



2019 Annual Report

Saco-Swift Rivers Local Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 268, Jackson, NH 03846

The Saco-Swift Rivers Local Advisory Committee represents the towns of Albany, Bartlett, Conway, Hart's Location, Jackson, Livermore, and Waterville Valley, in addition to the White Mountain National Forest and Crawford Notch State Park, on issues pertaining to the Swift and Saco river corridors, which are designated for special oversight and protection by the State of New Hampshire.

Introduction

The Saco-Swift Rivers Local Advisory Committee (SSRLAC) is pleased to present this report summarizing the group's 2019 activities. SSRLAC was established on August 28, 2019, after New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services personnel proposed merging the former Saco River LAC and the Swift River LAC, which had both been defunct for several years. The initial SSRLAC committee was formed through municipal nominations from the Town of Albany, Town of Hart's Location, Town of Jackson, as well as a nominee from the U.S. Forest Service White Mountain National Forest. Over the next several months, the committee grew to include members from additional communities within the rivers' corridors, established bylaws, and began to review relevant permit applications. In addition, a partnership was formed between SSRLAC and a newly forming non-profit organization, Saco Headwaters Alliance. SSRLAC looks forward to future growth and full representation of the corridor communities of the Saco and Swift rivers. One of the major goals for 2020 will be to seek opportunities for funding the development of updated corridor management plans for both rivers. The committee will continue to provide support to relevant causes throughout Saco and Swift river corridors, review applicable permit applications, and communicate activities to member municipalities as well as the general public.

This report has been prepared in accordance with RSA 483:8-a III, which details the responsibilities of Local River Management Advisory Committees. These responsibilities are listed in RSA 483:8-a III as follows:

- a) *To advise the commissioner, the advisory committee, the municipalities through which the designated river or segment flows, and municipalities within tributary drainage areas on matters pertaining to the management of the river or segment, tributary drainage areas, and disposal of state-owned lands. Municipal officials, boards, and agencies shall inform such committees of actions which they are considering in managing and regulating activities within designated river corridors.*
- b) *To consider and comment on any federal, state, or local governmental plans to approve, license, fund, or construct facilities or applications for permits, certificates, or licenses, that may alter the resource values and characteristics for which the river or segment is designated.*
- c) *To develop or assist in the development and adoption of local river corridor management plans under RSA 483:10. The local planning board, or, in the absence of a planning board, the local governing body, may adopt such plans pursuant to RSA 675:6 as an adjunct to the local master*

plan adopted under RSA 674:4. No such plan shall have any regulatory effect unless implemented through properly adopted ordinances.

- d) *To report biennially to the advisory committee and the commissioner, and annually to 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, tributary drainage areas, and the activities of the local river management advisory committee including, but not limited to, committee volunteer hours, permit applications reviewed, corridor management plans and their implementation, and education and outreach efforts.*

2019 Meetings

This section provides the dates and a brief summary of all meetings held in 2019. Minutes and relevant documents are available upon request.

August 28, 2019 4:30 - 7:00pm Regular Meeting at Saco Ranger District Office in Conway

Members Present (Representing): Mark Dindorf (Hart's Location), Landon Gryczkowski (White Mountain National Forest), Robert Parrish (Albany), Jeff Sires (Jackson)

NHDES Representation: Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Program Manager

Members of Public Present: None

Items Discussed:

- Introductions of committee members
- Name for the Local Advisory Committee, **Committee voted to name "Saco-Swift Rivers Local Advisory Committee"**
- Election of SSRLAC Chair, **Committee voted to name Jeff Sires Chair of Local Advisory Committee with Mark Dindorf voted in as Co/Vice-Chair**
- Meeting schedule and frequency was decided to be once every other month on the third Thursday with adjustments made as necessary
- Recruitment of members/nominees from additional communities/municipalities within the corridor
- Important issues for the two rivers and need to review corridor management plans
- Potential collaboration with Saco Headwaters Alliance
- Readiness to begin reviewing applications, one received for Hart's Location bridge replacement
- Future meeting date and time, **Committee decides to hold next meeting on October 17, 2019**

October 17, 2019 4:30 - 7:00pm Regular Meeting at Saco Ranger District Office in Conway

Members Present (Representing): Kathy Carrier (Albany), Mark Dindorf (Hart's Location), Larry Huemmler (Conway), Robert Parrish (Albany), Jeff Sires (Jackson)

NHDES Representation: Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Program Manager

Members of Public Present: None

Items Discussed:

- Introductions of new committee members, Larry Huemmler and Nat Lucy for Conway
- **Minutes for the August 28, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved**
- Updates on outreach to municipalities for additional representation
- Permit applications: Hart's Location bridge replacement, three new applications received, two for Bartlett bank stabilization projects, and one for After-the-fact wetland impacts at Stilling Meadows in Bartlett

