

# N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee

N.H. Lakes Management and Protection Program  
29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95; Concord, NH 03302-0095; Tel: [603-271-8811](tel:603-271-8811)  
<https://www.lmac.des.nh.gov/>

**DRAFT**

## LMAC MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2022

1:00pm – 3:00pm

NHDES Room 208C

29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Term</b>	
Garret Graaskamp, V. Chair	NH Fish and Game Department	Indefinite	NV
Ryan Cardella	Marine Dealers Association	August 22, 2023	V
Jennifer Gilbert	NHBEA Office of Planning & Development	Indefinite	NV
Tiffany Grade (online)	Conservation Community	September 19, 2022	V
Mark Hemmerlein	NH Department of Transportation	Indefinite	NV
Sara Holland	NH Association of Realtors	June 27, 2023	V
Frank Lemay	NH Business and Industry Association	July 8, 2025	V
Jared Maraio	NH Travel Council	August 1, 2022	V
Lisa Morin	State Conservation Commission	August 1, 2024	V
Dick Smith	Fishing Interests	November 17, 2022	V
Steve Wingate (online)	NH Assn. of Conservation Commissions	August 22, 2022	V

### **Members Absent**

Shane Bradt	Scientific Community, UNH	August 22, 2025	V
Tim Dunleavy	NH Department of Safety	Indefinite	NV
Eric Feldbaum	NH Dept. of Natural & Cultural Resources	Indefinite	NV
Shawn Jasper	NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food	Indefinite	NV
Janet Kidder	Planning Boards	August 1, 2023	V
Meredith Smith	Municipal Officials	August 1, 2024	V
Vacant	NH LAKES	August 1, 2024	V
Vacant	NH Fish and Game Commission	August 1, 2024	V

### **NHDES Staff Present**

Erin Holmes	Watershed Bureau
Nisa Marks	Rivers and Lakes Management and Protection Programs
Meaghan Rafferty	Rivers and Lakes Management and Protection Programs
Tracie Sales	Rivers and Lakes Management and Protection Programs

### **Guests Present**

Michelle Farnum	NH LAKES
Andrea LaMoreaux	NH LAKES
Susan Price	NH Fish and Game Commission

## **I. Welcome, Introductions and Brief Announcements**

Vice Chair Garret Graaskamp called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves. Garret welcomed Erin Holmes, Watershed Management Bureau

Administrator and Meaghan Rafferty-Jones, Rivers and Lakes Programs Assistant. Two members, Tiffany Grade (due to a scheduling conflict) and Steve Wingate (due to illness), attended virtually.

## **II. Consent Calendar**

### **1) Acceptance of March 31, 2022 Draft LMAC Meeting Minutes**

Frank Lemay made a motion to accept the March meeting minutes. Sara Holland seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote without discussion.

### **2) Acceptance of June 24, 2022 Draft LMAC Meeting Minutes**

Frank Lemay made a motion to accept the June meeting minutes. Sara Holland seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote without discussion.

### **3) Notice of Surplus Land Disposals not near any lake – Accepted by the committee.**

## **III. LMAC Chair Election**

Frank Lemay made a motion to nominate Jared Maraio to be chair. Sara Holland seconded the nomination. Jared spoke briefly on his background and interests. No other nominees were put forward and Jared was unanimously confirmed as chair of the LMAC by voice vote. Garret and Jared agreed that Garret would continue running this meeting.

## **IV. Policy and Legislation Subcommittee Membership**

Three LMAC members are on the Policy and Legislation Subcommittee: Tim Dunleavy, Dick Smith, and Jared Maraio. Garret asked the group if any other members wanted to join. Garret also asked members to send any bills that are of interest to their organization to NHDES staff so that the subcommittee can consider them when reviewing bills.

## **V. Changes to the LMAC Policy for the Review of Legislation**

Nisa Marks and Tracie Sales summarized a proposed change to the process by which the LMAC records committee votes on legislative positions. The change was proposed at the March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting, following inquiries from multiple members of the LMAC about either the tally of votes to support/oppose a bill, or asking for a record of how people had voted on particular bills. Under the current practice, staff does not have that information. Garret discussed several options for recording committee votes. Susan Price clarified that the law requires a roll call when any members are attending remotely via phone/online. There was some debate over whether names are required to be recorded in minutes as part of a roll call vote. Staff will follow up about the legal guidelines for when roll call votes are required.

