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New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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April 28, 2020

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and The Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG) to transfer to the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) ownership of the Weeks Crossing Dam in Warren NH, along with all property and water rights associated with the dam. Also, in accordance with RSA 482:51 III, authorize NHDES's acceptance of the above transfer.

EXPLANATION


On July 1, 2017, the state-owned Weeks Crossing Pond Dam in Warren, owned by NHFG, was destroyed during a flooding event. NHDES, who is responsible for the repair and reconstruction of state-owned dams and operates and maintains the dams owned by NHFG, plans to begin the reconstruction of the dam in the summer of 2020.

After NHDES completes the reconstruction, ownership of the dam and all property and water rights will be transferred to the Town of Warren, who will thereafter be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the dam. In addition to the rights in the dam currently owned by NHFG, NHDES has acquired additional easement rights from abutting property owners that are necessary to reconstruct the dam to be located just upstream of the former dam site to meet current dam safety standards. This acquisition was approved by the Governor and Executive Council on February 5, 2020 (Item #41).

With the transfer of ownership of the Weeks Crossing Dam from NHFG to NHDES, NHDES will have all the rights needed to reconstruct the dam and then transfer ownership to the Town of Warren.

We respectfully request your approval of this transfer.


Robert R. Scott, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Services


Glenn Normandeau, Executive Director
Fish and Game Department