



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

9:00 AM Annual Meeting for Members

9:30 AM Keynote Presentation

The Little Brook That Changed the World:

**How Hubbard Brook Transformed Our Understanding of Forests,
Water, and Environmental Change**

Established by the U.S. Forest Service in 1955 in New Hampshire's White Mountains, the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest brings together scientists from federal agencies and more than 25 universities and research institutions. Together, they explore the intricate relationships among forests, wildlife, air, water, and soils.

Dr. Lindsey Rustad and Anthea Lavallee will bring this remarkable living laboratory to life through some of Hubbard Brook's most consequential discoveries and experiments, from groundbreaking acid rain research to the effects of extreme weather and a changing climate on forests, water, wildlife, and winter.

More than seven decades of continuous research demonstrate the extraordinary power of long-term science to reveal patterns, trends, and environmental changes that would otherwise be imperceptible. Anthea and Lindsey will make connections between Hubbard Brook research and our economy, ecology, culture, and quality of life as citizens of the Northern Forest.

Session A - 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

1A

FUNDAMENTALS of CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS

Lesley Johnson, Surry Conservation Commission, NHACC Board
Larry Spencer, Holderness Conservation Commission

New to your conservation commission? Join us for this informative session on the fundamentals of conservation commissions. This session will give new commissioners the basics on conservation commissions, the laws governing conservation commissions, why they are established, including roles and responsibilities. We will cover the ins and outs of how to make sure your meetings are successful. Bring your questions! The *Handbook for NH Municipal Conservation Commissions* is complementary to commissioners who register and attend this session.

2A

NH DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES; WETLANDS RULES AND COMMISSION'S ROLES

Emma Berger, Inland Wetland Permitting Section Supervisor, NH DES

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's advisory role in the review of state wetland permit applications under RSA 482-A:11, III. Emma will provide information regarding the NHDES wetlands permitting process to help commission members better understand their role in reviewing applications.

3A

NH WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Katie Callahan, Geographic Information Systems Coordinator at NH Fish & Game

Wildlife corridors allow wildlife to move between areas of core habitats and are critical for the conservation of wildlife in New Hampshire. The *NH Wildlife Corridors* model is a GIS-based mapping model that predicts the potential locations of these linkages. Sixteen focal species are included to provide an umbrella for connectivity analysis. Habitat generalists, habitat specialists, area sensitive, and barrier sensitive species capture the range of variation in dispersal behavior. This model can identify both key areas for land protection efforts and strategic locations for restoring connectivity in currently fragmented landscapes.

4A

NATURE'S DIVIDENDS; Making the Economic Case for Conservation

Jim O'Brien, The Nature Conservancy

How do you make the case for conservation to local officials, budget committees, and community members? This workshop explores The Nature Conservancy's *Nature's Dividends* report, which shows how forests, wetlands, rivers, and other natural assets generate economic returns through flood protection, clean water, recreation, jobs, and healthier communities. Participants will learn key New Hampshire findings, explore practical examples, and gain tools and messaging to communicate the economic value of conservation and build support for local projects and community planning efforts.

5A

LAND PROTECTION STEP by STEP

Anna Boudreau, Anna M. Boudreau Consulting LLC

Participants will learn the basic steps in a conservation project from landowner outreach, negotiation and funding for conservation land acquisition. We will review and discuss conservation options including conservation easement donations and fee purchase of land. We will also discuss the different roles conservation commissions can play with respect to conservation easements, including as easement holder, landowner, and executory interest holder. Bring your questions and join us for an interactive discussion about the land conservation process.

6A

UNDERSTANDING WILDFIRE; Factors, Risk & History in NH

John Neely, Community Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator, DNCR, Forest Protection

A common misconception is that wildfires did not occur in New England. However, history tells a different story. Join our presentation hosted by John Neely to learn about wildfires in New Hampshire and how fire may become an increasing occurrence with the onset of climate change. Topics covered include; How do wildfires start and burn, predicting wildfire conditions, wildfire risk and history, creating resilient communities.

7A

INVASIVE UPLAND PLANT SPECIES of NH

Doug Cygan, Invasive Species Coordinator, NH Dept of Agriculture Markets & Food

This program will take an in-depth look at upland invasive plant species of New Hampshire. Attendees will learn about the various issues, New Hampshire rules and regulations, characteristics, identifying features and control measures for some of the most aggressive non-native plants here in the Granite State. Learn more about a new statewide program to better track invasive species and inform communities about potential outbreaks in their area.

8A

HYDROCLIMATE EXTREMES in the GRANITE STATE:

Evaluating the Drought-to-Flood Spectrum

Sarah Jamison, Senior Service Hydrologist, National Weather Service

Historically characterized by reliable seasonal precipitation, New Hampshire is now encountering more frequent and extreme hydrological swings. This presentation examines the key drivers re-shaping New Hampshire's water resources, including shifting winter snowpack dynamics, diminished seasonal recharge, and prolonged groundwater droughts. As storm intensity accelerates, heavier rainfall events drive flash flooding and rapid runoff rather than replenishing sub-surface aquifers. Attendees will gain insight into how shifting water balances are altering regional hydrology and what this dual reality of heightened drought and flood risks means for the future.