



LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NH Lakes Management and Protection Program

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
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LMAC MEETING NOTES

October 4, 2016

Dept. of Environmental Services, Concord, NH

1:45 – 3:45 pm

Members present

David Packard, Chair
Susan Slack, Vice Chair
Bruce Allen
Shane Bradt
Fred Clews
Bob Compton
John Cooley
Garrett Graaskamp
Kim Hallquist
Frank Lemay
Dick Smith
Mary Truell

Representing

NH Lakes Association
Director, Office of Energy & Planning
NH Assn. of Conservation Commissions
Scientific Community, UNH
Fish & Game Commission
Planning Boards
Conservation Community
Executive Director, F&G
Municipal Officials
NH Business and Industry Association
Fishing Interests
NH Association of Realtors

Term

August 1, 2018 V
Indefinite NV
August 22, 2019 V
August 22, 2019 V
August 22, 2018 V
August 1, 2017 V
September 19, 2016 V
Indefinite NV
August 1, 2018 V
July 8, 2019 V
November 17, 2016 V
June 27, 2017 V

Members not present

Linda Brownson
Ed Crawford
Capt. Tim Dunleavy
Eric Feldbaum
Mark Hemmerlein
Jim Morash
Bob Wolff/David Rousseau

State Conservation Committee
Marine Dealers Association
Commissioner, DOS
Commissioner, DRED
Commissioner, DOT
Tourism Industry
Commiss., Dept. of Agr., Markets & Food

August 1, 2018 V
August 22, 2017 V
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
August 1, 2016 V
Indefinite NV

Staff Present

Melissa Doperalski Watershed Management Bureau
Jim Gallagher Chief Engineer, Dam Bureau
Carolyn Guerdet Water Division Administration
Dave Neils Chief Water Pollution Biologist
Tracie Sales Rivers and Lakes Programs
Bill Thomas Rivers Restoration Specialist, Dam Bureau

The Meeting Was Called to Order

Chair Packard called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm and welcomed all present.

I. Introductions/Minutes/Committee Business

1) Welcome, Introductions and Brief Announcements

New member Bruce Allen, representing Conservation Commission was welcomed along with Melissa Doperalski, the new Watershed Management Bureau assistant.

2) Acceptance of March 30, 2016 LMAC Meeting Minutes

- **Frank Lemay made a motion to accept the LMAC meeting minutes of March 30, 2016, second by Bruce Allen. Motion passed unanimously.**

3) Acceptance of July 27, 2016 LMAC Meeting Minutes

- **Fred Clews made a motion to accept the LMAC meeting minutes of July 27, 2016, second by Frank Lemay. Motion passed unanimously.**

II. LMPP Program Updates

1) LMAC Membership Update

Jim Morash has stepped down from the LMAC with the end of his term in August. Mark Borrin has been nominated to fill this seat, but he has not yet submitted his application form. A second copy of the form has been emailed to Mark. Shane Bradt's and John Cooley's membership terms end in September. Shane has renewed, and John is in the process of renewing. Dick Smith's term ends in November, and he plans to renew.

Discussion was held on whether or not a letter from the nominating organization(s) for renewing a member was necessary. Tracie responded that a letter was strongly desired, but not required.

2) Lake Management Activities in NH

Squam Lake – Tracie reported on the continued discussion with the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) regarding the loon die-off and low reproduction rates that have been occurring at Squam Lake. Contaminants have been found along the northern side of the lake (PCBs, flame retardants, DDT, etc.) in loon eggs, sediments and crayfish. Potential sources are a dirt road (PCBs) from historical road dust control applications, DDT – unknown source, and flame retardants – unknown source (may be from illegal dumping). LPC is seeking the help of state agencies. Tracie will convene a meeting with state agency representatives to determine next steps. Tracie requested names of people from each relevant agency to attend this meeting. Several names from NHF&G were provided, and it was suggested the Lakes Lay Monitoring program representatives (Jim Haney, Bob Craycraft, Jeff Schloss, and Shane Bradt) would also be interested. The meeting will be scheduled in the next month or two. John Cooley fielded questions regarding loons, nesting, mortalities, etc.

Lakes Waukegan and Winona – A management plan is being written jointly for Lakes Waukegan and Winona. Tracie reported noting in her review of the draft document that the plan advocates a Local Advisory Committee concept similar to the river LACs and to what the LMAC contemplated during discussions last year of a watershed approach to surface water management. On page 64 the plan proposes “a cooperating group, representing the towns, associations, and other local watershed groups, should be established for the implementation of future efforts in the watershed.... In addition to state and municipal officials and watershed groups, this collaborative approach should involve the various commercial business interests in the watershed.”

