

RIVERS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095
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Meeting Minutes October 14, 2011 DES Conference Rooms 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 pm

Members Present

Ken Kimball, Chair
Michele L. Tremblay, Vice Chair
Anne Krantz
Frederick McNeill
John Magee
Kevin Nyhan
Jim Ryan
Larry Spencer
Bob Spoerl
Donald Ware

Representing

Recreational Interests
Conservation Interests
Historical & Archaeological Interests
Municipal Government
Director, NH Fish & Game Dept.
Commissioner, NH Dept. of Transportation
NH Fish & Game Commission
NH Association of Conservation Comm.
Commissioner, DRED
Public Water Suppliers

Term

Dec. 28, 2011 V
Dec. 28, 2011 V
June 15, 2013 V
Nov. 16, 2011 V
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
Sept. 29, 2012 V
Oct. 12, 2013 V
Indefinite NV
Sept. 28, 2013 V

Members Absent

Vacant
Joanne Cassulo
Gary Kerr
Gail McWilliam Jellie
Johanna Lyons
Kathryn Nelson
Allan Palmer
Lance Harbour

Agricultural Community
Director, NH Office of Energy and Planning
Granite State Hydropower
Commissioner, NH Department of Agriculture
Commissioner, DRED
Local River Management Advisory Comm.
Business and Industry Association
Commissioner, NH Dept. of Safety

Mar. 22, 2009 V
Indefinite NV
Jan. 5, 2012 V
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
Sept. 5, 2013 V
Sept. 28, 2013 V
Indefinite NV

DES Staff Present

Jacquie Colburn
Ted Diers
Tara Johnson
Carolyn Guerdet
Shane Csiki

River and Lakes Coordinator, WMB
Administrator WMB
Asst. Planner, WMB
Admin. Asst. Water Division
Fluvial Geomorphology Specialist, NH Geological Survey

Guests Present

Charlie Ryan Chair, Ammonoosuc LAC

The Meeting Was Called to Order

Chairman Ken Kimball called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. The committee members introduced themselves.

I. Introductions/Minutes/Committee Business

A. Consent Items

1) May 9, 2011 RMAC Meeting Minutes

- *Michele L. Tremblay made a motion to accept the July 22, 2011 RMAC meeting minutes with corrections, seconded by Jim Ryan. Discussion was held regarding the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.*

2) RMAC Membership Update

- 1) Ken Kimball's term expires December 28, 2011.

- 2) Michele Tremblay's term expires December 28, 2011.
- 3) Roger Noonan has been nominated to represent the Agricultural Community. Chairman Kimball will call him to introduce him to the committee.

Jacquie introduced Tara Johnson as the new part-time assistant planner for the RMPP and LMPP.

II. Update Regarding RMPP Activities

A.) Staff time demands/resources

The RMAC and LMAC Chairs and Vice Chairs met and noted a lot of time was spent conserving these two programs and the committees. How much time will Jacquie and Tara be available for the committees in the next 4 – 6 months and the future? Jacquie and Tara have currently been working to populate the LACs and have spent quite a bit of time with the Lamprey River LAC.

Due to Tropical Storm Irene and the rivers affected, Jacquie is now heading a group of state and federal agencies. The goal is to better coordinate multi-agency response activities and to develop a computer-based communication system for the agencies in an effort to provide improved guidance to the public and municipalities. The four state agencies that have been called on the most to respond to Tropical Storm Irene include DES, DOT, OEM and DRED. Other agencies and organizations that should be at the table for long-term issues include Fish & Game, OEP, ACoE, WMNF, NRCS, FEMA, and Trout Unlimited. Where do we go from here to build the response team and plan for the future? Jacquie noted that right now we are in the immediate response phase, but will build long-term mitigation and restoration teams using other agencies like Fish and Game in the future. Administering this effort will cut into Jacquie and Tara's time. Jacquie estimated that administering this new group may require as much as 75% of her time, at least for the next few months.

Ted Diers noted:

- 1) This has a benefit to the Rivers Program - there is a serious public safety/health component to the work being done. Having saved the Rivers Coordinator position will be evident and may help us preserve the position in the future.
- 2) The department is aware that there is now less time to do the work of the Rivers Program. Ted will be working to attract other resources to help pay for more of the program and delegating duties, if possible. Steve Couture may be able to assist with LACs on the coast.

The RMAC expressed major concerns about this diversion of staff time after the committee chairs invested significant time and effort with the Legislature to preserve some funding for these positions:

- lack of consistency if workload spread out amongst agencies
- more difficult to make the argument that things aren't going well, if staff diverted off to other tasks
- when taking back the programs - it may be adversarial to those it was parceled out to
- additional needs when new rivers nominated
- overlap as to the matrix
- public or volunteers asking for DES services and not getting them may garner negative public feedback; may be more difficult to convince volunteers to put time into or defend a semi-functional program
- water quality monitoring needed but not there
- RMAC and LACs could become non-functional as we move from crisis to crisis management
- lack of time to keep the website updated
- after laying out a template for RMAC to work – it will be non-functional if minimal DES River staff is available to work on it

Ken noted that the challenge for the RMAC will be maintaining rivers vs. maintaining river programs. It was suggested that DES needs to see how to make both pieces functional. Michele said that once the LACs are up and running, they will not need as much of our attention.

B) SOP 801: Permit Notifications

Need a sub-committee formed as we are committed to a full one-day workshop along with the National Park Service in January for the LACs. The workshop will focus on discussions regarding review processes and responses to applications and other topics.

III. Next Meeting(s):

There will be another joint RMAC/LMAC meeting in January at DES, date/time to be determined; possibly January 6, 2012. A joint meeting will be held in March as well. It will be a follow-up to regulatory and legislative items. The committees will also look at conflicts with the instream flow vs. lake level issues. Darlene Forst may join the meeting to discuss the Shoreland Advisory Committee (SAC) at the March meeting.

The RMAC meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.