

Share Your Thoughts

Meeting Tomorrow's Challenges Today: The Evolution of the North Conway Water Precinct WWTF

April Sargent, NHWPCA 2nd Director



The North Conway Water Precinct Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) exemplifies a forward-thinking approach to wastewater management in New Hampshire. The facility serves North Conway and portions of Conway and Bartlett—vibrant communities that include residents, businesses, and a thriving tourism industry at the heart of the Mount Washington Valley. The Facility plays a vital role in protecting the water quality of the nearby Saco River and the aquifer below. Through strategic upgrades, operational excellence, and commitment to public health and the environment, the North Conway WWTF continues to evolve alongside the needs of the population it serves.

Upgrades: Adapting to a Growing Community

Like many facilities across the state, North Conway has recognized the importance of staying ahead of increasingly stringent regulatory requirements and rising service demands. Over the years, the Precinct has invested in targeted infrastructure improvements to enhance treatment performance and system reliability. These upgrades have focused on modernizing key components of the treatment process, improving resiliency during peak seasonal flows, and ensuring compliance with evolving standards and regulations. In 2019 the Fall Meeting included a tour of the WWTF's septage receiving and dewatering upgrade that included a Huber ROFAS septage receiving unit and three new Huber inclined screw presses. This time around the tour will include upgrades to aeration capacity in the east carousel of the WWTF to meet increasing flows and loads, the replacement of a 28-year-old backup generator, and a full SCADA system overhaul.

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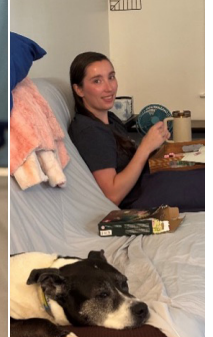
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Editor's Words

Did I have a nice summer? That's really the wrong question for me. I had a difficult, stressful summer, but what's really important is that my daughter's surgery was successful AND the pathology showed no cancer cells hiding in the cavernoma that was removed from her brain AND she had no bad side effects or infections during her recovery. These three photos sum it all up. The group photo is immediate family enjoying Sunday brunch before heading to the hotel near the hospital. We're laughing because one of us said "I've a horse outside". If you've never listened to Colin Graham's version of the song Horse Outside, I can't really say that I recommend it because it has bad language, adult themes and it really isn't that good. But somehow my daughter and I got a bit obsessed with it. The photo with ice cream is from the recovery room. Deanna told her nurse that what she really wanted was ice cream...yup, she's my child! The last photo is a week post-surgery. She's smiling because she feels well enough to put together a Lego set.

It's taken me longer than I expected to process everything and get back to feeling like myself. Thanks to everybody that kept us in your thoughts and prayers and just gave me some grace during this time.

And now...back to our regularly scheduled programming! Please seek out a committee member and let us know what you'd like to see in this newsletter...our motto remains...SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS! Cheers - Stephanie, Somersworth WWTF

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Upcoming Events

Go to www.nhwPCA.org for live links to online registration

Sep 3 – Green vs Blue KICKBALL Game, Piscataquog River Park, Manchester

Sep 11 – Fall Meeting, Red Fox Bar & Grille, Jackson

Sep 15 – Confined Space Training, Franklin Training Center

Oct 9 – Board Meeting, Concord WWTF

Nov 13 – Board Meeting, Concord WWTF

*Save the
Dates*

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Stephanie Rochefort, Mary Jane Meier, Dylan Delisle, Ariel Wright, Meredith Hoyt, **YOUR NAME HERE**. We welcome additional members. We are looking for meaningful articles for the Wastewater Operator in a timely fashion. Send submission articles for *THE COLLECTOR* to: Stephanie Rochefort via email at srochefort@somersworth.com.

Editor: Stephanie Rochefort

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For more information about the NHWPCA visit our website at www.nhwPCA.org

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The Treatment Process

At the core of the North Conway WWTF is a 5-stage Bardenpho process, a biological treatment system designed to provide reliable and efficient removal to meet both nitrogen and phosphorus limits while accommodating variable flows associated with seasonal tourism.

