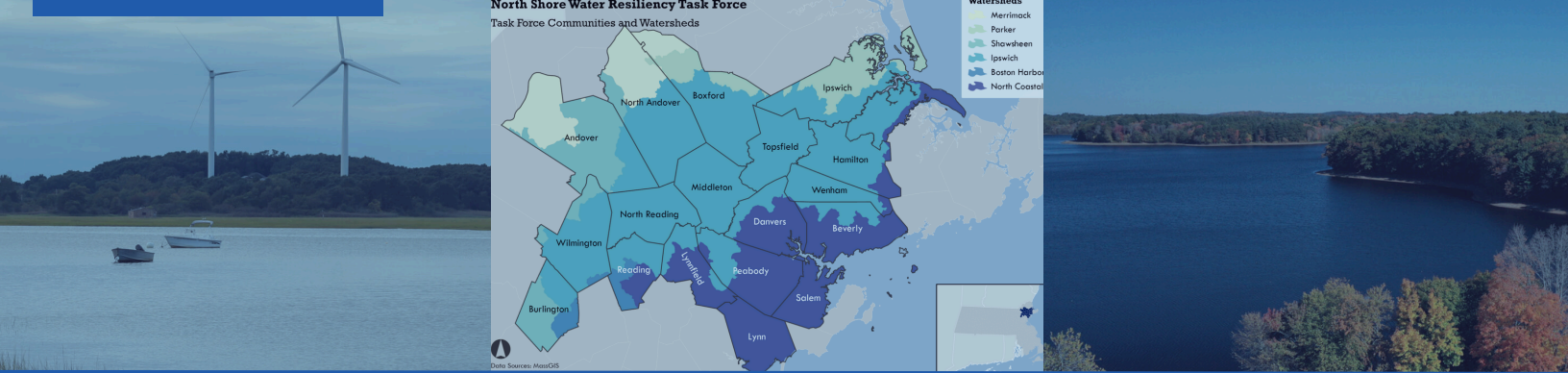




NSWRTF

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025



WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF THE NSWRTF QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

We're excited to launch this new update to keep members and stakeholders informed about the work of the North Shore Water Resiliency Task Force (NSWRTF). Under the leadership of Senator Bruce Tarr and the full legislative delegation representing the Ipswich River Watershed communities, the task force is working collaboratively to improve long-term water supply resilience and ecosystem health across the region.



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS:

[Subcommittee Updates](#)

[Important Deadlines](#)

[Future Happenings](#)

OUR MISSION & PROGRESS SO FAR

Since the signing of the task force charter in September 2022 by 18 municipal members, the Ipswich River Watershed Association, and the Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board, the NSWRTF has made significant strides:

- **Shared Understanding:** Developed a [joint narrative](#) describing regional water challenges and the task force's goals.
- **Water Supply Analysis:** Completed a regional water needs study with alternative supply and water-sharing scenarios.
- **Streamflow Study:** Assessed how reliance on out-of-basin sources and reservoirs could reduce summer groundwater withdrawals and improve streamflow.
- **Infrastructure Assessment:** Reviewed current infrastructure planning efforts among member communities and how they intersect with regional needs.
- **Technical Support:** Established subcommittees focused on PFAS treatment and demand management.
- **Consensus Building:** Engaged the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) to facilitate problem-solving among nine Lower Basin communities.
- **Decision Support Tool:** Contracted EKI Environment & Water to build a web tool to help visualize, evaluate, and compare infrastructure scenarios.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

LOWER BASIN SUBCOMMITTEE

The CBI team conducted confidential interviews with all parties in the Lower Basin to gather perspectives, concerns, and priorities. Two facilitated meetings have helped set the stage for negotiations around a shared regional infrastructure strategy.

PFAS SUBCOMMITTEE

A detailed survey was distributed to all Lower Basin water suppliers to evaluate current and planned PFAS treatment approaches, identify gaps, and inform the subcommittee's technical assistance strategies.

CONSERVATION & DEMAND MANAGEMENT

In collaboration with Danvers, the subcommittee secured a grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to acquire software that will support analysis of upcoming interviews with task force members on water efficiency goals, obstacles, and regional collaboration opportunities.

EARMARK SUBCOMMITTEE

This subcommittee oversaw the procurement of the CBI and EKI contracts and will continue to provide budget oversight for these vendors.

LOOKING AHEAD: SUMMER & FALL 2025

Here's what's on the horizon:

- **Lower Basin Subcommittee Meetings:** Meetings on August 19 and September 15 will explore strategies for “water-neutral growth,” explore supply alternatives to improve supply resilience and ecosystem health, and develop criteria for decision-making.
- **Scenario Planning:** CBI will hold individual and small-group meetings in Aug. and Sept. to reality-check and focus the range of infrastructure scenarios under consideration.
- **Decision Support Tool:** EKI will integrate these scenarios into an online platform, enabling participants to explore trade-offs and visualize solutions.
- **PFAS Compliance Update:** The PFAS Subcommittee will continue to meet to assess how recent EPA rule changes may impact local and regional strategies.
- **Full Task Force Meeting:** Members will reconvene this fall for a comprehensive update on ongoing projects and to conduct regular NSWRTF business.
- **Community Engagement:** Expect to see significant community outreach by Task Force members and stakeholders during the fall, as we work to form consensus on one or multiple regional supply alternatives.

STAY IN TOUCH

This newsletter marks the beginning of a more regular cadence of communication from the NSWRTF. We're committed to transparency, collaboration, and keeping all stakeholders informed as we work together to strengthen water resilience on the North Shore.



QUESTIONS
& FEEDBACK?

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