has been no paid staff. This project has occurred solely on volunteer energy. Volunteers will be needed to take on supervisory roles, and training Volunteer job descriptions in appendix.

4.) Budget:

See Appendix

VI. Monitoring/Evaluation

1.) Logic Model



2.) Performance Indicators:

This project is successful because NH Water Tables has been created. The coalition of grassroots organizations and citizen activists are helping to protect NH's water and operate in accordance with our mission.

3.) Management Information System:

Managing information in this project is complex, with over 100 people working in different ways, and keeping records. I am keeping lists of active volunteers in an

excel spreadsheet. NH Water Table started with post-it notes of peoples commitments and now they have been entered into an Excel file. Documenting progress via regular phone call and notes are also kept in this data base. Also we have be keeping minutes for meetings in word documents. This is all qualitative data that we have to manage so it will be mostly done on the local level. Community organizing and building relationship with citizens will be fundamental in gaining this information.

4.) Evaluation Plan & Reporting:

Outcomes	Indicators	Sources of Data	Method of Collecting Data	Who Collects Data	When to Collect Data
Development/ Formation Coalition	10 groups have come together to advocate for stronger/state-wide water management	Attendance Records	Direct Observations	Team Leader/Project Manager	Continuous Process
	Communication Links Established	Minutes of meeting	Survey (Formal and Informal)	Coalition Members	Ongoing
	Networking mechanism in place	Agenda outcomes	Interview	External Evaluator (intern, political person, educator)	
	Sharing of Knowledge Information Resources	Activity on the List serve	Focus Group	Volunteers Support Group	
		Are they engaged		Steering Committee	
		What makes the group work			
		Members Data			
		External Data (inventory of water supply)			
		Websites			
		Books			
Increased Interest and Awareness	Sign up's	Newspaper	Direct Observations	Team Leader/Project Manager	Continuous Process
	Media	Radio	Survey (Formal and Informal)	Coalition Members	Ongoing
	Outreach	Forums	Interview	External Evaluator (intern, political person, educator)	

	Education	Letters to the Editor	Focus Group	Volunteers Support Group	
				Steering Committee	
Non-partisan Support for water protection and minimize/ reduce privatization	If LSR are drafted	Websites	If Laws are passed	Team Leader/Project Manager	Continuous Process
	Committees in the House and Senate are talking about water	Other state laws	Survey (Formal and Informal)	Coalition Members	Ongoing
	Elected Officials Attending Meetings	Governors Support	Interview	External Evaluator (intern, political person, educator)	
		Letters for Citizens	Focus Group	Volunteers Support Group	
			Direct Observations	Steering Committee	

VII. Sustainability Plan

1. Field Observation:

Most of the implementation of this project will take place in the field. A field campaign shall be developed that addresses the effectiveness of this project in meeting its goals and serving the mission of the organization. Getting communities to form local community organizers and pass ordinances, lays the foundations of defending our water supply so that it can be managed locally with collective ownership for citizens, and not for those seeking to steal the resource for personal gain.

2. Sustainability Elements:

I am sure that NH Water Table and local citizen groups will face many financial, political, and social hardships that may affect of this project. The sustainability elements will be how the citizens still stand up to fight the David and Goliath battles in their community and stand up to defend water rights for people.

3. Institutional Plan:

The organizations have adapting the field plans, work locally to protect their water supply. Each of the financial, political and social elements will depend on the volunteers building collective community power in order to support the project's long-term success. If institutionalized this way of building power as a statewide network can serve a model for other states facing similar threats.

VIII. Appendices

Appendix I: Needs Assessment

Appendix II: Volunteer Job Descriptions

Water community organizers: This person is responsible for doing grassroots organizing and serving as a liaison from each community's efforts to the NH water table. This role need someone with the ability to listen and work as a team. Skills needed in developing strategy, ability to organize, willing to work long hours and have a strong motivation and belief in the possibility for social change. Talented and committed activists to organize communities and manage canvass outreach teams. These are volunteer positions with responsibilities that include: training, voter contact and education, orchestrating canvassing logistics, and fundraising. Play a lead role-organizing citizens in grassroots lobbying on critical environmental and public health issues around NH and make a difference this legislative session. Training in organizational and campaign management.

Qualifications:

Strong communication skills and motivation a must. Training available for Organizers, grassroots experience in the above responsibilities for organizers, fundraising preferred.

NH Water Table Treasurer: Responsible for opening a bank account and maintaining all financial records for the NH water table. This role will require money management and non-profit accounting skill as well as strong communication skills and the ability to attend meetings of the NH water table. Working with AFSC as fiscal sponsors and reporting to founders and the larger group as needed. We are looking for a self-motivated professional. Recommended experience: promoting nonprofit services and organizing events; managing nonprofit or small business finances; communicating effectively in writing and in person with board, staff, school community and the public; prioritizing work in a small office. We would consider an interest in energy arts or alternative health practices to be a plus.

