

LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 NH Lakes Management and Protection Program
 New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
 29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095
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LMAC MEETING MINUTES
July 20, 2012
DES Conference Rooms (110-111)
9:00am - 11:00am

Approved October 3, 2012

Members present:

Wendell Berry, Chair
 Dennis Pavlicek, Vice Chair
 John Cooley
 Fred Murphy
 David Packard
 Dick Smith
 Jeff King
 Bob Spoerl
 Robert Wolff

Representing:

NH Business and Industry Association
 Elected Municipal Official
 Conservation Community
 Planning Board
 NH Lakes Association
 Fishing Interests
 NH Fish & Game Department
 Commissioner, DRED
 Dept. Agriculture, Markets & Food

Term:

July 8, 2013 V
 Aug. 1, 2015 V
 Sept. 19, 2013 V
 Aug. 1, 2014 V
 Aug. 1, 2012 V
 Nov. 17, 2013 V
 Indefinite NV
 Indefinite NV
 Indefinite NV

Members not present:

Jim Haney, Ph.D.
 John Irwin
 Don Kent, Ph.D.
 Jim Morash
 Eric Orff
 VACANT
 VACANT
 Tim Dunleavy
 Mark Hemmerlein
 Susan Slack

Representing:

Scientific Community, UNH
 NH Marine Dealers Association
 State Conservation Committee
 Tourism Industry
 NH Fish & Game Commission
 NH Assn. of Realtors
 NH Assn. of Conservation Commissions
 Commissioner Rep., DOS
 Commissioner, DOT
 Director Rep, OEP

Term:

Aug. 22, 2013 V
 Aug. 22, 2014 V
 Aug. 1, 2012 V
 Aug. 1, 2013 V
 Aug. 22, 2012 V
 TBD V
 TBD V
 Indefinite NV
 Indefinite NV
 Indefinite NV

Staff Present:

Jacque Colburn
 Tracie Sales

Representing:

Coordinator, Rivers and Lakes Programs WMB
 Asst. Watershed Planner, WMB

Guests:

Brian Eisenhauer, PhD.
 Andrew Veilleux

Representing:

PSU Center for the Environment
 PSU Graduate Student

Chairman Berry called the LMAC Meeting to order at 9:05 am.

I. Introductions/Minutes/Committee Business:

Committee members introduced themselves and the interest they represent. Jacque Colburn introduced Tracie Sales as the new part-time Assistance Watershed Planner. Tracie briefly described her background, with prior experience at the Merrimack River Watershed Council and a Master of Science from Antioch University.

A. Acceptance of March LMAC Meeting Minutes:

Jacquie Colburn explained that neither the minutes from the March LMAC meeting nor the March LMAC/RMAC joint meeting were ready.

B. LMAC Membership Updates:

Dennis Pavlicek – Has been reappointed by G&C.

David Packard – NH Lakes has sent a letter to G&C nominating David.

Fred Murphy – Is an alternate member of a Planning Board, so he is all set.

Eric Orff – Is not seeking reappointment, the F&G Commission is working on a new rep.

Don Kent – Will not be seeking reappointment.

NH Association of Conservation Commissions has not found a replacement for Diane Hanley.

NH Realtors Association has not found a replacement for Bo Quackenbos. Bud Berry said Bo is helping to find a replacement, but Bud had not heard back from him before the meeting.

C. Water Quality Standards Advisory Committee – LMAC Representative:

Jacquie Colburn reported: At the March 30th meeting we confirmed John Cooley as the LMAC representative to WQSAC, however John expressed concerns because this will require additional time to attend the meetings; he was going to speak with his supervisor which he did. Jacquie also checked with Phil Trowbridge, staff to the WQSAC, and asked about conference calling and webinars as an option for John's participation in future WQSAC meetings. According to Phil, he would use a webinar to host future WQSAC meetings if the department has selected a webinar vendor.

DES is evaluating webinar vendors and will make a decision soon. The next WQSAC meeting in October should be available in a webinar format, so John will still be the LMAC rep. to WQSAC.

