



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

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February 5, 2024

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (Department) to **retroactively** pay the New Hampshire Water Works Association (NHWWA), (Vendor Code# 166615-B001), for calendar year 2024 membership dues in the amount of \$5,000, upon Governor & Council approval. 100% Federal Funds

Funding is available in the account as follows:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| | <u>FY 2024</u> |
| 03-44-44-441018-55640000-026-500251 | \$5,000.00 |
| Dept Environmental Services, DWSRF BIL Administration, Organizational Dues | |

EXPLANATION

The New Hampshire Drinking Water Program has been a member of the New Hampshire Water Works Association (NHWWA) for at least 18 years. NHWWA is New Hampshire's premier public drinking water professional organization, founded in 1936 to improve public drinking water quality and supply. NHWWA unites state and regional drinking water professionals to advance public health, safety, the economy, and the environment. Support provided by NHWWA greatly enhances our capacity to achieve shared goals that benefit public drinking water professionals and consumers. This request is **retroactive** due to the invoice not being received until after the start of the calendar year.

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?

NHWWA is a professional organization founded in 1936 and NHDES has been a member since at least 2004. NHWWA's mission is to improve public water supply service in the State of New Hampshire. NHWWA's principal activities include providing professional training to water operators, engineers, and support staff; advocating for science-based policy; building attractive and effective career paths for the drinking water workforce; and communicating benefits, values, and opportunities for public support for and engagement with their local water systems.

NHWWA's membership includes over 300 utilities and partner organizations that supply approximately 54 percent of New Hampshire's drinking water.

2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?

NHWWA fulfills critical needs from a unique niche in New Hampshire. NHWWA and NHDES' close and effective partnership creates substantial value for water sector professionals, and the proposed 2024 membership funding level reflects the value-added benefits of our relationship.

3. How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?

NHDES is the only NH state agency that is a member of NHWWA. While NHWWA collaborates at the regional and national level, no other states are members of the NHWWA, which is focused on the NH-specific drinking water sector.

4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)

Dues are based on the size of the entity (number of connections for utilities, number of employees for Business Supporters). NHDES is unique in its state-wide role. NHWWA and NHDES' close and effective partnership creates substantial value for water sector professionals, and the proposed 2024 membership funding level reflects the value-added benefits of our relationship.

5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?

NHDES support of NHWWA greatly enhances our ability to effectively train and maintain professional skills and certifications for drinking water operators. The membership provides an avenue to build stronger relationships between NHDES and the regulated community. The partnership between NHDES and drinking water professionals is a model of excellent teamwork. NHWWA plays a critical role connecting NHDES with the drinking water community and convening additional partner associations for a comprehensive "one-water" approach to resource management and stewardship.

6. Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.

NHWWA's policy is to offer free attendance to all classes and events to the NHDES Drinking Water Operator Certification & Backflow Prevention Program Manager and any NHDES speakers, and a member-level (20%) discount to all other NHDES personnel. Educational and training materials are freely shared with NHDES.

7. **Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.**

No. However, NHDES relies on NHWWA to provide training required by law for water system operator certification.

8. **Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips.**

Membership does not require travel and the organization increasingly uses webinars and other means to provide information to members and partners.

9. **Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.)**

Brandon Kernen is the NHDES Drinking Water and Ground Water Bureau Administrator. He is an ex-officio (non-voting) NHWWA Director and instrumental in keeping NHWWA abreast of current and anticipated public water sector challenges and needs. Jason Smith, Drinking Water Operator Certification & Backflow Prevention Program Manager works closely with NHWWA to assess, develop, and deliver operator training programs.

10. **Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.**

Without NHWWA membership, NHDES' ability to connect with and influence public water providers would be diminished and the quality of professional certification training would be lessened. Our close, professional, and positive working relationship helps make New Hampshire a national leader in effective water system management and operations.

We respectfully request your approval for this item.



Robert R. Scott
Commissioner



NH WATER WORKS ASSOC
 18 N. Main Street, Suite 308
 Concord, NH 03301
 603-415-3959
 info@nhwwa.org

NHDES- WATER DIVISION
 DRINKING WATER/GROUNDWATER BUREAU
 RECEIVED
 2/02/2024
 JMS

INVOICE

BILL TO

Brandon Kernen
 NHDES - DWGB
 P.O. Box 95
 Concord, NH 03302-0095

INVOICE # 20241132
 DATE 02/02/2024
 DUE DATE 03/01/2024
 TERMS Due on receipt

| DESCRIPTION | QTY | RATE | AMOUNT |
|--|-----|----------|--------------------|
| UTILITY SUPPORTER - January 1, 2024 -December 31, 2024 | 1 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| | | | Subtotal: 5,000.00 |

Thank you for supporting NH Water Works Association!

BALANCE DUE

\$5,000.00

Please let us know if there are any changes in the contact information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____