TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS

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NEW HAMPSHIRE 03844

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Town of Hampton Falls Water Conservation

HAMPTON FALLS, NH – The Selectmen are recommending town residents conserve water as described below.

New Hampshire has been experiencing less than average rainfall and higher than average temperatures. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 28% of the state is categorized as severe drought, 64% of the state is experiencing moderate drought, while 7% of the state remains in abnormally dry conditions. All counties are experiencing 90-day precipitation departures. The majority of the state is experiencing below normal to low groundwater levels.

Water conservation efforts by everyone for essential uses: drinking, cooking, sanitation, fire protection and cleaning of clothes and dishes is <u>critical</u>. Some recommended conservation ideas include:

- Lawns stop watering and let it go dormant early this year
- Sinks replace aerator to reduce amount of water flowing. Wash dishes in a dish pan vs. continuously running water.
- Showers reduce time to 5 minutes or less, replace showerhead with a lower Gallon per Minute (GPM) requirement.
- Clothes / Dish Washers run only when full and consider replacing if over 10 years' old with Energy Star certified units.
- Toilets add a few drops of food color to the tank, if the bowl turns colors then the flapper needs to be replaced (very easy to do and saves hundreds of gallons of water)

NH Department of Environmental Services webpage has more information and can be found at the following link: http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam/drought/index.htm

Without substantial precipitation before the ground freezes for the winter and a good amount of snowpack this coming winter, drought conditions will get worse next year. Under RSA 41:11-d the HF Selectmen do have the authority to restrict the watering of lawns from private wells and may have to implement this regulation in 2020 if the drought is persistent.

Hampton Falls Board of Selectmen