



RIVERS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program

and

LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NH Lakes Management and Protection Program

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
 29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095
 phone: 603-271-2959 fax: 603-271-7894

DRAFT

JOINT RMAC/LMAC MEETING MINUTES

January 16, 2019 - 11:15 AM to 1:15 PM
 NHDOT Granite State Conference Room – 114
 7 Hazen Drive, Concord NH

RMAC Members Present

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair
 Larry Spencer, Vice Chair
 Mark Hemmerlein
 Kayla Henderson
 Christopher Hodgdon
 Mark Lombardi
 John Magee
 Frederick McNeill
 Allan Palmer
 Norman Sims
 Donald Ware

Representing

Conservation Community
 NH Association of Conservation Comm.
 Commissioner, DOT
 Commissioner, DOS for Whitney Welch
 NH Fish & Game Commission
 Granite State Hydropower Assoc.
 Executive Director, F&G
 Municipal Government
 NH Business and Industry Association
 Recreational Interests
 Public Water Suppliers

Term

Dec. 28, 2020
 Oct. 12, 2019
 Indefinite
 Indefinite
 Sept. 28, 2021
 Jan. 5, 2021
 Indefinite
 Nov. 16, 2020
 Sept. 28, 2019
 Dec. 28, 2020
 Sept. 28, 2019

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RMAC Members Absent

Edna Feighner
 Jennifer Gilbert
 Gail McWilliam Jellie
 Ruth Ward
 Vacant
 Vacant

Historical & Archaeological Interests
 Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives
 Comm., Dept of Ag., Markets & Food
 Local River Management Advisory Comm.
 Agricultural Interests
 Commissioner, DNCR

June 15, 2019
 Indefinite
 Indefinite
 Sept. 5, 2019
 Mar. 22, 2018
 Indefinite

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LMAC Members Present

David Packard, Chair
 Bruce Allen
 Shane Bradt
 Capt. Tim Dunleavy
 Eric Feldbaum
 Garret Graaskamp
 Tiffany Grade
 Mark Hemmerlein
 Frank Lemay
 Rex Norman
 Dick Smith
 Mary Truell

NH Lakes Association
 NH Assn. of Conservation Commissions
 Scientific Community, UNH
 Commissioner, DOS
 Commissioner, DNCR
 Executive Director, F&G
 Conservation Commission
 Commissioner, DOT
 NH Business and Industry Association
 Municipal Officials
 Fishing Interests
 NH Association of Realtors

August 1, 2021
 August 22, 2019
 August 22, 2019
 Indefinite
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 Indefinite
 September 19, 2019
 Indefinite
 July 8, 2019
 August 1, 2021
 November 17, 2019
 June 27, 2020

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LMAC Members Absent

Mark Borrin
 Linda Brownson
 Ed Crawford
 Jennifer Gilbert
 Ernest Millette
 Bob Wolff/David Rousseau

NH Travel Council
 State Conservation Committee
 Marine Dealers Association
 Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives
 Fish & Game Commission
 Commiss., Dept. of Agr., Markets & Food

August 1, 2019
 August 1, 2018
 August 22, 2017
 Indefinite
 August 22, 2021
 Indefinite

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Instream Flow plan of starting from the top of the watershed and working down. Due to this being such a large focus, it was decided that this would not be a part of an initiative but rather it would become a continual goal for all initiatives to work towards.

“Deputizing” Lake Associations (and Watershed Associations?) to give them some of the privileges/responsibilities of LACs: The group discussed the idea of providing the opportunity for groups, such as lake associations, to be a local voice to comment on permits and/or assist other groups who comment on permits.

Current Staff Priorities for the RMPP/LMPP

Tracie discussed the tasks staff has recently engaged in, such as supporting new and existing LACs, supporting the Instream Flow program, and planning the upcoming LAC workshop. Staff is actively working to combine the Saco and Swift Rivers LACs into one joint LAC as both are currently inactive. In the near future they would like to create guidance documents for LACs on how to read permits and construction plans, as well as how to become involved with legislative matters concerning their rivers. Staff would also like to better advertise to the public what the LACs, RMAC, and LMAC do and have done to increase public knowledge of the committees.

RMAC/LMAC Areas of Current or Future Concern

Tracie presented a list of RMAC/LMAC areas of current or future concern, to provide the committees with topics of issues they might be interested in learning more about or taking initiative on in the future.

III. Dam Management in the Face of Climate Change: Lake Drawdowns and Other Challenges

Jim Gallagher gave a presentation on how the NHDES Dam Bureau is working to manage state dams in response to climate change. It is a challenge working to manage over 2,600 dams all over the state, with the recent intense changes in weather conditions. NHDES is responsible for 278 state owned dams, including their construction and maintenance. The Dam Bureau frequently visits its dams for regular maintenance, and it inspects hazardous dams on a regular basis.

As rainfall has increased in the past few years, the requirement for dam construction has changed to enable newly constructed dams to withstand the extra flow. Currently the largest challenge for the Dam Bureau is managing the dams it is responsible for in relation to increases of rainfall and flooding events. Presently the main focus for the Bureau is to improve their technological capabilities so that dams can be operated as quickly and efficiently as possible. They have been working to modify dams so that hydrologic discharge can be adjusted remotely by computer. These changes will help to eliminate flooding issues as well as decrease personal risk from having to tend to dams in person during severe weather conditions. David brought up the challenge of lowering lake levels during rain events when downstream rivers are already nearing flood levels.

IV. Joint Policy and Legislative Priorities

Tracie reported that there were no bills discussed during the prior RMAC meeting on which the RMAC recommended that the RMAC and LMAC should testify jointly. The LMAC had not yet reviewed legislation.

V. Instream Flow Program Update

The Instream Flow (ISF) rules became effective on December 22, 2018. Wayne Ives thanked the RMAC and LMAC for all of their assistance and dedicated work with the ISF Program to make the rules publication possible. The Cold, Warner, and upper Ashuelot rivers are the first three rivers on which the revised instream flow rules will be implemented. The program will be contracting a consultant this summer to develop protected instream flows on the Cold and Warner rivers. To fill in the gaps in the Cold and Warner river flow records necessary to develop the protected flows, the ISF Program has contracted with our expert in the OPPQ method to provide the data.

The ISF Program has also been working with USGS to construct an inexpensive gage mechanism that records real-time data for ISF use on ungauged rivers to manage instream flows and relief pulses. In addition, Wayne has been corresponding with the NHDES Dam Bureau in regards to their remote functionality and how key dams could be constructed to allow for relief pulses. Furthermore, the Massachusetts Division of Wildlife and Fisheries has been assisting the instream flow program with their fish assessments, and this summer will be studying what fish exist in high quality rivers in Massachusetts. They will be utilizing the New Hampshire river data for a reference. In the upcoming years the data will be merged to help understand the habitat conditions ideal for fish in both states.

VI. Other Business and Action Item Review

1) Action Item Review

- a. Establish joint subcommittees on water quality indicators and state-owned lands GIS mapping.
- b. After the LMAC has their meeting and reviews their positions on the legislation, the RMAC and LMAC will decide if there are positions where they can support each other.

2) Next Joint Meeting

RMAC and LMAC representatives agreed that there appeared to be no need to schedule another joint RMAC/LMAC meeting for the end of March when the two committees are planning on gathering for their own meetings. A joint meeting will only be scheduled if the committees think it will be necessary at that time.

Meeting adjourned at 1:23 PM