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Conservation  
Community

**Larry T. Spencer**  
Vice Chair  
Conservation  
Commissions

**Victoria Bunker**  
Historic/Archeological  
Interests

**Christopher Hodgdon**  
NH Fish & Game  
Commission

**Frederick J. McNeill**  
Municipal Officer

**Madeleine Mineau**  
Granite State  
Hydropower  
Association

**Robert M. Roseen**  
Recreational Interests

**Ruth Ward**  
Local River Management  
Advisory Committees

**Donald L. Ware**  
Public Water Suppliers

**Vacant**  
Agricultural Community

**Vacant**  
Business & Industry  
Association

Non-Voting Members:

**Peter Bowman**  
NH Department of  
Natural and Cultural  
Resources

**Brian Eaton**  
NH Department of  
Safety

**Jennifer Gilbert**  
NH Office of  
Strategic Initiatives

**Mark Hemmerlein**  
NH Department of  
Transportation

**Shawn Jasper**  
NH Department of  
Agriculture,  
Markets & Food

**John Magee**  
NH Fish & Game  
Department

Staff:  
**Tracie Sales**  
Program Manager

**Nisa Marks**  
Program Assistant

**Vacant**  
Watershed Coordinator

N.H. Rivers Management and Protection Program

# N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

January 27, 2022

The Honorable Edward Gordon, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 208  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 1014** *An act allowing public meetings to be conducted virtually.*

Dear Chair Gordon and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1014**, which eliminates the requirement for public meetings to have a physical location, and eliminates the requirement for members of a public body to give a reason in meeting minutes for attending remotely.

The RMAC supports this bill because

- Our experience was that remote meetings during the pandemic increased attendance and participation at public meetings;
- Current technology allows bodies to conduct meetings effectively and efficiently in a remote setting; and
- Eliminating the requirement for members to state why it is not reasonably practical for them to attend a meeting in person protects member privacy.

The RMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to administer RSA 483, the Rivers Management and Protection Program. The Governor and Council appointed Committee is composed of members from business, agriculture, hydroelectric, municipal government, water supply, conservation, recreation, fish and game, and historical interests.

Should you have any questions regarding our testimony in support of HB 1014, please feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or [MLT@naturesource.net](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net).

Sincerely,



Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

cc: Rep.s Simpson, Cushing, Cote, Weber, Ebel, Marsh, and Wilhelm  
RMAC Representatives  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES  
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES  
Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager, NHDES  
Local River Management Advisory Committee Chairs