

LOCAL RIVER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2017-2018 BIENNIAL REPORT

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



RSA 483:8-a III(a)

As a Local Advisory Committee, it is your duty to report biennially to the Rivers Management Advisory Committee and the commissioner, and annually to the municipalities, on the status of compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, local ordinances, and plans relevant to the Designated River or segment, its corridor, and tributary drainage areas.

Complete reports should be sent to riversprogram@des.nh.gov by February 1, 2018.

Please provide the following information:

Name of Committee	Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee (LAC)
Date	December 31, 2017
Your Name and Title	Connie McDade, LAC Corresponding Secretary On behalf of Richard Walling, LAC Chairman
How many regular meetings did the LAC hold during in 2017 and 2018?	2017 __ 12 __ 2018 _____
How many total volunteer hours did LAC members contribute in 2017 and 2018?	2017 = 661.5 Volunteer Hours included 168 monthly meeting hours. Median 7 members (2 hrs x 7x12=168) 2018 _____
How many permit notifications did the LAC review during 2017 and 2018?	2017 __ 15 __ (+4 additional projects reviewed, 1 in which the application received after project was underway, 2 with application not being submitted, and 1 with reviewer communicating why process not timely) 2018 _____
Of these permit notifications, on how many did the LAC provide comments and/or a response?	2017 __ 14 of the 15 received __ (LAC notified DES the process at variance to their expectation in 3 of the 4 additional projects reviewed; the 4th situation required no further comment as LAC received prompt explanation) 2018 _____

Please answer the following questions or attach your LAC Annual Reports:

(603) 271-2457 watershed@des.nh.gov
PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095

During 2017 and 2018, did the LAC develop a new river corridor management plan, revise an existing plan or implement any recommendations included in an existing plan? If so, please describe:

2017: In keeping with one of the foremost priorities of the Ammonoosuc River Corridor Management Plan of 2013 to protect water quality so that growth and development can occur without degradation, LAC incorporated the Ammonoosuc River Stream Crossing Assessment Project (ARSCAP) into their application review process.

Trout Unlimited, NH Fish & Game Dept., and Plymouth State University prepared the ARSCAP evaluation of watershed vulnerability with support and technical assistance from NH Geological Survey.

LAC Member Art Greene (V.P Ammonoosuc Chapter of Trout Unlimited) was a key member of the culvert assessment committee, providing support and assistance throughout the project. The results will help towns to identify vulnerable stream crossings, which improves flood resiliency, benefits fish passage, and protects wildlife habitat and water uses by the public.

Upon completion of the project, Dianne Timmins, Data Manager of NH Fish and Game gave a presentation to the Board of Selectmen (BOS), Public Works Department, and to interested public in the Ammonoosuc River corridor towns. Various means of available funding were discussed to replace aging, undersized, and/or perched culverts. A member of LAC attended each of the ARSCAP presentations subsequently given by Dianne Timmins to the Conservation Commissions along the river corridor. Maps on a town-by-town basis that show the status of stream crossings were provided to each town's BOS and conservation commission. The culvert data shown on maps includes: brook trout status, geomorphic compatibility, aquatic organism passage, flood resiliency and time interval, and flood resiliency results.

The findings of ARSCAP were presented in a useful functional modality so the data can be utilized by each of the river corridor towns. The inclusiveness and collaboration extended to all interested parties has made it possible for the data to benefit the watershed.

2018:

During 2017 and 2018, did the LAC conduct any outreach or educational programs, special meetings, events, or monitoring programs? (i.e. River Clean-Up or Property Owner Survey) If so, please describe:

2017:

LAC member did VRAP water testing monitoring: pH, DO, conductance, turbidity, TP, TKN, chloride and E. coli at multiple stations along the Ammonoosuc River. Members looked for invasive species at testing stations.

Workshops attended by LAC members: 3/3 Identify Dam Removal Projects in Northern Connecticut River Tributaries; 3/9 Ammonoosuc River Stream Crossing Assessment, Flood Resiliency, and Community Action; 3/30 NHACC & NHDES Application Review;

4/17 American Water Works; 4/29 OEP on Dams; 5/13 NH Rivers Council Workshop; 5/31 Stream Crossing Workshop; 11/4 NH Association Conservation Commissions Meeting

2018:

During 2017 and 2018, did the LAC receive any grants or special recognition for projects? If so, please describe:

2017:

2018:

Is there anything else that you would like to report regarding the work and/or accomplishments of the LAC, concerns or issues regarding the river, the permit review process, and/or the Rivers Program?

The Ammonoosuc River LAC continues to observe the trend for landowners, developers, and/or their agents to provide enough information about a project to get it approved without fully divulging significant aspects of the plan. The appropriate type of application is not always filed. When they get planning board and NHDES approval of the project, the after-the-fact greater extent of the project often goes unrecognized unless observed.

There seems to be no modality that's been set up for sufficient follow through of what is written in the application and what actually takes place on the site of the project. The Local Advisory Committee in its advisory role is not qualified or equipped to monitor and take measurements to report discrepancies. LAC is limited to photographic documentation to accompany their request for a relook and reconsideration of the additional information provided to the DES. Members spend a lot of time following up in these matters, which becomes wasted effort, if they go by the board to the point in which action is no longer possible.

Since the Ammonoosuc River LAC held its first meeting January 2008 there have been 22 resignations of LAC members, serving on the committee. LAC currently does not have a member to represent the Towns of Lisbon and Haverhill. We know that Tracie Sales, NHDES Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager and her Assistant Kathryn Black are diligently working on this matter.

Wetland banking in advance of development replaces lost wetland functions in a watershed, however when mitigated wetlands are located a significant distance away from the impacted wetlands, they do not perform the functions that the original wetland did for that location. This becomes significant in those locations that already have been greatly impacted. Would like to see this factor taken into account for those locations that do not offer an on site mitigation, when consideration for the scope and location of a project to go forward is being based on mitigation equation.
