

Instream Flow Update



October 3, 2012

Instream Flow Program

- Two pilot projects are nearly completed – Lamprey River and Souhegan River.
- Two components – protected instream flow and water management plan.
- Water management plan – conservation first. Then management of uses (e.g., Reduced outdoor watering). Only after several days or weeks of low-flow – releases from dams.
- Water released from dams is for the ecology of the river NOT downstream users.
- Hope to wrap this up in the next few months. Then start implementation and evaluation.

Instream Flow Progress

- Lamprey River Management Plan DRAFT Response to Comments posted
- Lake Level Investigation by Dam Bureau for winter drawdown
- Pawtuckaway Lake Release test conducted – September 3-8, 2012
- Pawtuckaway Lake Science Roundtable – 9/28/12
- Lakes/Rivers subcommittee...

LMAC/RMAC Instream Flow Subcommittee

- May 9, 2012: Questions proposed
 1. Defining the subset of artificial lake level changes that may affect water quality (chemical and/or biological)?
 2. Limits to artificial lake level changes when they impact downstream water quality values?
 3. What are the appropriate conditions to use lake level management to improve downstream water quality?

LMAC/RMAC Instream Flow Subcommittee

- June 4, 2012: Goal, criteria and process proposed
 - Goal: avoid costly site-specific evaluations
 - Criteria: *De Minimus* thresholds appropriate
 - Process: DES (WQSAC) to finish water level fluctuation guidance based on screening criteria and enhance instream flow component
- July 20, 2012: Revise criteria and process
 - WMB revised the lake fluctuation guidance
 - No *de minimis* lake level changes, instead stay within natural ranges of variation
 - Evaluation relative to protection goals

Instream Flow Next Steps

- Specific to Pawtuckaway:
 - Fall release and winter phosphorus study
 - Pawtuckaway Roundtable & Public Meeting – late October or early November
 - Completion of the Lake Level Investigation
- Specific to LMAC and RMAC:
 - DES developing comprehensive lakes and rivers guidance
 - LMAC/RMAC Subcommittee meeting – November
 - Present subcommittee proposal at JOINT RMAC/LMAC meeting - December

Instream Flow Next Steps

- Specific to the ISF Program:
 - Meet with SB 330 – Legislative ISF Study Committee
 - Revise legislation to extend the date of the legislative review of the implementation period
 - Completion Target Dates for Adopting the WMPs
 - Senate and House sponsors to propose legislation to extend these timelines
 - Completion of the Water Management Plan(s)
 - presentation to Commissioner for adoption
 - implementation of the plan (pilot will be reviewed by DES, public and Legislature)

Questions?

Wayne Ives

Watershed Management Bureau

NH Department of Environmental Services

PO Box 95 - 29 Hazen Drive

Concord, NH 03302-0095

or via email to

Wayne.Ives@des.nh.gov

603-271-3548