



New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970
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56th Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions
November 7, 2026 | 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

WETLANDS IDENTIFICATION AND FUNCTIONS & VALUES; CLASSROOM AND FIELD TRIP

Sandy Crystall, Professional Wetlands Scientist
Mary Ann Tilton, NH DES

This workshop will help participants understand "what makes a wetland," and how the various characteristics of wetlands contribute to the functions and values they provide. We'll talk about wetland delineation and classification and how this information can help you and your Conservation Commission provide comments on wetland permit applications. Be prepared for wet ground and fall weather! This workshop includes a 45-minute classroom session, followed by 1-3/4 hours in the field at a nearby wetland.

3B

VERNAL POOL IDENTIFICATION:

Focus on Remote Assessment and Confirmation Considerations

Tracy Tarr, GZA Environmental
Drew Stevens, Nottingham CC

This workshop will focus on methods municipalities can utilize to complete large landscape-level vernal pool assessments utilizing GIS. The discussion will focus on cost-effective alternatives for map preparation and field confirmation, including supplies. In addition, the workshop will discuss methods for obtaining permission, funding, and public support for vernal pools.

4B

NATURE ECONOMY:

RECOGNIZING & VALUING OUTDOOR RESOURCES

Shannon Rogers, State Specialist, UNH Extension Professor

In this interactive workshop, we will discuss the growing outdoor economy and how it can encompass more than just recreation. Participants will have the chance to identify and assess some of their community's natural assets and learn about a range of opportunities to connect them to their community's economic goals. Case studies of New Hampshire communities who have worked with UNH Cooperative Extension will be shared.

5B

LAND PROTECTION OPTIONS for LANDOWNERS

Chris Wells, President, Piscataquog Land Conservancy

Learn the basics of how New Hampshire landowners can permanently conserve their land, and the ways that Conservation Commissions can assist in these transactions. Chris Wells of the Piscataquog Land Conservancy will discuss landowner options including conservation easements and conveying outright ownership of their land. He will also discuss financial considerations, future stewardship and monitoring requirements, and give examples of how land trusts and conservation commissions have partnered to protect land.

6B

USING TECHNOLOGY for Your CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Jayson Brennen, Litchfield Conservation Commission, GIS Practice Leader

This presentation will focus on how technology can be used to support conservation commission efforts. The Town of Litchfield leverages technology to enhance Conservation Commission functions and public engagement through dynamic GIS web apps, interactive QR codes for issue reporting, digital land maintenance tracking, and a searchable Commission records archive. We will showcase practical tools that allow conservation commissions to streamline public outreach, monitor field maintenance, and organize historical data. Attendees will see live demonstrations of these systems and gain actionable insights for adopting similar digital tools in their own communities.

7B

STATE REPORT ON INVASIVE SPECIES

Representative James Spillane and Representative William Darby

Learn more about the Final Report from the **State Working Group on Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species in New Hampshire** from State Representatives James Spillane and Rep. Will Darby. Terrestrial invasive plant species pose a direct and growing threat to New Hampshire. The challenge is not limited to one department, one industry, one municipality, or one ecological setting. It is a statewide problem that impacts landowners, farmers, foresters, towns, conservation commissions, land conservancies, utilities, nurseries, transportation officials, state facilities managers, and the general public.

In response to these concerns, Rep. James A. Spillane, Chairman of the House Fish and Game and Marine Resources Committee, convened an unofficial multi-agency, cross-sector working group on terrestrial invasive plant species. The purpose of the Committee was to bring the right people into the same room, determine what is already known, identify what is not working, and develop practical recommendations to help control invasive species. Join this discussion to clarify the appropriate role and authority that municipal Conservation Commissions play in the statewide effort to control and prevent the spread of invasive species.

8B

GAIN CONFIDENCE WITH CLIMATE & HEALTH MESSAGING

Cynthia Nichols, Darla Thyng & Denise Stevens, NH Healthy Climate

We all know that protecting the environment is critical to the health of the community. But it isn't always easy to talk about it. In this workshop, we'll share information specifically about climate change impacts to our health and climate messaging. And then we'll practice together to learn how to take that info to our communities in an empathetic and engaging manner. We hope you'll come away feeling more confident with the information and empowered in your work.