

Lakes Management Advisory Committee
NH Lakes Management and Protection Program
and the
Rivers Management Advisory Committee
NH Rivers Management and Protection Program

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

JOINT MEETING MINUTES (Approved October 3, 2012)
March 30, 2012
DES Conference Rooms (110-112)
10:45 am - 12:45 pm

LMAC Members Present:

Wendell Berry, Chair
John Cooley
Jim Haney, Ph.D.
John Irwin
Don Kent, Ph D.
Jim Morash
Dennis Pavlicek
Bo Quackenbos
Dick Smith
Bill Carpenter
Tim Dunleavy
Mark Hemmerlein
Jeff King
Bob Wolff

Representing:

NH Business and Industry Association
Conservation Community
Scientific Community, UNH
NH Marine Dealers Association
State Conservation Committee
Tourism Industry
Municipal Officials
NH Association of Realtors
Fishing Interests
Commissioner Rep., DRED
Commissioner Rep., DOS
Commissioner Rep., DOT
Exec. Dir. Rep, NH F & G
Comm. Rep, Dept. of Agr., Markets & Food

Term:

July 8, 2013
Sept. 19, 2013
August 22, 2013
August 22, 2014
August 1, 2012
August 1, 2013
August 1, 2012
June 27, 2011
November 17, 2013
Indefinite
Indefinite
Indefinite
Indefinite
Indefinite

LMAC Members Absent:

Fred Murphy
Eric Orff
David Packard
Susan Slack

Planning Boards
NH Fish & Game Commission
NH Lakes Association
Director Rep, Office of Energy & Planning

August 1, 2014
August 22, 2012
August 1, 2012
Indefinite

RMAC Members Present:

Ken Kimball, Chair
Michele L. Tremblay, V. Ch.
Gary Kerr
Anne Krantz
Frederick McNeill
Kathryn Nelson
Roger Noonan
Larry Spencer
Donald Ware
Jim Ryan
John Magee

Representing:

Recreational Interests
Conservation Interests
Granite State Hydropower
Historical & Archaeological Interests
Municipal Government
Local River Mgmt. Advisory Comm.
Agricultural Community
NH Association of Conservation Comm.
Public Water Suppliers
NH Fish & Game Commission
Exec. Dir. Rep. NH Fish & Game Department

Term:

Dec. 28, 2014
Dec. 28, 2014
Jan. 5, 2015
June 15, 2013
Nov. 16, 2014
Sept. 5, 2013
Mar. 22, 2015
Oct. 12, 2013
Sept. 28, 2013
Sept. 28, 2012
Indefinite

RMAC Members Absent:

Allan Palmer
Gail McWilliam Jellie
Johanna Lyons
Kevin Nyhan
Lance Harbour

NH Business and Industry Association
Comm. Rep., Dept of Agr., Markers and Food
Commissioner Rep., DRED
Commissioner Rep., DOT
Commissioner Rep., DOS

Sept. 28, 2013
Indefinite
Indefinite
Indefinite
Indefinite

Staff Present

Jacque Colburn	Rivers and Lakes Coordinator, WMB
Wayne Ives	NHDES Instream Flow Specialist, WMB
Tara Johnson	Asst. Planner, WMB
Carolyn Guerdet	Admin. Asst., Water Division
Ted Diers	Administrator, WMB

Guests

Tom O'Brien	Director, NH Lakes Association
Larry Sunderland	Former member of the LMAC

I. Introductions/Minutes/Committee Business1) Acceptance of the Joint LMAC and RMAC January Meeting Minutes

The joint meeting was called to order by Ken Kimball, RMAC Chair, at 10:55 am. All present introduced themselves.

➤ *Motion to accept January 6, 2012 Joint Meeting Minutes made by Michele Tremblay, second by Jim Ryan. Motion passed unanimously.*

2) RMPP and LMPP Program Updates

Jacque reported on staffing changes - Tara Johnson is leaving April 5th. When her workload permits, the Drinking Water Ground Water Bureau will allow Jenn Rowden to help one day per week through September.

Jacque explained that the Executive Council has requested all G&C appointed committees to fill out a 5 page survey questionnaire.

Jacque informed the committees that the amount of her time directed to Tropical Storm Irene/PIRRT has declined. However, she and other PIRRT members will host 3 public information meetings in North Conway, Gorham, and Lincoln during the month of April.

