



LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NH Lakes Management and Protection Program

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
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LMAC MEETING MINUTES
December 18, 2012
DES Conference Rooms 112-114
9:00 am – 10:00 am

Members present

Wendell Berry, Chair
Dennis Pavlicek, V. Ch. (phone)
Jim Haney, Ph.D.
David Packard
Dick Smith
Martha Twombly
Bob Spoerl
Bob Wolff (phone)
Susan Slack

Representing

NH Business and Industry Assn.
Municipal Officials
Scientific Community, UNH
NH Lakes Association
Fishing Interests
NH Assn. of Conservation Commissions
Commissioner, DRED
Commissioner, Dept. of Agr., Markets & Food
Director, Office of Energy & Planning

Term

July 8, 2013 V
August 1, 2015 V
August 22, 2013 V
August 1, 2015 V
November 17, 2013 V
August 22, 2013 V
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV

Members not present

John Cooley
John Irwin
Jim Morash
Fred Murphy
Eric Orff
Lt. Tim Dunleavy
Mark Hemmerlein
Jeff King
Vacant
Vacant

Conservation Community
NH Marine Dealers Association
Tourism Industry
Planning Boards
Fish & Game Commission
Commissioner, DOS
Commissioner, DOT
Exec. Dir., F&G
State Conservation Committee
NH Association of Realtors

September 19, 2013 V
August 22, 2014 V
August 1, 2013 V
August 1, 2014 V
August 22, 2012 V
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
V
V

Staff Present

Jacquie Colburn Rivers and Lakes Programs
Tracie Sales Rivers and Lakes Programs

Guest

Tom O'Brien NH Lakes Association
Larry Sunderland Former LMAC Member

The Meeting Was Called to Order

Chairman Berry called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. and welcomed all those present. Jacquie Colburn introduced Martha Twombly, the new LMAC member from the Newfound region representing the NH Association of Conservation Commissions. Committee members introduced themselves.

I. Introductions/Minutes/Committee Business

1) Acceptance of October LMAC Meeting Minutes

Dick Smith made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. However, it was determined there was no quorum present, so approval of the October minutes was postponed until the next LMAC meeting.

2) Member Update: With Martha Twombly's addition to the LMAC, there remains 2 voting member vacancies:

State Conservation Committee - Don Kent, who had been the representative for the SCC left NH for another position before the holidays. Jacquie asked the committee if we should consider removing the State Conservation Committee from the LMAC. The position is a voting member, and removal from the LMAC would require a change in the statute. Jacquie will call Bob Wolff to discuss this further.

NH Association of Realtors - Jacquie has checked with Tom Duffy, a realtor from the Pawtuckaway Lake area, about a replacement for Bo Quackenbos. Tom Duffy is too busy to join as an LMAC member, but is checking with others that he knows. Jacquie is accepting suggestions for the position.

II. Update Regarding LMPP Activities

1) LMPP Program Updates – Jacquie Colburn

Jacquie reported that there has been little accomplished during the past two months specific to the LMPP. Jacquie continues to field calls from the public and respond to emails, as she remains listed as the Lakes Coordinator on the DES website. She and Tracie have spent a lot of time working on Pawtuckaway Lake concerns relative to the Instream Flow Program.

Jacquie has also been working with Sara Steiner and Amy Smagula on a presentation for Hermit Lake in Sanbornton. The lake has floating islands which create navigation and recreation hazards, and the lake association is interested in removing them. In early November, Jacquie and Sara gave a presentation to about 30 lake and town residents, then reviewed the history of the lake, the permitting that would be required to remove the islands, discussed the pros and cons of the islands, and talked about dredging. The audience was appreciative, but DES has not yet heard back from the lake association.

Jacquie mentioned Blue Water Satellite, a company that detects the presence, location and concentration levels of Cyanobacteria blooms using data from USGS Landsat satellites, primarily in the Great Lakes Region. The company also sends out a weekly e-newsletter summarizing lake news, focusing on the Great Lakes but it also includes other parts of the country and a few international items of interest. Jacquie and Tracie will send contact information for this e-newsletter out to the LMAC.

Jim Haney commented that a few years ago there was a lot of interest in Cyanobacteria blooms because they were new and scary, and a number of workshops were held. Now interest has waned despite the fact that the problem is getting worse. Jim said they are not sure why the problem is getting worse but that it is probably a combination of factors. Incidences of blooms are increasing, probably because of climate change and the aging of lakes as nutrients build up.

Jacquie mentioned a paper on Tropical Storm Irene's effects on lakes in NH titled "*Ecosystem Effects of a Tropical Cyclone on a Network of Lakes in Northeastern North America*". A study using the GLEON network looked at overturn in the lakes, which occurred within a few hours of the storm beginning. DES staff will post the pdf document on the LMAC Blog.

