Established by an Act of Congress in 1947, the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission is a not-for-profit interstate organization that works to support and augment the water-related efforts of our member states—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. NEIWPCC coordinates forums and events that encourage cooperation among the states, develops resources that foster progress on water and wastewater issues, represents the region in matters of federal policy, trains environmental professionals, initiates and oversees scientific research, educates the public, and provides overall leadership in water management and protection.

This report covers NEIWPCC’s accomplishments during fiscal year 2014, which began on October 1, 2013, and ended on September 30, 2014. Some activities that took place in fiscal 2015 are included to complete descriptions of work performed in fiscal 2014.

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From the Chair

March 2015

As I write this letter, our region is emerging from a long, trying winter. The many months of snow piling on our roofs and narrowing our streets caused much frustration and tested our fortitude. But as with most things, there’s a silver lining if you look hard enough. All the snow is one more indication that we live in a region that, in general, is water rich. As a contrast, consider California, where a severe drought is ongoing and where the snowpack, as we recently learned, is at historically low levels. This is not to say we don’t have water challenges of our own. In fact, we have plenty. That’s where NEIWPCC comes in.

The Commission encompasses not only seven states and a myriad of communities but a diverse range of economic, cultural, and ecological regions as well. Yet even with these many differences, the majority of water-related environmental issues are common to all. Given the current economic climate, interstate cooperation and collaboration are more imperative than ever. Innovative solutions to water issues can best be achieved through combining resources, financial or otherwise, to make things happen at both the state and regional level.

As you read this report, you will find a number of regional as well as state initiatives that NEIWPCC undertook in 2014. Particular pride surrounds efforts to alleviate nutrient pollution problems throughout the region, including the development of regional turf fertilizer guidelines and denitrification options at wastewater treatment facilities in the upper Long Island Sound watershed. Significant achievements were also seen in many other areas, including nonpoint source pollution, climate change and storm resiliency, and wastewater training. With leadership and support from NEIWPCC, the member states continue to work on shared priorities while looking ahead to new challenges. Through the sharing of information, experiences, ideas, strategies, and solutions that occurs in NEIWPCC’s many workgroups, we in the states not only leverage resources but also strengthen our competence and capacity, thus accomplishing more than if we acted alone.

By working together, we are working smarter.

The Commission will continue to work with the states, EPA, other interested agencies, and the public to address the issues that are important to us all. We are sincerely thankful for the support we received in fiscal year 2014 from the states’ governors and lawmakers and from EPA and its staff. Like the many challenges the region overcame this winter, the challenges we face in the water arena are formidable but not insurmountable. We know that with perseverance, a passion for results, and our commitment to promoting the principles of regional cooperation and flexibility for the states, we can continue our progress in protecting and improving the quality of our waters.

Yvonne Bolton
NEIWPCC Chair 2014-2015
Chief, Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Boxford, Massachusetts, February 20, 2015
NEIWPCC 2014

NEIWPCC COMMISSIONERS*

Connecticut
Robert Klee, Commissioner, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Represented by Yvonne Bolton, Chief, Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance; and Denise Ruzicha, Director, Water Planning and Standards Division
Jewel Mullen, Commissioner, Department of Public Health
Represented by Ellen Blaschinski, Branch Chief, Regulatory Services
Arnie Bevins, Vernon
Astrid Hanzalek, Suffield
Mark Zessin, Glastonbury

Massachusetts
David Cash, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection
Represented by Bethany Card, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Water Resources
Cheryl Bartlett, Commissioner, Department of Public Health
Represented by Michael Celona, Bureau of Environmental Health
Paul Hogan, Holden
John Sullivan, Dorchester
F. Adam Yanulis, Cambridge

New Hampshire
Thomas Burack, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Services
Represented by Eugene Forbes, Director, Water Division
Thomas Ballestero, Madison
Fred McNeil, Manchester
Nelson Thibault, Nottingham
Robert Varney, Bedford

New York
Joseph Martens, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation
Represented by Mark Klotz, Director, Division of Water
Nirav Shah, Commissioner, Department of Health
Represented by Roger Sokol, Director, Bureau of Water Supply Protection
Albert Bromberg, Schenectady

Rhode Island
Janet Coit, Director, Department of Environmental Management
Represented by Alicia Good, Assistant Director, Office of Water Resources
Michael Fine, Director, Department of Health
Represented by June Swallow, Chief, Office of Drinking Water Quality
Janine Burke-Wells, West Warwick
Russell Chateaueneuf, Cranston
Donald Pryor, Providence

Vermont
David Mears, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation
Represented by Pete LaFlamme, Director, Watershed Management Division
Harry Chen, Commissioner, Department of Health
James Ehlers, Colchester
Dennis Lutz, Essex Junction

*As of September 30, 2014. An up-to-date list of NEIWPCC’s Commissioners is available at www.neiwpcc.org/commissioners.asp. For details on Commissioners whose service ended in fiscal 2014 and those who we welcomed to the team, see page 4.
In fiscal 2014, as in every year since the founding of the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission well over six decades ago, much of the work was regional in scope. In such work, most if not all our member states are involved to some degree, with the benefits accruing to all. Later in this report (beginning on page 24), we examine the year’s state-specific achievements. But we begin with a regional focus—on the activities, programs, and projects that we do with all our states in mind.

Our Commissioners, Our Meetings

NEIWPCC’s regional nature is most visibly expressed in our governance: at regular intervals every year, the men and women appointed as our Commissioners come from all corners of our member states to discuss issues and share information, explore avenues for coordination and collaboration, and guide the work of NEIWPCC’s staff. Who are NEIWPCC’s Commissioners? The Act of Congress that established NEIWPCC in 1947 states that there should be five from each member state, with two of the five typically representing a state’s environmental and health departments. A state’s governor then appoints highly experienced individuals from outside state government to fill out the delegation.

The list of Commissioners on the opposite page captures this distinguished group as it stood on the final day of fiscal 2014. The list features many individuals who have been with us for years and have a wealth of experience with NEIWPCC and how we work. But during the year, we also welcomed newcomers, particularly in our Rhode Island contingent, who enhanced the proceedings with a fresh passion for their new role. It may be noted that not every state has five Commissioners on this list. Given the vagaries of the gubernatorial appointment process, this is the case almost every year. But there is little doubt that each state was represented by highly accomplished individuals with a deep commitment to NEIWPCC and to the value of working together through an interstate organization.

In fiscal 2014, NEIWPCC’s full slate of Commissioners met over two days on three occasions:
- January 9-10, 2014, at NEIWPCC headquarters in Lowell, Massachusetts
- May 15-16, 2014, in Rockport, Maine
- September 11-12, 2014, in Avon, Connecticut

Each gathering began with a morning meeting of NEIWPCC’s Executive Committee, which also met separately on December 6, 2013, in Lowell. Our Executive Committee brings together a select group of our Commissioners—the leaders of our

A few of the familiar presences at NEIWPCC’s Commission meetings (left to right): Mick Kuhns, Maine DEP; Susy King, NEIWPCC; Eugene Forbes, New Hampshire DES; Tom Groves, NEIWPCC; Alicia Good, Rhode Island DEM; Denise Ruzicka, Connecticut DEEP; Beth Card, MassDEP; Ken Moraff, EPA Region 1 (partially obscured: Linda Agostinelli, NEIWPCC)
The list of NEIWPCC Commissioners saw only modest change in fiscal 2014. In Connecticut, Robert Klee was named DEEP commissioner after Daniel Esty left to return to teaching at Yale. In Massachusetts, David Cash took the reins at MassDEP following Ken Kimmell’s resignation to become president of the Union of Concerned Scientists. In both cases, their representatives at NEIWPCC meetings remained the same.

We were excited to welcome three new non-agency Commissioners—that is, individuals from outside state government. Jane Knapp Sexton joined us as a Commissioner from Maine; she’s had a long career in public service and currently serves on Maine’s State Board of Education. Our delegation from Rhode Island was filled out with the appointments of Janine Burke-Wells, executive director of the City of Warwick Sewer Authority, and Russell Chateauneuf of Horsley Witten Group, who served for many years as chief of groundwater and wetlands protection at RI DEM.

In other changes of note, Eugene Forbes, a longtime NEIWPCC Commissioner from Vermont, was named director of New Hampshire DES’s Water Division and, hence, became the new representative of the NH DES Commissioner at NEIWPCC meetings. While congratulating Forbes, we bid a fond farewell to his predecessor at NH DES, Harry Stewart, who retired from the agency after 16 years as head of the Water Division. At NEIWPCC, Stewart contributed great expertise and leadership and served two successful years as our chair. We also said a warm goodbye to Leo Hetling, who resigned as a NEIWPCC Commissioner from New York after nearly a quarter-century of service. With a résumé that includes prominent positions in state and federal government and a Ph.D. in environmental engineering, Hetling never failed to provide tremendous insight. We thank both Stewart and Hetling for their many contributions.
As we were preparing this annual report, we received the sad news that Charles Button had lost his courageous battle with cancer. Charlie, as most called him, served with great distinction as a NEIWPCC Commissioner from 2000 to 2012 while he was also busy as chief engineer and deputy chief operating officer at the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. At our meetings, he was a vital presence, and his interest in our work and his support of it never wavered.

“Charlie was special,” said Ron Poltak, NEIWPCC’s executive director. “He truly valued his role as a NEIWPCC Commissioner, and his expertise and guidance were always appreciated and welcomed not only by me but by all who had the opportunity to know or work with him.”

Among his many accomplishments, Charlie played a key role in the analysis, design, and construction of water, wastewater, and drainage infrastructure in Boston and other locations in the United States and across the world. We took the photograph above of him in 2008 when he led a group of NEIWPCC staff and others on a tour into the MWRA’s combined sewer overflow storage tunnel being built beneath South Boston’s North Dorchester Bay. On that day, Charlie was a wise guide and a kind teacher, a man of great gifts taking time to explain a complex project in language we could all understand. We will always remember him that way, as a person who continually shared his vast knowledge so graciously. Like so many others, we at NEIWPCC benefitted in multiple ways from our association with him. He will be greatly missed.

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Our Commissioners’ involvement with NEIWPCC extends beyond Commission meetings. At NEIWPCC’s All-Staff meeting in June 2014, NEIWPCC Commissioners Paul Hogan (speaking) and Fred McNell discuss the controversy over appropriate limits on aluminum in America’s waters. The issue was explored in depth in an article in NEIWPCC’s Interstate Water Report available at www.neiwpcc.org/iwr/stateofuncertainty.asp.
Leadership in Action

A s he has done throughout his 30 years as NEIWPCC’s executive director, Ron Poltak provided our member states with expertise in many areas, not least in the ways of Washington; his updates, for example, on the turbulence all year surrounding the federal budget—and the potential consequences for the states—were a key component of each Commission and Executive Committee meeting. He kept Commissioners apprised of developments in Washington related to a critical issue: potential revisions to the State Revolving Fund formula. That’s the formula by which EPA allots monies to states to provide low-interest loans for water and wastewater projects. As Ron explained, any revision to the formula could seriously impact SRF monies received by the Northeast states.

While the meeting contributions were an outward manifestation of Ron’s work, there was so much more. He was in constant communication with high-ranking state and federal officials, working to identify priorities and refine NEIWPCC’s role in meeting needs. Ron and Deputy Director Susan Sullivan traveled to Hartford, Albany, Providence, New York City, Boston, and many other locations to meet with EPA and state leaders to discuss ways that NEIWPCC can further augment work being done on issues that demand attention: climate change, nutrient pollution, infrastructure funding, to name a few. They kept in close contact with the Coalition of Northeastern Governors’ Committee on the Environment and with NEIWPCC’s sister interstate agencies in the region, the Northeast Waste Management Officials’ Association and the

Significant Honors

I n late July 2014, Ron Poltak was recognized for his involvement in a national professional organization familiar to many NEIWPCC Commissioners: the Association of Clean Water Administrators. Ron has actively participated in ACWA for many years; he strongly supports its mission to amplify the priorities and concerns of state, interstate, and territorial officials responsible for implementing surface water protection programs. Over the years he has served ACWA in many capacities, including as board president and as co-chair of the funding task force. ACWA honored Ron with its Environmental Statesman Award, the association’s highest honor. In a letter notifying Ron and NEIWPCC of the award, ACWA’s executive director Julia Anastasio wrote, “Through your service in multiple leadership roles… you have been a tremendous advocate for the association and held strong for its future during difficult times.” ACWA also honored Vermont DEC’s Pete LaFlamme, a former NEIWPCC chair who’s long represented the commissioner of VT DEC at our meetings; ACWA presented LaFlamme with the President’s Service Award, given to members for exceptional service to the organization over the previous fiscal year.

