



RIVERS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NH Rivers Management and Protection Program

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
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RMAC MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2019

NH Department of Environmental Services, Conference Room 208C

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

DRAFT

Members Present

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair
Larry Spencer, Vice Chair
Peter Bowman
Jennifer Gilbert
Mark Hemmerlein
Christopher Hodgdon
Shawn Jasper, Comm.
Mark Lombardi
John Magee (conference call)
Alexx Monastiero
Allan Palmer
Norman Sims
Ruth Ward
Donald Ware

Representing

Conservation Community
NH Association of Conservation Comm.
Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources
Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives
Commissioner, DOT
NH Fish & Game Commission
Dept. of Agr., Markets & Food
Granite State Hydropower Assoc.
Executive Director, Fish & Game Dept.
Department of Safety
NH Business and Industry Association
Recreational Interests
Local River Management Advisory Comm.
Public Water Suppliers

Term

Dec. 28, 2020 V
Oct. 12, 2019 V
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
Sept. 28, 2021 V
Indefinite NV
Jan. 5, 2021 V
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
Sept. 28, 2019 V
Dec. 28, 2020 V
Sept. 5, 2019 V
Sept. 28, 2019 V

Members Absent

Frederick McNeill
Vacant
Vacant

Municipal Government Nov. 16, 2020 V
Agricultural Community Mar. 22, 2018 V
Historical & Archaeological Interests June 15, 2019 V

NHDES Staff Present

Jen Drociak Rivers and Lakes Programs
Ray Gordon Residuals Management Section Administrator
Mariah Mitchell Rivers and Lakes Programs
Tracie Sales Rivers and Lakes Programs

Guests

Chris Aslin NH Attorney General's Office
Ned Beecher North East Biosolids & Residuals Association
Ron Christie Northeast Organic Farming Association
Richard Mellor NH Association of Conservation Districts

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Michele L. Tremblay called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Acceptance of the Consent Agenda

Chris Hodgdon asked to remove the August 2, 2019 Draft RMAC Meeting Minutes from the Consent Agenda.

- *Ruth Ward motioned to accept the Consent Agenda consisting of the lists of RMAC representatives and RMAC and Joint RMAC/LMAC Subcommittee representatives. Motion seconded by Norman Sims. Motion passed unanimously.*

Chris requested to amend the August 2, 2019 Draft RMAC Meeting Minutes to state under the Brentwood SLR Question Responses section that the Town of Brentwood had expressed public interest in purchasing the land.

- *Chris Hodgdon motioned approve the August 2, 2019 Draft RMAC Meeting Minutes with the requested amendment. Motion seconded by Ruth Ward. Motion passed unanimously.*

III. Biosolids Management in NH: It Has to Happen, It’s Always Improving, and There Are Always Challenges

Ned Beecher presented on the use of biosolids as soil amendments. He first discussed the types of organic waste produced such as food waste, animal manures, wastewater solids, and yard waste (grass, leaves, stalks). He then explained the best options for organic waste management, and how they are sustainable. Next, he discussed the specifics of biosolids and how utilizing biosolids for soil restoration and nutrient return improves soil quality. The benefits provided from biosolid application to soils makes the practice useful for agriculture, forestry, landscaping, topsoil blending, and reclamation of disturbed sites. Additionally, biosolids can be used to generate electricity and reduce redistribution of pollutants into the water cycle.

IV. RMAC Represented Interests Presentation Series: Department of Safety, Homeland Security

Alexx Monastiero, the New Hampshire Hazard Mitigation Officer, explained that one of her job responsibilities is to administer the hazard mitigation assistance grants. In 2016, one billion dollars were spent nationwide in hazardous mitigation assistance, and this number continues to increase. To assist with hazardous mitigation, there are three sources of funding that can be utilized: The Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA). Overall, the Flood mitigation funds are underutilized in the state. Currently these funding sources do not have a huge emphasis on environmental benefits, but they hope to incorporate it further in the future. In response to a question from Michele, Alexx stated that while 50% of mitigation funds go to river-related hazards throughout the country, 90% are river-related in New Hampshire.

Peter Bowman, the new DNCR representative, will give the next RMAC represented interests presentation.

V. RMPP Biennial Report

Jen Drociak summarized the RMAC Biennial Report for Fiscal Years 2018-2019. The report provides a brief overview of the RMAC, the Rivers Program, and LAC activities between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019. By the end of the 2019 fiscal year, there were 19 rivers designated under RSA 483 totaling over 1,000 miles. RMAC members and LACs contributed approximately 16,904 hours to river protection efforts. The report also details the progress of the Instream Flow Program and the RMAC’s new role in appointing LAC members to their respective committees. The group agreed to submit any comments or suggested edits to Rivers Program staff by Friday, November 15th. The RMAC expects to vote on the final report at its next meeting.

