

# N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee

## [N.H. Lakes Management and Protection Program](https://www.lmac.des.nh.gov/)

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March 21, 2023

Commissioner Robert R. Scott  
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03301

### **RE: Re-establishing the Lakes Coordinator Position**

Dear Commissioner Scott:

At its March 14, 2023 meeting, the Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) voted to recommend to NHDES and the legislature that the Lakes Coordinator position be re-established within the Lakes Management and Protection Program (Lakes Program).

RSA 483-A, which created the Lakes Program, specifies duties for a Lakes Coordinator. These include making lake-related management recommendations to state agencies, working on shoreland and lake management plans, and supporting the work of the LMAC. In 2011, funding for the Lakes Coordinator position was cut. Since then, the Lakes Program has not had the same capacity to bring stakeholders together to accomplish the interdisciplinary goals intended by statute. While NHDES continues to provide some support to the Lakes Program and the LMAC, these resources are shared resources and not solely dedicated to lake management. The LMAC has concluded that in light of increasingly urgent issues surrounding lake management within the state, staff capacity dedicated to the Lakes Program and its stakeholders would make a critical difference when it comes to facing these challenges.

Among the issues threatening the public enjoyment and ecological integrity of New Hampshire lakes, are cyanobacteria blooms, road salt, and nutrient pollution. These issues have been incrementally affecting the landscape for decades, and are closing beaches, killing wildlife, and resulting in fish consumption warnings. New Hampshire is reaching a tipping point, where we can no longer ignore these issues while expecting to derive the same economic, social, and ecological values that attract people to our state.

A stakeholder-driven process is the most efficient and effective way to adequately address lake-related issues. It is for this reason that the LMAC was established. The diverse membership of the LMAC not only allows for feedback from stakeholders, but also a forum for collaboration and a communication conduit back to their industries. The LMAC will be an invaluable tool when it comes to educating and informing the public about lake-related threats, provided that there is dedicated organizational support within NHDES.

The LMAC understands the many competing needs and demands on New Hampshire's General Fund. We also know that New Hampshire's lakes are central to a significant percentage of the state's economy. This includes revenue to businesses who provide lake-related services and recreation, as well as significant tax revenue derived from shoreline owners, their service providers, developers, and recreation industries. In addition to the

**LMAC VOTING MEMBERS:** Jared Maraio, Chair, NH Travel Council • Shane Bradt, Scientific Community • Ryan Cardella, Marine Trades Association • Tiffany Grade, Conservation Community • Sara Holland, NH Association of Realtors • Janet Kidder, Planning Boards • Frank Lemay, NH Business & Industry Assoc. • Andrea LaMoreaux, NH LAKES • Lisa Morin, State Conservation Committee • Susan Price, NH Fish & Game Commission • Dick Smith, Fishing Interests • Meredith Smith, Municipal Official • Steve Wingate, Conservation Commissions

**LMAC NON-VOTING MEMBERS:** Garret Graaskamp, Vice Chair, NH Fish & Game Dept. • Capt. Tim Dunleavy, NH Dept. of Safety • Eric Feldbaum, NH Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources • Jennifer Gilbert, NH Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs • Mark Hemmerlein, NH Dept. of Trans. • Shawn Jasper, NH Dept. of Ag, Markets & Food

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environmental and public health benefits, ensuring that our lakes are managed cooperatively has considerable financial and sociological impacts which cannot be ignored. The Lakes Coordinator is the central figure in this program and thus is key to re-activating the Lakes Program for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. Therefore, the LMAC urges reinstatement of the Lakes Coordinator position with the following recommendations:

- Labor Grade 27 Step 1
- Salary account code 03-44-44-442010-1518-010
- Benefits account code 03-44-44-442010-1518-060

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (603) 366-5531 or [Jared@cruisenh.com](mailto:Jared@cruisenh.com).

Respectfully,



Jared Maraio, Chair

ec: LMAC Representatives  
Rene Pelletier, Water Division Director, NHDES  
Ted Diers, Water Division Assistant Director, NHDES  
Erin Holmes, Watershed Bureau Administrator, NHDES  
Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Administrator, NHDES