“You have been a strong voice and champion for continued investment in the federal Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which is critically important to states’ efforts to protect and restore our nation’s water quality.”

Julia Anastasio, executive director and general counsel, ACWA, in a letter to Ron Poltak on his selection as the recipient of ACWA’s Environmental Statesman Award
Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management. It's perpetual communication that generates results. In his work with organizations such as the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) and the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA), Ron raises awareness of water needs in our region and across the country.

This was most visibly seen on July 24, 2014, at a hearing in Washington of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. Ron was one of four witnesses to testify at the hearing, which focused primarily on EPA’s integrated planning framework. In integrated planning, municipalities may achieve the water quality objectives of the Clean Water Act by integrating permitted wastewater and stormwater projects into one cost-effective, sustainable plan rather than by pursuing separate, uncoordinated, and often highly costly efforts to meet various permit limits. Speaking on behalf of ACWA, Ron explained the need to maximize the effectiveness of limited dollars for desperately needed wastewater infrastructure improvements. He described the failure, so far, to make the kind of headway that is needed on integrated planning.

“ACWA encourages EPA to begin exploring ways that integrated plan elements can be legally and effectively incorporated into a permit,” Ron said. “A model permit or case study completed in a state where EPA is the permitting authority could help tremendously to move the process along. We need a template, and we’re finding that we don’t have one.”

The statements at the hearing contributed to the chorus of calls from around the country for greater progress on integrated planning. Months later, some progress came. In early October 2014, EPA announced that it would be providing $67,000 in technical assistance to each of five communities to help them develop components of integrated plans for wastewater and stormwater management. Of the five communities, three are in NEIWPCC’s region: Burlington, Vermont; Durham, New Hampshire; and Onondaga County, New York.

Regional Representation

At NEIWPCC, we have a long tradition of making our region’s voice heard on proposed policies and regulations. In fiscal 2014, discussions in meetings of our Executive Committee revealed continued significant concerns among the states about a proposal put forth by the New England District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps proposed to make a major change to the process by which people, firms, and agencies gain authorization to do work in navigable waters of the United States (including wetlands) or discharge dredged or fill material into them. The Corps’s idea was to consolidate the six existing general permits of the six New England states into one regional general permit. To facilitate much-needed dialogue among the leaders of our states’ environmental agencies and the Corps, we hosted a meeting of the Coalition of Northeastern Governors’ Committee on the Environment.

At the meeting, which took place in January 2014, Colonel Charles Samaris (then-commander of the Corps’s New England District) said a regional permit would create consistency across the states and increase implementation efficiency. After Samaris’s presentation, the environmental agency commissioners seized the opportunity to raise questions and concerns about whether increased efficiency would actually be achieved and about how the regional permit would treat technical differences between the states’ existing permits. They also emphasized the need for widespread and careful outreach to the regulated community.

Beyond the meeting, we helped our member states assert their views on this issue by developing multiple comment letters. Our final letter, in September 2014, reiterated the states’ main concerns: inefficiency with permit implementation, technical issues, and lack of sufficient outreach. As we do for all comment letters and position statements we send, we worked on the letter with state staff and our Executive Committee. (Our Wetlands Workgroup was particularly instrumental in this case.) A month later came welcome news: the Corps had withdrawn its proposal.

NEIWPCC submitted three other comment letters in fiscal 2014. One of these, submitted to EPA in December 2013, was in response to a proposed rule requiring electronic reporting of NPDES information from permitted facilities that discharge to waters of the United States. In the letter, we expressed support for the rule but cited examples of how the aggressive implementation timeline would put undue pressure on the states. In

“The structure and content of the proposed New England General Permit is a significant change from the existing State Programmatic General Permits. Changes of this magnitude could result in a great deal of confusion for the regulated community.”

NEIWPCC Executive Director Ron Poltak in a September 2014 letter to Greg Penta, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
another letter, we dissected EPA’s proposed Water Quality Standards clarifications, noting elements that our member states supported and components they wished to see clarified.

Finally, we submitted a letter regarding an interpretive rule exempting certain agricultural practices from regulation under the Clean Water Act; the rule was developed by EPA, USDA, and the Army Corps. The letter argued that the interpretive rule was an inappropriate mechanism for widespread exemption of the activities and that it could result in actions that would be detrimental to water quality and disruptive to current processes for approving projects. Like our letters to the Corps on the regional permit proposal, our letter to EPA was among many comments that ultimately influenced the regulatory outcome: the agencies withdrew the interpretive rule in January 2015.

Our Workgroups

R elative to other parts of the country, NEIWPCC’s member states are packed into a small area geographically. Still, it’s easy for anyone working within one of our states to miss out on the benefits of communicating regularly with out-of-state peers. Through NEIWPCC’s regional workgroups, we provide a structured mechanism to make that communication happen. Our workgroups bring together state and federal staff to share ideas and information and to explore opportunities to coordinate and collaborate. In fiscal 2014, we showed our commitment to the process by launching an important new group.

It’s called our Harmful Algal Blooms Workgroup, and it focuses on issues related to a very visible problem. With the frequency of their occurrence on the rise, cyanobacteria-associated harmful algal blooms (HABs) and their toxins are an increasing concern in the Northeast. HABs have direct implications for the use of water bodies for recreation, the susceptibility of public water supplies to toxins, and the overall degradation of aquatic resources. In the absence of federal cyanotoxin guidance, states continued their individual efforts to keep recreational and drinking waters safe—and our regional workgroup provided an ideal means for discussing how best to approach the problem. In 2014, NEIWPCC hosted the first meeting of the HAB Workgroup and also led a series of conference calls to convene HAB “Focus Teams” that concentrate on specific priority areas. We now have teams for advisories and outreach, guidance for drinking water facilities, monitoring and analysis (led by EPA Region 1), regulations for recreational waters, and control methods/best management practices. NEIWPCC’s Dan Peckham coordinates the focus teams and the workgroup as a whole, which we expect will play an important role in the region’s work on HABs for many years to come.

As for NEIWPCC’s many other workgroups, they too had a busy year, as the following summaries (presented alphabetically) make clear. Since the discussions in the workgroups—and the needs the states express during meetings—drive many of NEIWPCC’s projects, some of the work mentioned in the summaries is described in greater detail later in this report. Also note that while

On February 26, 2014, in our Lowell headquarters, NEIWPCC’s Harmful Algal Blooms Workgroup meets for the first time.

A harmful algal bloom mars the northeast shore of Chautauqua Lake, New York, in September 2014.

“It’s been really nice to have [NEIWPCC’s HAB Workgroup] together and to be able to talk with the other states and see what everyone else is doing. You feel like you’re out on a limb when there’s not a lot of federal guidance on how to react to these toxins in water, from a drinking water and a recreational perspective.”

Sarah Vose, state toxicologist, Vermont Department of Health
some workgroups may have met only once, productive communication among the NEIWPCC coordinator and workgroup members was ongoing throughout the year. Further note that not all NEIWPCC workgroups are represented below, only those with significant activity during the year.

**Certification Workgroup**

**Members:** Leaders of state wastewater certification programs  
**Coordinator:** Paul Spina, NEIWPCC  
**FY2014 Activities:** Convened twice via conference call to discuss the status of states’ certification regulations and other issues related to the testing and certification of wastewater treatment plant operators and the training required for license renewal. Discussed a variety of topics including the use of contracted (non-staff) operators as well as emergency reciprocity—that is, allowing an operator licensed in one NEIWPCC member state to temporarily work in another when there’s a crisis that demands extra help. Workgroup coordinator Paul Spina is now able to represent the group’s interests at a high level: in early fiscal 2015, he was elected to a two-year term on the board of directors of the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC), whose membership includes almost 100 certifying authorities, representing 40 states.

**Climate Change Workgroup**

**Members:** State, interstate, EPA, and academic staff who address climate change issues in their programs  
**Coordinator:** Monica Kacprzyk, NEIWPCC  
**FY2014 Activities:** Met once. State, federal, and NEIWPCC staff provided updates on their climate change-related work, including our development of a storm resiliency supplement to NEIWPCC’s wastewater treatment design guide. The meeting also featured presentations on three significant regional climate change initiatives: the Lake Champlain Basin Climate Change Adaptation and Stormwater Management Project, EPA Region 1’s Climate Leaders Summit, and USGS’s New England Climate Workgroup.

**Groundwater and Source Water Protection Workgroup**

**Members:** State and EPA staff who coordinate programs that protect underground and aboveground sources of drinking water  
**Coordinator:** Monica Kacprzyk, NEIWPCC  
**FY2014 Activities:** Met twice. Topics discussed included cyanobacteria efforts, aboveground storage tank requirements and emergency planning considerations, and Clean Water Act-Safe Drinking Water Act collaboration. Workgroup held a joint meeting with NEIWPCC’s Stormwater Workgroup to discuss stormwater infiltration practices and groundwater impacts, interpretation and permitting of underground injection control (UIC) Class V wells, and opportunities for coordination and collaboration across divisions. To assist the states, workgroup coordinator Monica Kacprzyk developed a document summarizing the states’ guidelines in these areas, which shows how states differ in approaches to well regulation and registration.

**Long Island Sound Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Workgroup**

**Members:** Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, and EPA staff who work on evaluation and implementation of the Long Island Sound TMDL  
**Coordinator:** Emily Bird, NEIWPCC  
**FY2014 Activities:** Met once in-person and held biweekly conference calls to evaluate progress in implementing the TMDL and discuss ongoing technical
efforts. To assist, workgroup coordinator Emily Bird assembled a qualitative evaluation of the scope and effectiveness of stormwater and nonpoint source nitrogen controls; the report compiles documents written by each Long Island Sound watershed state on urban and agricultural nitrogen management programs and includes a summary by NEIWPCC that draws conclusions at the watershed scale (report available at www.neiwpcc.org/longislandsoundtmdl.asp). NEIWPCC also coordinated two additional projects: 1) a study of the feasibility of installing low-cost biological nitrogen removal retrofits at select wastewater treatment plants in the upper Long Island Sound watershed and 2) an effort to develop and implement a tracking system that will allow for quantitative evaluations of the attainment of the TMDLs stormwater and nonpoint source nitrogen load reduction goals (more on both projects on pages 15-16).

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Workgroup

Members: State and EPA staff whose work is connected to the NPDES program, including those who write permits and those involved with permit compliance and enforcement

Coordinator: John Murphy, NEIWPCC

FY2014 Activities: Met once in-person to discuss regional and national developments, compliance monitoring strategy and enforcement issues, stormwater, and municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s). The group also held roundtable discussions on e-reporting, aluminum permitting, nutrient permitting, and anti-degradation procedure implementation. Workgroup coordinator John Murphy participated in EPA’s NPDES Strategic Visioning Effort conference call to learn about modernizing permit applications, notices of intent, data tools, and decision support systems—all information that he subsequently shared with workgroup members.

New England Biological Assessment of Wetlands Workgroup

Members: State and federal staff who coordinate programs to protect wetlands through the monitoring and assessment of biological wetland health

Coordinator: Theresa Portante-Lyle, NEIWPCC (first half of year); Kimberly Roth, NEIWPCC (second half)

FY2014 Activities: Met once, with each state providing an update on relevant work, including Wetland Program Development Grants. Also discussed: progress on the Regional Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA) Index Database project, in which NEIWPCC has provided coordination and funding to develop a regional list of coefficient of conservatism (CoC) values for the region’s vascular plants; these values, or scores, are used in FQAs to help evaluate wetlands restoration, mitigation, and conservation efforts. To further assist the workgroup, NEIWPCC developed a monitoring and assessment matrix of all participants’ wetlands monitoring and assessment program procedures.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Workgroup

Members: State and EPA staff who coordinate nonpoint source pollution programs

Coordinator: Monica Kacprzyk, NEIWPCC

FY2014 Activities: Met in-person once and convened once via conference call. Members provided updates on states’ Nonpoint Source Management Plans; other topics of discussion included plans for the Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference, NEIWPCC’s Northeast Voluntary Turf Fertilizer Initiative, and results of a coal tar-based pavement sealants survey. At the in-person meeting, the workgroup discussed practical approaches to residual designation authority (RDA) as well as how best to use the Clean Water State Revolving Fund for the states’ nonpoint source projects.

