

Narramissic Watershed Coalition
(formerly the 4 Town Dam Committee)
June 16, 2025

On Friday, June 13th, with the bipartisan leadership of Representative Nina Milliken and Steve Bishop, the Maine State Legislature passed legislation authorizing the formation of the Toddy Pond Watershed District and the Alamoosook Lake Watershed District. This legislation was the result of months of community-wide input and represents a unique approach to dam ownership with a partnership between the Towns and the waterfront property owners. The funding for the dam operations and management will be split, with 50% of the costs funded by the towns, subject to annual appropriation by voters, and 50% by the waterfront property owners. Participating in these districts requires an affirmative vote by the citizens of each town in November. Copies of the legislation are on each town website.

Responsibilities of the newly created districts

- Acquiring, owning, maintaining, and operating the dams
- Preparing an annual operating and capital budget
- Holding public meetings to discuss the district's annual proposed budget
- Conducting elections of trustees for the waterfront property owners
- Administering the district: Financial management, recordkeeping, public communications, and contract management
- Proactively assessing watershed improvements, courtesy boat inspections, water quality and invasive plant species monitoring

District Powers:

- Creation of operational rules for the management of the district
- Levy and collect an assessment on the waterfront property owners to fund a portion of the assessed amount by the date such payment is due
- Enter into cooperative agreements with watershed management districts, municipalities, and entities for the purpose of planning, operations and maintenance, watershed improvement, and for other purposes determined by the district

Governance:

- The affairs of the district will be managed by a board of trustees made up of a combination of trustees appointed by the municipal officers of the town(s) and trustees elected by the waterfront owners

Adoption and Implementation:

- For each District to be formed, the voters of each town abutting the water body will be asked to approve participation. At least one municipality must vote to form the district for it to be implemented.
- The same approval question will ask voters to approve the first year's funding for operations and maintenance of the dam
- If a town's voters opt not to approve funding, that town's share of the budget will shift to the waterfront owners

Next Steps:

- The NWC is working with an engineering firm to develop an independent cost estimate for the operations and management of the dams. The findings will be made public when available, expected this summer.
- Significant public outreach will be undertaken to educate residents on the proposal. This will happen over the summer in preparation for a vote this November