Qualifications: BA/BS or equivalent; 3 to 5-years related experience; facility or ability to learn various Windows software tools: desktop publishing, photo editing, MS Access and Excel, Quickbooks, and Dreamweaver.

Webmaster/Database manager: This role will need computer skill and many volunteer hours to maintain careful records. Having internet and web skills. Attention to detail is a must.

Qualifications:

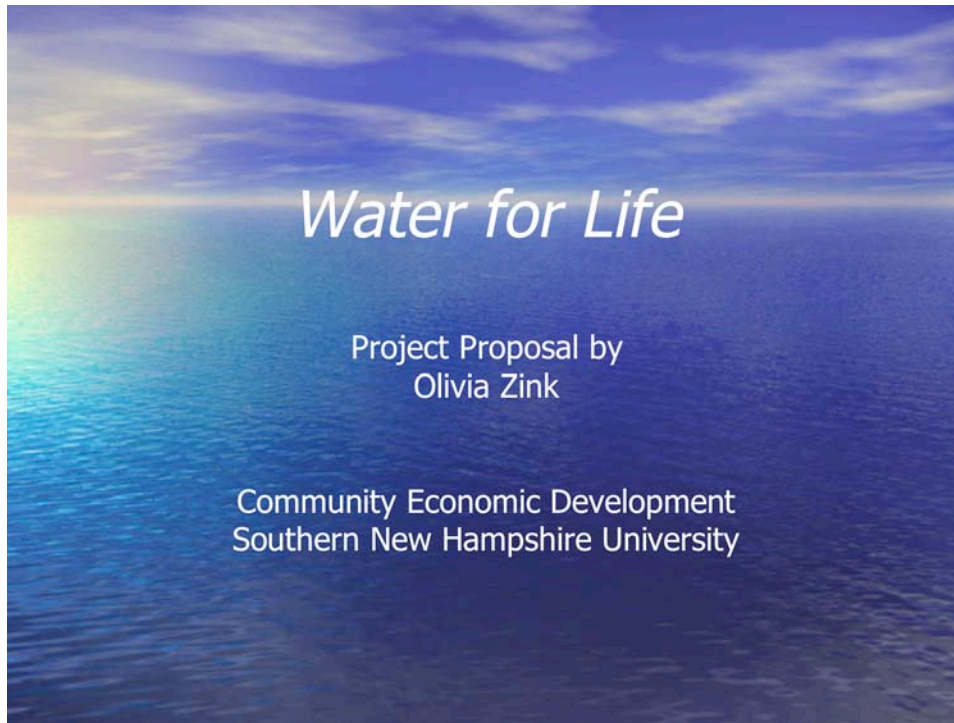
Extremely detail oriented, Working knowledge of Excel & Microsoft Word, Knowledge of Desktop publishing software, Ability to prioritize and juggle multiple projects concurrently, Proven track record of strong organizational skills, Ability to work independently as well as part of a team, Flexibility and willingness to respond to last minute changes, High degree of comfort and effectiveness dealing with people from diverse backgrounds, Problem solving skills, Interest in non-profits a plus

Appendix III: Program Budget and detailed Pro Formas

Protecting NH's Water - budget and actual				
	Budget	Actual		Difference
Income				
NEGREF Grant	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00		\$0.00
Donations	\$0.00	\$50.00		-\$50.00
Registration	\$775.00	\$685.00		\$90.00
Other Revenues	\$0.00			\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,775.00	\$1,735.00		\$40.00
Expenses				
2 nights for Maude	\$275.00	\$205.37		\$69.63
Website Maintenance	\$103.00	\$109.99		-\$6.99
Meeting Room Rental	\$25.00	\$25.00		\$0.00
Photocopying	\$250.00	\$30.00		\$220.00
Inside the Bottle	\$200.00	\$125.00		\$75.00
Supplies	\$50.00	\$43.09		\$6.91
Technical assistance from SNHU	\$200.00			\$200.00
Misc. Expenses	\$0.00			\$0.00
Apples	\$0.00	donated		
Coffee	\$0.00	donated		
Lunch for participants	\$480.00	\$421.00		\$59.00
Lunch for speakers, volunteers	\$192.00			\$192.00
Bagels	\$0.00	donated		
				\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,775.00	\$959.45		\$815.55
				\$0.00
SURPLUS			\$775.55	