Nutrient Criteria Workgroup

Members: State and EPA staff working to develop numeric nutrient criteria for phosphorus and nitrogen

Coordinator: Dan Peckham, NEIWPCC

FY2014 Activities: Met once and held one conference call. Discussion focused on challenges and successes related to state approaches to developing numeric nutrient criteria for lakes, rivers, and streams. To assist, workgroup coordinator Dan Peckham cleaned and prepared state datasets for a regional analysis and coordinated a workgroup review of NEIWPCC’s Northeast state nutrient criteria development matrix.
Onsite Wastewater Workgroup
Members: State onsite wastewater disposal directors
Coordinator: John Murphy, NEIWPCC
FY2014 Activities: Three conference calls to discuss topics such as NEIWPCC onsite training programs, updates to state regulations, and technology approvals. Later in the year, focus shifted to the potential for holding another Northeast Onsite Wastewater Treatment Short Course and Equipment Exhibition, in which national and regional experts lead educational sessions on the latest onsite practices and technologies. The workgroup approved of the idea, and the conference is tentatively scheduled for April 2016 in Massachusetts. It will be the fifth edition of the Short Course, and NEIWPCC will once again develop and coordinate the event—as we did for the first three editions (in 2002, 2005, and 2008).

Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCP) Workgroup
Members: Leading state, federal, and academic staff in our region who are working on issues surrounding PPCPs in our waters
Coordinator: Jaclyn Harrison, NEIWPCC
FY2014 Activities: Met once, with all participants explaining their latest work in this area of growing concern; those involved with research provided updates on their findings. The meeting also included two presentations: one focused on contaminants of emerging concern in the groundwater of Cape Cod; the other examined the potential for cancer treatment drugs to enter groundwater or surface waters.

Residuals Workgroup
Members: State residuals coordinators
Coordinator: John Murphy, NEIWPCC
FY2014 Activities: One conference call and two in-person meetings. Topics discussed included state land application rule changes, NEIWPCC training programs, and regulatory revisions in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. One of the main discussion points was the potential development of a regional septage database. Workgroup coordinator John Murphy and most workgroup members attended the New England Water Environment Association/North East Biosolids and Residuals Association annual conference in Concord, New Hampshire, which included a field trip to a biosolids land application site.

Stormwater Workgroup
Members: State and EPA staff who coordinate stormwater programs related to permit development and implementation
Coordinator: Monica Kacprzyk, NEIWPCC
FY2014 Activities: Convened twice via conference call. Topics discussed included residual designation authority (RDA) petitions filed by environmental advocates and EPA's new Opti-Tool to help municipal stormwater managers maximize stormwater and nutrient treatment for the lowest cost. Workgroup participated in a joint meeting with NEIWPCC’s Groundwater and Source Water Protection Workgroup; see that workgroup’s description on page 9 for details.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Workgroup
Members: State and EPA staff who coordinate programs that develop pollution reduction plans (TMDLs) for water bodies that do not meet water quality standards
Coordinator: Emily Bird, NEIWPCC
FY2014 Activities: Met three times. Topics discussed included the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program Vision and TMDLs under development in the region. To assist, workgroup coordinator Emily Bird prepared a summary of the regional breakout session at the 2014 National Training Workshop on CWA 303(d) Listing and TMDLs; she distributed the summary to workgroup members unable to attend the event. NEIWPCC also planned an October 2014 meeting to address the prioritization goal and the new program measure under the 303(d) Program Vision (details on the meeting at page 16).

Underground Storage Tanks (UST) Workgroup
Members: Representatives from UST, Leaking UST (LUST), and State Fund programs in our member states as well as EPA staff
Coordinator: Jaclyn Harrison, NEIWPCC
FY2014 Activities: Always one of NEIWPCC’s most active workgroups, our UST Workgroup met three times. Agenda items included state and EPA updates; the latest from NEIWPCC on planning for the National Tanks Conference and...
At the New England Water Environment Association’s annual conference in January 2014, NEIWPCC Deputy Director Susan Sullivan leads the final meeting of her three-year term as chair of NEWEA’s Government Affairs Committee. One of many NEIWPCC staff members in leadership positions with NEWEA, Susan will begin a three-year term as the organization’s delegate to its national parent, the Water Environment Federation, in October 2015.

### Water Quality Standards Workgroup
**Members:** State and EPA staff who coordinate water quality standards programs  
**Coordinator:** Dan Peckham, NEIWPCC

**FY2014 Activities:** Met once and convened twice via conference call. Topics of discussion included EPA’s national rulemaking to clarify water quality standards regulations, national recommended recreational and ammonia water quality criteria, and water quality criteria and permit limits for aluminum. To assist states in addressing these issues, NEIWPCC submitted a comment letter on the proposed national rulemaking to clarify water quality standards regulations; workgroup coordinator Dan Peckham also researched and wrote an *Interstate Water Report* article on aluminum criteria and coordinated a workgroup review of NEIWPCC’s Northeast state water quality standards matrix.

### Wetlands Workgroup
**Members:** State and federal staff who coordinate programs to protect wetlands  
**Coordinator:** Theresa Portante-Lyle, NEIWPCC (first half of year); Kimberly Roth, NEIWPCC (second half)

**FY2014 Activities:** Met twice to discuss a range of topics including mitigation and restoration strategies, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ proposed New England General Permit, and EPA’s proposed Waters of the United States Rule. With input from the workgroup, NEIWPCC developed and submitted comment letters representing the states’ positions on the Corps’s NEGP as well as the so-called Agricultural Interpretive Rule, another regulation with consequences for wetlands protection. (For more on our comment letters during the year, see pages 7-8.)

### Productive Connections
At NEIWPCC, we long ago learned that our ability to advance regional progress on water issues is only enhanced by forging strong connections with likeminded organizations. In 2014, our staff engaged with many influential groups outside of NEIWPCC, playing prominent roles in such organizations as the New England Water Environment Association and the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association.

The activities of Deputy Director Susan Sullivan illustrate just how extensive the participation can be. Susan serves on the board of directors of the Interstate Council on Water Policy, a national organization of state and regional water resource management agencies, and on the executive and management committees of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program. In 2014, she was appointed to a six-year term as a senior fellow of the
Coastal Institute, which works on environmental problems affecting coastal ecosystems from its headquarters on the Narragansett Bay campus of the University of Rhode Island. Additionally, Susan serves as vice-chair of the Legislative Subcommittee of the Water Environment Federation’s Government Affairs Committee.

At NEIWPCC, such external involvement has always been more rule than exception. At the Association of Clean Water Administrators, for example, our staff participates in multiple capacities. To cite just a few: Executive Director Ron Poltak serves as co-chair of the Funding and Congressional Relations Committee; Director of Water Quality Programs Susy King serves as Region 1 representative on the Water Quality Standards Forum and participates on the Monitoring, Standards, and Assessment Committee; and Director of Wastewater and Onsite Programs Tom Groves is an integral member of the Permitting and Compliance Group.

Through such connections, we forge partnerships, identify new opportunities for collaboration, and work toward common goals. In the work for clean water, working with others simply makes sense.

In coordination with the New England state environmental commissioners and EPA Region 1, NEIWPCC and our sister interstate agencies—the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management and the Northeast Waste Management Officials’ Association—established the Ira Leighton “In Service to States” Environmental Merit Award. The award recognizes individuals whose dedication and passion for environmental protection mirrors that of Ira Leighton, who died in July 2013 after serving for 41 years at EPA. At NEIWPCC, we knew Ira well and greatly admired his ability to work through tough challenges in a truly cooperative spirit.

The first-ever recipient of the award was a most worthy one. Ken Kimmell served as commissioner at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection from January 2011 through March 2014, after previously serving for four years as general counsel at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. At every step along the way, he demonstrated a vast and unwavering dedication to protecting the environment, addressing climate change and promoting sustainability, and advancing clean energy. Kimmell was also a great admirer of Ira Leighton. As the announcement of the award stated, “Ken saw, and learned from Ira, the importance of collaboration, especially between state and federal partners, the critical role of stakeholder engagement, and how leadership can drive innovative and creative problem-solving.”

Kimmell is now president of the Union of Concerned Scientists, a nonprofit based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Inaugural Recipient

Former MassDEP Commissioner Ken Kimmell receives the inaugural Ira Leighton “In Service to States” Award during EPA Region 1’s Environmental Merit Awards ceremony in Boston on Earth Day 2014. Shown (l-r) on the Faneuil Hall stage are Ira Leighton III, Kimmell, NESCAUM Director Arthur Marin, EPA Region 1 Administrator Curt Spalding, and EPA Region 1 Deputy Administrator Deb Szaro.
Turf Fertilizer Guidelines

Early in the fiscal year, NEIWPCC wrapped up a project requested by the environmental agency commissioners of our member states: the development of a comprehensive report containing guidelines for the formulation and use of fertilizer on urban turf. The commissioners had asked for guidelines that would reduce nutrient pollution contributed by turf fertilizer to water bodies while being sensitive to the needs of all affected parties, including homeowners and fertilizer manufacturers. After coordinating well-attended meetings in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island to gather input from all stakeholders, NEIWPCC staff assembled an interim report, which we released for comment in October 2013. The feedback received was then integrated into our final report, NEIWPCC’s Regional Clean Water Guidelines for Fertilization of Urban Turf, published in January 2014 and officially presented to our states at the January 9 Commission meeting in Lowell.

The report is available in its entirety at our Northeast Voluntary Turf Fertilizer Initiative web section (www.neiwpcc.org/turffertilizer/guidelines.asp), where we’ve also made the 33 guidelines available in a separate list. If you’ve ever wondered how we can honor America’s love of green lawns while still being protective of water quality, the report is a most worthwhile read.

“The Regional Clean Water Guidelines for Fertilization of Urban Turf is not only pragmatic but also sound environmental policy. This effort by Ryan and Jennings will reduce nutrients in fertilizer supplies coming into the region and ultimately will improve water quality.”
EPA Region 1’s Erik Beck, in his Environmental Merit Award nomination letter

For their work on the Northeast Voluntary Turf Fertilizer Initiative, NEIWPCC’s Michael Jennings and Clair Ryan received Environmental Merit Awards from EPA Region 1 during its 2014 Boston ceremony. The project’s final report generated interest throughout the year; in September 2014, EPA highlighted the guidelines in its national newsletter, Nonpoint Source News-Notes.
Nutrient Pollution and Long Island Sound

The health of Long Island Sound may not seem like a regional issue, but the sound’s massive watershed encompasses parts of five NEIWPCC member states—Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. And how is the sound’s health? Better in recent years, but hypoxia (oxygen depletion) in its bottom waters remains a serious problem, especially during late summer. The Long Island Sound Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for dissolved oxygen, which EPA approved in 2001, was designed to address the problem, but achieving dissolved oxygen standards in the sound has remained an elusive goal. Through NEIWPCC’s involvement with the Long Island Sound TMDL Workgroup, we support work aimed at making progress, and lately, that work has included one especially noteworthy project.

In 2013, using EPA funds granted to NEIWPCC on behalf of the workgroup and the Long Island Sound Study, we began coordinating a study of low-cost ways to reduce nitrogen in the effluent of wastewater treatment plants that discharge to rivers in the upper Long Island Sound watershed—that is, in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. A small team led by Jeanette Brown of JJ Environmental, the firm hired by NEIWPCC to conduct the study, visited 29 wastewater treatment plants in the three states, touring each facility to see the treatment processes and gauge the potential for changes that could reduce nitrogen for minimal capital cost.

After analyzing what was learned in the visits and conducting modeling to
determine how particular modifications or retrofits at a plant would affect nitrogen removal, JJ Environmental submitted a report in late 2014 that includes detailed recommendations for many of the visited facilities and estimates the costs of the changes. Just how many of the plants will actually implement the changes remains to be seen, but we are excited about the prospects. The report is available at www.neiwpcc.org/longislandsoundtmdl.asp.

In a related project, we continued to make progress on a stormwater and nonpoint source best management practices tracking and accounting system that will be used to evaluate and improve stormwater and nonpoint source TMDL implementation. The first phase of this work—evaluating existing tracking and accounting systems and making recommendations on a system for the Long Island Sound watershed—was completed in April 2014. Funding is now in place for the project’s second phase, in which a tracking system will be developed and demonstrated; that work is expected to begin in the summer of 2015.

**TMDL Vision in Focus**

For those in our states who work on TMDLs, much focus is on one topic: EPA’s new strategy for improving implementation of the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) program. (That’s the program that outlines a strict process for identifying polluted waters and developing restoration strategies; it includes the requirement that, for any water body not attaining water quality standards, states must develop a total maximum daily load or TMDL, which specifies how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards.) Commonly called the TMDL Vision, the new strategy doesn’t alter the 303(d) regulation, but it does allow states to tailor how they meet their responsibilities.

