

2019 Cocheco River Local Advisory Committee Annual Report

The Committee's Responsibilities:

The Cocheco River Local Advisory Committee (CRLAC) is a volunteer group of citizen representatives from the City of Dover, City of Rochester, the Town of Farmington and the Town of New Durham. The CRLAC's responsibilities include developing the Cocheco River Corridor Management Plan, and monitoring development along the Cocheco River corridor. The CRLAC is advisory in nature and, per RSA 483, rather than granting or denying permits, the CRLAC reviews project proposals that require NH Department of Environmental Service's (NHDES) Permits. When necessary, the committee makes practical recommendations to NHDES permit reviewers and project representatives so that the water quality of the Cocheco River can be better protected. These recommendation often include, but are not limited to: use of adequate erosion and siltation control devices during construction, implementing stormwater management techniques, and, to the greatest extent possible, retaining native vegetation along the shoreline to create/ retain a buffer or natural protective layer. The Cocheco River Local Advisory Committee seeks to strike a balance between wise development and the protection of this valuable resource.

The Committee Members:

The Cocheco River Local Advisory Committee consists of 5 *members*. Representing Dover, Acting Chair, Jay Aube, representing Rochester, Jon Batson, representing Farmington, William Fisher and Calvin Diessner and representing New Durham, John Mullen. Many of the Cocheco River Local Advisory Committee members have lived in the area for decades and their knowledge of the river from a historical perspective is an invaluable resource. The CRLAC is always seeking new members. If you, or someone you know may be interested in joining the CRLAC, please contact Jay Aube for details.

Project Review:

In 2019, the CRLAC conducted 6 meetings. During these meeting 13 project proposals within the Cocheco River Designated River Corridor were reviewed. Of these projects, the CRLAC provided recommendations on 8 projects directly to NHDES permit application reviewers and project leads. Most notably, the CRLAC provide recommendations the City of Dover, Cocheco River Waterfront Development project, a solar array project in Farmington and a proposed auto dealership at the site an old foundry in Rochester.

2020 Focus:

In 2020, despite the trying times resulting from the pandemic, the CRLAC will strive to increase its membership, develop a website and move towards developing the Cocheco River Corridor Management Plan.

Jay Aube,
Acting Chair, Cocheco River Local Advisory Committee