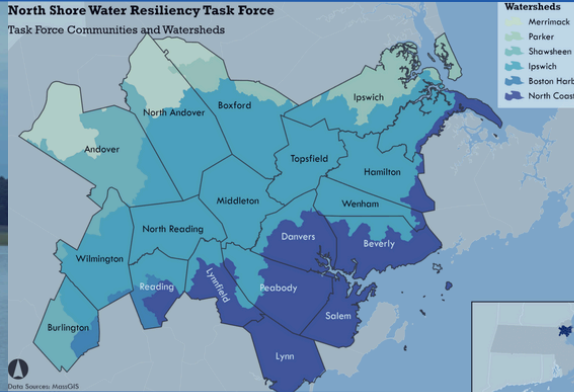




NSWRTF

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025



WELCOME TO THE 2ND EDITION OF THE NSWRTF NEWSLETTER

These quarterly newsletters are intended 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:

[Overall Progress](#)

[Recent Updates](#)

[Looking Ahead](#)

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 the following 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 analysis of alternative supply and water-sharing scenarios.
- **Streamflow Study:** Assessed how increased reliance on reservoirs and out-of-basin sources 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 standing 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:** Engaged EKI Environment & Water to build a web tool to help visualize, evaluate, and compare infrastructure scenarios.
- **Financing Expertise:** With free support from the New England Environmental Finance Center, engaged Quantified Ventures (QV) to help explore funding and financing options for future water infrastructure work.

RECENT UPDATES

LOWER BASIN SUBCOMMITTEE (LBS)

Over the summer and early fall, CBI met with subcommittee members individually and in small groups, seeking deeper understanding of interests and options for mutual gains among members. EKI worked with the subcommittee to refine decision criteria for the web tool that will help evaluate different scenarios. QV presented initial financing considerations for large regional infrastructure projects.

PFAS SUBCOMMITTEE

The PFAS subcommittee has been tracking changes in the federal regulatory landscape and identifying grant programs for PFAS remediation as preparation to help address PFAS compliance in the LBS negotiations.

CONSERVATION & DEMAND MANAGEMENT

This subcommittee completed detailed interviews with 8 basin communities so far, gaining a deeper understanding of their water efficiency priorities, challenges, ideas for regional cooperation, and interest areas for technical assistance.

TASK FORCE AS A WHOLE

The full task force convened in [September](#) to hear updates from subcommittees and consider pursuing a federal grant to fund conceptual designs for any future task-force-approved scenarios requiring upgrades to regional infrastructure. The grant was ultimately not pursued by the task force as a whole, due to time constraints.

LOOKING AHEAD: FALL/WINTER 2025/26

Here's what's on the horizon:

- **Lower Basin Subcommittee:** CBI will continue convening small groups throughout November, seeking to identify mutually beneficial infrastructure and management scenarios. As these scenarios gain definition, they will reconvene the full subcommittee to begin exploring scenario "packages."
- **Decision Support Tool (DST):** As potential scenario packages take shape, EKI will integrate these into an initial version of the DST, enabling subcommittee members and their key constituents to visualize the scenarios and explore trade-offs. As preferred scenarios are identified, the DST will become available to help educate and engage the wider public.
- **PFAS Subcommittee:** The PFAS Subcommittee will continue to support the LBS and other Task Force members address questions about PFAS, as they consider various infrastructure and management scenarios. If the U.S. EPA issues draft updated regulations this fall, as originally anticipated, this subcommittee will evaluate the impacts of these updates.
- **Full Task Force Meeting:** The full Task Force will convene in the fall for an update from all subcommittees and a re-ratification of the Charter.
- **Community Engagement:** As top scenarios are defined, Task Force facilitators will help support members in forming outreach strategies to inform and engage their constituents.

STAY IN TOUCH

This newsletter continues a regular cadence of communication about 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?**

Visit the Task Force website at:
<https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/north-shore-h20/>
or reach out to Sara Cohen at sara.cohen@mass.gov