	Budget	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Income													
EGREF Grant	\$1,000								\$1,000				
Donations	\$0									\$50			
Registration	\$750										\$685		
Other Revenues	\$0												
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$50	\$685	\$0	\$0
Expenses													
Flights for Maude	\$275										\$205.37		
Website maintenance	\$103								\$110				
Meeting Room rental	\$0										donated	\$25	donated
Photocopying	\$250										\$30		
Side the Bottle	\$20									\$125			
Supplies	\$50									\$22	\$21.09		
Technical assistance from JHU	\$200												
misc. Expenses	\$0												
Supplies	\$0										donated		
Office	\$0										donated		
Meal for participants	\$480										\$421		
Meal for speakers, volunteers	\$192												
Signage	\$0										Donated		
Labor	\$0	Donated	Donated	donated	donated	Donated	donated	donated	Donated	donated	Donated	Donated	donated
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$110	\$147	\$677.46	\$25	\$0
JRPLUS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$890	-\$97	\$7.54	-\$25	\$0

Appendix IV: Project PowerPoint presentation



Water Problem

- A few are wishing to profit from the water resources of the State of NH. They are doing so by privatizing public water systems and exporting water resources out of the community --- bottled water.

<i>Company</i>	<i>Town</i>
Sunapee Springs	Sunapee
Castle Springs	Moultonborough
USA Springs	Nottingham
Aquarion Water Company	North Hampton
Merrimac Water Department	Newton
Barking Dog Water Company	Sharon
Victory Mountain Springs	Newport
Chamberlain Springs Bottled Water	Alton
Millipore Corporation	Jaffrey
Errol Bottled Water	Erroll
Locke Lake	Pitsfield/Barnstead
Pennichuck Corp.	Derry
Pennichuck Corp.	Nashua

Project Overview

Whose Water Is It, Anyway?

The project is to build a state wide coalition that advocates that surface water and groundwater are an integrated public resource to be conserved, protected and managed for present and future generations of all life



Protecting the Commons

- People need water to live. Water must be provided equitably to all people and not on the basis of the ability to pay.
- Extracting this large quantity of water could cause a shift in groundwater flows and draw contaminants into our drinking water.
- Less than 1% of the Earth's water is available for human use; groundwater represents .8%.
- The company intends to sell our water overseas and domestically. Bottled water is a \$35 billion dollar industry worldwide. In 2000, U.S. sales rose 9.3% to \$5.7 billion. (Source: bottledwaterweb.com)



Whose Water Is It, Anyway?

THE WATER BARONS

- Nestle
- Coke
- Pepsi
- Suez/Vivendi
- RWE/Thames
- USA Springs, Inc.
- Pennichuck Corp.

NH CITIZENS

- Held in the public trust
- Community owned water supplies
- NH Water Commons

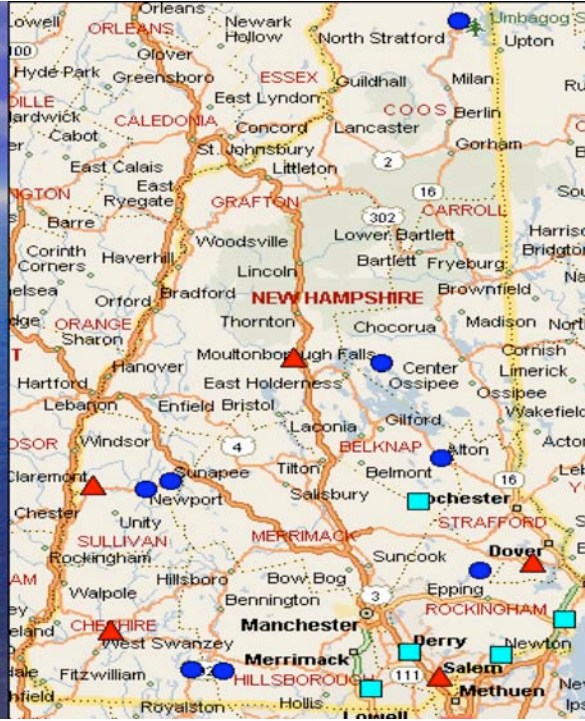


Targeted Community

State of NH

Strategies

1. Communities currently threatened (retroactive)
2. Communities wishing to protect water (proactive)



CED Approach



- Community advocating for
- Local economic structures that will allow for collective ownership of this resource
- That create sustainable development with water resources for all.

