



LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NH Lakes Management and Protection Program

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
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LMAC MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2015
Fish and Game Department
1:45 pm – 3:45 pm

Members present

David Packard, Chair
Susan Slack, Vice Chair
Shane Bradt
Fred Clews
Bob Compton
John Cooley
Eric Feldbaum
Garret Graaskamp
Mark Hemmerlein
Dick Smith
Mary Truell

Representing

NH Lakes Association
Director, Office of Energy & Planning
Scientific Community, UNH
Fish & Game Commission
Planning Boards
Conservation Community
Commissioner, DRED
Executive Director, F&G
Commissioner, DOT
Fishing Interests
NH Association of Realtors

Term

August 1, 2015 V
Indefinite NV
August 22, 2016 V
August 22, 2015 V
August 1, 2017 V
September 19, 2016 V
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
November 17, 2016 V
June 27, 2017 V

Members not present

Linda Brownson
Capt. Tim Dunleavy
Kimberly Hallquist
Jim Morash
Martha Twombly
Bob Wolff
Vacant
Vacant

State Conservation Committee
Commissioner, DOS
Municipal Officials
Tourism Industry
NH Assn. of Conservation Commissions
Commissioner, Dept. of Agr., Markets & Food
Marine Trades Assoc.
NH Business and Industry Assn.

August 1, 2015 V
Indefinite NV
August 1, 2015 V
August 1, 2016 V
August 22, 2016 V
Indefinite NV
August 22, 2014 V
July 8, 2016 NV

Staff Present

Jacquie Colburn Rivers and Lakes Programs
Carolyn Guerdet Water Division
David Neils Watershed Management Bureau
Tracie Sales Rivers and Lakes Programs

Others/Guests

Larry Sunderland Former LMAC Member

The Meeting Was Called to Order

Chair Packard called the meeting to order at 1:53 p.m. and welcomed all present.

I. Introductions/Minutes/Committee Business

Members and guests present introduced themselves.

1) Acceptance of the July 2014 LMAC Meeting Minutes

- ***Fred Clews motioned to accept the July 2014 minutes, second by Mary Truell. Motion passed unanimously.***

2) LMAC Membership Update

Michael Summerlin has taken a job with DES so can no longer represent the BIA on the LMAC. Jacquie Colburn will follow-up with BIA regarding a new representative. The Marine Trades Association representative to the LMAC position is also vacant. Jacquie will ask the DES Commissioner to send letters to the BIA and the Marine Trades Association requesting that new representatives be nominated.

II. Review of 2014 Lake-Related legislation1) Determination of LMAC Positions on State Legislation

Chair Packard and members of the Policy & Legislation (P&L) subcommittee, including Mary Truell and Garret Graaskamp, plus Larry Sunderland, met prior to the LMAC meeting to discuss legislation and develop recommendations for the full LMAC. Linda Brownson is also on the P&L subcommittee, but was unable to attend.

HB 272, Ham Branch nomination to the RMPP – This bill includes request from the nominating committee for an exemption from the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act. The bill has been sent to an RR&D subcommittee and an amendment is being drafted. It must be voted out of committee by March 5th. Vote to track.

HB 281, defining exotic aquatic species of wildlife, with amendment – NH Audubon will be recommending that the bill be modified to specifically include algae (e.g. didymo).

- ***Mary Truell motioned for the LMAC to support HB 281 as amended by the House, second by John Cooley. Motion passed unanimously.***

A letter of testimony will be submitted when this bill is heard by the Senate subcommittee.

Discussion of other bills was limited. A vote was taken for each to either track the bill or delete it from the tracking list. The following bills will be tracked:

- HB 227 – relative to eminent domain on public lands.
- HB 306 – relative to membership of the Wetlands Council and the Water Council.
- HB 349 – buffer requirement around wetlands.
- HB 376 – appropriating funds to DES to fund projects from state aid grant program.
- HB 434 – review of proposed administrative rules.
- HB 447 – relative to quorum for meetings.
- HB 558 – establishing a clean water tax credit.
- HB 565 – relative to banning the use of boats on certain waters with a confirmed aquatic species infestation.
- HB 663 – transferring Fish & Game to the Dept. of Safety.
- HB 667 – inspection of boats for aquatic invasive species.
- SB 13 – relative to the disposition of dedicated funds.
- SB 38 – establishes a commission to develop a land conservation plan.
- SB 182 – relative to the sale of freshwater fishing bait.
- SB 196 – relative to state aid grant program.
- SB 229 – restoring and protecting waters of the southeast watershed.