Preliminary Treatment – Incoming wastewater passes through a cylindrical fine screen (Rotomat) and a grit removal system (PistaGrit) to eliminate debris and inorganic materials that could interfere with downstream processes.

Biological Treatment – The facility utilizes 5-stage Bardenpho process to biologically treat wastewater. Microorganisms break down organic matter and nutrients under controlled aeration conditions, producing a high-quality effluent.

- **Stage 1:** Fermentation Zone – wastewater is mixed without adding any air to create an anaerobic environment where a certain class of microorganisms release phosphorus as they consume volatile fatty acids (VFAs) in the wastewater.
- **Stage 2:** First Anoxic Zone – Wastewater then enters the first anoxic zone. In this zone, a different class of microorganisms begins to consume BOD using nitrates generated in the aerobic portion of the Bardenpho process. This zone typically removes the vast majority of nitrates (a process called “denitrification”) from the wastewater by converting them to harmless nitrogen gas, and also contributes to certain microorganisms taking up (removing) excess phosphorus as well.

The First Anoxic Zone is part of the carousel in that a portion of the wastewater flowing around the carousel is diverted into this zone for anoxic treatment, rather than continuing to go around in the Aerobic zone described in #5. The amount of wastewater flowing into the First Anoxic Zone is controlled by a gate that can be adjusted to optimize denitrification within this part of the Bardenpho process.

- **Stage 3:** First Aerobic Zone – Flow from the first anoxic zone next enters the aerobic zone. It is here that the rotor provides mechanical mixing and adds dissolved oxygen to the wastewater. The amount of dissolved oxygen introduced is

carefully controlled by varying the speed of the rotor – higher rotor speeds cause more air (and therefore dissolved oxygen) to be mixed with the wastewater, while slower rotor speeds result in lower dissolved oxygen to be added. The dissolved oxygen allows certain microorganisms to “eat” any remaining BOD in the wastewater. Other microorganisms in the aerobic zone convert ammonia into nitrates which are later removed in the anoxic zones, and still other microorganisms remove additional phosphorus from the wastewater.

Control of the dissolved oxygen in this aerobic zone is the major key to effective operation of the WWTF. Too much dissolved oxygen can result in excess nitrate levels in the effluent; too little can cause ammonia to pass through untreated. Staff regularly test for oxygen, nitrate, ammonia, and phosphorus levels in our on-site laboratory to ensure dissolved oxygen levels are ideal for effective full-spectrum wastewater treatment. This, especially, is where the experience of our operators and their grasp of the “art” of WWTF operation is so important – when originally designed, the engineering team recommended a dissolved oxygen level almost 4 times higher than we currently run. Not only did that cause the WWTF to perform poorly, but it dramatically increased our energy consumption. Through years of observation, trial, and experience, our operators have been able to optimize dissolved oxygen levels to exceed the original effluent quality projections AND reduce energy use at the same time.

- **Stage 4:** Second Anoxic Zone

From the Effluent Weir, the mixed liquor then flows to the Second Anoxic Zone. In this zone,

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which is free from dissolved oxygen, additional denitrification occurs. As described in the First Anoxic Zone, nitrates are converted to nitrogen gas by certain microorganisms.

- **Stage 5: Re-Aeration Tank**

The final stage of the Bardenpho process is that of re-aeration. Anoxic mixed liquor from the Second Anoxic Zone is re-aerated (has dissolved oxygen added again) via fine-bubble diffusers. Re-aeration serves to “freshen” the mixed liquor prior to reaching the clarifiers and is the final polishing step where the last remaining bits of ammonia and phosphorus can be removed, if present. The dissolved oxygen is also important to keep the microorganisms responsible for removing phosphorus from releasing it again in the clarifiers.