The LMAC had a wide-ranging conversation about its legislative role, process of developing and delivering testimony, and its relationship to the Commissioner and the legislature. Garret suggested that staff talk with the Commissioner about how the LMAC will communicate with him and/or the legislature regarding legislation.

## **VI. Cyanobacteria Plan Advisory Committee Update**

Nisa updated the committee on the outcome of HB 1066, which charged NHDES with preparing a plan to address cyanobacteria blooms and created an advisory committee to help. NHDES was also given \$30,000 to support plan preparation. The goal is to create an actionable plan with clear priorities for the department and partners. The plan will be filed with the legislature by November 1, 2023, which is also the end date of the advisory committee. Nisa informed the LMAC that two projects are planned with the \$30,000. Some of the money will be given to UNH to do toxin analysis. The remainder will be awarded as a contract to do stakeholder outreach. There is a

Request For Proposals (RFP) currently open for the stakeholder outreach work. Sara Holland, who represents the LMAC on the Cyanobacteria Plan Advisory Committee, shared her thoughts on the first meeting and invited members to attend future meetings if interested.

### **VII. Loon Season and Contaminants Project Update**

Tiffany provided an update on the 2022 loon breeding season. 2022 saw an increase in the number of territorial pairs and their productivity compared to 2021. Fifty-one percent of chicks survived, exceeding the 48% threshold needed to sustain population growth. More than 50% of loon nests were protected by ropes and signs installed by LPC staff and volunteers, and a quarter of this year's chicks were from nests on LPC's artificial nest platforms. Garret asked how LPC decides where to put a floating nest platform. Tiffany said they put them where loons have been seen before, and prioritize areas where a nest has failed for reasons that a raft would assist with, such as shoreline development or fluctuating lake levels.

Tiffany reported that 120 inviable loon eggs will be tested for PFAS, the contract for which is pending approval by Governor and Council. This testing is designed to identify PFAS hotspots in New Hampshire lakes.

Garrett asked how many loons are being tracked in New Hampshire. Tiffany replied that they are tracking 345 pairs, but there are just shy of 700 loons; New Hampshire has the capacity to support between 1,000 and 1,400 loons. Racoons and mink are likely the biggest predators of loons.

### **VIII. Orientation to the New LMAC Website**

Nisa gave an overview of where to find materials on the new [LMAC website](#), which has replaced the LMAC Forum.

### **IX. LMAC Administrative Updates**

The governor has brought forward to the Executive Council nominations for Andrea LaMoreaux (NH LAKES) and Susan Price (Fish and Game Commission).

Tracie gave an update on the Instream Flow Program. Eleven real-time flow gages were installed, and staff are now gathering data to convert water levels recorded by the gages into flows. The flows will be posted on NHDES website. The Cold River Protected Instream Flow (PISF) was approved in January and the management plan is being written now. Staff met with Lake Warren Association and Alstead residents in September to address their concerns about relief pulse releases from the lake. The Warner River PISF is drafted and will be available for public comment in the next month or two. The Ashuelot River study is underway.

Nisa informed the committee about project selection for 604(b) and 319 grants for planning and implementing projects to improve water quality. There was increased funding available from EPA this year, so NHDES will be able to support more projects. Three organizations have been invited to submit full proposals for 604(b) funding, and seven organizations will submit full proposals for 319 grants.

Tracie updated the committee on the evolution of the Watershed Coordinator role. She stated that there is a need for someone to focus on lakes and support lake associations and the LMAC. The Lakes Coordinator position is no longer an existing, funded position, though it is still described in statute. Nisa let the committee know in her new role as Watershed Coordinator, she is acting as staff to the Cyanobacteria Plan Advisory Committee, providing support to lake associations, and researching the issue of chloride contamination in lakes due to road salt.

**X. New Business, Member Comments, and Action Item Review**

- New Business – None
- Action Items – NHDES staff will research the requirements for roll call votes. Staff will also talk with the Commissioner about LMAC legislative testimony.
- Future Meeting – A poll will be sent out to schedule a January meeting. Members expressed support for having a joint meeting the same day as the LMAC meeting.

**Vice Chair Graaskamp adjourned the meeting at 2:52 PM.**

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