The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

AUG03'21 PM 1:02 RCVD

July 21, 2021

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Environmental Services to ***retroactively*** pay membership dues to the Coastal States Organization (VC #170810-B001), Washington, DC in the amount of $8,801, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, upon Governor and Council approval. 100% Federal Funds.

Funding is available in the following account.

	FY22
03-44-44-442010-3642-026-500251	$8,801
Dept. Environmental Services, Coastal Zone Management, Dues	

EXPLANATION

The New Hampshire Coastal Program in the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has been a member of the Coastal States Organization (CSO) for over 25 years. CSO is a professional organization formed in 1970 to address a growing need for state coastal program managers to have national representation. Membership provides New Hampshire with an avenue to receive timely information on new developments and to have a voice in the discussion of important issues affecting the State's coastal waters, especially federal funding issues. This request is ***retroactive*** because NHDES did not receive this bill for annual dues until after the fiscal year had begun. The department is working with the CSO to receive the annual billing prior to July 1st of each year in order to process this approval request more timely.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

1. **How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?**
   The CSO was established in 1970 and the New Hampshire Coastal Program in the Department of Environmental Services has been a member of CSO for over 25 years.

2. **Is there any other organization that provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?**
   No, CSO is unique in that it represents the coastal states, commonwealths and territories on legislative and policy issues relating to the sound management of coastal, Great Lakes and ocean resources.

www.des.nh.gov
29 Hazen Drive • PO Box 95 • Concord, NH 03302-0095
(603) 271-3503 • Fax: 271-2867 • TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

3. **How is the dues structure established?**
   CSO dues structure is based on the same formula used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to determine annual federal funding for New Hampshire's implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act. Shoreline mileage and population are the primary criteria in the NOAA formula.

4. **What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?**
   CSO serves as an advocate to assure that the authority and role of the states is recognized and preserved in federal legislation, regulation and policy. CSO's principal activities include:
   a. Keeping Congress informed on key issues related to the coast, including appropriations;
   b. Representing states on the upcoming reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act;
   c. Publications and technical documents on coastal related issues;
   d. Providing expertise in coastal and estuarine law and policy.

5. **Are training or educational/research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included?**
   CSO provides technical training opportunities to the states. The majority of the opportunities are made available as part of regularly scheduled meetings. The cost of these training opportunities is included in the membership.

6. **Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams?** No.

7. **Is there any travel included with this membership fee?** No.

8. **Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization?**
   As designated by the Governor, NHDES Commissioner Robert R. Scott is a voting Delegate member and Coastal Program Administrator Steve Couture is an Alternate to the CSO. Either the delegate or alternate has voting privileges, though each state is allocated one vote.

9. **Explain in detail any negative impact to the state if the agency did not belong to this organization.**
   Without membership in the CSO, New Hampshire's ability to stay abreast of important coastal issues would be seriously impeded and our opportunity to provide the New Hampshire perspective on national environmental issues and policy would either be drastically reduced or entirely eliminated. The New Hampshire Coastal Program often discovers funding opportunities through its interaction with CSO staff and other state members; benefits that would not be available without membership.

We respectfully request your approval.

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

Coastal States Organization

50 F Street, NW
Suite #570
Washington, DC 20001

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
7/1/2021	CSO2021Dues

Terms	30 Days

CSO Tax ID - 54-1124134

Bill To:

Steven Couture
NH Dept Services
29 Hazen Dr.
Concord, NH 03301

Description	Amount
2021 Dues	8,801.00

Total	$8,801.00

The Coastal States Organization (CSO) was established in 1970 to represent the Governors of the nation's 35 coastal states, commonwealths, and territories on legislative and policy issues relating to the sound management of coastal, Great Lakes and ocean resources.