Affecting Policy

- Local Ordinances
- State Law

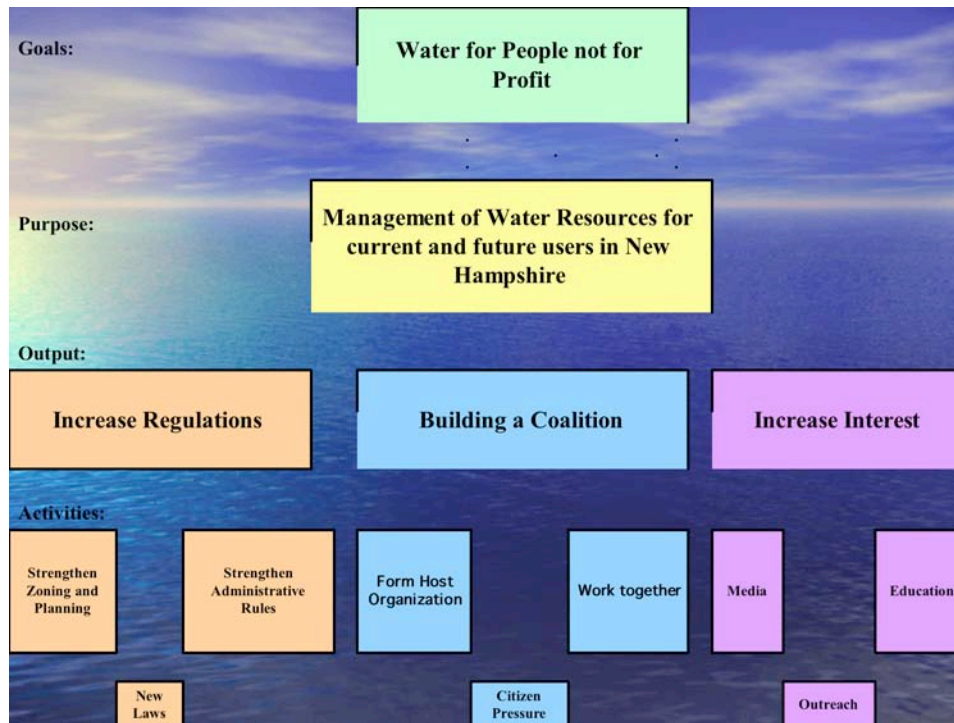


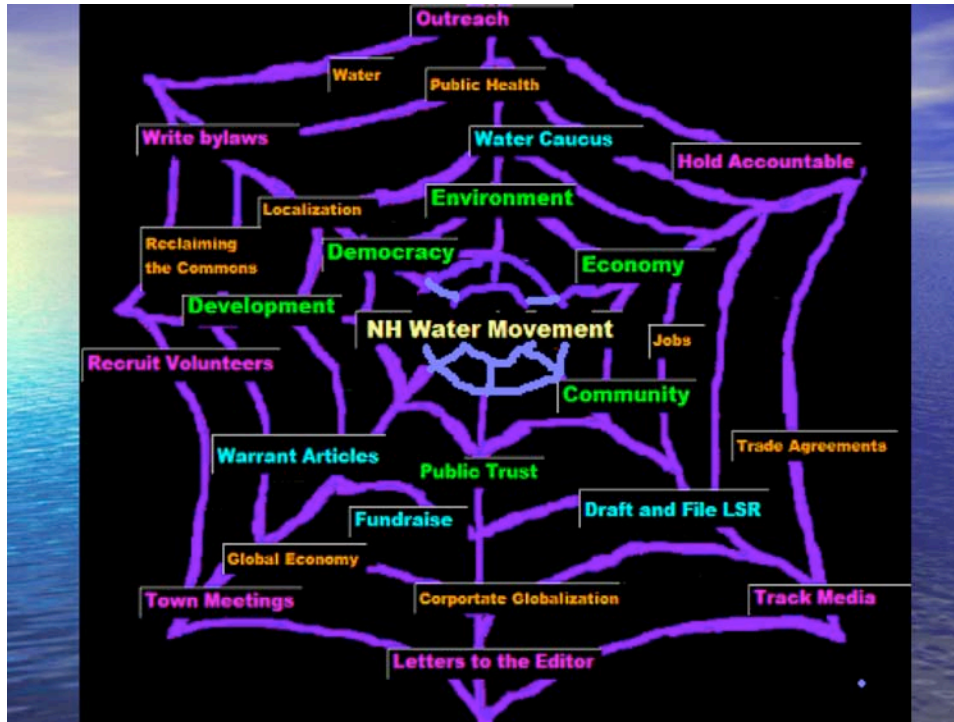
Project Goals

- To create an organization and coalition to advocate for the conservation, protection and management NH's freshwater supply for the common good;
- To organize area citizens to work together to defeat proposed bottled water plants and municipal privatization of communities water supplies on the basis of scientific data, sustainability of the groundwater supply and environmental justice;

Project Goals (cont)

- To develop, produce and distribute educational materials that advance the communities knowledge of the water problems and solutions;
- To promote the discussion of sustainable use of NH's freshwater supply in the media, the state legislature and local communities;
- To foster a climate of interdependence and ability to work together regionally for the common good of our water resources.





nhwatertable.org

Protecting New Hampshire's Water

The New Hampshire Water Table is a new state-wide network protecting water in the public trust, sharing resources related to water, working together on state legislation on issues related to the group's purposes and developing and strengthening relationships regionally, nationally and internationally with groups working to protect water. Membership is open to all who share these goals.