Secondary Clarification – Following aeration, solids are allowed to settle in clarifiers. The clarified liquid is separated from the biological solids, which are either returned to the system or removed for further processing.

Disinfection – The WWTF was originally designed with an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system. Clean, treated wastewater flowing over the effluent weirs of the secondary clarifiers enters into the process building basement where it has the ability to be disinfected using a (UV) light system before being pumped out of the WWTF altogether. During the initial years of WWTF operation, testing determined that because of the groundwater discharge, the UV system did not need to be used to keep pathogens out of the adjacent Saco River. The UV System has been inactive for more than two decades.

Rapid Infiltration Basins - Clean effluent water from the process building basement is pumped to a series

of large sand pits (12 in total) called Rapid Infiltration Basins (RIBs). There are eight ¼-acre RIBs and four ½-acre RIBs. As clean WWTF effluent is pumped to the RIBs, it flows onto the surface of the sand. The water then percolates down into the ground through the sand, which provides an additional level of filtration and treatment from naturally occurring microorganisms on the surface of the grains of sand. In all, the treated WWTF effluent must be filtered through approximately 30 feet of sand before finally making its way into the groundwater aquifer below. Monitoring wells around the RIBs are regularly sampled to ensure that the water we are putting back into the ground is not adversely affecting the groundwater quality.

The RIBs represent a full-circle return of our natural water resources in the Mount Washington Valley. Most of the water treated by the WWTF was drawn from the aquifer a few miles to the north at NCWP's drinking water wells, distributed to customers for use, collected again via the sewer system, treated at the WWTF, and then returned to the aquifer many miles downstream from where it was originally withdrawn. The RIBs also present the additional benefit of not directly returning treated wastewater to the Saco River—a very important consideration given the importance of river recreation to the Mount Washington Valley economy.

Solids Management – After a brief holding period in the Waste Activated Sludge Holding Tank, WAS is pumped to the dewatering building where it is mixed with a polymer to encourage water release. The WAS/polymer mixture then flows into three Huber inclined screw presses. The filtrate (water) returns to the headworks of the WWTF to be treated again, while the dewatered solids are conveyed into dumpsters for a combination of beneficial reuse and disposal at the municipal landfill.

This integrated approach allows the North Conway facility to consistently meet permit requirements while maintaining flexibility to respond to fluctuations in flow and loading.

Looking Ahead

PFAS

Historically, the Precinct and the Town of Conway have had a mutually beneficial relationship where NCWP was able to dispose of some portion of biosolids at the Town's municipal landfill at no cost in exchange for the WWTF taking the landfill's leachate. As PFAS



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regulations have been implemented, this mutually beneficial relationship has been challenged due to the high concentration of PFAS in landfill leachate and NCWP's discharge being subject to Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards (AGQS). The Precinct has been working with NHDES and Black & Veatch to identify and pilot technology to reduce the PFAS concentration in leachate. Three successful pilots were conducted in 2025 to vet fractionation technologies from three different vendors. At its annual meeting in 2026, Precinct voters overwhelmingly approved up to \$8M in funding to construct a PFAS treatment facility. Black & Veatch is currently wrapping up its preliminary engineering report with a final focus on operator safety with respect to concentrated PFAS chemicals. NCWP and the Town of Conway are also working on the framework of an updated agreement for leachate and biosolids disposal to include construction and operation of a future PFAS treatment process at the WWTF. This project is anticipated to enter final design in Fall 2026 with an eye on 2027 or 2028 construction.

Saco River Erosion Mitigation

Since 2022, Precinct voters have approved more than \$15M to address erosion of the Saco Riverbanks that threatens the WWTF. Inter-Fluve has been working on the project since 2022 and is now in the final stages of design and permitting a large-scale project that will construct a new, optimized river channel and stabilize the banks using natural materials that will preserve the ecological integrity of the river. This project is estimated to go to construction in 2027 or 2028.

