

Date: April 8, 2024

Time: 9:00-10:30

Location: NHDOT Profile Conference Room

Purpose of Meeting: Initial Subcommittee Meeting

Attendees:

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Nyhan, NHDOT (Co-Chair) | <input type="checkbox"/> Christine Perron, MJ (Co-Chair) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jon Evans, NHDOT | <input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Riordan, GM2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matt Urban, NHDOT | <input type="checkbox"/> Kimberly Peace, HTA |

The recently adopted Environment Subcommittee Guidelines were reviewed and topics of mutual interest were discussed. The following is a summary of key discussion topics.

General:

- The subcommittee will serve as an advisory group for the NHDOT CQI committee. NHDES also has a CQI committee and there hasn't been an official link between the two committees in the past. The Environment Subcommittee could explore how to provide that link and expand the relationship between the two committees.
- The Environment Subcommittee could provide suggestions for potential topics to cover at the NHDOT/ACEC-NH Technical Exchange Conference and Winter Technical Meeting.
- There is agreement in the current make-up and co-chairs of the sub-committee.

Environmental resource trends in NH and the region:

- Topics for future discussion include emerging contaminants and listing of tricolored bat and required compliance measures

Regulatory changes and implementation/legislative tracking:

- The subcommittee will discuss pertinent proposed legislation and rulemaking, and determine when it is appropriate to recommend submission of formal comments from the CQI Committee.
- DES is in the process of rewriting the Chapter 300 rules. This will warrant discussion at a future meeting.

Quality improvement initiatives

- Topics for future meetings include improving NEPA guidance/training for NHDOT and LPA projects; improving consistency in NEPA documents; improving environmental section of design report; updating the BOE wetland permit application checklist
- Sub-Committee can review/provide input on changes to the FHWA-NHDOT NEPA Programmatic Agreement when the BOE updates it to adopt the use of the Programmatic CE checklist for non-programmatic CEs. This change would streamline the NEPA process for more projects and would improve consistency in NEPA documents.

- A Section 4(f) memo may be developed by the BOE in the near future to track 4(f) compliance separately from the Section 106 effect memo.
- The need for technical guidance for consistency in wetland impact plan requirements such as WOTUS and use of Cowardin distinction line on impact plans should be discussed at a future meeting.
- When technical guidance is developed, it would need to go through the CQI Committee in order for Alex to distribute to the consultant mailing list.

Future Meetings:

Meetings will be held quarterly on the first Monday of every third month.

The next meeting will be July 1, 2024.

Minutes prepared by:

Christine Perron