

LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NH Lakes Management and Protection Program



New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
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MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2011
DES, Rooms 112 - 114
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Members present:

Diane Hanley, Chair
Wendell Berry, Vice Chair
Mark Hemmerlein
Don Kent, Ph D.
Jeff King
Eric Orff
Bob Spoerl
Larry Sunderland
Bob Wolff

Representing:

NH Assn. of Conservation Commissions
NH Business and Industry Assn
Comm., DOT
State Conservation Committee
Exec. Dir. F&G
Fish & Game Commission
Comm., DRED
Conservation Community
Comm., Dept. of Agr., Markets & Food

Term:

August 22, 2013
July 8, 2013
Indefinite
August 1, 2012
Indefinite
August 22, 2012
Indefinite
September 10, 2010
Indefinite

Members not present:

Tim Dunleavy
Jim Haney, Ph.D.
Jim Morash
Fred Murphy
Bo Quackenbos
Dennis Pavlicek
Dick Smith
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

Comm., DOS
Scientific Community
Tourism Industry
Planning Boards
NH Association of Realtors
Municipal Officials
Fishing Interests
NH Marine Dealers Association
Director, Office of Energy & Planning
NH Lakes Association

Indefinite
August 22, 2013
August 1, 2013
August 1, 2011
June 27, 2011
August 1, 2012
November 17, 2013
August 22, 2011
Indefinite
August 1, 2012

Staff Present

Jacque Colburn
Ted Diers
Tara Johnson
Carolyn Guerdet

Coordinator, Rivers and Lakes Programs, WMB
Administrator, WMB
P.T. Watershed Planner, WMB
Admin. Assistant, Water Div.

Guest

John Irwin
NH Marine Trades Association

Opening

Chairman Hanley called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. welcoming all those present.

I. Introductions and Committee Business

1) Acceptance of July Meeting Minutes

No quorum present so no vote was taken. No comments or revisions noted.

2) LMAC Chair and Membership

Diane announced that she will be stepping down as Chair of the LMAC and as the NH Association of Conservation Commissions' representative. Bud Berry agreed to accept the chair position, however this leaves the vice chair position vacant.

- o John Irwin was introduced as the prospective representative from the NH Marine Trades Association.

- David Packard – NH Lakes Association representative has been appointed by G&C.
- Fred Murphy has been reappointed.
- Bo Quackenbos is working on his membership paperwork.
- No new representative from OEP.

3) Introduced Tara Johnson

Jacquie introduced Tara Johnson as the new part-time assistant planner for the Rivers and Lakes Programs.

4) PIRRT – Post Irene River Response Team (PIRRT)

Jacquie shared that a new group comprised of several state and federal agencies has been established due to Tropical Storm Irene (PIRRT). Its mission is to address the post storm issues. With the severe river erosion that occurred to private and state property, there is a need for planning for the next major storm event and the coming spring ice melt. A major goal is to develop better communication and in turn better coordinated responses from federal and state agencies for incidents such as tropical storms and hurricanes. She is now tasked to facilitate and administer the statewide post Irene response and this will be a priority for her in the next 6 months. This changes her availability to the Rivers Coordinator position and her Lakes Program work.

II. Lakes Management – The Comprehensive Long Term Perspective

Ted Diers shared that there is increased demand on some DES programs to do more, so we will need to do things differently. He asked what assistance is the LMAC asking of DES now? The program staff will not be able to do all the things required in the statute. There are others within DES that may be called upon to help. Are there other resources outside of DES that could help? The lakes are a state resource and it is a state issue. How do you operationalize the ideas of lake management and sustainability?

Lakes Management Criteria and the Sustainability Initiative

The updated (May 2011) version of the Criteria was distributed. Jacquie would like to see the management recommendations finished, realizing they probably won't be worked on immediately. The Criteria needs to be distributed to the agencies, to be worked on at the agency level. The original, 2008 version of the Initiative was distributed with the 8 significant items identified as needing to be addressed. These are big picture/long term items.