Community Engagement and Transparency

The Precinct extends its mission beyond treatment operations by fostering strong connections with the community it serves. Through public outreach, facility tours, and educational initiatives, the staff promotes a better understanding of wastewater treatment and its importance to environmental protection. This transparency has helped build trust and awareness, particularly in a region where protecting natural resources is critical to both quality of life and the local economy. Superintendent, Jason Gagnon, played an important role during the highly active 2026 legislative session, providing thoughtful comments and testimony on key issues impacting the wastewater industry and even hosting a NH Bulletin journalist at the WWTF. His willingness to engage, educate, and advocate reflects the kind of leadership that strengthens both the profession and the communities it serves.

Wrapping Up

As wastewater management continues to evolve, the North Conway Water Precinct remains committed to innovation, sustainability, and community partnership. By investing in infrastructure, empowering its operational staff, and embracing new technologies, the facility is well-positioned to meet future challenges while continuing to protect the region's valuable water resources.

The North Conway WWTF stands as a strong example of how thoughtful planning and dedicated operations can support both environmental protection and community growth in New Hampshire.



Safety Corner

A Near Miss—All I need to know is just not to cut my fingers off, right? Wrong!

Brought to you by the NHWPCA Safety Committee

First, a big "thank you" to the facility who submitted this Near Miss. We are grateful for the opportunity to share this incident with our membership to help prevent future in. We would also like to commend the employee who recognized the hazards and had the strength of character to step forward and report the incident as a Near Miss.

The Incident:

Staff were using a table saw to cut plywood sheets in support of pump station repair. The plywood kicked back and significantly bruised an employee's hand.



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A Near Miss report was filed and staff were retrained in proper procedures.

Initial investigation by the facility's Safety Committee determined that the reason this incident occurred was due to safeguards not being in place, and that this incident should actually have been reported as an accident and not a near miss because an injury, albeit minor, had occurred. After further investigation and discussion, the committee concluded that, because safeguards exist, the root cause of the incident was "poor execution—failure to follow policy/ignoring safety rules."

Tips for Proper Use of Table Saws:

Before turning on the saw, always:

- Don appropriate personal protective equipment (i.e., eye, hear, hand, and respiratory protection). Remove loose clothing and tie up/back long hair.
- Adjust the blade height to the proper position for the thickness of the workpiece being cut to reduce the amount of exposed saw blade (i.e., approximately 1/8"–1/4" above the workpiece).
- Check that the fence (cutting guide) and blade are perfectly parallel. Misalignment increases the risk of binding and kickback.
- Ensure that the riving knife is present and properly aligned to maintain a consistent gap between the two sides of the cut and prevent the workpiece from pinching or binding against the blade.
- Confirm that all saw guards are present and functional (e.g., anti-kickback pawls).
- Change the blade, as necessary, to ensure that it is sharp, clean, and rated for the cutter and workpiece material.
- Inspect the workpiece for knots, nails, screws, staples, or other items that could create a hazard if they contact the saw blade.
- Avoid cutting bowed or warped workpieces. Flatten or joint the workpiece beforehand.

Before initiating the cut:

- Allow the blade to reach full speed.
- Have leverage push blocks or feather boards available for use if needed to maintain consistent

pressure and alignment on the workpiece.

While cutting:

- Never place any part of the hands in direct alignment with the blade (place them to the side) in case they slip or the workpiece is inadvertently pushed too far.
- Feed the workpiece gently and at a steady rate, keeping hands well away from the blade.
- Avoid forcibly pushing the workpiece (i.e., let the saw do the work).
- Use multiple people if needed to support the workpiece to prevent bowing or twisting.
- Stop immediately and check setup if the wood begins to bind, or if unusual noise or smell is observed.

After completing the cut:

- Turn the saw off immediately.
- Allow the blade to stop completely before removing offcuts or making adjustments.

As you can see, there is a lot more to table saw safety than just not cutting your fingers off. Taking the time to inspect, maintain, and adjust the saw properly before use will prevent many different types of injuries.

