



RIVERS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NH Rivers 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



RMAC MEETING MINUTES

April 3, 2020

Conference Call

2:00 pm – 3:15 pm

DRAFT

Members Present

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair
Larry Spencer, Vice Chair
Peter Bowman
Victoria Bunker
Christopher Hodgdon
Mark Lombardi
John Magee
Frederick McNeill
Allan Palmer
Norman Sims
Ruth Ward

Representing

Conservation Community
NH Association of Conservation Comm.
Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources
Historical and Archeological Interests
NH Fish & Game Commission
Granite State Hydropower Assoc.
Executive Director, Fish & Game Dept.
Municipal Government
NH Business and Industry Association
Recreational Interests
Local River Management Advisory Comm.

Term

Dec. 28, 2020 V
Oct. 12, 2022 V
Indefinite NV
June 15, 2020 V
Sept. 28, 2021 V
Jan. 5, 2021 V
Indefinite NV
Nov. 16, 2020 V
Sept. 28, 2019 V
Dec. 28, 2020 V
Sept. 5, 2022 V

Members Absent

Jennifer Gilbert
Mark Hemmerlein
Shawn Jasper, Comm.
Donald Ware
Meghan Wells
Vacant

Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives
Commissioner, NHDOT
Dept. of Agr, Markets, & Food
Public Water Suppliers
Department of Safety
Agricultural Community

Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
Sept. 28, 2022 V
Indefinite NV
March 22, 2018 V

NHDES Staff Present

Jen Drociak
Tracie Sales

Rivers and Lakes Programs
Rivers and Lakes Programs

Guests

Bill Bolton
Patricia Crocker
Matt Lundsted
Kathy Urffer
R. Stewart Yeaton

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
Connecticut River Joint Commissions
Contoocook and North Branch Rivers LAC
Connecticut River Conservancy and CT River Wantastiquet LRS
Pending Agricultural Community Representative

I. Welcome, Roll Call, and Brief Announcements

This meeting was conducted as an emergency meeting in compliance with New Hampshire's Right-to-Know Law (RSA 91-A) in light of COVID-19 concerns and applicable Executive and Emergency Orders. As such, a telephone conference call service was used for this electronic meeting. Chair Michele L. Tremblay called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. Chair Tremblay took a roll call by asking everyone on the phone to introduce themselves, including guests.

II. Acceptance of the Consent Agenda

- *Ruth Ward moved to accept the Consent Agenda, consisting of the January 17, 2020 draft minutes, RMAC and RMAC subcommittee representatives, and Surplus Land Reviews 20-002 in Milford and 20-003 in Laconia. Motioned seconded by Mark Lombardi. A roll call was taken. Motion passed unanimously.*

		Yea	Nay
Michele L. Tremblay	Conservation Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larry Spencer	NH Conservation Commissions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Victoria Bunker	Historical/Archaeological	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chris Hodgdon	Fish and Game Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark Lombardi	Granite State Hydro Association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fred McNeill	NH Municipal Association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allan Palmer	Business & Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Norman Sims	Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruth Ward	Local River Mgmt. Advisory Comm.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III. 2020 RMPP Legislation

- *Larry Spencer motioned to accept the March 30, 2020 recommended positions of the RMAC Policy and Legislation Subcommittee. Motion seconded by Ruth Ward. A roll call was taken. Motion passed unanimously.*

		Yea	Nay
Michele L. Tremblay	Conservation Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larry Spencer	NH Conservation Commissions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Victoria Bunker	Historical/Archaeological	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chris Hodgdon	Fish and Game Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark Lombardi	Granite State Hydro Association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fred McNeill	NH Municipal Association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allan Palmer	Business & Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Norman Sims	Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruth Ward	Local River Mgmt. Advisory Comm.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: Victoria Bunker requested help understanding the Rivers and Lakes Tracking Spreadsheet. Larry Spencer explained those bills on which RMAC positions have changed. Tracie Sales will provide more details after the meeting. Ruth Ward noted the temporary suspension of the legislature, and uncertainty about what will happen to the bills in this year’s legislative session.

Norman Sims asked for clarification regarding the RMAC’s position change on HB 640 from oppose to track. Larry explained that the current bill would establish a voluntary program for operators of non-motorized boats, as opposed to the mandatory program originally proposed. In response to further questions, Michele L. Tremblay stated that this program would be modeled on the White Mountain National Forest “Hike Safe” program, where participants would print an emailed placard and display it on their dashboard to show that they support the Public Boat Access Program. Without mailing or enforcement, costs are expected to be minimal.

IV. Surplus Land Review: DOT Baker River Rest Area, Rumney

Jen Drociak explained that the Town of Rumney approached the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) to sell the former state rest area on Route 25. The town intends to keep this property open for general public access for shore bank fishing and small boat launching to the Baker River, and for access to the recreational trail that is on the other side of Route 25. Jen added that the Public Water Access Advisory Board (PWAAB) supports this disposal on the condition that the property deed require that the parcel remains open for general public access for recreational activities. Chris Hodgdon noted that the site is used for fish stocking.