2) Surplus Land Disposals – Jacquie Colburn

Lakes Program staff received 3 SLRs since the last meeting. Two were within LMAC jurisdiction, however staff, chair and vice-chair agreed that they were all "*de minimus*" and therefore did not warrant full LMAC review. The 3 SLRs were: Canaan (Goose Pond land swap), Chesterfield (utility easement, out of jurisdiction), and Ossipee (Connor Pond boat ramp property sale).

3) Squam Lakes Recreation Management Decision System Project – Tracie Sales

Tracie reported that the online survey was still up as Andrew Veilleux had found that responses were still coming in slowly. Andrew expected to close the survey soon to finalize the data set, but he has already begun analyzing preliminary data, focusing on crowding. So far the most significant finding has been the similar patterns that respondents followed for crowding and endangered areas. The most surprising aspect of the survey has been the constructive input in the comments sections, as well as the number of people unaware of the Squam Lakes Association. Andrew felt that the tool could be useful for other lakes. He will be giving several presentations of the results during the spring, and Tracie has requested that he let the LMAC know when those presentations will be.

A poll of those present indicated that only 2 LMAC members filled out the survey. Bob Spoerl said he had looked at the survey and suggested that the impact to unique areas found in Squam was consistent with the findings of other PPGIS studies.

III. Lake Classification Scheme – Bud Berry and Jim Haney

Bud Berry introduced the reasoning behind the lake classification proposal, stating that in order for the LMPP to get re-funded and be able to implement new programs, the LMAC would have to be bold and proactive in the future. He said that lake management has tended to be reactive to development, which has resulted in little preservation on and around NH lakes.

1. Bud suggests lake classification as a means of moving forward in the face of change. He has observed changes, especially with regard to increased use of motor boats on NH lakes.
 - All lakes are not the same.
 - Classification could improve Shoreland Protection by eliminating the one-size-fits-all rules.

2. Issues in the Great Bay Estuary are similar to those in lakes.

Bud recommends that the LMAC look at the recently published Great Bay Estuary report titled “*State of Our Estuaries – 2013*”, for its use of prioritized stressors, targeted public outreach, individualized messaging, volunteer driven action, and its fight against waste water.

Using a few graphics, Jim Haney discussed the physical and ecological characteristics of NH lakes. He commented that lakes across the state are not all the same and that depth is a critical factor for eutrophication in lakes; lakes less than 10 m deep are more likely to be eutrophic. He added that the median depth of NH lakes is 3 m, and that 97% of NH lakes are sensitive.

Dave Packard asked a question relative to the correlation of nutrients levels and lakes. Are nutrient levels temperature dependent - that is, do shallower lakes tend to have higher nutrients because they would tend to be warmer? Jim responded that there is a greater mixing with the thermal turnover of the deep lakes with nutrients from the sediments coming back into the water and internal loading.

Jim mentioned a classification and condition study on NH lakes conducted by Dave Bechtel of The Nature Conservancy which would be a good resource, though it was written from a fisheries management perspective. He also commented that phosphorus buffers lakes from acidification, and that the unique aspects of high altitude lakes would need to be considered.

Jim asked LMAC members to consider what we would want to get out of the classification scheme.

- Protection – currently the best lakes are not protected from getting worse, they are allowed to deteriorate toward mediocrity.
- Study – we need to examine our lakes based on a range of parameters, including rate of development.

Tom O'Brien asked how this might be used to build stewardship at the local level. He feels that local input is critical for lake management plans, and that classification with local input would both allow for zoning within the lake itself (i.e. the Squam survey) and allow the cultural characteristics of the lake to play a role.

Jacque commented that we have *The New Hampshire Comprehensive Lake Inventory*, available on the DES website and with a link from the LMAC blog. It was produced by the Lakes Program but would have to be revisited as it is 5-6 years old. This inventory tool is part of the *Jump into Lake Management* guidelines document, which also includes *The New Hampshire Guidelines for Coordinated Lake Management and Shoreland Protection Plans* (also available on the LMAC blog). Jacque said that there is a great deal of information in the Guidelines document specific to local and stakeholder input to lake management.

Jim added that lake monitoring efforts are done at the grassroots level as each lake is unique. He said that the state's role would have to be defined and that the state would need to assist people at the local level. The LMAC would need to define the next step. Tom suggested creating a visual model of the relationship between the state and local levels.

Bud concluded the discussion by asking the LMAC to take on a leadership role and to think about the idea of a lakes classification scheme over the winter.

IV. Member Comments and Updates

No additional member comments or updates were presented.

V. Other Business & Updates/Action Item Review

1) Next Meeting – January 2013 – Joint meeting with the RMAC

Lakes Program staff will send out a Doodle Poll to LMAC and RMAC members to determine the best date for the next meeting.

Dave Packard made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Haney.
The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.