In NH, table saws are covered under
N.H. Admin. Code § Lab 1403.54 – Saws.

*This article is brought to you by the NHWPCA Safety Committee. If you or someone you know has experienced a Near Miss, please let us know by sending the incident to Patty Chesebrough at Patricia.L.Chesebrough@des.nh.gov. **All submissions are strictly confidential.** Please do your part to keep a Near Miss at your facility from injuring someone at another facility. Tell us about it and we will get the word out to others! Thank you in advance for your submissions.*



Thoughts from the Bench

By Stephanie Rochefort, City of Somersworth WWTF

Yikes, I just can't think of any lab-related topics to write about this time! Please reach out and give me some ideas. I have been thinking a lot about our association's upcoming 60th anniversary next year and feeling kinda old, so instead here's some Adult Truths for your enjoyment:

Adult Truths for 2026

- I think part of a best friend's job should be to immediately clear your computer history if you die.
- Nothing sucks more than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.
- I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.
- There is great need for a sarcasm font.
- How, exactly, are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet?
- Was learning cursive really necessary?
- MapQuest really needs to start directions on No. 5. I'm pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood.
- Obituaries would be a lot more interesting if they told you how the person died.
- I can't remember the last time I wasn't at least kind of tired.
- Bad decisions make good stories.
- You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment at work when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.
- Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after Blue Ray? I don't want to have to restart my collection...again.
- I'm always slightly terrified when I exit out of Word and it asks me if I want to save any changes to my 10-page technical report that I swear I did not make any changes to.
- I keep some people's phone numbers in my phone just so I know not to answer when they call.
- I think the freezer deserves a light as well.
- I disagree with Kay Jewelers. I would bet on any given Friday or Saturday night more kisses begin with Miller Lite than Kay.
- I wish Google maps had an "Avoid Ghetto" routing option.
- I have a hard time deciphering the fine line between boredom and hunger.
- How many times is it appropriate to say, "What?" before you just nod and smile, because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?
- I love the sense of camaraderie when an entire line of cars team up to prevent a jerk from cutting in at the front. Stay strong, brothers and sisters!
- Shirts get dirty. Underwear gets dirty. Pants? Pants never get dirty, and you can wear them forever.
- Sometimes I'll look down at my watch three consecutive times and still not know what time it is.
- Even under ideal conditions people have trouble locating their car keys in a pocket, finding their cell phone and Pinning the Tail on the Donkey. But I'd bet everyone can find and push the snooze button from three feet away, in about 1.7 seconds, eyes closed, first time, every time.
- People who forward e-mail without deleting the tons of previous recipients should be shot and then tarred and feathered.
- The first testicular guard, the "Cup," was used in hockey in 1874 and the first helmet was used in 1974. That means it only took 100 years for men to realize that their brain is also important. Ladies, quit laughing.



Retiree Rave

We continue our salute to the wastewater and drinking water operators and administrators who are now enjoying retirement. Our newsletter committee would appreciate hearing from our readers to expand this list so we can recognize our loyal, hardworking associates and friends. Please reach out to any of the newsletter committee members with contact information for retirees and we'll take it from there or feel free to write up a few paragraphs like what you'll read below:

Allan "Mo" Johnstone

By Ray Vermette & Jimmy Casey



Allan, or as his true friends call him Mo, retired in January of 2026 from the Dover Wastewater Treatment Facility. He was hired in 1998 after immigrating over from his home country of Scotland. Allan was initially hired on as a laborer/painter but throughout his years at the facility he worked his way up to an operator. Allan was a reliable worker who always showed up to work with a good attitude no matter what was on the agenda for the day. His coworkers would say that he would never leave them behind, even when doing the tasks that no one else wanted to do. His famous line was "If you were here 10 years ago you would've

lasted 6 months", a testament to the changing times in wastewater.