The group formed in June 2005 when several New Hampshire water groups decided there was need to share resources and information with others. Charter members include Grassroots NH, the New Hampshire program of the American Friends Service Committee, the Oyster River Watershed Association, the Pennichuck Watershed Association and Save Our Groundwater.

Legal Battles Begin: We are defining the Public Trust

- Currently Save Our Groundwater, the town of Barrington, town of Nottingham are defining the public trust doctrine against USA Springs.
- September 15th Oral Arguments for the NH Supreme Court
- <http://www.nhpublictrust.com/howfast.html?article=60470>
 - Chief Justice John Broderick said it seemed DES said "it's above our pay grade to consider the public trust."

State of New Hampshire
JOHN LYNCH
Governor

CITATION

**Be it hereby known that I,
John Lynch,
Governor of the State of New Hampshire, join with my fellow
citizens in extending my personal best wishes and sincerest
congratulations to**

Olivia Zink

Who recently attended the third annual Women and Water Conference in India. The State of New Hampshire is fortunate to have you in the community. On behalf of the citizens of New Hampshire, I commend you for your commitment to the state, and wish you all the best in the future.



John Lynch
John Lynch, Governor
April 1, 2005

Declaration of Commitment of Women to Preserving the Water Commons
Made at The 3rd International Conference on Women and Water
28 February 2005 • Bija Vidyapeeth, Dehra Dun, India

As rivers come together to create sea, we, 75 women from 15 countries and our allies at the 3rd International Conference on Women and Water came together to share, learn, grow, and celebrate life through water.

We recognize women as guardians of water.

We affirm that water is sacred because it gives life. Water connects us all. Water is the foundation of our civilization and cultures.

We know that the value of water is ecological, cultural, spiritual and ethical.

We acknowledge that water is increasingly, like other natural resources, being commodified.

One-sixth of the people on earth do not have access to clean water within a kilometer of their homes. This is not acceptable.

The global water crisis affects all.

We respect the struggles in every community. They are unique. They have a common stream that flows together.

We have heard stories of families displaced by dam projects, exploited by multi-nationals, deprived of effective traditional water systems, threatened by disease through polluted waters, and devastated by the loss of livelihood due to misuse of water.

We share the pain of these women. Amidst our concerns, we celebrated our love for water, the earth and for all of humanity. We have created bonds, networks and relations that will continue to support, strengthen, and inspire us in our daily lives.

We recognize the wisdom of all generations in exploring solutions.

To this end, we make the following pledge, individually and collectively,

We, the undersigned...

Honor and revere the spiritual connection to water.

Take responsibility for stewardship of the world water.

Work towards sustainable, equitable access to clean water for all.

Affirm water as a "basic human need" and "ecological" reserve.

Seek traditional and appropriate technological solutions selected and implemented at the grassroots levels.

Declare water as public trust to be conserved, managed and protected for the common good of all.

Advocate for review and evaluation of our water strategies.

Seek an attitude of austerity towards water.

Declare to raise awareness and water literacy through education, with the emphasis on the coming generations.

Affirm our commitment to work together to reclaim the Women's Water Commons.

We are committed to take action now in our own way.

We, the women of different nations and cultures are uniting to declare the earth's water supply to be a global commons to be protected and nurtured by all peoples, communities and governments at all levels.

New Hampshire Water Table Conference: Protecting NH's Water

October 22, 2005

Workshop Themes/Tools/Actions

Municipal water systems: Public Ownership, Private Ownership and the Challenge of Public-Private Partnerships

Themes

- Water systems need to be publicly owned
- Job security/community priorities with public systems
- Democratic control

Tools

- Paying attention to contract details and the knowledge to not allow contracts to be both introduced and voted on at the same meeting
- Use details and pitfalls from other contract discussions to know what you need to be aware of

Actions

- Participate in local government meetings regarding ownership of water
- Build political will

Pumping for Profit: The Selling of Bottled and Bulk Water

Themes

- To combat the marketing lies on their own ground
 - a. Insidethebottle.org
 - b. kNOwbottledwater.org
- Yesterday's regulators are today's lobbyists
- Public hearings on large groundwater withdrawals remain a problem; local boards don't understand the law
- Continue to share our stories, our successes and what we've learned

Tools

- Use of strategic litigation when possible
- Using corporate profiles and information in a strategic way

Actions

- Look at 10 day pump test – need to remote monitor
- To use Corporate Accountability's international postcards to show we care about the issues.