Talk between our staff and the states during the year revealed the need for a greater understanding of the strategy, so we began work on convening a meeting of all our states and EPA, including officials from the agency’s headquarters in Washington. On October 7, 2014, the parties gathered in Lowell for an extraordinary conversation. As the states provided updates on their progress in implementing the vision, it became clear that they need help in varying degrees. Connecticut DEEP’s Traci Iott laid out her detailed timeline for completing the prioritization component, in which states indicate which watersheds or waters will be their priorities for restoration and protection. Representatives from other states, however, said that they could use more examples of exactly what EPA wants states to do. Elizabeth Scott of Rhode Island DEM said there’s some confusion in the states about the actual amount of flexibility the vision provides. Menchu Martinez of EPA headquarters responded by saying the vision is intended to identify the “biggest bang for the buck”—that is, the most efficient ways to improve and protect water quality—and to move beyond measuring progress just by tracking the number of TMDLs produced.

In one notable exchange, MassDEP’s Mark Mattson said a state should earn credit for projects that go directly to implementation and result in water quality improvements, without the extensive planning associated with a TMDL. EPA Region 1’s Ralph Abele wouldn’t sanction that approach on the spot but did ask Mattson to send EPA a list of possible alternatives to TMDLs. He said EPA would respond by identifying which are acceptable.

After the meeting, EPA’s Martinez seemed pleased. “This was extremely productive,” she said. “It’s great to see how the states are so engaged. I’m really surprised, pleasantly so, with the progress each state has made. We’ll be in a different region next week, and I will put pressure on them by telling them about the progress in New England.”

**NEIWPCC Environmental Analyst Emily Bird managed the low-cost retrofits study and coordinates all of our work related to TMDLs and Long Island Sound.**

**“Meeting the states at NEIWPCC is a time-honored tradition in New England. We’re here to help.”**

Ralph Abele, chief, Water Quality Branch, EPA Region 1

EPA Region 1’s Ralph Abele at NEIWPCC’s TMDL Vision meeting. To the left (partly obscured by Abele) is Menchu Martinez, EPA headquarters, Washington.
Wastewater Training

Operators at wastewater treatment plants have been described as being on the front line of water pollution control, and it’s true: their work—and how well they do it—has a direct impact on water quality. For decades, NEIWPCC has developed and coordinated courses that keep experienced wastewater operators current on the latest treatment practices and technologies while enabling them to earn the continuing education credits needed to maintain their licenses; the courses also provide critical instruction to those looking to enter or advance in the wastewater field.

In fiscal 2014, NEIWPCC’s regional program trained 1,297 individuals in the process of conducting 59 wastewater classes at locations throughout our member states as well as at our home base in Lowell. To highlight just a few of the courses:

- A one-day class on polymers and sludge conditioning held in December 2013 in Franklin, New Hampshire, attracted 25 students, many of whom had nice things to say about the course and the man who led it, NEIWPCC’s Don Kennedy. “Instructor was excellent,” wrote one student on the course evaluation form. Another: “The course was in-depth and comprehensive—and relevant to our plant’s needs.”

- In May 2014, we held one of our new courses, Engineering Design and Blueprint Reading, in Millbury, Massachusetts. NEIWPCC goes to great lengths each year to determine the ever-evolving training needs in our states, and the strong turnout of 24 students was a clear indication that this class was needed. Participants acquired skills and knowledge that will be valuable assets when working with engineering firms during upgrades and new equipment installation. While open to all operators, the course proved especially helpful to those in the Massachusetts wastewater management training program, which we coordinate with MassDEP and the Massachusetts Water Pollution Control Association. (See page 30 for more on all our training efforts in Massachusetts.)

- A basic wastewater math course held over three days in September-October 2014 in Montpelier, Vermont, more than delivered on its promise—to help students learn the math concepts and calculations that are used in wastewater treatment and that must be mastered to pass certification exams. Led by NEIWPCC’s James LaLiberte, the class drew praise on evaluation forms. “Very happy I took the course,” wrote one participant. “I did not have a clue on how to figure out the formulas before this class. Thank you!”

“Just letting you know that I was a student in Don Kennedy’s basic industrial wastewater class held at the Easton [Mass.] DPW that ended on May 27. Very good class, good teacher. I tested on Saturday the 31st and passed the 2I [Massachusetts Grade 2 Industrial Wastewater Certification Exam]. Thanks again.”

Comment submitted to NEIWPCC via the feedback form on our website, June 4, 2014

While NEIWPCC staff lead many of our training programs, we also rely on expert instructors from the public and private sectors. Here, Andy Fish of Vermont DEC conducts a course in wastewater laboratory procedures.
On March 20, 2014, NEIWPCC Training Coordinator James LaLiberte leads a course in industrial wastewater treatment at the then soon-to-be-closed coal-fired power plant in Salem, Massachusetts. The plant’s owners contracted with NEIWPCC to conduct the class as part of the facility’s worker retraining program.

Beyond coordinating and conducting the courses offered through our regional training program, NEIWPCC also contracted with companies and organizations to develop and deliver customized, on-site training sessions. For the year, we conducted 14 such contract courses to a total of nearly 400 students. Locations of the programs ranged from Coca-Cola Enterprises in Needham Heights, Massachusetts, to the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in New York City. Additionally, much other wastewater training was conducted that is covered later in this report, including wastewater management programs in Connecticut (page 25) and Rhode Island (page 39) and the programs coordinated by our staff in South Portland, Maine (page 28).

Sharing Strategies

In May 2014, a special one-day workshop in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, drew a great deal of interest, and as the lead sponsor of the event, we found the participation gratifying—and understandable. The workshop was designed for wastewater professionals from throughout New England to address the issue of clogs caused by flushed wipes (such as wet wipes, baby wipes, and disposable shop rags) and by fats, oils, and grease (a.k.a. FOG). In recent years there’s been a boom in sales of wipes for a variety of purposes, and, regrettably, too many people are flushing the wipes down the toilet.

In contrast to toilet paper, which disperses rapidly in water, most so-called “nonwoven fabric” products don’t break down when flushed and can cause major problems when they reach a pump that tries (unsuccessfully) to grind them or if they absorb congealing FOG while in the collection system. The prevalence of such obstructions—and the cost of responding to them—has spawned many efforts in recent years to reduce the frequency of clogs and their impact. So far, education is proving to be the key, and it’s typically up to individual utilities to teach residents about what can and cannot be flushed.

The workshop, which drew 157 participants, featured two speakers with clog-campaign success stories. Helen Cantrl Dulac of Dallas (Texas) Water Utilities described a multimedia campaign that resulted in a decrease in Dallas’s sanitary sewer overflows caused by FOG from more than 100 a year to fewer than 10. Aubrey Strause, owner of Verdant Water (a Maine-based stormwater and wastewater management firm), delivered an inspirational talk about a pilot education campaign she spearheaded in Portland, Maine. The Portland campaign, which included highly clever TV ads, urged residents not to flush baby wipes. And it was successful while it lasted: evidence showed fewer baby wipes entered Portland’s collection system during the two-month campaign. The May workshop, which was part of our regional training program, was developed with the support of a number of partners, including EPA, New Hampshire DES, and the water pollution control associations of the New England states.

At the “Don’t Let Wipes and FOG Clog Your Collection System” workshop on May 6, 2014, in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, Aubrey Strause talks about the innovative effort in Maine to stop the flushing of baby wipes. Strause is a professional engineer and the owner of Maine-based Verdant Water.
Climate Change and Storm Resiliency

Concerns about climate change seem to grow with each passing year—and with each new piece of research that illuminates disturbing trends. In 2014, the Sustainability Institute at the University of New Hampshire published a report, *Climate Change in Southern New Hampshire: Past, Present, and Future*, that revealed trends in data recorded over many years by weather stations in the state. To determine temperature fluctuation, the researchers examined data from United States Historical Climatology Network stations in Durham, Keene, and Hanover. From 1895 to 2012, all three stations show significant year-to-year variability. But over the long term, a clear picture emerges. The data reveal an overall climb in temperature at the stations, with 80 percent or more of the warmest years in terms of average annual minimum temperatures occurring since 1990. The researchers also looked at precipitation, using data gathered from 1963 to 2012 at nine Global Historical Climatology Network stations in southern New Hampshire. While overall increases were modest, eight of the nine stations showed a four- to ten-fold increase in the frequency of the most extreme precipitation events (more than 4 inches in 48 hours).

Such news only underscores the need for NEIWPCC to provide our states with leadership and support on climate change issues, many of which have a water connection. More frequent extreme weather increases the strain on the region’s aging water infrastructure, heightening the potential for the release of untreated sewage during combined sewer overflows. More hard rains mean more polluted runoff streaming into water bodies. And, as we’ve seen with Hurricane Sandy and other recent storms, powerful surges from the sea can wreak havoc on coastal wastewater and water treatment plants.

In the list of NEIWPCC workgroups provided earlier in this report, we noted the activities of our Climate Change Workgroup, through which we help our states stay informed on the latest research, learn about the states’ work on adaptation and the lessons learned, and explore opportunities for NEIWPCC to support state efforts. But the workgroup is just one aspect of our work in this critically important arena. Early in the fiscal year, several of our staff, including

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**Average Annual Minimum Temperature Records for USHCN Stations in Southern New Hampshire (1895-2012)**

**Trend in Extreme Participation Events (4+ Inches/48 Hours) Per Decade For GHCN Station In Durham, N.H. (1963-2012)**

*Source: University of New Hampshire Sustainability Institute*

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MassDEP’s Becky Weidman (front) and Vandana Rao, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, during our October 2014 Climate Change Workgroup meeting.
Executive Director Ron Pollak and Tom Borden, director of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, attended EPA Region 1's invitational Climate Leaders Summit in Providence, Rhode Island. The extraordinary event brought together 140 of the leading thinkers on climate change in the region to discuss ways to collaborate and achieve a more climate-resilient New England. The leaders committed to work on six specific actions, including the development of a common data platform for New England and the creation of a public-private workgroup to scope smarter spending on resilient infrastructure and to link incentive programs and insurance.

The extreme weather associated with climate change is also the impetus behind a major NEIWPCC project: the development of an addendum to our most popular technical publication, TR-16 Guides for the Design of Wastewater Treatment Works. The supplement will focus exclusively on strategies to improve storm resiliency and will include potential design modifications and a wide range of recommendations—from joining a statewide Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network to developing a long-term asset management plan. NEIWPCC’s John Murphy is working on the addendum with an advisory committee that includes academic researchers, staff from EPA and our states’ environmental agencies, and design engineers. He has also solicited input from storm-tested operators and managers from around the region, whose insights will be highlighted in the supplement.

Much other related work is highlighted in the state section of this report, including a storm resiliency workshop in Maine that focused on the special concerns of treatment plants (page 29) and two well-attended climate change workshops in Vermont facilitated by our staff at the Lake Champlain Basin Program (page 40).

As noted on page 11, we organize a regional workgroup on underground storage tanks, which continue to be a major issue due to the potential of their contents to leak and harm the environment, especially groundwater. But we also receive monies from EPA’s Office of Underground Storage Tanks to work on a national scale. Through partnerships with EPA, states, and tribes, we facilitate trainings for UST inspectors and remediation specialists across the United States. In fiscal 2014, NEIWPCC staff coordinated trainings for UST inspectors in Alaska, Missouri, Ohio, and Oregon, and cosponsored a special topics workshop in Missouri. In Tennessee, we facilitated a workshop on fraud and misuse of UST funds that was so popular, our partners in Missouri and Tennessee asked us to repeat the workshop in 2015. Toward the end of the fiscal year, our staff dove into planning the biggest event NEIWPCC regularly coordinates, the National Tanks Conference and Expo, which will next be held in Phoenix, Arizona, in September 2015.

Another way NEIWPCC supports UST programs is by providing individuals around the country with travel funds to attend regional UST workshops and meetings and the national conference. In fiscal 2014 we reimbursed more than 200 requests for travel to a total of 18 events.

At a December 2014 workshop in Saco, Maine, NEIWPCC’s John Murphy explains the extensive work going into our development of a storm resiliency supplement to our popular publication on wastewater treatment design.

In Boise, Idaho, instructor Stephen Purpora of Purpora Engineering leads a site visit during a November 2014 training for tank inspectors, coordinated by NEIWPCC.
In addition to coordinating and supporting in-person trainings, our staff worked to improve NEIWPCC’s virtual resources for UST professionals. This included upgrading to a more robust web-conferencing software program for our popular webinars—the two tanks webinars in fiscal 2014 drew 150 and 250 participants respectively—and adding a Corrective Action discussion forum to complement the Inspectors forum on our website.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference

Since 1990, when NEIWPCC began coordinating the region’s annual Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference, the event has been a highlight on our calendar—and the calendars of the many people in our states working to reduce NPS pollution. The location of the conference rotates among the states, and on April 29-30, 2014, Newport, Rhode Island, served as an ideal setting for the 25th annual edition of the event.