One of Allan's best traits was training new employees. If you asked him, he would tell you that he trained everyone that has ever been employed at the facility. He could always be relied upon to show the newcomers the right way to be an operator, paint, clean, and hold a flashlight. Allan was a friend to all his coworkers, especially in the breakroom, where he was always the life of the party.

Now that Allan is retired, he will have more time to spend on his true passion of catching up on projects and quilting with his wife Deb. They also enjoy vacationing, traveling to conventions and spending time with other quilters.

We thank Allan for his years of service in wastewater and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Pretreatment Tales

It's Time to Register for the 2026 NERPCA Conference

By Justin Pimpare

Hello All,

I am proud to announce that on October 20-22, 2026, EPA New England and the New England Regional Pretreatment Coordinators Association (NERPCA) and will be hosting the 28th Annual New England Industrial Pretreatment Coordinators Workshop in Nashua, New Hampshire. This is the longest consistent (we never missed a beat with the pandemic) running workshop in the country! Please note there is an optional training session (Local Limits) on October 20th. The full two-day workshop will be held on October 21-22.

All Workshop information (agenda, registration, hotel rooms, etc.) can be found by visiting www.nerpca.org.

Please use the Annual Conference link to register for the workshop. Registration forms must be completed ONLINE via the registration link (survey monkey).

If you are paying by check, you must still register in

advance using the online registration form. Please also note the hotel block and link for anyone looking for accommodations.

Attendance at this conference is strongly encouraged for all municipal (and their consultants, if applicable,) and state industrial pretreatment personnel.

This workshop is NOT open to industrial users so please do not share with your permitted users.

Hope to see as many of you as possible in October. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Kerry Britt at kbritt@narrabay.com.

Cheers,

Jay

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PS from Stephanie – The planning committee has listened to comments and feedback and created an agenda with more of what everybody wants—more case studies, fresh speakers, a better format for breakout sessions and plenty of time for networking with your peers!

President's Corner

Protecting More Than Water

By Nate Brown, 2026 NHWPCA President

When most people think about wastewater treatment, they picture pipes, pumps, and treatment processes. They see the result—clean water being returned safely to our rivers and streams. What they often don't see are the dedicated professionals working around the clock to make it happen.

As wastewater professionals, we protect much more than water. Every day, operators, maintenance staff, laboratory technicians, engineers, and public works employees safeguard public health, protect our environment, and ensure the essential services our communities depend on without interruption.

The work we do is becoming more complex each year. Aging infrastructure, increasingly sophisticated

treatment requirements, evolving regulations, cybersecurity concerns, and workforce shortages all present new challenges. Yet facilities across New Hampshire continue to meet these challenges through professionalism, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to serving the public.

One area that deserves particular attention is cybersecurity. Modern wastewater facilities rely on automated controls, SCADA systems, and interconnected networks to operate efficiently. While these technologies improve reliability and efficiency, they also require us to think differently about protecting our facilities. Cybersecurity is no longer just an IT responsibility—it is an operational responsibility. Every employee plays a role by following good security practices, remaining alert to unusual activity, and ensuring our facilities can continue operating safely if technology is disrupted.

Equally important is preparing the next generation of wastewater professionals. Many experienced operators and supervisors are approaching retirement, taking decades of valuable knowledge with them. It is up to all of us to mentor new employees, encourage certification, and share the practical lessons that cannot be found in a textbook. Our profession has always been built on experienced operators helping those just entering the field, and that tradition remains one of our greatest strengths.

The New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association exists because of that same spirit of collaboration. Whether through training events, certification programs, committee work, or simply conversations between operators from different communities, we become stronger when we learn from one another. The challenges facing one facility today may become the challenges facing another

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tomorrow, and sharing our experiences benefits us all.

As we move through another busy year, I encourage every member to stay engaged, continue learning, and support your fellow professionals. Attend a training session, participate in an NHWPCA event, volunteer for a committee, or take a moment to recognize a coworker for a job well done. These small actions strengthen not only our association but also the profession.

