



New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970
54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301 | (603) 224-7867 | www.nhacc.org

55th Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions
November 1, 2025 | Pembroke, NH

Session B - 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM

1B

KNOW YOUR NATURAL RESOURCES USE YOUR NRI !

Jeffry N. Littleton, Principal Ecologist, Moosewood Ecological LLC

You can't protect it all! How do you decide what to prioritize? A natural resources inventory (**NRI**) provides a scientific basis to support your natural resources protection and land conservation decisions. Learn what data and information is needed for an NRI and what is new! How do you determine what you have for natural resources? How do you prioritize what to protect? How do you get started, update, or implement an NRI? How can the NRI and the natural resources chapter in your master plan work together? How can your community get involved with the NRI? We will address these and other questions you may have – be prepared for an interactive discussion!

2B

UNDERSTAND THE DES WETLANDS RULES AND CC ROLE IN THE PERMIT PROCESS

Emma Berger, NHDES Inland Wetland Permitting Section Supervisor

Join us in this engaging interactive session as Emma Berger will unravel the intricacies of the NHDES wetlands permitting process, helping you gain a deeper understanding of your Conservation Commission advisory role in the review of state wetland permit applications. Emma will provide information regarding the NHDES wetlands permitting process to help commission members better understand their role in reviewing applications. Under RSA 482-A:11, III, Conservation Commissions have an advisory role in the review of state wetland permit applications and may file a letter of intervention to gain additional time for review of a permit application to prepare a response to NHDES.

3B

HOW and WHY BEAVERS ARE DRIVEN TO BUILD

Jordan Kennedy, Beaver Institute

This workshop explores how beavers build together, within and across colonies, to create intricate damming complexes. Drawing from academic research and field observation, the session will highlight beaver behavior, the engineering and ecological value of their constructions, and the challenges that can arise when people and beavers share landscapes. Participants will also learn practical coexistence strategies, including non-lethal management techniques and resources available through the Beaver Institute, aimed at fostering sustainable, mutually beneficial relationships with these species.

4B

EXPLORING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S OLD-GROWTH FORESTS

David Govatski, Jefferson Conservation Commission and **Sarah RobbGrieco**, Northeast Regional Manager for the Old-Growth Forest Network

Old-growth forests are relatively rare in New Hampshire. This presentation will describe how to recognize the unique physical characteristics, important ecological attributes, and wildlife that favor such forests, and their importance as carbon reserves to help cool our planet. We will finish with a visual tour of several of the finest old-growth forests across our state, where ancient trees are a source of awe and inspiration. Recent research has shown we need both old-growth forest reserves and sustainably managed forests to provide for the needs of society and nature. Sarah RobbGrieco will share the work of the Old-Growth Forest Network including ways to find, visit and protect old forests in your community, and how interested landowners can best steward their own forestland to become future old-growth forests.

5B

BOUNDARY RESEARCH: Piecing the Deeds Together

Stephanie Voss, Records Examination Services
Victor Chouinard, Chester Conservation Commission

Boundary research basically involves two processes: 1) locating pertinent deeds in the title record and 2) piecing together the descriptions found in these deeds to gain a better understanding of an area whose boundaries are currently unclear or, in some cases, contested. In this workshop, participants will leap over part 1 and go straight to part 2, first working together to draw out the description found in a key deed, then breaking into two groups to draw the descriptions of two abutting parcels, and finally coming together again to see how (and if) the three parcels we have drawn fit together. A quick hour of puzzle-solving!

6B

GOOD FORESTRY IN THE GRANITE STATE

Karen Bennett; UNH Cooperative Extension Forester, Emeritus
Stephen Roberge; UNH Cooperative Extension Forester

Good Forestry in the Granite State is a seminal guide for landowners and land managers.

This workshop will review the tried-and-true topics included in it and review some of the newer elements, such as managing for climate and carbon. Special emphasis will be placed on how conservation commissioners can use the guide to care for town-owned land and how they can share the contents with town residents.

7B

ROUNDTABLE: How can we balance conservation and development?

Jennifer Beck, Wilton Conservation Commission and NHACC Board

It may be possible to accommodate the need for housing and commercial development and preserve our natural resources -- at the same time. But we'll have to be creative and proactive. And we'll need to have a new approach working with developers, municipal governments, and state law-makers. Never have conservation commissioner's roles, as trusted advisors, been so critical. This Roundtable Discussion seeks to identify current threats, future opportunities and recent successes. We'll explore how NH towns can engage the public, planning boards and politicians in collaboratively working on future scenarios that strike a balance between human needs and the preservation of natural resources.

8B

CLIMATE CAFE

Emily Johnson, NH Healthy Climate

Join NH Healthy Climate members Denise Stevens and Emily Johnson for a Climate Cafe group discussion -- an informal, open, respectful, confidential space to safely share emotional responses and reactions related to the climate and environmental emergency. Together, we'll take a break from our contributions and actions to explore thoughts, feelings and experiences related to the climate crisis.

9B

LINKING PEOPLE & LAND: Conservation Planning for Municipalities

Zak Brohinsky, GIS Analyst and **Crystal Kidd**, Planner; Resilience Planning & Design

Conservation planning succeeds when it balances ecological priorities with community needs and the realities of implementation. This session will outline a clear, adaptable process for municipalities, illustrated through examples of our work at state, regional, and local levels—each tailored to the unique context of the community and scale. Participants will explore how to compile and analyze existing conditions, design targeted outreach, integrate GIS mapping, and identify co-benefits that extend beyond traditional natural resource protection. Presenters will share lessons learned from projects with land trusts, state agencies, and municipalities, offering tools to build momentum, foster broad partnerships, and create actionable plans that inspire lasting results.