Victoria Bunker asked if NHDOT had performed an archeological review of the property in light of the river's importance to native Americans and the presence of the Boston-Concord and Montreal railroad built in this area in the 1800s. She added that if the existing building is greater than 50 years old it would be subject to architectural review. During discussion it was surmised that the building was less than 50 years old, and the rail bed was probably paved over for Rte. 25, but further development of the site would trigger a cultural resources review.

Michele reminded representatives that the RMAC could make a conditional recommendation including the public access requirement and archeological resources survey, but that the motion would have to be "The RMAC does not recommend moving forward with the transfer unless ... (and include conditions)."

Chris emphasized the importance of ensuring that recreational public access to the site is retained for all, and not restricted to town residents.

- ***Chris Hodgdon motioned to condition support of this transaction on the inclusion of language in the deed that ensures continued public access in line with PWAAB's recommendation. Motion seconded by Larry Spencer.***

Discussion: Representatives confirmed a desire to retain public access for all at the site, and not limit it to town residents. Discussion also included questions about the cultural resources review process and costs. Victoria explained that there is a step-by-step process, and one step is to determine if the cultural review is required.

Michele explained that the RMAC could now motion to amend the original motion, including a second, discussion, and vote on that amendment, or vote down on the original motion and start over with a new motion including all conditions.

- ***Victoria Bunker motioned to amend the current motion to add a phrase at the end that would state "and ensure that the cultural review process is followed for the property." Motion seconded by Larry Spencer.***

Discussion: RMAC representatives discussed the meaning and impact of the wording in both the original motion and the amendment. Victoria explained that "cultural resources review" is defined by the New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources in state guidelines based on the National Historic Preservation Act, known as Section 106. Ruth Ward suggested adding this recommendation only if further work or changes to the property were to occur. Victoria agreed.

Rather than amending the amendment to the original motion, representatives decided to withdraw the previous motions and start with a new motion incorporating all the conditions.

- *Victoria Bunker and Larry Spencer withdrew the motion to amend the original motion.*
- *Chris Hodgdon and Larry Spencer withdrew the original motion.*

Several RMAC representatives worked on a new motion incorporating the original motion and amendment plus the discussed condition on when a cultural resources review would be required.

- *Larry Spencer motioned that the RMAC recommends the sale or transfer of the property and condition the support of this transaction on the inclusion of language in the deed that ensures continued public access in line with PWAAB’s recommendation and to ensure that the cultural review process is followed for the property if any further work or changes to the property occur. Motion seconded by Ruth Ward. No further discussion by RMAC representatives. Motion passed, 8 in favor, 1 opposed.*

		Yea	Nay
Michele L. Tremblay	Conservation Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larry Spencer	NH Conservation Commissions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Victoria Bunker	Historical/Archaeological	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Ruth Ward	Local River Mgmt. Advisory Comm.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Bill Bolton stated that the Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee (PRLAC) met on Tuesday March 31, 2020 to review this proposed sale. He stated they had concerns with regards to the current building as there used to be a leach field and functioning lavatory and is uncertain if those are going to be improved by Rumney. Bill also noted that this location is used as a water quality sampling station for the Baker River Watershed Association and stated that the PRLAC agrees that continued recreation will be a good use for this property.

V. New Business and Action Item Review

1) New Business

Tracie welcomed new representatives and acknowledged the departure of Mariah Mitchell, who has taken another position at NHDES. Michele requested that the RMAC send a thank-you letter to her. Tracie agreed to draft one for the RMAC.

2) Action Item Review

Action Item	Leader	Supporter(s)	Target Date
Draft letters of testimony for legislation if the legislative session resumes.	Jen Drociak	Tracie Sales	4/13/2020

Draft letter to NHDOT re: Rumney SLR	Jen Drociak	Tracie Sales	4/13/2020
Submit responses to CORD on SLRs 20-002 and 20-003	Tracie Sales	Jen Drociak	4/13/2020
Draft Thank You letter to Mariah Mitchell	Tracie Sales	Jen Drociak	4/17/2020

3) Next Meeting and Agenda Items

Michele L. Tremblay and Larry Spencer will coordinate with Rivers Program staff for the next meeting (virtual or in person). Larry thanked Michele for hosting this virtual meeting.

➤ ***Ruth Ward motioned to adjourn. Motion seconded by Chris Hodgdon. Motion passed unanimously.***

		Yea	Nay
Michele L. Tremblay	Conservation Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larry Spencer	NH Conservation Commissions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Norman Sims	Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruth Ward	Local River Mgmt. Advisory Comm.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Chair Michele L. Tremblay thanked RMAC representatives for their attendance and participation, and adjourned the meeting at 3:26 pm.

Meeting summary prepared by Rivers Program staff.