On behalf of the NHWPCA Board of Directors, thank you for your dedication and professionalism. The work you perform often goes unnoticed by the public, but its importance cannot be overstated. Every day, you are protecting public health, preserving our natural resources, strengthening our communities, and ensuring that New Hampshire remains a great place to live and work.

Together, we are protecting far more than water—we are protecting the future of our communities.

Hurricane Season is Here!

Emergency Preparedness for Water Utilities



Hurricane season is underway. Strengthen your utility's readiness with these free EPA resources.

Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network

Make sure your utility is part of a mutual aid network, like a Water and Wastewater Agency Response

Network (WARN), where utilities help utilities in your state. Visit EPA's [Mutual Aid and Assistance for Drinking Water and Wastewater Utilities](#) webpage to find state WARN websites, videos, factsheets, and a recorded webinar on mutual aid.



Incident Action Checklist for Hurricanes

Complement your emergency response plan with EPA's [Hurricane Incident Action Checklist \(IAC\)](#), which was developed by utility experts to help utilities prepare, respond, and recover from hurricanes. Checklists for other hazards, including wildfires and contamination, are as available.



Hurricane Incident Action Checklist (IAC)

Water Utility Response on-the-Go Plus

Get the app that water utility operators and responders use to get weather warnings, contact emergency responders, complete incident-specific checklists (for hurricanes) and assess damage with forms and photo attachments. Search "EPA Response On-The-Go Plus" in the Apple App Store or Google Play. Install and you are ready to go!

EPA Natural Hazard Technical Assistance

Improve hurricane preparedness by working with EPA's [Strengthening Water Infrastructure for Tomorrow \(SWIFT\)](#) technical assistance program.



Strengthening Water Infrastructure for Tomorrow (SWIFT)

SWIFT helps utilities assess risks and identify mitigation strategies, supporting risk-informed infrastructure investment decisions and updates to emergency response plans. Request assistance by [contacting SWIFT](#).



Contact SWIFT

Disaster and Mitigation Funding for Utilities

For funding related to emergency response, EPA's Fed FUNDS presents information tailored to water and wastewater utilities on federal disaster and mitigation funding programs from EPA, FEMA, HUD and SBA. Use the Search for the Right Funding tool to find funding for your utility before disaster strikes.



Fed FUNDS



Search for the right funding tool

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10 Questions to Get to Know Our Board



Ariel Wright

Position on Board: 1st Director at Large

1. Who is your current employer and for how long have you worked there?

I work for H2O Innovation as a Plant Manager for the Newington Wastewater Plant.

2. Why did you decide to go into this field?

I fell into the field when I interviewed Jason Randall (Plymouth Village Water & Sewer Director of Operations) whom is an alumni of my college, Lyndon State College, for a class project when he worked for NHDES at the Franklin WWTP as a Lab Supervisor at the time. After I interviewed him, he encouraged me to apply for a lab internship that summer and I was selected out of 6 candidates!

3. What advice would you give to a new employee in this field?

Be like a sponge and absorb as much knowledge as you can! The more involved you are, the more you will learn!

4. What emoji do you use the most?

The "laughing/crying" emoji along side the "chocolate ice cream" emoji (*wink wink*)

5. What small thing improves your mood?

ICED COFFEE!!!

6. What song do you know all the words to?

Don't Stop Believing

7. What's your favorite local restaurant?
The Roundabout Diner on the Portsmouth Traffic Circle
8. What is your perfect way to unwind?
Going for a walk on Jenness Beach in Rye!
9. Which is your favorite NHWPCA event or meeting?
The Winter Meeting because it feels like our version of Homecoming!
10. What is one thing about our association that you'd like to accomplish/change?
Developing a support group for operators, so that they can ask for advice or any questions they have about the field. Especially the new operators looking to move up in the field.