Municipal Ordinances

Themes

- Local Control

Tools

- Local neighborhood education
- Work with town officials on ordinances

Actions

- Raise issues- who has authority to decide? Water use
- Define reasonable use in ordinance
- Write ordinance tightly challenge coming
- Know what you want to ordinance to do

Faith Communities and Water

Themes

- Sacredness of water, healing waters
- Greed and consumerism
- Holistic approach
- Common good
- Stewardship
- Ethical government
- Choir approach (always room for one more voice)

Tools

- Resources" poems, songs, prayers, used to inspire and connect
- Educational programs

- Congregationally-based resources
- Corporate discernment in faith comm.
- Tending the Holy Book
- New Hampshire Water Table as a central resource

Actions

- Include eastern traditions
- Support/initiate public policy
- Anti-flip agreements
- Congregational minute or statement
- Sponsorship of individuals doing good works
- Engage with outside groups
- Congregations working to support citizen participation in democracy

New Hampshire Legislative Water Issues

Themes

- Water as public trust
- Work with legislators
- Use of moratoria

Tools

- Letters, mail
- Telephone
- Personal contact

Actions

- Follow legislation
- Testify
- Hold legislators accountable

Water Science: New Hampshire Hydrology and Current Research

Themes

- Pollution biggest threat to water supply

- Regulation on lack of their problems in enforcement
- New containments
- Lack of knowledge of local planning boards

Tools

- Future Water Guardians of NH (middle-school educational organization)

Actions

- Publicity of what DES is doing to protect our water with limitations of funding and political shortcomings
- Towns of New England water resources

International Trade and Water

Themes

- Still time to fight inclusion of water and other services in GATS
- U.S. and France most vested in water in GATS
- Greed Attacks on Towns and Services

Tools

- Our world is not for sale
- Polaris Institute website
- Council of Canadians/Blue Planet Project: Canadians.com/blueplanet
- kNOw Bottled Water Campaign: kNOwbottledwater.org

Actions

- Put corporations at risk
- Promote resolutions
- Promote creation of commissions
- K.I.S.S. and interesting
- Grab teachable moments

2006 Water Bills
State of New Hampshire General Court

HB 1493

Declaring that groundwater is part of the public trust.

G-Status: HOUSE

Next/Last Hearing: RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

1/26/2006 10:45:00 AM RM 305 LOB

AN ACT declaring that groundwater is part of the public trust.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 New Section; Groundwater Held in Public Trust. Amend RSA 485-C by inserting after section 1 the following new section:

485-C:1-a Groundwater Part of Public Trust. The groundwater underlying the state of New Hampshire is held in trust by the state for the benefit of the general public.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

HB 1494

Relative to public use of groundwater.

G-Status: HOUSE

Next/Last Hearing: RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

1/26/2006 1:15:00 PM RM 305 LOB

ANALYSIS: This bill requires the department of environmental services to give municipal water supplies primacy in the use of groundwater that is wholly or partially within the jurisdiction of the municipality when the department is making any decision or issuing any permit under the groundwater protection act.

HB 1541

Requiring applicants for large groundwater withdrawal permits to comply with local ordinances.

G-Status: HOUSE

Next/Last Hearing: RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

1/26/2006 2:30:00 PM RM 305 LOB

ANALYSIS: This bill requires an applicant for a large groundwater withdrawal permit to provide the department of environmental services with evidence of compliance with all applicable local ordinances before the department may issue a large groundwater withdrawal permit.

HB 1609-FN

Requiring an impact study before a large groundwater withdrawal permit may be issued.

G-Status: HOUSE

Next/Last Hearing: RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT 1/31/2006
1:15:00 PM RM 305 LOB

ANALYSIS: This bill requires the department of environmental services to require an applicant to conduct an impact study to determine the effects of a proposed large groundwater withdrawal on public water supply needs before the department may issue a permit for the withdrawal.

SB 326

Relative to a temporary moratorium on large groundwater permits and withdrawals.

G-Status: SENATE

Next/Last Hearing: ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1/17/2006 3:15:00 PM LOB 102

ANALYSIS: This bill places a moratorium on large groundwater withdrawal permits and large groundwater withdrawals which have not commenced, until the commission to study issues relative to groundwater withdrawals issues its final report.

SB 386

Relative to large groundwater withdrawals.

G-Status: SENATE

Next/Last Hearing: ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE

1/17/2006 2:15:00 PM LOB 103

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- I. Adds a definition of "large groundwater withdrawal."
- II. Adds administration of the public trust interests in groundwater to the duties of the department of environmental services.
- III. Adds an appeal to the superior court to the appeal process for large groundwater withdrawal permits.
- IV. Enables any municipality from which groundwater will be withdrawn or diminished to request a determination from the department that the public trust is not being violated.
- V. Creates an intervener status for municipalities impacted by a large groundwater withdrawal.

THE BARNSTEAD WATER RIGHTS AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT ORDINANCE

Section 1. Name. The name of this Warrant Article shall be the “Barnstead Water Rights Ordinance.”

