

Voting Members:

**Michele L. Tremblay**  
Chair  
Conservation  
Community

**Larry T. Spencer**  
Vice Chair  
Conservation  
Commissions

**Victoria Bunker**  
Historic/Archeological  
Interests

**Christopher Hodgdon**  
NH Fish & Game  
Commission

**Frederick J. McNeill**  
Municipal Officer

**Madeleine Mineau**  
Granite State  
Hydropower  
Association

**Robert M. Roseen**  
Recreational Interests

**Ruth Ward**  
Local River Management  
Advisory Committees

**Donald L. Ware**  
Public Water Suppliers

**Vacant**  
Agricultural Community

**Vacant**  
Business & Industry  
Association

Non-Voting Members:

**Peter Bowman**  
NH Department of  
Natural and Cultural  
Resources

**Brian Eaton**  
NH Department of  
Safety

**Jennifer Gilbert**  
NH Office of  
Strategic Initiatives

**Mark Hemmerlein**  
NH Department of  
Transportation

**Shawn Jasper**  
NH Department of  
Agriculture,  
Markets & Food

**John Magee**  
NH Fish & Game  
Department

Staff:

**Tracie Sales**  
Program Manager

**Nisa Marks**  
Program Assistant

**Vacant**  
Watershed Coordinator

N.H. Rivers Management and Protection Program

# N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

January 20, 2022

The Honorable Edward Gordon, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 208  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 1195** *An act relative to public comment periods at public meetings.*

Dear Chair Gordon and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support with amendment of House Bill 1195**, which would require a public comment period as part of any public meeting. The RMAC suggests **amending the bill** to strike “at the beginning of the agenda,” and leave to the discretion of the chair when during the meeting to provide for public comment.

The RMAC supports this bill with specified amendment because

- Public comment allows members of the public body to hear from those most directly affected by the subject of the meeting;
- The material presented during the meeting may address the public’s questions or concerns, meaning it will sometimes make sense for comment to be at the end of the agenda rather than the beginning; and
- Public bodies are diverse in their membership and missions. Chairs should have the discretion to place public comment at the time best suited for the way their meetings operate.

The RMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to administer RSA 483, the Rivers Management and Protection Program. The Governor and Council appointed Committee is composed of members from business, agriculture, hydroelectric, municipal government, water supply, conservation, recreation, fish and game, and historical interests.

Should you have any questions regarding our testimony in support with amendment of HB 1195, please feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or [MLT@naturesource.net](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net).

Sincerely,



Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

cc: Rep.s Dolan, Ankarberg, Thomas, Maggiore, Cordelli, Potucek, Deshaies, Baldasaro, and Pauer

The Honorable Edward Gordon  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
HB 1195, January 20, 2022  
Page 2

**RMAC Representatives**

**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES**

**Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES**

**Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager, NHDES**

**Local River Management Advisory Committee Chairs**