On April 18th the Suncook River Nomination public meeting will be held in Epsom.

II. Shared Committee Interests Ken Kimball, RMAC Chair1) Watershed Management Bureau Update

Ted Diers spoke about Bureau resources, what the Bureau has for staff, possible changes to be made and looking at how and why we do what we do. The Bureau's work falls into these major categories:

- Monitoring/Assessment
- Planning
- Outreach
- Restoration/Protection
- Regulation

Regarding these core functions, a big piece is providing data as to the status of the states' waters. Maintaining and protecting water quality and habitat hinge on having good data. This is not well understood by the general public as to the importance of this data. Now, we are focusing on all monitoring & assessment programs. What are they trying to do – trend data, waterbody data, and probabilistic assessments? The question we are asking ourselves is do we have to do this? What state and federal laws require these activities? Of the 20 monitoring efforts within the bureau, we may do less of some and make others more efficient.

New efforts include: 1) Confirmation monitoring for 305b/303d list. We need to have enough data to say a waterbody is impaired; take it off the list or confirm that it should be on the list. A lot of work on

rivers, in particular, is necessary. 2) Comparisons of monitoring protocols for VLAP and UNH LLMP. This has a bearing on how we assess our lakes. We want to set up a watershed assessment area management approach – to tie rivers and lakes together in an area. Align work plans on monitoring efforts to maximize resources. By the time a waterbody is impaired – it's too late. We need to identify problems before it ends up on the list. For rivers we are looking at several reaches of the river. Why are we collecting the data we are collecting? Where is it leading? What do people want to know? It is important to ask ourselves the right questions.

2) Maintaining the Rivers & Lakes Programs

Jacque reviewed the spreadsheet outlining what the Rivers and Lakes programs can and cannot do as a result of the budget and staff reductions. The need and demand for program activities and deliverables were reviewed and discussed as was the direction to take going forward and how it will affect the budget approach for the new biennium. The spreadsheet will be sent to the Committees.

3) Instream Flow and Lake Levels

Wayne Ives, Instream Flow Specialist, explained that the Rivers Program is charged by statute to develop an instream flow policy for all the rivers in the Rivers Management Protection Program. The pilot programs are looking at using reservoirs/lakes (which have been artificially dammed) for storage and to augment and meet instream flow needs. There may be potential problems between lake levels and river needs. We need to discuss and address these questions. Do we move away from storage for needs and put more emphasis on conservation? Do we use waterbodies to store and release depending upon demand? What are the best strategies for moving forward?

Wayne distributed a synopsis of the Instream Flow Program. The instream flow program is all about defining protections and developing management strategies for rivers. Lakes and rivers are not separate entities. Difficulty is trying to separate and balance conflicting interests of each. Today, dams store water for recreation. The original instream flow statutes did take lakes into effect.

Wayne reviewed a comparison of the RMPP and LMPP statutory language focusing on the intent of instream flow and the intent of lakes program. Water quality standards of all surface waters are a priority in both statutes. There is common ground between lakes and rivers. Both are trying to meet water quality standards and define protection but at present there is no coordination between the two communities. The lakes and rivers communities need to be able to describe and discuss with each other what the concerns are for managing and protecting both lakes and rivers. This should be done soon because the Instream Flow Program must submit a report with recommendations to the General Court in 2013. At that point, the Legislature will decide how to move forward with the Instream Flow Program.

How do we get a common set of expectations as to how our resources are managed? Need to work from a common understanding. Chairman Kimball said there is a need to coordinate between the two groups. He suggested forming a subcommittee from both committees as it would appropriate to have these questions addressed before reporting to the Legislature in 2013. Next steps should include: better coordination procedures, how to engage the public in using waters more efficiently, and developing a strategy to reduce the conflict. The LMAC and RMAC established a subcommittee to study these issues and it will come back to the full committees (hopefully at their late fall 2012 meeting) with a recommended process to ensure that lake water quality is maintained and downstream flow needs are met with the least amount of impact on the river and lake resources and the values that they provide.

Due to time constraints, the following items were postponed to a future agenda:

III. Shoreland Advisory Committee

IV. Other Business/Action Item Review

- *Jim Morash made a motion to adjourn, second by John Cooley. Motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting adjourned at 12:40pm.