NEIWPCC coordinated the conference in conjunction with RI DEM and EPA Region 1, and attendance was strong: well over 100 professionals from state, federal, and municipal government; the private sector; academia; and watershed organizations took part. The 2014 conference had two themes: 1) the economics of greening stormwater and NPS management and 2) innovations in green infrastructure, low impact development, and other best management practices. Technical sessions appealed to seasoned and new NPS professionals alike with topics such as a better method for estimating a watershed’s impervious surface cover, the scientific evidence for

Excellent conference, very well put together, presentations built on each other very well.”

“Topics timely and current. Helps keep attendees abreast of the evolution of practices and technical information about nonpoint controls and needs.”

“Learned so much. Thank you.” Sample of comments on the 2014 NPS Conference evaluation forms

Information Pipeline

Of all the ways we facilitate communication among tank owners, consultants, contractors, and state, federal, and tribal UST regulators, the forum with the widest reach is our nationally disseminated print publication on leaking underground storage tanks, LUSTLine. Tanks experts throughout the country contribute articles to the bulletin, which covers such important topics as leak detection methods, new fuels, considerations for extreme weather, and regulatory updates. The June 2014 issue featured a startling cover article about falsified invoices for site characterization that a consultant submitted to the Missouri state tank fund. The LUSTLine archive on our website includes a comprehensive index and downloadable versions of every issue published since the publication’s debut in 1985. Visit www.neiwpcc.org/lustline/index.asp.

“Excellent conference, very well put together, presentations built on each other very well.”

“Topics timely and current. Helps keep attendees abreast of the evolution of practices and technical information about nonpoint controls and needs.”

“Learned so much. Thank you.” Sample of comments on the 2014 NPS Conference evaluation forms

Curt Spalding, administrator for EPA Region 1, addresses attendees at the Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference in Newport, Rhode Island. At right: NEIWPCC Executive Director Ron Poltak.
including trees in stormwater management plans, and the newest generation of porous pavements.

Other sessions featured case studies, such as Cape Cod’s shift from town-by-town stormwater management to a coordinated watershed-based approach and low-cost infrastructure changes at Providence’s Roger Williams Park that yielded a dramatic decrease in phosphorus loading to the park’s ponds. A field trip on the conference’s second day showcased a suite of BMPs at Bristol Town Beach with a clear economic benefit: fewer summer beach closures.

The 26th Annual NPS Conference will take place April 28-29, 2015, in Freeport, Maine.

Quality Management

Environmental data is of little value if the data cannot be trusted. That’s why NEIWPCC goes to great lengths to ensure that our projects generate data of unimpeachable quality. For those involved with NEIWPCC’s quality management system, 2014 was a watershed year. It was a year both of achievement—the most quality assurance project plans (QAPPs) NEIWPCC has ever reviewed in 12 months and the most field assessments—and a year of diversification, with the decentralization of the QAPP review and approval process.

The specifics capture the level of effort:
- 45 draft QAPPs (for 45 projects) submitted for review and approval.
- Three field assessments conducted.
- Five QA-related training opportunities held for staff: two technical presentations, a face-to-face training conducted jointly with staff from EPA Region 1’s QA unit, and two webinars made available to all NEIWPCC staff in our member states.
- Implemented enhancements to the Access database that tracks QAPP review and approval status to allow for timelier monitoring and reporting of approval status.
- Developed standard operating procedure for QAPP review and approval to allow for review consistency and clarification of review roles and responsibilities.

All this work would have been daunting if not for the delegation of review and approval authority put in place during the year, which reduced turnaround time. Eight staff were trained to serve as QA designees, allowing them to review and approve QAPPs on behalf of Michael Jennings, NEIWPCC’s quality assurance program manager. We also authorized the Lake Champlain Basin Program to review and approve QAPPs for its projects that are not funded by EPA. The result: an all-time high volume of QAPP reviews without noticeable disruption to the projects. The decentralization also allowed Michael to conduct more field assessments, which play a vital role in ensuring that approved procedures are followed. Field assessments were

As NEIWPCC’s Michael Jennings looks on, a researcher from Boston University’s Fulweiler Laboratory collects gas samples from a salt marsh in Stonington, Connecticut, for the Sentinels of Change project. The assessment verified that researchers were following approved QA procedures. For more on the project, see page 25.
conducted for three projects:

- **NPDES Compliance Inspections—Reconnaissance with Sampling**—in the NEIWPCC (IEC District) Region (assessment conducted September 18, 2014)
- **Great Kills Harbor Breakwater Feasibility Study** (assessment conducted September 18, 2014)
- **Sentinels of Change: Are Salt Marshes in LIS Keeping Pace with Sea Level Rise?** (assessment conducted October 3, 2014)

In each case, Michael observed no deviations or non-conformances from approved QAPPs—a testament to the professionalism of the project managers and contractors. For more on the field assessments and all our other quality-related work, see NEIWPCC’s Annual Status Report and Quality Management Plan Review for fiscal 2014, available at www.neiwpcc.org/quality.

### News and Information

Our flagship print publication, *Interstate Water Report* (or simply IWR), is published twice a year, with a primary goal of engendering a greater understanding of water issues that matter to our member states. In fiscal 2014, in pursuit of that goal, NEIWPCC’s Emily Bird and Dan Peckham wrote in-depth articles for IWR on the subjects of ocean acidification and aluminum limits, respectively. Other topics examined in the year’s two IWRs included the prospects for water quality trading between nonpoint and point sources of pollution and the benefits and economics of green roofs. In our quarterly email newsletter, iWR, we also covered current water and wastewater issues, including progress in the realm of biosolids and discussions at the federal level on using integrated planning as a means of keeping clean water projects affordable.

Both *Interstate Water Report* and IWR also serve as vehicles for highlighting the work of our staff, Commissioners, and partners. The September 2014 IWR, for example, included an article on the challenges faced by NEIWPCC’s Aimee Clinkhammer as she works to encourage inclusive decisions related to New York’s Onondaga Lake. In IWR, we carried similar articles, including one on a nearly $1 million EPA grant awarded to the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center, which is directed by one of our Commissioners, Tom Ballestero.

Once a year NEIWPCC also produces a set of summaries that capture the diversity of ways we serve and assist each state. Each summary is designed to be helpful in explaining the value of a state’s membership in NEIWPCC, particularly to someone who’s unfamiliar with what we do. Early in the fiscal year, we published the seven 2013 summaries. Much of our work in fiscal 2014 is represented in the 2014 summaries, available at www.neiwpcc.org/quality.

NEIWPCC’s website remains a rich source of information—and a popular one. According to Google Analytics, site usage in fiscal 2014 was roughly equal to the previous year, with the number of unique visitors—that is, individuals counted only once, no matter how many times they visit a site—increasing slightly to 53,972. (This is especially noteworthy because, in contrast to fiscal 2013, we didn’t have a National Tanks Conference driving a surge of visitors to the site.) Our website also got a lot of attention internally as we moved to prune the site and its hundreds of subpages. Kristen Fitzpatrick asked staff to review pages related to their work and determine whether a page should stay, go, or be consolidated with another. Mark Taylor, who maintains NEIWPCC’s website, then began making the many requested changes.

For the past several years we’ve had an active presence on Twitter and Facebook, where we post news about developments at NEIWPCC and in the water arena. On Facebook, our page likes grew as we posted about everything from Water Quality Day in Vermont to NEIWPCC job openings. On Twitter, our posts included live tweets from conferences, workshops, and even a particularly photo-worthy QA field assessment. We gained Twitter followers throughout the year, pushing us ever closer to the benchmark of 500 followers, which we reached in early 2015.
Busy Year

All the activity described in this report made for a very active 12 months for NEIWPCC’s human resources staff. The numbers tell the story:

- 39 job openings posted
- 1,842 applications processed
- 88 interviews conducted (in conjunction with program/project manager(s))
- 40 people hired
- 14 in-person orientations (full-time staff only)

To share the expertise we have in-house, our HR team also coordinated a series of staff-led and staff-oriented training sessions. Held once a month, the sessions covered a broad range of subjects, including the management of requests for proposals (RFPs), email etiquette, the art and science of writing comment letters, and managing a contract with a hotel or an event venue.

The work of Selene Lehmann and her staff helps ensure that we hire only the best and that, once in the NEIWPCC family, new hires remain with us—productive, dedicated, and proud to be a part of the Commission. The commitment and professionalism displayed by our HR team was integral to our success in fiscal 2014, as it is every year.

Working in Our States

In addition to our programs and projects that have a regional focus, NEIWPCC works to meet needs within individual states in several different ways. We enter into relationships with organizations that target the needs of a specific area or water body—the Lake Champlain Basin Program, for example. We provide staff who work directly with a state agency—our employees at Rhode Island’s Department of Environmental Management as a case in point. And we have staff who focus their work on a particular state’s needs—for example, our staff based in South Portland, Maine. However the support is provided, the goal is the same: to help our states make progress in their work for clean water.
To help Connecticut meet its need for wastewater facility operators qualified to step up to management roles, NEIWPCC and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection cosponsor the Connecticut Leadership Training Program. Launched in October 2012, the year-long program is led by the Connecticut Water Pollution Abatement Association (CWPAA) and involves monthly classes on such subjects as wastewater treatment plant budgeting and finance, asset management and energy use, and public relations. In 2014 (the second year of the program), 18 operators participated and, in the process, received instruction that will be vital to their success should they move into management—not an unlikely scenario, given so many facility managers in Connecticut and throughout our region are at or near retirement age. The participants were honored in a graduation ceremony at NEIWPCC’s annual Connecticut Managers Forum, held on December 12, 2014, at the Metropolitan District of Hartford’s Training Center. Some 70 people attended the forum, which brings together wastewater managers from across the state to hear updates from Connecticut DEEP staff on wastewater regulations and to discuss such matters as legislative issues affecting the wastewater industry.

The Managers Forum was one of many popular Connecticut sessions offered during the year by NEIWPCC’s regional training program. As mentioned earlier in this report, we conducted 59 wastewater classes across our member states in fiscal 2014; 13 of those classes were in Connecticut, training 306 people.

As a sign of NEIWPCC’s commitment to serving Connecticut, we held our September 2014 Commission meeting in the town of Avon, just outside of Hartford. NEIWPCC Chair Yvonne Bolton of Connecticut DEEP guided the 39 participants in discussions on a wide range of issues, including the work in Connecticut to develop by 2017 a comprehensive plan for protecting the state’s water resources while promoting economic growth. At the end of the meeting, the Commissioners voted to approve a second one-year term for Bolton as our chair.

Wastewater treatment plants in Bridgeport, New Haven, and Stamford were among 12 municipal wastewater facilities in Connecticut inspected during 2014 by the Interstate Environmental Commission District, which assists Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey on water pollution matters. Since 2012, NEIWPCC has served as host of the IEC District, and the plant inspections are just one part of its extensive operations. Working with input from Connecticut DEEP, NEIWPCC/IEC District staff collected and analyzed effluent samples from all 12 plants and submitted the findings in a report sent to each facility as well as to county environmental officials, Connecticut DEEP, and EPA. For more on the IEC District, see the next page.

The salt marsh at the Barn Island Wildlife Management Area in Stonington is one of six Long Island Sound coastal areas included in new research being conducted by the Fulweiler Laboratory at Boston University under a contract with NEIWPCC. By implementing a pilot sentinel monitoring program focused on whether salt marshes are keeping pace with sea level rise, researchers hope to identify climate trends and long-term adaptation strategies. The monitoring involves measuring salt marsh accretion and decomposition rates as well as other environmental factors indicative of climate change, such as air and water temperature and precipitation. Field work...
began in the spring of 2014 and is continuing through the spring of 2015 at the six study sites—four in New York State and two in Connecticut (Hoadley Creek Preserve in Branford in addition to Barn Island). The project is expected to be completed by January 2016.

Working in conjunction with Connecticut DPH, NEIWPCC continued to provide legal support to the state drinking water program through a contracted lawyer. To enhance protection of water supply wells in Connecticut, the lawyer provides guidance on various matters, including the development of regulations related to the testing of water quality in private water supply systems.

