Suggested preparation:

- Read the introduction to the 2019-2024 Non-Point Source Management Program Plan (pages 10 – 11 of the pdf/page 1 – 2 of the document).
- Familiarize yourself with the way the plan presents information about major pollutants, such as a topic's introductory narrative and the objectives, milestones, and measures of success. To do this, we suggest skimming least one of the major pollutant sections, such as:
    - Chlorides (road salt).
    - Developed land (stormwater).
    - Subsurface systems (septics).

  Each section is linked in the Table of Contents.

Non-point source pollution is any pollution that comes from diffuse sources (i.e. not a pipe or other easily identifiable discharge). The Clean Water Act includes programmatic provisions and funding for states and their partners to address sources of non-point source pollution. At NHDES, those programs are implemented by the Watershed Assistance Section and include 604(b) and 319 grants for lake associations and municipalities to create and implement EPA watershed-based plans, which are also known as "a through i" plans. The Cyanobacteria Plan identifies increasing funding for watershed-based plans as a priority action to prevent blooms.

The Non-point Source Management Program Plan (NPSMPP) is a five-year strategic plan for the Watershed Assistance Section. NHDES prepares the NPSMPP for approval by EPA as a precursor to receiving EPA funding for watershed assistance. The existing NPSMPP covers 2019-2024, and NHDES is currently preparing the NPSMPP for 2025-2029. The upcoming NPSMPP will include significant attention to cyanobacteria for the first time and will include actions that are important parts of implementing the Cyanobacteria Plan.

At the March 7, 2024 meeting, the LMAC will learn more about the Watershed Assistance Program, advise NHDES on the 2025-2029 plan, and discuss potential collaboration opportunities. If you are interested in reading a subset of the existing plan in preparation for the LMAC meeting, the developed land, subsurface systems, and chloride sections are all relevant to past LMAC discussions. The introduction and nonpoint source program overview provide a good summary of the intent of the NPSMPP and the nonpoint source program.