

# Technical Assistance Grants Program

## *Federal, State and Regional Planning Commission Partnership Leads to Success at the Local Level:*

### Overview

The partnership between the Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) and the NH Department of Environmental Services New Hampshire Coastal Program (NHCP) enables SRPC to provide professional planning services to the five coastal communities within the Strafford Region. With NHCP funding, SRPC provides assistance to municipal planning boards and staff including master plan updates, zoning and subdivision ordinance revisions, open space plans, build-out analyses, GIS-based natural resource assessments, identification of natural resource protection priorities, and other services.

Each year, NHCP receives a federal grant to fund its program through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management. The total funds available varies from year to year. NHCP and SRPC staff meet annually to develop program priorities and annual work programs for inclusion in the annual NHCP budget. This collaboration broadens NHCP's expertise on environmental issues of common concern and enhances its outreach to communities throughout the coastal region. In addition, the input provided by NHCP supports the ability of regional planners to advise and assist communities with projects that benefit the region.

This federal, state and local cooperation has led to a number of positive outcomes in the five coastal communities as well as other coastal watershed communities in the region.

## Strafford Regional Planning Commission

Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) has been active in regional planning for over 40 years as one of the nine Regional Planning Commissions established by the New Hampshire legislature. Operating as a political subdivision of the State, SRPC serves an advisory role to local governments and organizations.

## New Hampshire Coastal Program

The NH Coastal Program is one of 34 federally approved coastal programs authorized under the Coastal Zone Management Act and is administered by the NH Department Environmental Services. The Coastal Program provides funding and staff assistance to towns and cities, and other local and regional groups who protect clean water, restore coastal habitats, and help make communities more resilient to flooding and other natural hazards.

### History of Successful Projects

Climate Adaptation Chapter  
Durham

Existing Land Use Chapter  
Newmarket

Open Lands Project  
Dover

Regulatory Review  
Madbury

Natural Resource Inventory  
Rollinsford

Floodplain Management  
Lee

Landscaping Ordinance  
Newmarket

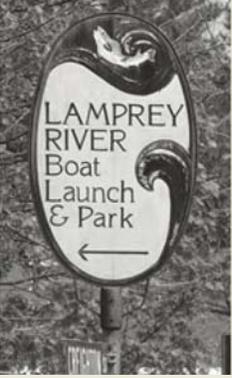
River Restoration Event  
Farmington

Fluvial Erosion Mapping  
Barrington



River Restoration Workshop, Farmington





# Local Planning Effort:

## Stormwater Workshop in Newmarket, NH

### Identified Need

To provide community education on stormwater impacts, the Town of Newmarket, in partnership with the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, facilitated a public workshop for municipal officials and local residents in June 2014. Five experts presented at the workshop. This workshop was designed to engage residents through an interactive panel of presenters in order to raise awareness on how stormwater impacts can be addressed at the local level.

### Outcomes

More than 25 participants attended the workshop, including members of town government, conservation commissioners, public work employees, planners, and local residents. Many residents offered their thoughts on stormwater management and permitting and were also interested in becoming more actively involved during the next steps. Among the next steps for residents and the community include continuing public outreach and education efforts and identifying creative stormwater management opportunities.

The Town of Newmarket has also received FY2014 Coastal Program technical assistance grant funds to develop a future land use chapter for its Master Plan that will focus on climate change resiliency including adaptation to greater precipitation and flooding and sea level rise.



### Speakers & Discussion Topics

**Tim Puls**  
EIT Site Manager, UNH Stormwater Center

Stormwater management can help to alleviate surface water quality issues associated with non-point source pollution as well as manage increased volumes of runoff associated with impervious cover.

**Jill Farrell**  
Natural Resource Outreach Coalition

Opportunities for the Natural Resource Outreach Coalition (NROC) to help with community planning to meet permit requirements.

**Bill Arcieri**  
Senior Water Specialist, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Modeling nitrogen load estimates from non-point sources in the Oyster River Watershed.

**Newton Tedder**  
Physical Scientist, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1

Overview of the federal Clean Water Act and stormwater regulation and the new draft MS4 permit for New Hampshire, including stormwater permit requirements related to Newmarket.

**Barbara McMillan**  
Watershed Outreach Coordinator, NH Department of Environmental Services

NH MS4 municipalities are working together and collaborating through regional stormwater coalitions and how Newmarket could meet the outreach and education and public participation requirements of the new permit.



Workshop Location: Town Hall, Newmarket

*"The timing of the workshop was particularly relevant for the Town. The workshop provided a wealth of good information to get us pointed in the right direction in meeting the challenges that lie ahead and helped to raise public awareness of the importance of this issue."*

*-Diane Hardy, Town Planner, Newmarket*

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