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Warren Committee Completes Plan to Protect Local Drinking Water

Warren, NH – November 24, 2004 – The Warren Source Water Protection Committee has completed a groundbreaking plan to protect local drinking water in Warren, NH. Since June 2004, a group of volunteers has been meeting twice monthly to brainstorm ideas to protect local drinking water supplies. The committee focused their protection efforts on the South Main Street Water District and the water system which supplies Scenic View Campground. The Water District system serves the Warren Elementary School, the medical center, town office building, town hall, two restaurants, a church, the village market and 39 residential customers, providing water daily to approximately 200 people.

According to Committee Chair, Chuck Sackett, “These systems have good water. We want to make sure it stays that way”. With the assistance of Northeast Rural Water Association, the six person committee has identified risks to two drinking water supplies and has proposed 11 management activities to address these concerns. According to Jennifer Palmiotto, a water protection specialist at Northeast Rural Water, “This committee should be commended for their hard work. They have come up with some creative solutions for addressing threats to these water systems”.

The Committee has identified the municipal salt pile as one of their top priorities. The uncovered salt pile is located within 200 feet of the District’s shallow wells. Salt piles should be located away from water sources, covered at all times, and be located on an impervious surface in order to prevent rainwater from leaching salt into the water supply.

Road salt is considered a potential contamination source because it can lead to elevated levels of sodium and chlorides in wells. Salt is a relevant public health concern because of the effects of salt on hypertension. Over the past 30 years, communities in the Northeast have reported higher sodium and chloride concentrations in private wells and public water supplies.

To address this threat from the salt pile, the Committee has applied for a source water protection grant from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. The Warren Board of Selectmen fully support this proposal. If awarded by the State, the grant will provide funds for the construction of a salt shed at a new and improved location away from the District wells.



Water System Operator Carl Wright, signs the plan as other committee members Chuck Sackett, Eudora Hibbard, and Randy Whitcher of Warren look on.