Section 2. Preamble and Purpose. We the People of the Town of Barnstead declare that water is essential for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness – both for people and for the ecological systems which give life to all species. We the People of the Town of Barnstead declare that we have the duty to safeguard the water both on and beneath the Earth’s surface, and in the process, safeguard the rights of people within the community of Barnstead, and the rights of the ecosystems of which Barnstead is a part. We the people of Barnstead declare that all of our water is held in the public trust as a common resource to be used for the benefit of Barnstead residents and of the natural ecosystems of which they are a part. We believe that the corporatization of water supplies in this community – placing the control of water in the hands of a corporate few, rather than the community – would constitute tyranny and usurpation; and that we are therefore duty bound, under the New Hampshire Constitution, to oppose such tyranny and usurpation. That same duty requires us to recognize that two centuries’ worth of governmental conferral of constitutional powers upon corporations has deprived people of the authority to govern their own communities, and requires us to take affirmative steps to remedy that usurpation of governing power.

Section 3. Authority. This Warrant Article is adopted and enacted pursuant to the authority granted to the people of the Town by all relevant state and federal laws including, but not limited to the following:

§ Part First, Article 10 of the New Hampshire Constitution, which declares that government is instituted for the common benefit, protection and security of the whole community, and not for the private interest of any class of men;

§ Part First, Article 1 of the New Hampshire Constitution, which declares that government is founded upon the consent of the people and instituted for the common good;

§ The spirit of Part Second, Article 5 and Part Second, Article 83 of the New Hampshire Constitution, which subordinate corporations to the body politic;

§ NH RSA 31:39 I (a), (l) which, under powers and duties of Towns, permits bylaws for the care, protection, preservation of the commons, and the ordering of their prudential affairs;

§ The Declaration of Independence, which declares that governments are instituted to secure people’s rights, and that government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed;

§ The General Comment of the United Nations Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, which declares that “the human right to drinking water is fundamental to life and health. Sufficient and safe drinking water is a precondition to the realization of human rights.”

Section 4. Statement of Law. No corporation or syndicate shall engage in water withdrawals in the Town of Barnstead. The term “corporation” means any corporation organized under the laws of any state of the United States or any country. The term “syndicate” includes any limited partnership, limited liability partnership, business trust, or limited liability company organized under the laws of any state of the United States or any country. The term “engage” shall include, but not be limited to, the physical extraction of water, and the buying and/or selling of water extracted within the Town of Barnstead.

Section 5. Statement of Law. No corporation doing business within the Town of Barnstead shall be recognized as a “person” under the United States or New Hampshire Constitutions, and shall not be afforded the protections of the Contracts Clause or Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution, or similar provisions found within the New Hampshire Constitution.

Section 6. Exceptions. The people of the Town of Barnstead hereby allow the following exceptions to the Statement of Law contained within §4 of this Warrant Article:

- (1) Municipal authorities established under the laws of the State of New Hampshire engaged in water withdrawals providing water only to residential and commercial users within the Town of Barnstead;
- (2) Nonprofit educational and charitable corporations organized under state non-profit corporation law, and qualifying under §501(c)(3) of the federal Tax Code, which do not sell water withdrawn within the Town of Barnstead outside of the Town of Barnstead;
- (3) Utility corporations operating under valid and express contractual provisions in agreements entered into between the Town of Barnstead and those utility corporations, for the provision of service within the Town of Barnstead;
- (4) Corporations operating under valid and express contractual provisions in agreements entered into between residents of the Town of Barnstead and those corporations, when the withdrawn water is used solely for on-site residential, household, agricultural, or commercial facilities within the Town of Barnstead, as long as such commercial facilities do not withdraw water for sale outside of the Town of Barnstead, or purchase water withdrawn from the Town of Barnstead for sale outside of the Town.

Section 7. Enforcement. Any corporation planning to engage in water withdrawals within the Town of Barnstead must notify the Town of such activity at least sixty (60) days prior to engaging in water withdrawals. Such notification shall contain a claim to one of the exemptions listed in §6 of this Warrant Article. Any violation of this Ordinance shall be

considered a criminal summary offense, and will subject the Directors of the noncompliant corporation to joint and several liability with the corporation itself. The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Barnstead authorizes a fine of up to \$1,000.00 per violation. Each act of water withdrawal shall be considered a separate violation of this Ordinance. The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Barnstead may also file an action in equity in the General Court for the Town of Barnstead or any other Court of competent jurisdiction to abate any violation defined in Section 4 of this Ordinance. If the Selectmen of the Town of Barnstead fail to bring an action to enforce this Ordinance, any resident of the Town has standing in front of the Court for enforcement.

Section 8 Severability. The provisions of this Warrant Article are severable, and if any section, clause, sentence, part, or provision thereof shall be held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision of the court shall not affect, impair, or invalidate any of the remaining sections, clauses, sentences, parts or provisions of this Warrant Article. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the people of Barnstead that this Warrant Article would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional section, clause, sentence, part, or provision had not been included herein.