Ossipee Lake Natural Area – A meeting was supposed to have been planned for this fall; however, no announcement has yet been made as to a date or time.

3) Cyanobacteria Testing at NHDES

Dave Neils said that NHDES has been monitoring cyanobacteria for about 10 years. Anyone can bring a sample to the lab, where staff will look at it under a microscope (this is a free service) to determine the type and amount of cyanobacteria. This summer the lab typically received 1-3 samples daily. However, toxins can be present even if cyanobacteria is not visible, and NHDES has not been able to test for toxins. In response to increasing concern about cyanobacteria, NHDES has purchased equipment to test for toxins, particularly microcystins. NHDES expects that samples will be turned around within a 24 hour time period for a basic toxin screening. This service will be offered free through the NHDES limnology center beginning in 2017. NHDES is also working with the Public Health Lab to offer liquid chromatography

mass spectrography testing as well, which is a more sophisticated test that works at lower toxin levels and tests for multiples types of toxins. This type of test is usually used for drinking water, and will also be available in 2017 through the Public Health Lab, though there will be a charge for this test and the turn-around time is 48-72 hours. The state is also developing a response protocol in case cyanobacteria toxins are found in a New Hampshire public drinking water supply.

Blooms were documented in 17 waterbodies this year. In 2015, the numbers were about the same. Approximately 80% of these have chronic cyanobacteria issues, they are repeat offenders. Light, temperature, and nutrients are the three main factors that determine the presence/absence of cyanobacteria. Stormwater, fertilizer, and internal loading are the top three sources of nutrients.

III. Lake-related Legislation

Tracie commented that the dock setback bill, HB 1517 that had been held for study during this past legislative session has officially died, but, according to Tim Dunleavy and Collis Adams, a new bill on this issue should be expected this session. Regarding the proposal to move the dock program to the DOS Marine Patrol, Marine Patrol is not interested.

IV. Dams, Lake Levels, and Dam Removal Projects

Bill Thomas spoke about dam removal projects in the state, some that have been completed, some that are underway, and some that are planned. Dam owners generally choose to remove dams when removal is less expensive than maintaining the dam, and reduces liability. Examples of removals include the Merrimack Village dam on the Souhegan River, and the Great Dam in Exeter which was removed on September 9th of this year. The Sawyer mill project, which includes the upper and lower Sawyer Mill dams in Dover on the Bellamy River, has been planned and has ongoing fundraising activities. Sediment sampling has been completed and a final report is anticipated soon. Some contaminants were noted from upstream in the watershed. Other pending projects include:

- Hubner Pond, tributary to Hubbard Brook in Chesterfield.
- Pine Mill and Clark Pond Dams in Haverhill.
- Lower Peverly Brook Dam in the Great Bay Wildlife Refuge, Newington.

Jim Gallagher spoke about Lake Level Management in New Hampshire. The Dam Bureau is responsible for the safety of approximately 2,600 dam around the state; 278 of these are state owned dams operated by the Dam Bureau, of which 111 are owned by NHDES and about 100 are owned by New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHGFD). The Bureau has 4 full-time and several seasonal staff who operate the dams for flood control, seasonal drawdowns, and recreation and wildlife uses. Seasonal drawdowns are conducted on approximately 50 lakes to reduce ice damage to in-lake structures and provide storage for spring flooding. Drawdowns usually begin following Columbus Day weekend, and take into consideration recreation and wildlife needs. Lake Winnepesaukee is managed for lake level, downstream flows and lake levels, compliance with water rights, flood control, recreational purposes, fish and wildlife resources, water quality, and hydropower generation.

V. Member Comments and Updates

Shane Bradt reported that the cyanobacteria monitoring program we learned about in July is now called Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative since the program has grown beyond the Northeast. The cyanos.org website is being revised, with a blog feature being added, and Shane will inform the group when the site has been updated. If members want a cyanobacteria monitoring kit for their lake – contact Shane. A grant has been made available.

VI. New Business and Action Item Review

- 1) Other Business – None

2) Action Item Review

- Tracie will coordinate a meeting on the Squam Lake contaminants issue with LPC and state agencies.
- Garrett Graaskamp will look in to who at NHFGD would be the most appropriate representative to participate in the Squam Lake meeting.

3) Next LMAC meeting – Doodle poll will be sent for mid-January

4) Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- Local Advisory Committees (LACs) – how they're formed and what is the criteria to be one.
- Durham's water management actions during draught vis-a-vis the ISF program.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.