Jacquie will speak with Harry Vogel, Director of the Loon Preservation Committee (John's employer) and let him know what the LMAC discussed and that she asked John to remain as the LMAC rep. to the WQSAC.

D. Announcement:

Chairman Berry recommended a new book, For Love of Lakes by Darby Nelson, which was presented by the author at the NH Lakes Congress on June 22, 2012.

II. **Presentation and Discussion/Q&A of the Squam Lakes Recreation Management Decision System Project:** Brian Eisenhauer, PhD. and Andrew Veilleux, PSU Center for the Environment

Jacquie explained that the Squam Lakes Recreation Management Decision System Project is being developed by Andrew Veilleux, PSU graduate student, under the guidance of Dr. Brian Eisenhauer of the PSU Center for the Environment and with assistance from the Squam Lakes Association.

Dr. Brian Eisenhauer began the presentation by explaining the importance of lakes recreational management in NH and this project's use of Community Natural Resource Management as the method or process for achieving sustainable recreation, where the lake is managed for environmental health and to preserve recreational value.

The Squam Lakes Recreation Management Decision System Project (Squam LRMDs) involves the community and local institutions. PSU will issue a general notice to the public and will also notify interested parties such as the LMAC when the survey is ready for public input. Once the survey results have been received, the PSU research team will delineate recreational activities and the areas or zones where they are occurring, identify monitoring protocols, and create tables of possible management actions which will define the limits of acceptable change to help users determine when lake management is needed. Dr. Eisenhauer stressed that this tool exists as a system for use by lake stakeholders.

Andrew Veilleux then described the Public Participatory GIS (PPGIS) being used to collect the survey data. This is a web-based survey which uses Google Maps to collect spatial data. The Squam LRMDS survey can be found at www.landscapemap2.org/plymouth. Survey participants will be given an access code along with the website to fill out the survey. The access code will allow the researchers to track groups of participants such as members of the Squam Lakes Association, random survey recipients, or those met by the Lake Hosts. The access code will also restrict participants from entering more than one set of data, though users may add to or edit their own information.

Jacque requested that the LMAC members be considered a survey group. Andrew agreed and will provide Jacque with an access code.

Bob Spoerl asked if photos could be added on the PPGIS. Andrew replied that photos added via Google Maps in the usual manner would be available on the survey map.

Andrew went on to say that the mapping of lake activities would be followed by a questionnaire with questions such as the amount participants use the lake, the timing of their use, any concerns they have, and some basic demographic information. He also noted that one of the advantages of this spatial format for social data is that it can later be combined with other spatial data sets for analysis.

Bob Spoerl asked if the areas described in guide books would be considered during data analysis. Dr. Eisenhower responded that use patterns resulting from publication would be very interesting.

Jacque asked if there would be any way to tell if the lake experiences that people were reporting were recent or from a while ago? She suggested including an instruction for recording recent experiences in the survey instructions. Bob Wolff similarly suggested a limit to recent experiences be incorporated in an introduction letter. Dr. Eisenhower responded that while the survey was at capacity for the amount of information requested, instructions to record recent experiences could likely be included in the survey introduction letter.

David Packard asked if there was a question regarding habitat or wildlife values. Yes, this has been included. Bob Spoerl asked about the possibility of a question regarding expectations in vacation planning, with a follow up question later to see if expectations were met in a Before/After scenario. Dr. Eisenhower responded that it was a great idea that could be used. Dick Smith wondered if this tool could be used to establish carrying capacity for various activities (boat types, fishing, etc.). What is reasonable public access? He described how traffic often gets heavy in one area, and suggested spreading out public access points. He suggested using the data to come up with an access management plan.

Once data has been analyzed, the research team will respond to the survey groups and other interested parties with the findings, results and how well the PPGIS system worked.

General discussion ensued regarding data uses, data bias questions, data collection techniques (GPS boat tracks, etc.), and lake classification by natural resource. The survey is expected to be ready in about two weeks (early August). Jacque thanked Dr. Eisenhower and Andrew for attending the meeting and presenting the Squam LRMDS.

