EBC New Hampshire Briefing from the New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives and the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green, P.A. | Manchester, New Hampshire

AGENDA

8:30 a.m. Welcome, Introduction, and Program Overview
  • Robert Varney, Chair, EBC New Hampshire Chapter
    President, Normandeau Associates, Inc.

Welcome to Sheehan Phinney
  • Lynn Preston, Chair, Environmental and Energy Practice Group
    Sheehan Phinney

8:40 a.m. Briefing on the New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives
  • Joe Doiron, Deputy Director & State Energy Program Administrator
    New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives

9:10 a.m. Introduction to the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs
  • Taylor Caswell, Commissioner
    New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs

9:40 a.m. Moderated Discussion

Moderator: Robert Varney, Normandeau Associates, Inc.

Panelists:
  • Joe Doiron, NH Office of Strategic Initiatives
  • Taylor Caswell, NH Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs

10:15 a.m. Adjourn
Program Chair

Robert Varney, President
Normandeau Associates, Inc.
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Considered one of the nation's most experienced and respected environmental leaders, Bob Varney is a former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) New England Regional Administrator, who currently is President of Normandeau Associates, a science-based environmental firm with nineteen offices in 13 states, including New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. He was the longest-serving regional administrator and top environmental official in New England and is credited with instituting many innovative approaches and policy initiatives that have served as national models. Mr. Varney also was one of the nation's longest-serving state environmental commissioners, and he has been appointed by two U.S. Presidents and three Governors of both political parties.

Mr. Varney has chaired numerous national and regional groups such as the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), State/EPA Superfund Policy Forum, Federal Ozone Transport Commission (OTC), Governmental Advisory Committee to the US Representative to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission and New England Governors Conference Environment Committee and was a member of EPA's Environmental Justice Advisory Council. He currently serves on the NH Board of Trustees for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the CEC Joint Public Advisory Committee (US, Mexico, Canada), an independent tri-national body which oversees the NAFTA environmental side agreement. Bob is the recipient of numerous environmental awards such as the EPA Lifetime Achievement Award, NE Water Works Association's John H. Chafee Award, Environmental Business Council of NE's Paul Keough Award, the Charles River Watershed Association's Anne Blackburn Award and the ECOS Founder's Award.

Speakers

Taylor Caswell, Commissioner
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The new Department of Business and Economic Affairs was created July 1 by an act of the state legislature. In his new role, Caswell will oversee the Divisions of Economic Development and Travel and Tourism Development.

Commissioner Caswell, a resident of Hollis and Littleton native, was appointed in August to be the first Commissioner of the newly formed Department of Business & Economic Affairs. Prior to accepting this position, he was most recently the executive director of the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority, where he served for three years. As Commissioner of the BEA, he brings more than 25 years’ experience from the public and private sectors, including as the New England Regional Administrator for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, a small business owner, and more than a decade in Washington D.C. He has also been an active volunteer in New Hampshire: He was a founder of the New Hampshire Clean Tech Council and has been Chairman, NH Energy & Climate Collaborative and on the Board of Trustees, NH Nature Conservancy. Commissioner Caswell is a graduate of Gettysburg College with a Bachelor of Arts in History.

New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs
Governor Sununu refocused the divisions of economic development and travel and tourism by splitting them off into a new agency, forming the Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA). The BEA includes a Council of Partner Agencies, consisting of representatives of various state economic development entities, such as the...
Community Development Finance Authority, Business Finance Authority, New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, and the Community College System, in order to foster better coordination of the state’s economic development efforts.

Joe Doiron, Deputy Director & State Energy Program Administrator
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Joe Doiron is the Deputy Director at the Office of Strategic Initiatives. He joins OSI from Senator Kelly Ayotte’s Manchester office. Prior to that, Joe has worked in nonprofit leadership and on numerous political campaigns. Joe has a BA in political science from New England College and a master’s in public administration from Norwich University.

New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives
As of July 1, 2017, legislation went into effect that renames the Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) as the Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI). OSI includes the division of energy and the division of planning. The previous OEP functions and staff of the office remain the same.

OSI provides information, data and guidance to assist decision-makers on issues pertaining to development, land protection, energy use and community planning. We guide the state's future growth through public policy development, education, research, and partnership building.

Upcoming EBC Programs

FEBRUARY 2018
February 9 – Innovative Technology Program: Drone Use in the Environmental and Energy Industry
February 13 – Adaptation and Resiliency Programs in Rhode Island
February 15 – Climate Change Program Series: Adaptation and Resiliency Programs of Electric Utilities
February 15 – EBC & BBA Briefing from Newly Appointed EPA Regional Administrator Alexandra Dunn
February 21 – Ascending Professionals Charity Networking Night
February 27 – Site Redevelopment and Remediation Program: Evaluation and Closure of NAPL Sites

MARCH 2018
March 1 – Solid Waste Program: Talking Trash in Southern New England
March 2 – Rhode Island Program: Legislative Briefing on Energy and Environmental Initiatives
March 2 – MS4 Update: MassDEP and NHDES Primacy
March 7 – Ascending Professionals Introductory Program Series: Navigating Chapter 91
March 8 – New Hampshire Energy Program: Utility Scale Solar and Storage
March 14 – Evening Program with MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg
March 15 – Climate Change Program Series: Adaptation and Resiliency Programs for Natural Resources
March 21 – EBC/NECA/YPE Site Visit to the Schneider Electric Research & Development Headquarters
March 28 – Noise Program: Update on Massachusetts Noise Regulations
March 28 – Ascending Professionals Introductory Program Series: Navigating MEPA
March 31 – Business Development Opportunities in the Energy & Environmental Industry

APRIL 2018
April 3 – Update from the MassDEP Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup Leadership Team
April 6 – Solid Waste Program: Talking Trash in Northern New England