

**Draft Outline for RMAC RSA 483 Review Discussion --October 1, 2013**

Outline represents concepts for discussion purposes only. Headings and order presented don't represent priority ranking.

Category	Issue/Next Steps	Legal Source
<b>A. River Resources</b>		
1. Riparian		
a. River Management Plans	Designated rivers in the RMPP cross town boundaries; LAC's assist with River Management Plans, however elements are codified town by town, if at all. Result is patchwork, an inefficient/ineffective way to manage rivers.	483.8-a III (c ) 483.10
	<b>Suggestions:</b> work w/ LMPP and SAC (sunset is 12/2015) to improve Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (modify current designated rivers or 4th order and higher; setback/vegetation standards now generic for lakes, rivers, etc.);	
b. State lands	Long range river plans supposed to proactively address designated river's state lands;	483:10-a
	State surplus land sales need RMAC approval	483: 14
	<b>Suggestion:</b> merge River mgt plans and long range river mgt plans and focus on on state properties (LAC Task?)? Develop legislative language that requesting agency must assess impact on public access, WQ, state wildlife action plan, species of concern, etc. and any remedies if needed before requesting disposition ?	
<b>B. Instream Resources</b>		
1. Instream flow	Make the general instream flow standard for designated rivers apply to all rivers; make the site-specific analysis approach (ongoing Lamprey and Souhegan pilot program) an option and benefit for designated rivers - see Env-wq1900	RSA 483:11 RSA 483:9-c
	<a href="http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-wq1900.pdf">http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-wq1900.pdf</a>	
2. Lake level versus flow	codify the joint RMAC/LMAC policy on balancing river flow and lake storage	
	<a href="http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/instream/documents/20130123-l-and-r-final.pdf">http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/instream/documents/20130123-l-and-r-final.pdf</a>	
3. Water quality	continue RMAC membership on DES WQ Advisory Committee	
4. ecological connectivity (dams/culverts/meander width/floodplain)	with DES develop a white paper to better position for Fed pass through dollars? develop enhancement criteria for when infrastructure to be replaced?	
	coordinate RMAC formally with DES dam removal program	
	staff or fiscal assistance prioritization for designated rivers?	

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<b>C. RSA 483 Process</b>		
1. River Nomination/Designation	Jacque to make recommendations w/ input from prior DES River Coordinators	RSA 483: 6 , 7 and 9
	a. Are the Criteria appropriate/need change?	Env-Wq 1800
	b. Do designations provide adequate "best management and protection"?	
	c. How can the nomination process be improved?	
	d. make nominations based on HUC units (now classification/political boundaries)?	
	e. In RSA 483 develop flexibility for designated rivers to merge/diverge LAC's for efficacy at their discretion w/o need for legislative action?	
2. RMAC	a. review who nominates members for each interest group, up to date?	RSA 483:8, I
	b. change from nominating to Governor from 3 to 1	RSA 483:8, I
	c. clarify role and duties (currently vague/mostly absent)	RSA:483
3. LAC	a. make 5 year terms; w/ members terms staggered	RSA 483:8
	b. review composition numbers and representation	
	c. review and revise roles and tasks	
	d. potential ZBA like role for certain state decision relative to RSA 483 decisions?	
4. biennially reporting	now LAC to RMAC and Commissioner; RMAC to General Court, etc. ,	RSA 483:8
	change to report on indicators of RSA and rivers status using an 'indicators'	
	report card; relate to DES 304 report, etc.	
<b>D. Monitoring</b>	develop in RSA intent role of RMAC/LAC to advise and champion stream gage &	RSA 483
	WQ monitoring needs	
	develop white paper/study commission on how various volunteer and DES	
	monitoring programs could be enhanced (VRAP, VLAP, UNH, DES, etc.)	