Section 9. Effect. This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its enactment.

http://www.theunionleader.com/articles_showa.html?article=49916

NH activist headed to India on clean water campaign

By BRIAN DEKONING

Sunday News Correspondent

DOVER — When Olivia Zink became involved with Save Our Groundwater while a student at the University of New Hampshire about four years ago, she knew the internship meant traveling off campus. What she didn't know was the travel would be halfway around the world.

S.O.G. was formed in opposition to USA Springs' plans for a commercial water bottling plant in Nottingham. The group worries the plant, expected to draw as much as 307,000 gallons of groundwater per day, could dry up residential wells, or cause contamination to spread because of increased water flows.

The process for USA Springs to get local and state approval to build the plant has lasted about five years, and Zink's involvement in S.O.G. continued past her December 2002 UNH graduation. The 24-year-old frequently drives between her Franklin home, her graduate studies at Manchester's Southern New Hampshire University, and Nottingham, Barrington or Concord for public hearings and meetings.

"I fell in love with the group, the issue and . . . the importance of protecting our watershed," Zink said. "Before I got involved, I had no idea where I got my water from, where it comes from. You know, you drink bottled water and you'd get it from the tap and not realize where it came from or how important it was. Since I got involved, I haven't drank bottled water."

Breaking own rule

But Zink says she will break that self-imposed rule next month when she travels to India, where drinking tap water usually means illness for Westerners, to represent S.O.G. and take part in the third annual International Women and Water Conference. Zink will be one of just 15 American women at the conference, hosted by Indian environmentalist Vandana Shiva, an author and activist known worldwide for opposing water privatization by companies like Coca Cola in her country.

Organizers of the conference, to be held Feb. 25-28 in Dehradun, say it will focus on bringing together women concerned about water, providing information about water privatization in India and elsewhere, and creating partnerships for clean, healthy, affordable water. The conference also aims to explore how to reduce the worldwide proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and contribute to United Nations programs for clean water.

Zink learned of the program in November through S.O.G. She will fly to New Delhi from New York on Feb. 16 and return to New Hampshire March 1.

Fran Peavey, founder of Crabgrass, the San Francisco-based non-profit that is one of the conference's sponsors, said Zink's inclusion was an easy decision. An author and social change worker, Peavey has worked on water issues for 25 years during repeated trips to India.

"We saw her credentials and we encouraged her to come," Peavey said. "I know we were very impressed with Olivia."

Zink's credentials include a political science degree with a minor in sustainable living from UNH, as well as organizing events in Boston focusing on water issues during the Democratic National Convention last year and attending demonstrations in Miami during talks on the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas. She is working on an SNHU graduate degree in community economic development.

Peavey said availability of water throughout the world affects all people, but is naturally a women's issue because, "usually it is us who feed our loved ones water, who have to carry water, who have first hands-on experience with water."

Peavey said Zink's attendance at the conference, which will include Australians, Germans, Indians and women from other countries, could have wide impact on Zink's activism with S.O.G.

"She'll be bringing that information about what's going on where she lives to the conference, and hearing about how other people are fighting the same plight," Peavey said. "The battle in New Hampshire is one part of it. We have to at least have a global analysis of what is happening and in to what context the struggle for New Hampshire's groundwater fits. Then I hope we'll be able to fight stronger and more accurately."

For Zink, who spent a semester in England as a UNH student, traveling to a Third-World country for the first time is both a daunting and exciting prospect. She said she will join with two other American women in New York for the 20-hour flight with a stop in London.

Peavey, who has traveled to India numerous times, said being in India will likely be a major adjustment for Zink.

"Every foreign country turns your head around a little bit, but India turns your head around more than most in terms of culture and things," Peavey said.

Zink's head turning will include visiting Varanasi, where Hindus hold sacred cremations on the ghats, or steps, leading to the River Ganges — a spot that was one of Peavey's first experiences on her path of working for safe water in India.

"There were things I thought were crazy," Peavey said of her initial trip to India in the early 1980s. "I saw people walking down to the river, wiping (human waste) from the top of the river, then drinking from it and bathing. I just couldn't comprehend that."

The cost of Zink's trip is about \$2,000, and S.O.G. members have contributed about \$1,300. She said she is still trying to raise the remaining cost. Those interested in supporting Zink can reach her by e-mail at ozink@yahoo.com.

The location of the conference, in north central India, is far from the Southwest Indian coast ravaged by a deadly tsunami last month, but Peavey said the conference includes talks on how the monstrous waves affected water supplies.

Zink said she hopes the conference will help her to be a better educator about water issues and understand how the situation in Nottingham relates to the rest of the world.

“I’m hoping to get a cultural understanding of how water is appreciated around the world,” she said. “Especially coming from a place that’s pretty water-rich, where we have our own water struggle, but we’re not fighting for our daily livelihood.”

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