Connecticut-New York

Interstate Environmental Commission District

Formed in 1936, the Interstate Environmental Commission District is a congressionally-authorized interstate organization that NEIWPCC has hosted since 2012. (All of its staff are NEIWPCC employees, and we provide managerial and financial oversight from our Lowell headquarters.) The IEC District assists New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut in multiple ways, such as conducting inspections at pump stations and wastewater treatment facilities and analyzing water samples at its laboratory on the campus of the College of Staten Island. The lab has National Environmental Laboratory Approval Program accreditation granted through New York State and New Jersey and is certified by Connecticut as an approved environmental laboratory. This means it's fully authorized to test for microbiological parameters such as fecal coliform, inorganic chemistry parameters (e.g., metals), and aggregate organic parameters (for example, biochemical oxygen demand).

One of the IEC District's most prominent programs is the monitoring it's been conducting each summer since 1991 in the westernmost portion of the Western Long Island Sound Basin, complementing the monitoring done by Connecticut DEEP. In this program, which is performed in support of the Long Island Sound Study, the staff conduct targeted water quality surveys between June and September to document the transition of waters into and out of a state of hypoxia. In 2014, this meant conducting seven surveys at each of 22 stations in Long Island Sound waters, from the upper East River to far western Long Island Sound. At all 22 stations, staff monitored conventional water quality parameters, including dissolved oxygen and chlorophyll a. In addition, a suite of nutrient parameters were incorporated in 2014 at a subset of 11 stations, at the request of the Long Island Sound Study.

We are also exploring additional ways to make the IEC District even more helpful in meeting state needs. This included holding an IEC “visioning” workshop on June 30, 2014, at EPA Region 2 offices in New York. State and federal participants identified new ideas and potential partners for this venerable organization.

At the IEC District Laboratory on Staten Island, New York, NEIWPCC’s Inna Golberg performs fecal coliform analysis using the membrane filtration method on wastewater samples collected from the Joint Regional Sewerage Board WWTP in West Haverstraw, New York.

IEC District’s 22 Western Long Island Sound monitoring stations in relation to CT DEEP stations
Long Island Sound Study

The multi-agency partnership known as the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) works to increase public awareness of the value of the sound and build support for its protection—and for many years, NEIWPCC has been one of the partner agencies, working closely with Connecticut, New York, and EPA. In 2014, our staff at LISS played pivotal roles in drafting an update of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Long Island Sound, which serves as a guide for protecting and restoring the sound; the updated plan addresses the changing needs of local communities, scientific and technological advances, and new environmental challenges. In the fall of 2014, public input on the draft was gathered by a firm under contract with NEIWPCC; the final plan will be released in 2015.

NEIWPCC’s Vicky O’Neill, who serves as LISS’s habitat restoration coordinator, took on another important role—and it concerned the loss of tidal wetlands, a very real problem for Long Island Sound’s coastal areas and one that’s been a concern for a long time. Back in 2003, the LISS Management Committee funded a Tidal Wetland Loss Workshop where participants determined that the causative factors of the area’s marsh loss were largely unknown and recommended a follow-up workshop at a later date. During fiscal 2014, Vicky organized that follow-up session, which took place on October 22-23, 2014, in Port Jefferson, New York, with 70 tidal wetland experts on hand. Presentations and discussions covered everything from sudden vegetation dieback to innovative restoration and monitoring efforts. Attendees identified the factors that cause marsh loss and change and how these factors impact marsh health; they ultimately created a new set of research, monitoring, restoration, and management recommendations for Long Island Sound and the region. In another highlight of note: one of our staff at LISS, Robert Burg, received NEIWPCC’s Annual Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions to the LISS communications program, including the development of the online Stewardship Area Atlas. The atlas features an interactive map and videos highlighting features of 33 coastal areas with exceptional ecological and recreational value. (For direct access to the videos, see LISS’s YouTube channel, LIIShealth.) Also notable, Robert produced a widely read bimonthly e-newsletter; oversaw a major redesign of LISS’s website; and continually added fresh material to sections of the site, including to the popular “Ask Dr. K” blog with NOAA’s LISS liaison and to the Status and Trends page, which provides an amazing amount of information on more than 60 environmental indicators of the sound’s health.

“Award is well-deserved recognition. Robert is always thinking about how to improve upon accomplishments. He has a deep interest in the work we all do and respect for its importance. That comes out in the effort he makes to tell our stories and to connect the dots in a complex world. Congratulations, Robert, and thank you for the great work you do!”

Mark Tedesco, director, EPA Long Island Sound Office
NEIWPCC manages Maine’s Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC), which has a long-established reputation for bringing high-quality wastewater and drinking water training programs to wherever the education is needed. In fiscal 2014, that meant coordinating courses in locations from Presque Isle to Portland. The offerings included popular one-day sessions on anaerobic digestion and energy generation, the use of GIS to enhance infrastructure management, corrosion control and coatings, and water quality analysis. During the year, JETCC also prepared to hold a class for the first time in the far northern town of Madawaska. Held in December 2014, the course provided an overview of pumps and pump stations; it was important information presented with expertise and at an affordable cost. That’s a hallmark of the training JETCC delivers every year.

NEIWPCC staff at our South Portland office—Leeann Hanson and Spring Connolly—implemented JETCC’s training programs and did a great deal more. They conducted all recordkeeping and correspondence for Maine’s wastewater operator certification program, which serves Maine’s roughly 850 licensed wastewater treatment plant operators. They also assisted Maine DEP’s Nonpoint Source Training Center with its courses and partnered with other organizations to run popular workshops for contractors and septic system installers.

Altogether, our South Portland staff directly coordinated or assisted with 53 training sessions in fiscal 2014 that reached a total of 1,439 participants. (These sessions are in addition to the courses offered in Maine through our regional training program, described on page 17.)

In September 2014 at the Sunday River ski resort in Newry, the operators in Maine’s fifth Management Candidate School (MCS) met for a final time and received their well-deserved diplomas. The graduation ceremony, which was held during the Maine Water Environment Association’s fall convention, marked the end of a year-long program that involved monthly classes carefully designed to provide a comprehensive managerial education. JETCC coordinates the MCS with support from MeWEA, the Maine Water Utilities Association, Maine DEP, and the Maine Department of Health and Human Services—and the need for the training remains significant. With many managers of wastewater treatment plants and drinking water facilities at or near retirement age, Maine is among many states that continue to be in need of operators qualified to assume management roles.

Two months after the graduation, NEIWPCC’s South Portland staff helped kick off Maine’s sixth MCS with a
training session at the Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells Water District offices. Seventeen participants are enrolled in this latest version of the program, which will conclude in the fall of 2015.

Wastewater operators in Maine may now take computer-based certification exams at virtually any time at assessment centers in Holden, Portland, and Portsmouth (N.H.); previously, Maine’s operators were restricted to paper exams offered at three locations twice a year. This modernization of the testing process was a high priority for Maine Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Patricia Aho, and it took a tremendous amount of work by NEIWPCC’s South Portland staff to help make it happen. The change to computer-based testing means Maine’s operators have three convenient options to take any of six certification exams: Biological (Grades 1-5) and Physical-Chemical (Grade 1). Beyond being able to take an exam throughout the year, operators may now easily sit for a test multiple times if needed and the results are available immediately.

In her announcement of the transition in late 2014, Commissioner Aho wrote that NEIWPCC will continue to administer the testing and certification process through our South Portland office, delivering, as she put it, the “same excellent customer service.” It should be noted that, since an appropriate testing center doesn’t exist yet in northern Maine, paper exams will still be offered semiannually in Presque Isle.

Working in conjunction with Maine DEP and EPA Region 1, our South Portland staff put in a great deal of effort preparing for a workshop on storm resiliency, held in December 2014 in Saco. The workshop had two themes: best practices for assessing risks posed by sea level rise and major storms, and tools for weighing the value of uninterrupted service against the substantial costs of protecting treatment works. Both the lineup of speakers and the audience represented a wide array of professions; participants included managers of treatment plants, private-sector engineers, and municipal, state, and federal government staff. Presenters highlighted the dual risks faced by treatment plants in Maine’s coastal towns and cities: 1) riverine flooding and 2) storms that send ocean waves over seawalls.

During the workshop, NEIWPCC’s John Murphy delivered a presentation on the storm resiliency supplement we are developing for our wastewater treatment design guide. For more on that effort, see page 20.

In Augusta, NEIWPCC staff have for years worked with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services’ Drinking Water Program in implementing drinking water programs and projects. In 2014, our staff tracked the use of Drinking Water State Revolving Fund monies and provided technical support for financial and data management associated with drinking water projects. They also provided technical assistance to the redesign of Maine’s Drinking Water Program website. NEIWPCC and Maine DHHS have entered into several new agreements that will allow NEIWPCC staff to continue providing Drinking Water Program assistance in 2015.

In another development, a NEIWPCC contractor completed work under an agreement with Maine DHHS to provide the Drinking Water Program with transition services and technical support related to its quality management system.
Since 2004, NEIWPCC has coordinated Massachusetts's Title 5 Onsite Wastewater Training and Certification of System Inspectors and Soil Evaluators Program. This vital program ensures that the individuals who inspect septic systems in the Commonwealth and those who evaluate the compatibility of soils at septic system installation sites are fully qualified for the tasks. In 2014, we again conducted our annual multiweek Soil Evaluator certification course, which included classroom and field training sessions for the 39 participants and culminated in a written exam in Worcester and a field exam in Bridgewater. (Most students passed and officially joined the ranks of certified Soil Evaluators.) In addition to the Soil Evaluator certification course, we coordinated five additional refreshers and workshops for Soil Evaluators and two training courses for System Inspectors. NEIWPCC staff also administered the certification renewal process for 156 Soil Evaluators and 213 System Inspectors. NEIWPCC works with the Massachusetts Health Officers Association and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in coordinating the Title 5 program.

Since 2005, NEIWPCC has also coordinated Massachusetts's Wastewater Operator Certification and Training Program. In fiscal 2014, NEIWPCC coordinated 23 exam prep courses for this program—serving 546 students—and managed the license renewal process for more than 4,200 wastewater treatment plant operators.
Off the many classes conducted during fiscal 2014 by NEIWPCC’s regional wastewater training program, 27 were in Massachusetts, training 606 people. The offerings included several management skills courses designed primarily for those accepted into the management training program that we run with MassDEP and the Massachusetts Water Pollution Control Association. Launched in 2011, the program has been pivotal in preparing operators to assume the helm at wastewater treatment facilities around the Commonwealth, many of which are losing veteran managers to retirement. Initially run as a year-long program with mandatory monthly classes restricted to accepted students, the program is now more flexible; participants may take the management classes at their own pace, and the classes are now open to anyone interested in taking them.

At MassDEP’s Bureau of Water Resources, three NEIWPCC environmental analysts assist the Drinking Water Program with data management, administration, and public outreach. They maintain the program’s electronic records, coordinate statewide statistical reporting, and refine procedures for compliance with the Well Drillers Program and the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. At the MassDEP Division of Watershed Management’s Watershed Planning Program, a NEIWPCC environmental analyst performs various duties in support of Clean Water Act (305(b), 303(d)) implementation, including managing the Quality Assurance Program, assisting with sampling (planning, collection), helping with data management activities, managing laboratory contracts, and coordinating the receipt, review, and use of data from outside sources for water body health assessment.

NEIWPCC and MassDEP have begun partnering on a project, funded by EPA’s Healthy Communities Grant Program, that will help the state’s communities and public water supply managers minimize chemical risks that certain above-ground storage tanks (ASTs) pose to drinking water supplies. NEIWPCC staff will conduct a small-scale trial of methods for gathering information about the ASTs and for disseminating materials on best management practices, communication, and emergency response. The project will focus on areas near public drinking water intakes on the Merrimack River for Andover, Lawrence, Lowell, Methuen, and Tewksbury. Findings will be widely distributed, including to emergency response teams and the public.

In the summer of 2014, NEIWPCC once again coordinated the Youth and the Environment Program at the Lowell wastewater treatment facility. The widely praised program, which is funded by EPA, provides disadvantaged inner-city young people with summer employment and environmental education while introducing them to career opportunities in the environmental arena. With the exception of two years when funding cuts put the program on hold, NEIWPCC has coordinated the Lowell YEP every summer since 1990, with help from EPA, the Lowell Regional Wastewater Utility, the City of Lowell, and the Career Center of Lowell.

During a Youth and the Environment Program field trip, a Lowell National Historical Park ranger instructs the five YEP students in a groundwater simulation activity in which colored dyes were used to simulate pollutant plumes.
Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

One of 28 programs in the National Estuary Program, the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program works to protect and preserve Narragansett Bay and its bistate watershed. Since mid-2013, NEIWPCC has served as the program's host, managing the program's personnel, contract, grant, and budget tasks and participating on the management and executive committees. During our first full year in this role, some of the biggest changes we helped implement involved people: the NBEP added a staff scientist as well as a staffer who specializes in data management and GIS mapping. Its management committee also grew in size and influence, with a dozen new members added to help strengthen the NBEP's partnerships with private entities, federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, and universities.