Mark Gallagher discussed changes in legislation. He said that he collects important information from LMAC meetings, i.e. water quality issues and related information. He stressed the importance of the meetings due to the strong policy communication element represented and moved to continue to meet as the LMAC; Don Kent concurred.

Ted asked do we have a good understanding of the state of our lakes. LMAC should be able to understand the general condition. Do we have a document that outlines the state of our lakes? Jacquie added that some of this information is contained in the Surface Water Quality Reports that DES submits to Congress every two years; it does not report overall decline of lakes or give trophic indicators. Chairman Hanley said that we need to understand the issues facing the lakes, but our role is to advocate for the well-being of our lakes. We need to communicate this information to the public and the legislature. From a policy perspective, we should be able to say, "we know the water quality of Lake Winnepesaukee or other lakes because we can click on a map and get a summary easily." Everyone needs to be able to go to one place and get that information. We can and should advocate for that – the public should be able to easily access and understand lake water quality data.

III. Discuss and Determine LMAC Goals for Next Year

- What can the LMAC do and how can we be effective?
- Revisit goals of lake management in NH.
- Need a vision that can be communicated to residents.

- What is lakes management in NH? How do we get there? Is it within our LMAC mission to advise? How do we communicate this?

Ted asked, what is the most important thing to pay attention to, for every lake in the state? What is the current state of the lakes relative to those goals? What would you do about it if you wanted to make some changes? Mark asked, what is the biggest (most important) issue we can advocate for?

Don Kent suggested the following outline to move forward:

- 1) Develop goals;
- 2) Determine how our lakes are doing when compared to the goals;
- 3) What actions do we (LMAC) need to take?

Communication is a necessity. Need to increase buy-in and participation/management. Need to paint the big picture. Larry Sunderland suggested that we keep the focus on future threats to the lakes; for example, cyanobacteria and chemical threats to lakes. LMAC can take information and communicate it to its constituent groups, legislators and the public.

We should look at the “valued characteristics” in the statute – put substance to them. Come up with some metrics to determine how we’re doing. We need to develop “standards” for our lakes; something concrete to see if the standard is or is not being met. Then manage to what you measure, so we need to make sure that we’re measuring the right thing. Pick the two or three most important things that you want to advocate for.

Are we a communications group, an advisory group? With multiple stakeholders here – our job is to recognize advocacy positions; DES can then determine what is the management priority, i.e. recreational value – swimming – what do we want for our lakes? Should we be concerned specifically with chemical or bacterial levels? Should we only ask, “can you swim in it and not get sick?” Jacquie’s synopsis: determine the needs of the stakeholders and agencies regarding the “valued characteristics”, and then outline what is most appropriate and/or equitable. How do we use our lakes now and in the future? The group discussed categorizing waterbodies and agreed that this will lead to designated uses.

Communications piece of this group is strong. We need to determine the audience, their needs and characteristics. What are the two or three most important points that we want to communicate. Need to get involved in the rulemaking process more. Diane stated that we need to convince the legislature of the importance of this committee. Can/should new laws be based on science – what is the science vs. economic/social concern? We need to provide the legislature with more information regarding why a Lakes Management Program is needed. Need to describe the value of lakes to the economy.

The LMAC and RMAC will meet again jointly in January and March because the legislature is in session. We should put together a sub-committee to bring back a starting point/short list of goals. What happened as a result of last year’s legislation and what can be done? What is, from DES’s perspective, the impact of these pieces of legislation? Key role in next 6 months is legislation and communicating with legislators and we may need to involve others at DES. Relative to the Shoreland Protection Act - how do we protect the shoreland? How can we document and share the impacts/changes of the legislation that has been enacted.

IV. LMAC Press Release

The press release is still being worked on. This is to announce that we will continue to move forward as the LMAC even without the funding for the Coordinator. It needs to be more of a community commentary. Maybe it can be a joint effort with RMAC.

Jacquie and the committee members thanked Diane for her leadership as chair.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.