Albert Vanasse

Position on Board: Treasurer

1. Who is your current employer and for how long have you worked there?
Town of Hanover-Water Reclamation Facility for 2 years 4 months.
2. Why did you decide to go into this field?
I enjoy our natural landscape here in NH, and this field offers direct impact to protecting our environment. I enjoy the culture of Wastewater operators, whom are generally heart and soul, down to earth folks.
3. What advice would you give to a new employee in this field?
Commit. Commit to learning, and doing your job the best you can. The grass may be greener, but our water is cleaner at the end of the outfall!
4. What emoji do you use the most?
😊 Smiley face. Positivity makes the world a better place.
5. What small thing improves your mood?
Food, and music.
6. What song do you know all the words to?
Bye Bye Miss American Pie
7. What's your favorite local restaurant?
Lui Luis Italian Restaurant

8. What is your perfect way to unwind?
On the beach soaking up sun watching the water come up the sand, and the trees swaying in the breeze.
9. Which is your favorite NHWPCA event or meeting?
Summer Outing
10. What is one thing about our association that you'd like to accomplish/change?
I would like to see more new Operators get involved, and offer up insights as to what they need for help in their careers.

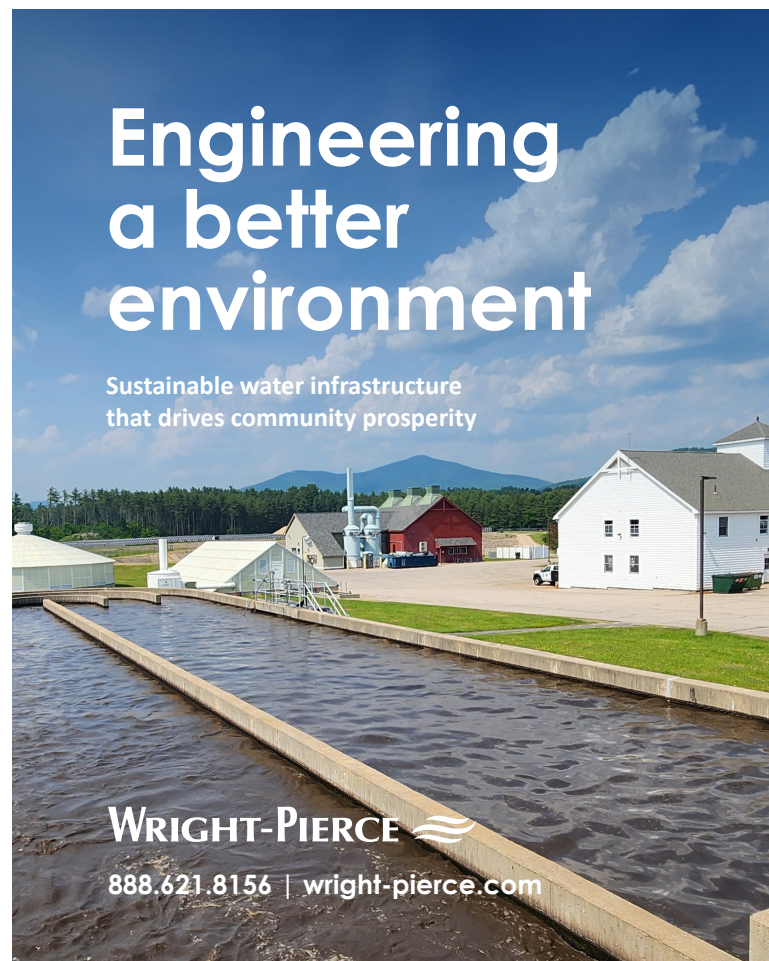


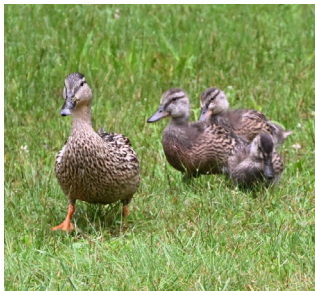


Photo Gallery

Summer Meeting



[More photos ➔](#)



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