In one of NEIWPCC's most high-profile developments of the year, our staff in Lowell and at NBEP headquarters in Providence coordinated the process of selecting the recipients of EPA-funded grants totaling more than $720,000. The monies, which went to six projects aimed at reducing nutrient pollution, were part of $2 million provided by EPA to support projects under the umbrella of the Southeast New England Coastal Watershed Restoration Program; SNECWRP is a new partnership of more than 20 organizations collaborating to protect, enhance, and restore the waters from Westerly, Rhode Island, to Pleasant Bay, Massachusetts. In October 2014, an impressive array of leaders—including Rhode Island's two U.S. senators, one of its members of the House, EPA New England Regional Administrator Curt Spalding, and Janet Coit, director of Rhode Island DEM—assembled on a Newport beach to announce the grant recipients: the City of Newport, Mass Audubon, Northern Rhode Island Conservation District, Save The Bay, the University of Rhode Island, and the Town of West Warwick.

Additionally, the NBEP partnered with the University of Rhode Island's Coastal Institute to produce the 2014 Watershed Counts Report, a survey of water quality at the marine and freshwater beaches in the Narragansett Bay region. The NBEP also established a science advisory committee to, among other things, provide input and guidance to the management committee on the development of the program's State of the Watershed report and to recommend research and monitoring priorities.

“NEIWPCC has long had a vested interest in combating nutrient pollution. As host of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, we look forward to working on such worthy nutrient management projects for the Greater Narragansett Bay Watershed. The selected projects are appropriately diverse—from ribbed mussel bioextractions to an outreach toolkit—and reach across the bistate watershed. The Southeast New England Coastal Watershed Restoration Program is a true partnership, and it's an honor to be a part of this extraordinary collaboration.”

NEIWPCC Executive Director Ron Poltak

A distinguished group, including NEIWPCC’s Tom Borden, director of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (far right) and, holding the check, U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-R.I.), celebrate a grant to Save The Bay. NEIWPCC and the NBEP (which we host) are administering EPA-funded grants for six nutrient pollution-related projects in the Narragansett Bay watershed. EPA received special federal funding to protect and restore the coastal waters of southeastern New England.
All the work in 2014 to prepare for the NEAEB conference at Attitash paid off with a highly successful event, which included a popular poster session.

New Hampshire's work on nutrient pollution gets attention in a NEIWPCC-coordinated report on the adequacy of stormwater and nonpoint source nitrogen control efforts in achieving the goals of the Long Island Sound TMDL. The report includes a summary prepared by NEIWPCC in which we point out that while continued development in our region could be expected to increase nitrogen loading, the effect may be mitigated by nitrogen management efforts such as New Hampshire's Alteration of Terrain permit program, through which the state protects surface waters, drinking water supplies, and groundwater by controlling soil erosion and managing stormwater runoff. The report also includes a New Hampshire state section prepared by NH DES that provides ample evidence that the state has made progress on reducing its contribution of nonpoint source nitrogen to Long Island Sound.

In May 2014, a group of University of New Hampshire students made local headlines for testing an unusual approach to nitrogen management. Given our interest in fighting nutrient pollution, NEIWPCC's Anna Meyer traveled to the UNH campus in Durham to report on the project. The UNH students had an incentive to be creative: the wastewater treatment plant that serves the university experiences a...
Alyson Packhem, a University of New Hampshire student who graduated in the spring of 2014, poses outside the mobile urine collection unit that she and several other students designed, built, and operated. At far left, note the large tank, where urine was stored before being processed for use as a fertilizer.

A surge in urine flowing into the facility on weekend nights, and monitoring data from those time periods show peaks in the concentration of nitrogen entering the plant. It’s not hard to figure out the reason for the surge, but for the plant, it’s no joke: treating the nitrogen-rich influent is expensive. The students designed and built a mobile collection unit to divert urine from the plant and invited peers to try it on weekend nights; the appropriately named Pee Bus was well received during a four-week trial, and the students even had the urine pasteurized so it could be used as a fertilizer. Through Anna’s articles on this innovative effort in our email newsletter iWR and print newsletter Interstate Water Report, we exposed our readers to a refreshingly different spin on a well-known challenge.

NEIWPCC’s focus on issues of importance in New Hampshire was also seen in our staff’s participation in events such as the Coastal New Hampshire Climate Summit, held in April 2014 in Greenland. NEIWPCC joined natural resource agencies, watershed organizations, academic researchers, municipal leaders, and concerned citizens at the summit to discuss climate change research, adaptation and mitigation efforts, and opportunities for collaboration. Our staff also participated in the 2014 New Hampshire Water Symposium in Manchester, which covered a broad range of topics including funding for sustainable water infrastructure and revisions to the state’s wetlands regulations.

Based in New Paltz, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Hudson River Estuary Program (HREP) works to protect and improve the Hudson River watershed for all its residents—and, since 1999, NEIWPCC has provided the program with staff and project management support. NEIWPCC provides similar support to the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve (HRNERR), a state-federal partnership program based in Staatsburg. In 2014, our staff at the two programs engaged in a wide range of work, including climate change research, coordination of the Hudson River Environmental Conditions Observing System, outreach to schools throughout the Hudson River Valley, oversight of habitat restoration and shoreline management demonstration projects, and management of contracts for projects in watershed management, flood response and mitigation, source water protection, and green infrastructure.

At rear, Wes Eakin, a NEIWPCC environmental analyst from 2012 through 2014, helps to hoist an Atlantic sturgeon out of the water for examination.
A fair amount of the work was done in the field, perhaps most notably by our staff at the HREP who worked with NYSDEC’s Hudson River Fisheries Unit on sampling for anadromous fish, including Atlantic sturgeon. Nearly 20 years have passed since the Atlantic sturgeon fishery was closed, and in 2014, there were hints that perhaps the population’s long-sought recovery is underway. The fisheries unit noted an uptick in juvenile abundance numbers for Atlantic sturgeon and observed the first protected females returning to the river to spawn.

Also of major importance: NEIWPCC’s Dan Miller served as lead author of The Hudson River Estuary Habitat Restoration Plan, a prominent new NYSDEC report designed to guide estuary restoration and protection projects. Dan developed the report with input from regulatory agencies, scientists, natural resource managers, and non-governmental organizations, and it is an extraordinary document. Read it at www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/hrhrp.pdf.

During the year, NEIWPCC secured more than $14 million in funding to extend our efforts with both the HREP and HRNERR through 2020.

As the Onondaga Lake watershed coordinator, NEIWPCC Environmental Analyst Aimee Clinkhammer facilitates public engagement and fosters communication on high-profile issues related to the lake, which still suffers from a century of virtually unchecked pollution. In fiscal 2014, Aimee convened meetings of the Onondaga Lake Watershed Partnership that led to a significant feat: the establishment of eight principles that guide attention to the needs of the lake and its watershed and serve as foundations for future action. She also published a comprehensive report on the many pollution remediation efforts in progress, including the dredging of contaminated sediments.

For many years, NEIWPCC has employed staff who work directly with New York State DEC’s Division of Water. In 2014, this work included:

- Management of grants to communities for implementation of projects related to nonpoint source pollution, wastewater treatment, and aquatic habitat restoration.
- Development of database applications to process Division of Water permit applications and compliance monitoring.
- Development of training materials and informative web pages about the state’s Sewage Pollution Right to Know law, enacted in 2013.
- Extensive work on issues related to the New York City watershed program, Lake Champlain Basin Program, and Chesapeake Bay Regulatory and Accountability Grants Program, including project management, contractual issues, RFP development, and metrics reporting.

The photograph above captures another important responsibility. NEIWPCC staff sampled waters as part of New York’s Rotating Integrated Basin Studies (RIBS) program, in which researchers assess the water quality of all waters in the state. The
At the Peconic River, a group including two volunteer divers and NEIWPCCs Peconic Estuary Program Coordinator Julie Nace (blue jacket) install a weir and underwater video camera box; the camera provides a video record of alewife using the fish ladder that was installed at the location in 2011.

program is designed so that all major drainage basins in the state are monitored every five years. Each year, all water bodies in a specific area are subject to more intensive analysis wherein researchers employ multimedia sampling—water chemistry, bottom sediment and invertebrate tissue chemistry, toxicity testing, macroinvertebrate and fish community assessments, habitat assessment—to provide detailed data and information for determining if water quality supports the designated uses of a water body.

NEIWPCCC staff worked with NYSDEC to oversee progress toward compliance with the New York City Combined Sewer Overflow Consent Order, which requires construction of grey and green infrastructure projects valued at $3-4 billion. Under the CSO Order, NEIWPCCC independent environmental monitors (IEMs) are responsible for reviewing long-term control plans for all CSO-impacted water bodies in New York City. In 2014, they also reviewed detailed final designs for abatement projects, such as storage tanks, high level sewer separations, regulator modifications, and parallel interceptors; observed water quality sampling (see photo above); monitored construction and conducted final inspections; and attended progress meetings and public meetings related to the consent order. In total, the IEMs conducted more than 81 inspections of sites where CSO abatement work is underway.

Through NEIWPCCC staff at the Peconic Estuary Program, we support implementation of the Peconic Estuary Program Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan. In 2014, NEIWPCCC Environmental Analyst Julie Nace continued to monitor diadromous fish usage of a PEP-constructed fish passage; embarked on a major update of the Environmental Indicators Report from 2005; continued an extensive effort to remove aquatic invasive species from the Peconic River; and established an inter-municipal agreement to help municipalities work together on water quality improvement projects. She also oversaw the Long Island tidal wetlands trends analysis (see next column), and coordinated PEP workgroups including the PEP Natural Resource Subcommittee, Technical Advisory Committee, Climate Change Workgroup, and Environmental Indicators Workgroup. Through NEIWPCCC, the PEP funded a homeowner rebate program for green infrastructure and launched A Day in the Life of the Peconic Estuary, an extensive outreach project designed to connect students to the estuary through citizen science.

To help protect the remaining vegetated high marsh and intertidal marsh in New Yorks Marine District, it is vital to assess wetland loss and migration since the last regulatory inventory in 1974. NEIWPCCC has contracted with an engineering firm to develop a tidal wetlands trends analysis, which will help identify causes of change and assist in developing response strategies. The project is expected to be completed in 2015.

Using federal funds directed to NEIWPCCC via the Governors Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), we are providing NYSDEC with staff to focus on storm recovery tasks and related work. The staffs activities include expediting permits for GOSR projects, participating in New York Rising Community Reconstruction projects, reviewing and assisting with NYSDEC projects related to wastewater treatment plants, and providing expertise and guidance as needed.
Lake Champlain Basin Program

Based in Grand Isle, Vermont, the Lake Champlain Basin Program is a leader of efforts to restore and protect the treasured lake and its watershed. NEIWPCC manages the LCBP’s personnel, contract, grant, and budget tasks and, through a partnership with the LCBP steering committee, provides input on the program’s many activities.

In 2014, the LCBP continued its long-running and much-anticipated Local Implementation Grant Program by awarding a total of $434,900 to communities and organizations in New York and Vermont. The 2013-2014 grant cycle included award categories for pollution prevention and aquatic invasive species spread prevention.

Among the grant recipients: the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, which used its award to support the eleventh annual outreach tour of its replica canal schooner, Lois McClure. One focus of the four-month tour was on educating the public about aquatic invasive species and what can be done to minimize their spread. Lake Champlain is home to 50 known aquatic non-native species, many of which are invasive and are harmful to the aquatic environment, biodiversity, economy, or human health. Before the tour began, NEIWPCC staff at the LCBP led an orientation program for the boat’s crew on the status of aquatic invasive species in Lake Champlain and the best strategies for minimizing their spread to other water bodies. The staff also created an invasive species flyer and a large banner that provided essential information about the topic to the more than 10,000 people who visited the Lois McClure as it traveled to communities on Lake Champlain and the Hudson and Richelieu Rivers.

Several other grant-funded projects are addressing nonpoint source pollution through the installation of biofilters and other best management practices to control runoff. Other partners used their funding to hire summer stewards to work at popular boat launches. The stewards checked recreational vessels for aquatic invasive species and advised boaters on how to avoid transporting these organisms between water bodies.