- Updates on former Swift River LAC bank account
- Public outreach and potential press release, complying with Right-To-Know law, etc.
- Corridor management plan review and comments
- Potential collaboration with Saco Headwaters Alliance, **Committee approves Letter of Support for NHDES Local Source Water Protection Grant being applied for by North Conway Water Precinct and Saco Headwaters Alliance**
- Permit reviews
 - **Committee decides to waive submission of comments for Hart's Location bridge replacement project**
 - **Committee decides to delay comment on Bartlett bank stabilization projects to later date**
 - **Committee decides to delay comment on Bartlett after-the-fact wetland permit to later date**
- Future meeting date and time, **Committee decides to hold next regular meeting on December 19, 2019, and planned to schedule a special permit review meeting for the first week of November**

November 4, 2019 3:00 - 5:00pm Special Meeting at Saco Ranger District Office in Conway

Members Present (Representing): Landon Gryczkowski (White Mountain National Forest), Larry Huemmler (Conway), Nat Lucy (Conway), Robert Parrish (Albany), Jeff Sires (Jackson)

Members of Public Present: Angela Huertas (Bartlett)

Items Discussed:

- Permit reviews
 - **The committee drafted and approved comments to submit for two wetlands permit applications for bank stabilization projects in Bartlett**
 - **The committee drafted and approved comments to submit for the after-the-fact wetlands permit for Stilling's Meadows subdivision**
- A member of the public was provided with and took the opportunity to speak about both projects being reviewed

December 19, 2019 4:30 - 7:00pm Regular Meeting at Saco Ranger District Office in Conway

Members Present (Representing): Kathy Carrier (Albany), Mark Dindorf (Hart's Location), Landon Gryczkowski (White Mountain National Forest), Larry Huemmler (Conway), Nat Lucy (Conway) Robert Parrish (Albany), Jeff Sires (Jackson), David Weathers (Conway)

Members of Public Present: Amanda Peterson (prospective nominee, Bartlett)

Items Discussed:

- New member introductions
- **Minutes and comment letters from the October 17 and November 4 meetings were reviewed and approved**
- The status of recent permit applications were reviewed
- New wetland rules at the state level were discussed and their impacts to the LAC considered
- **The committee, edited, and approved the adoption of bylaws provided in a template by NHDES**

- **The committee discussed, edited and approved a document establishing a process by which the Chair and other authorized members can review and sign new Permit-By-Notification forms outside of regularly scheduled meetings**
- **The next meeting was set for February 20, 2020.**

SSRLAC Membership

While the Saco-Swift Rivers Local Advisory Committee grew throughout the final months of 2019, representation of all corridor municipalities and governing entities was not completed by the end of the year. However, and while this information will be further detailed in the 2020 Annual Report, several new members have been added to the committee in the first few months of 2020. The committee now consists of the following members:

- Kathy Carrier, Treasurer, Albany
- Mark Dindorf, Vice-Chair, Hart’s Location
- William Fabrizio, Bartlett
- Landon Gryczkowski, White Mountain National Forest
- Larry Huemmler, Conway
- Daryl Mazzaglia, Bartlett
- Nathaniel Lucy, Conway
- Randy Ouellette, Conway
- Robert Parrish, Albany
- Amanda Peterson, Bartlett
- Jeff Sires, Chair, Jackson
- David Weathers, Conway

The committee looks forward to continuing to add members from governing entities within the corridor (e.g. Waterville Valley, and Crawford Notch State Park), and from watershed communities that wish to have representation.

Outreach and Collaboration

SSRLAC did not participate as a committee in public outreach efforts during 2019. The efforts of the group were primarily focused on developing membership and capacity for the basic responsibilities outlined by RSA 483. That said, multiple discussions were had about opportunities for press outreach and further involvement by the committee in community events, such as Valley Pride Day, in 2020.

The committee was successful in establishing a partnership with the Saco Headwaters Alliance and provided support to the organization for a NHDES Local Source Water Protection Grant that was awarded thereafter. SSRLAC looks forward to strengthening this relationship and those with other potential partner organizations in 2020.

Corridor Management Plan

The Saco River Corridor Management Plan (CMP) and Swift River Corridor Management Plan were last updated and published in 1994. While the documents are comprehensive and accurate, they should be updated to reflect current best management practices, recent environmental trends, and modern threats to the corridors and watersheds. One of the 2020 goals of SSRLAC will be to seek opportunities

to collaborate and fund updated CMPs for the rivers, or to contribute to the development of an overall watershed management plan. SSRAC will aim to work with NHDES, potential partners, and relevant funding entities to move toward the accomplishment of this goal.

Conclusion

SSRLAC appreciates your time spent reading its 2019 Annual Report and welcomes any feedback or suggestions you may have for our committee. As a public body, we look forward to continued collaboration between the committee, stakeholder communities, partner organizations, and the general public.

Note: This annual report was reviewed and approved by the Saco-Swift Rivers Local Advisory Committee at its April 23, 2020 meeting.