



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

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 V
Indefinite NV
Indefinite NV
Sept. 5, 2019 V
Mar. 22, 2018 V
Indefinite NV

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

LMAC Members Absent

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

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

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

Staff Present

Ted Diers	Watershed Bureau Administrator
Jen Drociak	Rivers and Lakes Programs
Jim Gallagher	Dam Bureau Administrator
Wayne Ives	Instream Flow Program
Mariah Mitchell	Rivers and Lakes Programs
Tracie Sales	Rivers and Lakes Programs

Guests

Chris Connors	Warner River LAC, Acting Chair
Janet Kidder	Future Planning Boards Representative
Gene Porter	Lower Merrimack River LAC, Chair
Kathy Urffer	Connecticut River Conservancy

Meeting Was Called to Order**I. Welcome/Introductions**

RMAC Chair Michele L. Tremblay and LMAC Chair David Packard opened the meeting at 11:18 AM and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

II. RMAC/LMAC Prior Initiatives*Prior Initiatives*

With the recent increase in staffing for the Rivers and Lakes Programs, the RMAC and LMAC reviewed the RMPP and LMPP initiatives to determine what initiatives staff should prioritize:

Rivers and Lakes Indicators: The group decided that the first priority would be the Rivers and Lakes Indicators which would illustrate water quality and recreational value of New Hampshire waterbodies based on collected data. Ted Diers discussed how NHDES has a great deal of data but there is currently no system in place to display this data in a meaningful way to the public, and NHDES lacks the resources to develop a system. Ted invited ideas and volunteers to assist NHDES in starting this process. Michele L. Tremblay, Shane Bradt, Mark Lombardi, John Magee, Norman Sims, and Mary Truell volunteered to be a group to explore and investigate methods of making Rivers and Lakes Indicators possible.

Proactive positions on the management of specific state owned properties in designated river corridors and adjacent to lakes for surplus land review purposes: The second priority was determined to be Proactive Positions on SLR Initiatives. Members decided it would be useful to create a GIS layer that provided information about all of the state owned properties and conservation easements/lands. This GIS layer would be useful not only for RMAC and LMAC members, but also for the general public. Shane Bradt, Christopher Hodgdon, Mark Lombardi, and Rex Norman volunteered to be a group to investigate and explore the possibilities of creating a map layer for proactive response on proposed surplus land disposals and to determine a property's proximity to designated rivers, conservation land, or conservation easements.

RMAC/LMAC/PREP Shoreland Advisor Sub-Committee and the watershed approach to rivers and lakes management: it was decided to combine the RMAC/LMAC/PREP Shoreland Advisory Sub-Committee into the Watershed Approach Initiative. David Packard volunteered to be a member of the Joint Shoreland Advisory Subcommittee. Ted explained the idea of the Watershed Approach Initiative, based around collaborative efforts of organizations, committees, and stakeholders that are connected to rivers and lakes. Ted expressed that NHDES wants to get this initiative going in conjunction with the Instream Flow Program, especially with multiple rivers in the same watershed. RMAC and LMAC members supported the idea of managing the system as a whole and the 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