In another 2014 highlight, NEIWPCC’s LCBP staff continued to work with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Clinton County, New York, to hold meetings with farmers on how they can minimize nutrient runoff while sustaining productivity. Held at lunchtime or in the evening to respect the farmers’ busy schedules, the workshops addressed cover crops, no-till planting, and precision agriculture.

To read about important workshops and public meetings that the LCBP coordinated in Vermont as well as the continued popularity of the Lake Champlain Basin Program Resource Room at the ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center, see page 40.
For many years, NEIWPCC has provided technical support to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management’s water monitoring and assessment program. During the 2014 field season, NEIWPCC staff periodically sampled algae and plants at 16 sites around the state. The data support a multiyear effort to determine how much nitrogen and phosphorus the state’s water bodies can tolerate and still meet their designated uses. With EPA continuing to push states to shift from narrative to numeric nutrient criteria, NEIWPCC staff at RI DEM have been working hard to assist the state with the transition.

For nutrient criteria development, it is critical to collect data on how algae and plants respond to nutrients, but states across the country have struggled with how to appropriately measure this response. To help Rhode Island explore its options, our staff tested several different field methods for quantifying the presence of algae and aquatic plants. In 2014, our staff also continued their analysis of previously collected data from lakes and streams and delivered numerous presentations as part of the internal and external vetting of their research. As all the work shows, the process of developing potential nutrient criteria is difficult and time-consuming. But it’s also vitally important, and NEIWPCC is pleased to assist in the effort.

As part of the support we provide to DEM, NEIWPCC staff continued to monitor the condition of rivers and streams around Rhode Island. At each of the 42 sites they visit on a three-year cycle, our staff take physical measurements, collect water samples to be analyzed for bacteria and chemistry, and record notable site conditions such as evidence of invasive species. The data they collect help DEM fulfill reporting requirements related to the Clean Water Act and the RIPDES permit program and to assess fresh waters that drain to shellfishing areas.

Beyond the DEM monitoring and assessment, our staff visited additional sites in Rhode Island for EPA’s National Rivers and Streams Assessment. The NRSA is designed to identify the extent to which the nation’s rivers and streams have been compromised by stressors such as acidification and bank erosion and the degree to which the waters contain public health risks. EPA randomly selected 2,000 rivers and streams to represent the nation’s flowing waters, and all participating personnel, including our staff in Rhode Island, were trained in methods developed by EPA. At each of the 14 selected rivers and streams in Rhode Island, crews undertook an immense amount of work. They collected data on macroinvertebrates, algae, and fish; assessed fish habitat and bank vegetation; and gathered samples of water, streambed sediments, and fish to be analyzed in a lab. We are proud to support Rhode Island’s participation in this significant EPA study.

As explained on page 21 of this report, NEIWPCC worked closely with Rhode Island DEM and EPA Region 1 in developing and coordinating the 25th Annual Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference, held April 29-30, 2014, in Newport. In another example of our strong relationship with the state, NEIWPCC senior leadership traveled to Providence in February 2014 to meet with our three Rhode Island Commissioners from outside state government as well as the individuals who participate in NEIWPCC meetings and activities as representatives of the heads of Rhode Island’s Department of Environmental Management and Department of Health. We set up the meeting to discuss ways that NEIWPCC can further help Rhode Island address its water priorities, exemplifying our commitment to meeting the state’s needs.
NEIWPCC provided support to the Rhode Island Operator Boot Camp, a year-long program that delivers management training to wastewater operators with managerial potential. The 2013-2014 program featured monthly classes on such topics as budgeting, media relations, and project management. This was the first time the Boot Camp had been run since 2010, when Rhode Island stopped offering the training because demand for wastewater managerial candidates had been met. With the need having emerged again, the Boot Camp returned in 2013, with great success. Twelve operators graduated in September 2014 after receiving a comprehensive education in what it takes to effectively manage a wastewater facility. The participants in the program came from facilities in Bristol, Burrillville, Cranston, East Greenwich, Jamestown, Newport, West Warwick, and Woonsocket as well as from the Narragansett Bay Commission’s Bucklin Point and Fields Point treatment plants.

“It is extremely important that as a new generation of men and women come into leadership positions at wastewater treatment plants, they be well-trained, committed, and proactive,” said Janet Coit, director of RI DEM and a NEIWPCC Commissioner, in a press release. “DEM is pleased to act as a resource for wastewater treatment managers by offering this innovative program. We’ve worked with an outstanding group of individuals from across the state in this latest round of Boot Camp training.”

In 2007, NEIWPCC assisted RI DEM in developing the Rhode Island Operator Boot Camp, which has served as a model for similar wastewater management training programs now underway in many other states.
Much of NEIWPCC's work in Vermont is conducted by our staff at the Lake Champlain Basin Program (page 37). This includes several staff members based at the LCBP Resource Room at the ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center in Burlington; in 2014, the staff taught visitors of all ages about the basin, as they’ve done so successfully since the center opened in 2003. With exhibits and presentations, they covered a multitude of topics including migratory birds, sea lampreys, aquatic invasive species, mercury, and natural lawn care; during the summer they collected plankton from the lake for guests to examine under microscopes. Each year the Resource Room hosts not only families visiting the ECHO Center but also teachers and groups from schools, colleges, and camps; since 2003, the room has received nearly 279,000 visits, with 27,574 in fiscal 2014 alone.

In addition, the LCBP collaborated with the newly formed group Watersheds United Vermont on a special capacity-building workshop for the more than 25 regional and local watershed organizations active in the Lake Champlain Basin. The November 2014 workshop offered administrative sessions on the topics of goal setting, task implementation, and fundraising. There were also sessions on more technical subjects including tile drainage, policies related to small dam removal, and tips for discussing flood response with public works crews.

Our LCBP staff also coordinated back-to-back workshops in Burlington on climate change, which took place in March 2014. The first workshop, on March 25, addressed the implications of local and regional climate change on stormwater management;
Farmers, business leaders, municipal officials, and others gather to hear from Vermont DEC and EPA Region 1 about the ongoing revision to the phosphorus TMDL for Lake Champlain. This meeting at the St. Albans Historical Society was one of four that the LCBP facilitated in November 2014.

The wastewater treatment plant in the village of Lyndonville was one of five facilities in Vermont visited as part of NEIWPCC’s study of low-cost retrofits to reduce the discharge of nitrogen. The study focused on wastewater facilities discharging to rivers in the upper Long Island Sound watershed—that is, in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont—since the waters ultimately drain into the sound, where excess nitrogen inflow is a major contributing factor in low dissolved oxygen events. The visits to Lyndonville and other sites in the three states were just the first step in a long process that ultimately resulted in a report outlining recommendations for many of the visited facilities. For details, see page 15.

In April 2014, NEIWPCC coordinated a two-day workshop in Waterbury on microbiology for wastewater process control; the program included discussions of activated sludge microbiology and troubleshooting techniques as well as hands-on training in the use and care of a phase contrast microscope. One of a number of well-attended NEIWPCC courses conducted during the year in Vermont, the Waterbury workshop was a perfect example of the type of comprehensive, in-depth instruction that’s typical of sessions offered through our regional wastewater training program.
At NEIWPCC, all of our work flows from our commitment to serving and assisting our states and our region. But commitment goes the other way too. It is only through Commissioners and staff who are truly committed to NEIWPCC that we are able to do what we do. It is, therefore, a long-held tradition at NEIWPCC to honor milestones in service and to pay tribute to exemplary performance.

In addition to the NEIWPCC Annual Achievement Award presented to Robert Burg (see page 27), we presented quarterly Above and Beyond Awards to these outstanding members of our staff.

Spring Connolly, administrative assistant in our South Portland office. In her nomination, Spring’s supervisor, Leeann Hanson wrote, “Throughout times of intense activity, Spring maintains focus, systematically completing every task and frequently finding a more efficient way to accomplish what she is asked to do.”

John Murphy, program manager in Lowell. “John welcomed the challenge of taking on a leadership role with organizing our All-Staff Meeting,” wrote Tom Groves, John’s supervisor. “His daily workload increased dramatically during the meeting planning process, yet he didn’t miss a beat.”

Shelly Jenkins, administrative assistant in Lowell. NEIWPCC accountant Jean Quigley wrote, “Shelly processed thousands of Title 5 license renewals over the past five months, submitting hundreds of payments by check and credit card on a daily basis. Everything has been perfectly accurate and meticulously handled.”

Caitlyn Nichols, environmental analyst at the Interstate Environmental Commission District. “Caitlyn continued to accomplish her regular work assignments,” wrote her supervisor, Phil DeGaetano, “while taking the lead role in managing all the complexities surrounding the move of the IEC District office in Manhattan.”
As for service milestones, we paid tribute to two men who have contributed greatly to our Commission and Executive Committee meetings in recent years. Honored for five years of service were Mark Klotz, director of New York State DEC’s Division of Water, and Pete LaFlamme, director of Vermont DEC’s Watershed Management Division. Klotz represents the NYSDEC commissioner at our meetings; LaFlamme represents the commissioner of Vermont DEC.

In a sign of the experienced staff we have in place, the list of individuals honored for reaching milestones in NEIWPCC employment reached considerable length in 2014.

**Five years:**
- Linda Allen, project director, New York City CSO Monitoring Program
- Spring Connolly, administrative assistant, South Portland
- Eric Howe, environmental analyst, Lake Champlain Basin Program
- Paul Kenline, environmental engineer, New York City CSO Monitoring Program
- Alene Onion, environmental analyst, Hudson River Environmental Conditions Observing System
- Michele Piazza, office manager, meetings and events, Lowell
- Clair Ryan, program manager, Lowell
- David Welch, environmental analyst, Maine Department of Health and Human Services

**Ten years:**
- Deb Banks, environmental analyst, New York State DEC Division of Water
- Phil DeGaeatano, environmental analyst, New York State DEC Division of Water (2004-2013); senior program manager, Interstate Environmental Commission District (2014)
- Rebecca Houser, environmental analyst, Hudson River Estuary Program
- Shelly Jenkins, administrative assistant, Lowell
- Cynthia Norman, assistant information officer, Lake Champlain Basin Program
- Erik Posner, environmental analyst, New York State DEC Division of Water
- Jean Quigley, accountant, Lowell
- Sarah Rickard, environmental analyst, New York State DEC Division of Water
- Rob Simson, environmental analyst, New York State DEC Division of Water

**Fifteen years:**
- Bill Howland, program director, Lake Champlain Basin Program
- Don Kennedy, training coordinator, Lowell

**Thirty years:**
- Ron Poltak, executive director

*Thank you, all, for your service, your contributions, and your commitment.*
Financial Information

From the Comptroller

This page contains the results of the latest audit of NEIWPCC’s program revenue and expenditures for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014. The Commission is a not-for-profit organization, exempt from taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

As has been the case for many years, we received a sizable portion of our funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency in the form of grants and cooperative agreements. From our member states, we continued to receive direct financial support in the form of annual dues as well as substantial funding for projects pertaining to specific water bodies (Hudson River, Lake Champlain, etc.). Other sources of revenue included our training and certification programs, including those we conduct for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of Maine. Fees generated by the Massachusetts and Maine programs are shown on the statement of program activities as separate sources of revenue.

In a new development in 2014, NEIWPCC entered into a joint contract with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Housing Trust Fund Corporation to assist with Hurricane Sandy storm recovery tasks and projects in conjunction with the Governor’s Office for Storm Recovery. And, in a continuation of a relationship established in 2013, we maintained fiduciary responsibility for the Interstate Environmental Commission (a joint agency of the states of Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York) as a means of preserving IEC as a congressionally approved, viable, and effective organization. IEC was established in 1936 for the purpose of protecting its jurisdictional waters and the environment of its district in a regional manner.

We are pleased to report that fiscal 2014 was a relatively good year financially for NEIWPCC, with total revenue exceeding total operating expenses. This resulted in an increase in net assets, which provide a reserve for the organization to draw upon if necessary to temporarily support operations.

Independent auditors perform an audit of NEIWPCC’s annual financial statements, as required by our compact and our various grants and contracts. The audit is conducted in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Linda Agostinelli, C.P.A.
NEIWPCC Comptroller

NEW ENGLAND INTERSTATE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION

Statement of Program Activities
Year Ended September 30, 2014

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<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Member State Support</td>
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<td>Member State Support-IEC</td>
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<td>State Contracts</td>
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<td>Training</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
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<td>Donated Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>MA/ME Certification Exam Fees</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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<table>
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<th>Operating Expenditures</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
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</table>
Homeward bound: NEIWPCC’s Mark Nimiroski and Jane Sawyers head for shore after a long day of sediment and water quality sampling on Watson Reservoir in Little Compton, Rhode Island.
Address service requested.