

N.H. Lakes Management and Protection Program

N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee

October 5, 2021

Voting Members:

David Packard
Chair
NH Lakes Assn.

Shane Bradt
Scientific Community

Ryan Cardella
Marine Trades
Association

Tiffany Grade
Conservation
Community

Janet Kidder
Planning Boards

Frank Lemay
NH BIA

Jared Maraio
NH Travel Council

Lisa Morin
State Conservation
Committee

Dick Smith
Fishing Interests

Bruce Temple
NH Fish & Game
Commission

Vacant
Municipal Official

Vacant
NH Association of
Realtors

Vacant
Conservation
Commissions

Non-Voting Members:

Garret Graaskamp
Vice Chair
NH Fish & Game Dept.

Capt. Tim Dunleavy
NH Dept. of Safety

Eric Feldbaum
NH Dept. of Natural and
Cultural Resources

Jennifer Gilbert
NH Office of Strategic
Initiatives

Mark Hemmerlein
NH Dept. of Trans.

Shawn Jasper
NH Dept. of
Ag, Markets & Food

Staff:

Tracie Sales
Program Manager

Nisa Marks
Program Assistant

Vacant
Watershed Coordinator

The Honorable Kurt Wuelper, Chair
Study Committee for HB 108
State House, Room 100
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 108 – Committee to Review Authorizing Governing Bodies of Municipalities to Hold Virtual Meetings and to Study Remote Access to Meetings Under RSA 91-A

Dear Chair Wuelper and Members of the Committee:

RSA 483-A established the New Hampshire Lakes Management and Protection Program and the Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) to complement and reinforce existing state and federal water quality laws. Within its responsibilities of advising the NHDES Commissioner and the department, the LMAC reviews and takes positions on legislation pertaining to New Hampshire's lakes. The LMAC, as a committee subject to RSA 91-A, appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Study Committee's work pursuant to House Bill 108.

Please note that these comments, as a result of the inability of the LMAC to meet in a short timeframe with a quorum in accordance with RSA 91-A, do not directly address the Study Committee's question on criteria for establishing a physical quorum, but are based on the LMAC's previously stated support for remote meetings.

At the meeting of the LMAC on January 11, 2021 the LMAC voted to support the concepts proposed in legislation as HB 216. The LMAC expressed its support for remote meeting options, including removing the requirement for any physical meeting location, as a mechanism to facilitate public participation. This implies that no minimum number of voting members need to be physically present for the LMAC to effectively conduct business, including roll call votes. A staff person could still provide access to a physical location, should a member of the public wish to attend the meeting in person. Allowing remote meetings is a reasonable and practical change to existing law.

The LMAC is a legislatively created body of stakeholders, in support of lakes, representing the NH Lakes Association, conservation commissions, scientific community, conservation community, planning boards, Business and Industry Association, tourism industry, state conservation committee, NH Municipal Association, fishing interests, NH Fish & Game Commission, NH Association of Realtors, Marine Trades Association, and several state agencies. Committee members are appointed by the Governor and Council or the head of the state agency and are charged with supporting the legislative intent of the Lakes Management and Protection Program.

In conclusion, the LMAC has previously supported fully remote meetings, implying that no physical quorum is necessary. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have

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further questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me at (603) 867-9299 or appliedforce52@gmail.com.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David W. Packard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

David Packard, Chair

ec: LMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES
Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager, NHDES