The following bills will be deleted from the list:

- HB 254 – relative to exceptions to restrictions on boating.
- SB 16 – relative to the requirement for observers of water skiers.
- CACR 2 – constitutional amendment relative to dedicated funds. (Retained in committee.)

The LMAC voted to track HB 532, relative to moorings appeals board, but also requested more information. Tracie Sales will consult with Capt. Dunleavy and report back to the P&L subcommittee.

Bob Compton and John Cooley volunteered to serve on the P&L subcommittee.

2) Future Changes to the Lakes Statute, and Status of Proposed Changes to the Rivers Statute

The administrative changes to the Rivers Program statute, RSA 483, proposed by the RMAC have been postponed until a subsequent legislative session.

III. Update on NHDES Lake Trophic Surveys

David Neils, Environmental Program Manager in the NHDES Watershed Management Bureau, provided a history of the Lakes Trophic Survey Program and an update of what is happening now. The program ran from 1975 to 2008, with 40 - 50 lakes sampled each year. Data was largely gathered by staff in both summer and winter, DES would use the data to assign a trophic class and create an annual report. Due to funding cuts, the program was discontinued in 2008.

With the discontinuation, DES realized that by 2016, 70 percent of lake trophic data would be 15 years or more old. Thus, limited lake sampling was reinstated in 2013 as part of the NHDES Comprehensive Surface Water Monitoring Strategy. Now, 10 new lakes or ponds are chosen to be sampled each year, and each lake or pond is sampled for 3 consecutive years, resulting in 30 lakes visited each year. Sampling is now only done in the summer, on waterbodies that are not being monitored regularly, have public access, and have not been surveyed for several of years. Surveys include depth imagery, a plant survey, and water chemistry. Lakes and ponds are chosen within a rotating schedule of targeted watersheds.

Reports are published at the end of the 3-year cycle, and every 10 years a single summary report will be published that will also include water quality in rivers and streams. The first summary report will be in 2024.

Lake Trophic Survey Program data can be retrieved via the NHDES OneStop program along with VLAP data. A question was raised about how Lake Winnepesaukee was sampled and classified, as it can have different a trophic status in different parts of the lake. Neils responded that right now the lake only has one water quality ID, but it should probably have several.

Shane Bradt shared that many of UNH's Lake Lay Monitoring reports can now be found online under the reports tab at <http://extension.unh.edu/llmp/>, and more of the reports are being added to the site.

IV. Update Regarding LMPP Activities

Jacque reported that Lakes Program staff time has been limited primarily to responding to public inquiries. Bradt asked if the watershed approach discussed during the RMAC/LMAC Joint Meeting, which might merge the RMAC and LMAC, would reduce the focus on lakes. Tracie replied that the change would likely improve the focus on lakes, compared to the little time currently spent on lake issues.

V. LMAC Priorities

Chair Packard asked members of the Committee to bring any high level concerns of their organizations to the Committee so that they can be addressed. In response to this request, Jacque asked John Cooley about the possibility of presenting the research being done conducted by the Loon Preservation Committee on the reduction of the loon populations on Squam Lake to the Committee. The Committee agreed this was a good idea.

VI. Member Comments and Updates

1) Water Quality Standards Advisory Committee

WQSAC is not a statutory committee. It meets 4 times per year, and information about the committee is available on the NHDES website. The LMAC should have a representative on this committee.

2) Ossipee Lake Natural Area Committee

Jacque summarized the genesis of this committee, based on concerns of overuse of the area and the negative impact on rare and endangered species. With the implementation of shared state and local stewardship, the plant species within the natural area are getting re-established. The volunteer members of the OLNA committee representing boaters have done a lot of education and outreach. This committee meets once per year, usually in May.

3) Other Updates

Bradt shared information about the upcoming NEAEB conference in March, which will be held at the Attitash Resort in New Hampshire on March 18-20. The NEAEB conference is being combined with the annual NH Water and Watershed Conference.

VII. Other Business and Action Item Review

1) Action Item Review

Research HB 565 – Tracie will report results to the P&L subcommittee.

Letter of Testimony for HB 281 – Staff will draft and submit a letter of support on behalf of the LMAC.

Presentation on Loon Research – Staff will work with Cooley to arrange a presentation.

2) Next LMAC Meeting – April 13, 2015.

4:02 p.m. – Meeting Adjourned