

CONTOOCCOOK & NORTH BRANCH RIVERS LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Annual Report • 2019

The Contoocook & North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee, (CNBRLAC) completed a very productive year in 2019 with a full slate of meetings, events and monitoring activities for the Contoocook and North Branch River communities.

Established in 1988, the CNBRLAC represents the fourteen communities of Antrim, Bennington, Boscawen, Concord, Deering, Greenfield, Hancock, Henniker, Hillsborough, Hopkinton, Jaffrey, Peterborough, Rindge, and Stoddard through its statutory duties including permit review and management plan coordination. The CNBRLAC provides a voice for the Contoocook and North Branch River towns and cities through the river's designation in the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. The CNBRLAC updates the *Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Corridor Management Plan* (CNBRCMP) (<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/documents/ctc-plan.pdf>) and coordinates the activities in it.

The CNBRLAC reviewed and provided local comment on nearly two dozen proposed projects for Wetlands, Shorelands or Alteration of Terrain permit applications within the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers watersheds. Major projects included a large housing project in Concord, a proposed roundabout and new river crossing of Route 202 in Jaffrey, a major retail expansion in Jaffrey and several NHDOT or public utility maintenance operations in Antrim, Boscawen and Henniker. In addition, alterations or additions to several single family home projects in Antrim, Bennington, Henniker, Hillsborough, Hopkinton, Jaffrey and Rindge were reviewed. A pesticide application and hazardous waste processing permits were commented on in Hillsborough and Hopkinton.

The VRAP Monitoring Program marked its twenty-first year in 2019. The VRAP Monitoring Program depends on the high quality work of many volunteers each year who monitor river and stream health on Contoocook and North Branch Rivers and their tributaries at over twenty sites between Rindge and Concord. During the summer, volunteers collect river water samples and record the results of in-field testing. The resulting data are used to determine the condition of the on-going water quality of the rivers. The information is shared with municipalities and other local officials for their health officers' and other local officials' use, as well as to the State of New Hampshire and the US Congress.

Elected officers Matt Lundsted, Chair; John Haley, Treasurer and Marco Philippon, Secretary were re-elected in 2019. Two sub-committees were established this year. One to address the increasing and ongoing threats to our environment, the river and wildlife from the impacts of plastics. The other sub-committee was established to develop and populate a website for the CNBRLAC, please visit <https://cnbriac.org/>. Special thanks to river lover Luciano Lipari for his volunteer creation and maintenance of our website.

The CNBRLAC work would not be possible without the generosity of all fourteen of its municipal supporters. Their support assures that the program has the resources that it needs to continue. Special thanks goes to Monadnock Mills as they provide the committee with a monthly meeting space which provides for a consistent venue with convenient accommodations.

The CNBRLAC meets monthly at the Monadnock Mills in Bennington every third Monday at 7:00 PM. Thank you to the Towns of Bennington, Boscawen, Deering, Greenfield, Hillsborough, Jaffrey, Peterborough, Rindge, and Stoddard for their financial support during the past year. All are welcome to attend the meetings. For further information, please contact Matt Lundsted, Chair via telephone at 603.424.8444, email at mlundsted@ceiengineers.com or through your representatives listed below.

Antrim

Rod Zwirner

Bennington

Joe MacGregor
Jon Manley

Boscawen

Thomas Gilmore

Concord

Marco Philippon
Jack Shields

Deering

Tim Finn

Greenfield

Roger Lessard
John Haley

Hancock

Henniker

Mark Mitch

Hillsborough

Richard McNamara

Hopkinton

Bonnie Christie

Jaffrey

Carolyn Garretson
Jim Webster

Peterborough

Matt Lundsted
Beth Alpaugh-Cote

Rindge

Brian Maloy
Bill Preston

Stoddard

Ruth Ward