



RIVERS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NH Rivers Management and Protection Program

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
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RMAC MEETING MINUTES
December 18, 2012
DES Conference Rooms 112-114
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Members Present

Ken Kimball, Chair (by phone)
Michele L. Tremblay, Vice Chair
Roger Noonan (by phone)
Jim Ryan
Larry Spencer
Susan Slack

Representing

Recreational Interests
Conservation Interests
Agricultural Community
NH Fish & Game Commission
NH Association of Conservation Comm.
Director, Office of Energy and Planning

Term

Dec. 28, 2014 V
Dec. 28, 2014 V
Mar. 22, 2015 V
Sept. 28, 2015 V
Oct. 12, 2013 V
Indefinite NV

Members Absent

Gary Kerr
Anne Krantz
Frederick McNeill
Kathryn Nelson
Allan Palmer
Donald Ware
Lance Harbour
Johanna Lyons
John Magee
Gail McWilliam
Kevin Nyhan

Granite State Hydropower
Historical & Archaeological Interests
Municipal Government
Local River Management Advisory Comm.
NH Business and Industry Association
Public Water Suppliers
Commissioner, DOS
Commissioner, DRED
Executive Director, F&G
Commissioner, Dept of Ag., Markets & Food
Commissioner, DOT

Jan. 5, 2015 V
June 15, 2013 V
Nov. 16, 2014 V
Sept. 5, 2013 V
Sept. 28, 2013 V
Sept. 28, 2013 V
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV

DES Staff Present

Jacquie Colburn Rivers and Lakes Program
Tracie Sales Rivers and Lakes Program

Guests

David Packard Lakes Management Advisory Committee

The Meeting Was Called to Order

Vice Chairman Michele L. Tremblay called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m., before the scheduled time. Introductions were made.

I. Introductions/Minutes/Committee Business

1) Acceptance of October RMAC Meeting Minutes

- ***The RMAC did not have a quorum present, thus acceptance of the October 2012 meeting minutes was postponed until the next RMAC meeting.***

2) RMAC Membership Update

There are no vacancies on the RMAC and all memberships are up-to-date. Michele asked Rivers Program staff to begin working on member renewals for 2013. Anne Krantz's membership is the next due for renewal on June 15, 2013.

II. Update Regarding RMPP Activities

1) RMPP Program Updates – Jacquie Colburn

Jacquie reported that most of her time has been dedicated to the RMPP. Administration of PIRRT transferred to OEM in early fall. She continues to work with Shane Csiki on FEH related items and with the LACs. Over the last 3-4 months, Jacquie, Tracie and Ted have dedicated a significant amount of time to the Lamprey Instream Flow Pilot Project working very closely with Wayne Ives.

a. Connecticut River Creosote – Tracie Sales

Using a series of photos, Tracie briefly described a situation in North Stratford involving creosote dripping from a railroad bridge into the Connecticut River. A complaint was originally made through the CT River Headwaters LAC to Rivers Program staff in 2008, shortly after all of the ties were replaced on the bridge, which is owned and operated by the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad Company. In 2009, the railroad company was required to wrap the ties with a sorbent material, commonly called 'diapers,' to contain the creosote leaching from the oversaturated ties. In the spring of 2011, DES received another complaint about the creosote dripping into the river. However, because of staffing changes within the Rivers Program, no follow-up was conducted on the complaint.

In April 2012, DES received a third complaint about the creosote. Research confirmed that many of the diapers appeared saturated, and creosote was evident on the banks of the river under the bridge. In coordination with John Regan from the DES Hazardous Waste Remediation Program, Tracie arranged a meeting at the bridge with railroad company employees. During that visit, creosote was directly observed in the river, and railroad company employees agreed to develop a plan to address the problem.

A draft plan has been submitted, but some questions posed by DES to the railroad company have not yet been answered. DES will require a plan that prevents creosote from leaching into the river in the short term, and also requires regular monitoring and reporting to prevent additional creosote problems in the future.

2) Surplus Land Reviews/Disposals – Jacquie Colburn

Rivers Program staff received 3 SLRs since the last meeting. One was near RMAC jurisdiction, but fell just outside. The 3 SLRs were: Canaan (Goose Pond land swap), Chesterfield (utility easement, out of jurisdiction from the Connecticut River), and Ossipee (Connor Pond boat ramp property sale). Susan Slack commented that when SLRs come up that cannot be reviewed by the committee before the RMAC meets, they can be recommended for disposal pending comment from the RMAC.

3) RMPP 25th Anniversary in 2013 – Jacquie Colburn

Jacquie would like to establish a subcommittee to meet and work with in-house staff, including: Steve Couture, Steve Landry (Merrimack Watershed Coordinator), Deb Loiselle (River Restoration Coordinator) and & Shane Csiki (Fluvial Geomorphology Specialist) to discuss and determine:

a. How best to acknowledge and award:

Individuals for outstanding service to the RMPP and rivers of NH, i.e. with an EPA Environmental Merit Award for the Rivers Program, at the LAC Workshop with a 25th Anniversary Award, or a River Network River Hero Award.

b. Organize an event(s):

Paddle on a river or rivers?

Function with Governor and Legislators

Michele suggested partnering with the NH Rivers Council at the March film festival. Michele will be the oldest remaining LAC member. Ideas can be posted to LACs@merrimackriver.org. Larry Spencer will talk to Pat Schlesinger.

Ken Kimball suggested this would be a PR opportunity with the legislature and recommended a fall introduction with an on-river event followed by an evening event in September.

Former Rivers Coordinators should be involved as possible. Roger Noonan volunteers to be on the subcommittee. It was proposed that the subcommittee meet in January.

Discussion also ensued regarding the LAC workshop. Michele commented that there used to be a regular LAC workshop, which has become the Water and Watershed Conference. In 2012 the LAC workshop was successfully reinstated. NHRC is willing to host a 2013 workshop in April. It was also suggested that the LACs be involved with workshop planning.

III. Member Comments and Updates

Larry Spencer mentioned that a new group has formed in Plymouth, the Friends of the Pemi. They will be helping to police campers and pick up beer cans.

IV. Other Business/Action Item Review

- 1) Other Rivers for Designation – A question was asked whether any other groups had expressed an interest in designating a river (Sugar, Androscoggin especially given their consideration for a Blue Way designation, Black and Baker Rivers were mentioned). No interest has been brought to RMPP staff.
- 2) Suncook River – Jacquie mentioned that several Suncook River communities are talking about withdrawing from the Fluvial Erosion Hazard program. Ken commented that the erosion hazard would still be there whether they withdrew or not.
- 3) Next Meeting – January 2013 – Joint meeting with the LMAC
RMPP staff will send out a Doodle Poll to determine the best date for the next meeting.
- 4) Action Item Review
Ann Krantz term expiration
Program updates
CT River creosote issue updates
SLRs will be forwarded as they come in
Staff will send out an e-mail soliciting 25th anniversary subcommittee members
LAC workshop
Instream flow program management document will be on the next agenda for a vote

The meeting adjourned at 1:51 pm.