



LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 NH Lakes Management and Protection Program

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
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LMAC MEETING MINUTES

July 23, 2015

Lynnski's Restaurant, Center Ossipee, NH

9:30 am – 11:10 am

Members present

David Packard, Chair
 Susan Slack, Vice Chair
 Shane Bradt
 Fred Clews
 John Cooley
 Eric Feldbaum
 Garret Graaskamp
 Richard Griffin (for Capt. Dunleavy)
 Frank Lemay
 Mary Truell

Representing

NH Lakes Association
 Director, Office of Energy & Planning
 Scientific Community, UNH
 Fish & Game Commission
 Conservation Community
 Commissioner, DRED
 Executive Director, F&G
 Commissioner, DOS
 NH Business and Industry Association
 NH Association of Realtors

Term

August 1, 2015 V
 Indefinite NV
 August 22, 2016 V
 August 22, 2015 V
 September 19, 2016 V
 Indefinite NV
 Indefinite NV
 Indefinite NV
 July 8, 2016 V
 June 27, 2017 V

Members not present

Linda Brownson
 Bob Compton
 Kim Hallquist
 Mark Hemmerlein
 Jim Morash
 Dick Smith
 Martha Twombly
 Bob Wolff
 Vacant

State Conservation Committee
 Planning Boards
 Municipal Officials
 Commissioner, DOT
 Tourism Industry
 Fishing Interests
 NH Assn. of Conservation Commissions
 Commissioner, Dept. of Agr., Markets & Food
 NH Marine Trades Association

August 1, 2015 V
 August 1, 2017 V
 August 1, 2018 V
 Indefinite NV
 August 1, 2016 V
 November 17, 2016 V
 August 22, 2016 V
 Indefinite NV
 August 22, 2014 V

Staff Present

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

Others/Guests

Lisa Doner Plymouth State University, Center for the Environment
 Blair Folts Green Mountain Conservation Group
 Corey Lane Green Mountain Conservation Group

The Meeting Was Called to Order

Chair Packard called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. and welcomed all present. He thanked the Green Mountain Conservation Group for hosting the LMAC and organizing the meeting location.

I. Introductions/Minutes/Committee Business

Members and guests introduced themselves.

1) Acceptance of the June 25, 2015 RMAC/LMAC Joint Meeting Minutes

A quorum was not present, so the Joint RMAC/LMAC meeting minutes were not approved. (Note that a vote was taken later during the meeting to approve the minutes, but the LMAC still lacked a quorum.)

2) LMAC Membership Update

Jacquie has been in touch with the Governor's office, and membership renewals for current members whose terms are expiring this year are either complete or in progress. She has contacted Ed Crawford, the Marine Dealers Association's nominee, about submitting paperwork to the Governor's office, but has not yet heard from Ed. Hopefully all LMAC positions will be filled soon.

3) Surplus Land Disposals

None currently, however, there may be some coming from DOT. They would be leases, probably renewals, for railroad crossings along Lake Winnepesaukee. John Cooley asked if there was a list of properties coming up for review over the next 10 years, with the thought of being proactive around loon nesting sites. Jacquie replied that staff are working on a list of state-owned properties, originally assembled in 2007, for both committees.

II. LMPP: Past, Present and Future – Jacquie Colburn1) Past Program Accomplishments

Jacquie displayed a partial list of Lakes Program accomplishments which included lake management plans, partnerships, lake protection and access programs, studies, and outreach initiatives. The Lakes Program was established in 1990, but the Lakes Coordinator position was not funded until 1992 through a grant.

2) Present and Future Program Activities

Both the LMPP and the RMPP will be in "maintenance" mode through end of the year. Tracie and Ted Diers will be especially busy assisting Wayne Ives with the Instream Flow Program thru September 1st. Tracie will not be working additional hours, and there will not be a Rivers Coordinator until early 2016.

Jacquie asked the committee if the group wants to meet this fall to discuss the next steps for the future of the program. She suggested October, and noted there would be CORD meetings in September and November, if any Surplus Land Reviews came up.

Jacquie reminded the committee that she has merged the job descriptions of the Rivers and Lakes Coordinators, and that LMAC Chair Packard and RMAC Vice Chair Tremblay have agreed to review the description before the job is posted. If the committee wants to reinstate the Lakes Coordinator position, there are no opportunities to request additional program funding until the 2017 Legislative session, and the support of the lakes community (and LMAC) will be essential to make this happen.

III. LMAC Priorities – David Packard1) Future Statutory or Program Changes and2) Coordination with the RMAC

David summarized the outcome of the April and June joint meetings of the LMAC and RMAC, at which committee members agreed that the Hybrid Approach for coordinating Lakes and Rivers Program work would be best, though both committees would use a Watershed view when working on major issues.

David asked what the Shoreland Advisory Committee (SAC) has been doing that the LMAC would not do? Jacquie responded that probably just reviewing denied shoreland permits. The LMAC has worked with SAC before, and David said he would be coordinating with RMAC Chair Ken Kimball with regard to the proposal for the LMAC and RMAC to jointly take on some of SAC's responsibilities. He also noted that the draft version of SAC's final recommendations for the Shoreland Program should be coming out soon.

Regarding the concept of lake local advisory committees (LACs), David asked about permit reviews on rivers, and the number of permits reviewed. Tracie responded that LACs (not the RMAC) review all permits on their Designated River, and that there are typically 2-3 permits on all Designated Rivers each week.

