



WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL

Title: Statewide Water Resources Research Conference

Duration: August 31, 1997 to August 30, 1999

Federal Funds Requested: \$11,940

Non-Federal Funds Pledged: \$26,608

Principal Investigators:

Thomas P. Ballesterio and Larry K. Brannaka Department of Civil Engineering University of New Hampshire

Statement of Critical Regional or State water Problems:

In the last 18 months, all principle private and public concerns were individually interviewed to assess their views on the important water resources research needs for the state of New Hampshire. As expected, the listing of the research needs by such a large and diverse sampling is lengthy and covers the depth and breadth of water resources' surface water, groundwater, quantity, and quality. At this point though there remains two key elements' the list needs to be synthesized and discussed by those who were interviewed and developed it; and, in light of the very limited funding for water resources research, the list needs to be prioritized. In this way, the sectors that perform the research can better understand their role, especially in the ultimate utility of the research results, and maximizing that utility.

The need for this type of effort is long overdue and has never been conducted in New Hampshire. The traditional methods for New Hampshire water research fit into three primary categories: research initiated through the interests of an individual investigator, research guided by regulatory influence, and research driven by specific sources of funding for specific purposes. Unfortunately, none of these traditional methods necessarily holds as their primary influence the long view on New Hampshire's water resources. The proposed water resources research conference will afford the varied constituencies an opportunity to discuss what is real versus perceived research needs as well as allow all to see how individual concerns weigh in on the state-wide scale.

Statement of Results or Benefits

The immediate results of this information transfer project will be' the statewide conference itself, the conference proceedings, seven newsletters, and a follow-up meeting meant to institutionalize the water research conference as an annual event. The majority of the requested funds are for the initial conference. The most important outcome achieved by this project will be the interaction of water resources researchers

(universities, state agencies, federal agencies) and the users of research results (state agencies, federal agencies, local conservation commissions, local planning boards, Cooperative Extension, politicians, regional planning commissions, universities, consultants). There are numerous anticipated additional outcomes including: future cooperative efforts, more targeted research strategies, pooling of resources, and establishment of a long term agenda, to name a few.