III. Surplus Land Review: SLR 12-010 Laconia – Lakeshore Branch Railroad Corridor

Jacque introduced the surplus land review in Laconia with background information, maps and a few photos of the abandoned rail corridor. Of note, she described that there are significant limitations on what can be done with the lake frontage portion of the property because the protected water supply status requires no human contact with the water within the protective zone. However, the City of Laconia Water Works is interested in acquiring a portion of the corridor adjacent to their existing property.

General discussion about the no human contact restriction ensued. Bob Spoerl commented that biological contamination is relatively difficult to clean out of the water, but petroleum is easy to remove. He recommended the property go to Laconia Water Works.

Chairman Berry asked the group if they were able to recommend a sale with no defined buyer. He felt that a buyer would need to be identified before the recommendation to sell could be made.

Jacque said that DOT said the purpose of the sale was to eliminate longstanding encroachments, but the encroachments appeared to be only on the northern portion of the corridor, unless the southern encroachments were due to the parking lot retaining walls. She suggested that DOT does not want the responsibility to maintain the corridor since it is an isolated parcel which cannot be used for rail purposes.

Dennis Pavlicek asked about Laconia's interest in the property. Jacque replied the Laconia Water Works may be interested in acquiring it. Bob S. asked if the contact person identified on the documents was a developer. Bob Wolff thought it might be someone associated with the Spinnaker Cove Association.

Dick Smith said that he did not like the idea of selling the property to commercial interests and asked about the possibility of fishing from shore. The group thought this idea should be checked out. Bob S. asked who is looking to acquire the property. He suggested that perhaps a public boat ramp could be installed by a buyer in lieu of payment. Bob does not want to see the public loose access to the lake. Jacque pointed out that there is no human contact allowed along this frontage because of the nearby water intakes for the Laconia Water Works.

Jacque said that Diane Hanley would know if the corridor were good for a rail trail, but that she did not think it would work well because it is an isolated corridor and doesn't appear that it can be connected to other trails or green spaces. Jacque added that the old Burger King property (not included in this SLR) was being converted to a marina. Jacque explained that Diane Hanley said the city already has the parcel located north of Union Ave (Rte 3), but Bob S. wondered if the city owned it or just leased it.

David Packard wondered about the value of maintaining the existing buffer south of the Irwin property. Jacque responded that runoff along Route 3 is being collected via storm drains; she observed no pipes and just one stream crossing.

Jacque suggested that with the next CORD meeting on September 13, the LMAC vote on this SLR via e-mail after more information is gathered regarding who the buyers are and whether the Laconia Water Works or other interested parties are amenable to the possibility of shore fishing. Fred Murphy commented that at least a portion of the property should go to the city.

- **Chairman Berry asked for a motion regarding the SLR. David Packard made a motion to defer the decision until more information is gathered. The motion was seconded by Dick Smith. All were in favor.**

IV. Other Business and Updates/Action Item Review/Member Comments

A. Monday, July 30th – Dedication Ceremony of the Jody Connor Limnology Center

Jacque explained that the Governor and Council approved the renaming of the Limno Lab in Jody's memory. There will be an official renaming ceremony and plaque unveiling on Monday July 30th at 11am here in the DES lobby; everyone is welcome to attend. The event will be one hour long; no RSVP is needed.

B. 2012 National Lakes Assessment

Jacque said that DES is again participating in the National Lakes Assessment, which is conducted on a 5 year cycle. We will be revisiting 5 lakes we sampled in 2007 and sampling 6 new lakes for the 2012 year, we will also do a repeat sampling trip on 1 of each of the two groups for a total of 13 lake visits.

C. Lakes and Rivers Instream Flows and Lake Levels Subcommittee

Jacque provided an update of the subcommittee's work to date. At the March 30th meeting of the LMAC and RMAC we established a subcommittee to study these issues and to come back to both committees (hopefully at their 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.

The subcommittee had its 3rd meeting immediately following the LMAC meeting. It has not yet developed a process but will be reviewing a DRAFT process that was developed by DES.

D. Next meeting

Jacque proposed that the LMAC meet on Wednesday or Thursday, October 3rd or 4th with the RMAC. Chairman Berry agreed to a joint meeting on one of these two days.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:05 am.