

RMAC Voting Members:

Kenneth D. Kimball
Chair

Michele L. Tremblay
Vice Chair

Anne Krantz

Alan Larter

Fredrick J. McNeill

Roger Noonan

Allan G. Palmer

James W. Ryan

Larry T. Spencer

Ruth Ward

Donald L. Ware

Non-Voting Members:

Mark Hemmerlein

Patrick Hummel

John Magee

Gail McWilliam Jellie

Elizabeth Peck

Susan Slack

LMAC Voting Members:

David W. Packard
Chair

Shane R. Bradt

Linda L. Brownson

Frederick C. Clews

Robert W. Compton

John H. Cooley

Edmund Crawford

Kimberly A. Hallquist

Frank Lemay

James S. Morash

Richard D. Smith

Mary D. Truell

Martha Twombly

Non-Voting Members:

Susan Slack
Vice Chair

Capt. Tim Dunleavy

Eric Feldbaum

Garret Graaskamp

Mark Hemmerlein

**David Rousseau/
Bob Wolff**

Staff:

Tracie Sales

Vacant-Wtrshed Planner

N.H. Rivers & Lakes Management and Protection Programs
N.H. Rivers & Lakes Management Advisory Committees

April 20, 2016

The Honorable Jeb Bradley, Chair
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
State House, Room 100
Concord, NH 03301

RE: **HB 1461** *An act relative to the definition of and criteria for protection instream flow.*

Dear Chair Bradley and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) and the Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) are writing to jointly express our support for House Bill 1461 as amended by the House, relative to the definition of and criteria for protection of instream flow. This bill makes changes to RSA 483, the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program, regarding the implementation of the Instream Flow Program and as recommended by the Impact of Water Withdrawals on Instream Flows Study Committee.

Protection of flows for rivers designated under RSA 483 is a major component of the Rivers Program, and implementation of protected flows can also significantly impact lake management. This bill makes changes to the statute language which will support full implementation of instream flow protection on all designated rivers. The language modifications include a definition of instream flow that incorporates current scientific knowledge, lessons learned from the Pilot Program on the Lamprey and Souhegan Rivers, as well as additional requirements for local, broad-based stakeholder input before and during the development of protected instream flows and water management plans.

One of the significant outcomes of the Instream Flow Pilot Program was the increased interaction between the RMAC and the LMAC as the groups worked together to develop protocols for management of surface waters in New Hampshire. These protocols began with an effort to balance the needs of lakes and rivers through the Instream Flow Program, and resulted in the [Joint Lakes and Rivers Committees' Recommendations for Comprehensive Surface Water Resource Management Policy](#) as well as a commitment from the committees to begin implementing a watershed approach to surface water management throughout the state. Full implementation of the Instream Flow Program, as HB 1461 supports, recognizes the interconnected nature of our lake and river communities, both natural and human, and employs this watershed approach.

The RMAC and LMAC are legislatively created bodies charged to work with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to administer RSA 483, the Rivers Management and Protection Program and RSA 483-B, the Lakes Management and Protection Program. These Governor and Council appointed Committee are comprised of members from business, agriculture, hydroelectric, municipal government, the scientific community, water supply, realtors, conservation, recreation, marine dealers, fish and game, and historical interests. Among their other responsibilities, the RMAC and LMAC are charged with reviewing legislation relevant to their Programs and with advising the NHDES Commissioner on the merits of such legislation.

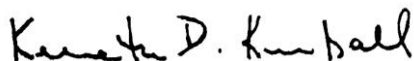
29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95; Concord, NH 03302-0095; Tel: 271-2959; Fax 271-7894

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/rmac/index.htm>

In conclusion, the RMAC and LMAC jointly support HB 1461, which will fully implement the protection of stream flows for multiple uses on designated rivers. The two committees also commend NHDES for their extensive efforts to include all stakeholders in the development and implementation of instream flow water management plans, which this bill incorporates.

Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact RMAC Chair Kimball at (603) 466-8149 or kkimball@outdoors.org, or LMAC Chair Packard at (603) 634-2299 or david.packard@eversource.com.

Sincerely,



Kenneth D. Kimball, Ph.D.
Chair
Rivers Management Advisory Committee



David Packard
Chair
Lakes Management Advisory Committee

cc: Rep. John Mullen
Rep. Judith Spang
Sen. Martha Fuller Clark
Sen. John Reagan
RMAC Members
LMAC Members

Thomas Burack, Commissioner, NHDES
Eugene Forbes, Director, Water Division, NHDES
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES
Tracie Sales, Rivers & Lakes Programs Mgr., NHDES
Local River Management Advisory Committee Chairs