At David's behest, Jacquie also mentioned the Powerpoint presentation that was produced for the 2006 Lakes Forum, which summarized the various state agencies that have lake-related charges (including DES, DRED, DOS and F&G). David asked if this information could be updated, but Jacquie said it would require the effort of an intern, however the spread of lake responsibilities throughout the state is a good argument for the need for a Lakes Coordinator. In addition, there is a 1996 document outlining state level management recommendations for lakes which is legislatively required to be updated every 10 years. An update was in progress in 2009/2010, but was not completed due to staffing changes.

IV. Program Updates and Member Comments

1) Instream Flow Program – Tracie Sales

Tracie summarized the status of the Instream Flow Program. Water Management Plans were adopted for the Lamprey and Souhegan rivers 2 years ago, initiating the 2 year implementation period. Informational meetings are being held this month, and the draft version of the final report to the legislature will be released to the public and the LMAC on September 1, 2015, with formal public hearings in September. The comment period will be open through mid-October, with the final report due December 1st. The LMAC may want to consider submitting comments.

The final report focuses on lessons learned and recommendations for future rivers. Some of the questions addressed in the report are those of the LMAC and RMAC, such as:

- How can we tell if ISF management is having positive or negative ecological effects?
- How can public input be improved?
- When and how should enforcement be applied?

Overall, we have learned that the Instream Flow process we used works, and that imitating natural flow variability is better than simply setting a single minimum flow. The report emphasizes the interaction of lakes and rivers, and notes that lake values need to be protected as well when using storage to manage stream flows. Recommendations include the need for additional staff, funding, statewide fish data, additional stream gages and long-term biological monitoring to determine program success.

David noted that Instream Flow is a watershed-based program.

2) Member Comments/Updates

David announced that the NH Lakes Association will be initiating legislation regarding invasive aquatic species, and is reaching out to other organizations as well.

Frank Lemay noted that there are loons on Penacook Lake, and John Cooley added that there are two nesting pairs. David said that the loons on Lower Suncook Lake lost 1 of the 2 chicks. John said the overall the loon population is about the same as last year, with a lower hatching level. The oldest loon in New England, who is at least 28 or 29 years old, hatched 2 chicks this year.

V. What's Happening in the Ossipee Watershed

1) Ossipee Lake Natural Area – Jacquie Colburn

In 2007-2008, DRED initiated a management plan for use of the Ossipee Lake Natural Area (OLNA), which is both a beautiful beach as well as the home of some globally rare and threatened species. Use of the beaches has been restricted to certain areas to protect the species, but compliance has remained a continuing issue. Richard (Dick) Griffen explained that when the use restrictions were first posted, Marine Patrol assisted the forest rangers with enforcement, but the court began simply filing summonses. However, most users stay in allowed areas, though there is a plastic fence that has been taken down. Eric Feldbaum commented that there have been many requests to expand the beach access.

Blair Folts noted that the volunteer boat community has done the most to police OLNA and provide education to area users, but the boaters are feeling discouraged recently because their efforts are not being recognized. There is still pressure on the area, but the plants are beginning to come back.

The LMAC was very involved with the development of the management plan, which was spearheaded by Don Kent, Director of the Natural Heritage Bureau, and in determining the area's carrying capacity. It was a good example of a cooperative effort between state agencies and local volunteers.

2) NHF&G Pine River Boat Launch – Garret Graaskamp

The NHF&G boat launch is the only free public access on Ossipee. It consists of 3 acres, and includes a gravel parking lot for 20 trailers with an asphalt ramp in poor repair. Beginning in late summer or fall, NHF&G will be installing a double ramp of concrete planks and a floating dock, along with a pervious pavement grid for runoff control. There will be parking for 30 trailers, plus 5 car top spaces, and there is a walk-down area for paddlers. The project will cost about \$500,000 and will be finished in 2016.

There is an existing kiosk at the ramp, but it does not have any information about OLNAs. Garret would be willing to add OLNAs information, guidelines and rules.

3) Climate Change and Water Quality in NH – Lisa Doner

Lisa Doner talked about her work on toxic algae blooms and the processes that cause them, examining climate, land management, river inflows and other influencing factors. It is a hydrologic system process, linking lakes and rivers all the way down to the estuary.

Lisa is using sediment cores to look at historical information on several lakes in New England. She has about 200 years of historical water quality data on Ossipee from the cores. She uses them to determine how major land use and regulatory changes affect water quality. She is also measuring water temperature in 1 meter depth intervals year-round to determine stratification.

In addition to temperature increases, she notes that precipitation is also increasing, causing lakes to continuously overflow most years. The Ossipee system is a chain of lakes, and during some high flow conditions, water can flow backward into Danforth Lake.

She hopes that this information will help agencies and groups determine the impacts of various land use, regulatory and other changes on water quality in New England's lakes.

4) Watershed Management Plan – Blair Folts and Corey Lane

Blair Folts explained that Green Mountain Conservation Group (GMCG) is a seven town watershed organization and land trust that, in partnership with the Saco River Corridor Commission, does water quality sampling in 60 tributaries as well as education and outreach. The group relies extensively on its 50 volunteers for collecting data and accomplishing projects.

Corey Lane continued, stating that GMCG has made over 5500 tributary sampling site visits in 12 years. Volunteers also collect VLAP samples at five sites in support of the lake's management plan. The group works with the kid's camps on the lake for monitoring as well as for stormwater control projects, is a member of EpsCOR, and is conducting a well study. Data analysis indicates that most sites are degrading, especially parameters relating to road salt, but water quality generally remains above DES standards. Other projects include land protection work, VBAP monitoring, and Trout in the Classroom.

VI. Other Business and Action Item Review

- 1) Action Item Review - None
- 2) Next Meeting – Not discussed due to time constraints.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15 am.