VI. DOT SLR Thornton Railroad Crossing

Jen shared that the Pemigewasset River Campground inquired about the conditions and cost of obtaining an easement for a railroad crossing to access an abutting property on the east side of the tracks that is for sale. Jen informed the RMAC that this was not a formal surplus land review, but

rather a pre-purchase inquiry about a potential easement on land they are considering buying. If the campground can procure an easement and obtain state permits, it will seek to install an official crossing and set up 64 campsites, a bath house with septic, and a well for water. The prospective bath house would be located outside of the 100-year flood zone and all campers would be located outside of the flood zone during flood season. The Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee recommended that the crossing easement not be granted and that the additional property remain undeveloped. John Magee and Tracie commented that the abutting property flooded frequently, and severely flooded during Tropical Storm Irene.

VII. 2020 Rivers-Related Legislation (LSRs)

Tracie Sales reviewed the list of LSRs that could be of interest to the RMAC for the 2020 legislative season. Several LSRs concern the Right-To-Know Law, appearing to reference concerns regarding non-public sessions. There are several LSRs that are repeats of vetoed bills last year. If RMAC members know of bills that the Committee may wish to track, they are asked to contact staff. Michele suggested organizing a RMAC Policy and Legislation subcommittee meeting in mid to late December, and a full RMAC meeting in early January to discuss 2020 legislation.

RMAC legal counsel Christopher Aslin arrives.

- **Don Ware motioned for the RMAC to enter into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(1) for the consideration of legal advice provided by a legal counsel. Motion seconded by Norman Sims. Motion passed unanimously.**

At 2:50 pm the RMAC entered into a non-public session. Staff and guests, with the exception of legal counsel, left the meeting room until public session resumed. At 3:25 pm the RMAC resumed public session.

VIII. Surplus Land Review 19-006 Hampton Follow-up

Tracie informed RMAC members that the RMAC’s letter to CORD was included in the packets of all CORD members, and that members were reminded of the letter during the CORD meeting but it was not discussed. NHDES proposed a motion to recommend the approval of the sale of the Hampton properties with environmental protection and education to be given significant emphasis in the Request for Qualifications and the Request for Proposals. The motion was approved with a friendly amendment regarding an archeological survey. It was mentioned in the CORD meeting that the Hampton Conservation Commission would be willing to purchase or hold an easement on the property.

- **Larry Spencer motioned that the RMAC send a letter to CORD asking them to reconsider their approval of the Hampton SLR sale because the RMAC feels that their recommendation was not fully considered. Motion seconded by Mark Lombardi.**

During discussion, Norm proposed an amendment to Larry’s motion for the RMAC to write a second letter to the Long Range Capital Planning and Utilization Committee. Larry and Mark accepted the amendment.

- **Larry Spencer motioned that the RMAC send a letter to CORD asking them to reconsider their approval of the Hampton SLR sale because the RMAC feels that their recommendation was not fully considered in the decision making process. The RMAC will also send a letter to the Long Range Capital Planning and Utilization Committee to express the concerns RMAC has about selling and potentially building on this land.**

Motion seconded by Mark Lombardi. Motion passed unanimously with one abstention from Allan Palmer.

RMAC members noted that the letter to CORD should copy the Long Range Capital Planning and Utilization Committee to demonstrate that the RMAC is reaching out to CORD, even though CORD will not meet until after the Long Range committee. Additionally, the original letter to CORD will be enclosed in the letter to the Long Range committee.

IX. RMPP Program Updates

- 1) Joint RMAC/LMAC Water Quality Indicator Subcommittee Update
Mark Lombardi shared that the Joint RMAC/LMAC Water Quality Indicator Subcommittee had their first meeting on October 7, 2019. The subcommittee wants to create a resource that will help answer common water quality questions for the general public. Subcommittee members were tasked with reaching out to various entities to ask them what water quality questions they are frequently asked, and who usually asks. The subcommittee’s next meeting will be scheduled either mid-November or Early December.
- 2) RMAC Representative Vacant Seats – Postponed
- 3) LAC Membership Appointment Status – Postponed
- 4) Future River Nomination – Postponed
- 5) State Budget Update – Postponed
- 6) Instream Flow Program Update – Postponed

X. New Business and Action Item Review

- 1) New Business – Postponed
- 2) Action Item Review

Action Item	Leader	Supporter(s)	Target Date
RMAC representatives will review the Biennial Report and submit any comments or questions they have. Staff will send a reminder a few days in advance of the due date.	All RMAC Members	Staff	Nov.15, 2019
Schedule the RMAC Policy and Legislation Subcommittee meeting for December or very early January.	Jen	Tracie, Mariah	December 2019
Schedule the next RMAC meeting in early January.	Jen	Tracie, Mariah	November 2019
The RMAC will discuss ways to use the Biennial Report as a media release for the Rivers Program. This will be discussed at the next meeting.	N/A	N/A	N/A

- 3) Next Meeting and Agenda Items
A Doodle Poll will be sent out to schedule an RMAC and Joint RMAC/LMAC meeting in January.

Chair Michele L. Tremblay thanked RMAC members for their patience and participation, and adjourned the meeting at 4:03 pm.