

N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee

N.H. Lakes Management and Protection Program
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LMAC MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2023, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Fish and Game Department, 11 Hazen Dr., Concord, NH

Members Present	Representing	Term	
Andrea LaMoreaux, Chair	NH LAKES	August 1, 2024	V
Garret Graaskamp, V. Chair	NH Fish and Game Department	Indefinite	NV
Tim Dunleavy	NH Department of Safety	Indefinite	NV
Eric Feldbaum	NH Dept. of Natural & Cultural Resources	Indefinite	NV
Tiffany Grade	Conservation Community	September 19, 2025	V
Mark Hemmerlein	NH Department of Transportation	Indefinite	NV
Janet Kidder	Planning Boards	August 1, 2023	V
Joanie McIntire	NH Association of Realtors	June 27, 2026	V
Amanda McQuaid	Scientific Community, UNH	August 22, 2025	V
Susan Price (virtual)	NH Fish and Game Commission	August 22, 2024	V
Heather Shank	NHBEA Office of Planning	Indefinite	NV
Dick Smith	Fishing Interests	November 17, 2025	V
Steve Wingate	NH Assn. of Conservation Commissions	August 22, 2025	V
Allen Wyman	NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food	Indefinite	NV

Members Absent

Ryan Cardella	NH Marine Trades Association	August 22, 2023	V
Frank Lemay	NH Business and Industry Association	July 8, 2025	V
Lisa Morin	State Conservation Commission	August 1, 2024	V
Vacant	Municipal Official of a Lakefront Community		V
Vacant	NH Travel Council		V

NHDES Staff Present

Nisa Marks	Rivers and Lakes Management and Protection Programs
Tracie Sales	Rivers and Lakes Management and Protection Programs
Steve Landry (virtual)	Watershed Assistance Section

Guests Present

Peggy Ames	NH Travel Council
Ian Hanley	State Conservation Commission
Michele L. Tremblay (virtual)	New Hampshire Rivers Council/Rivers Management Advisory Committee

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Andrea LaMoreaux called the meeting to order at 1:01. Each person present introduced themselves.

II. Consent Agenda

- ***Steve Wingate moved to accept the January 10, 2024 meeting minutes. Janet Kidder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call with Andrea LaMoreaux abstaining.***

III. RMAC/LMAC State Lands Mapping Joint Subcommittee Update

Michele L. Tremblay thanked the subcommittee’s new members from the LMAC. The subcommittee has looked at lakes-related parcels in Rockingham County and is now evaluating parcels in Grafton County. LMAC representatives decided to recommend that any parcels in Sullivan County within 250’ of a lake be retained; the RMAC had already evaluated rivers-related parcels in Sullivan County. The purpose of the effort is to be proactive about state land disposal, and Michele intends to report on the results of this process to Governor and Executive Council. The criteria used for the subcommittee’s discussions are available on the LMAC website.

Andrea asked about the number of parcels that were near lakes. Mark Hemmerlein said that there are many fewer lakes-related parcels than rivers-related parcels, maybe one in 10 parcels that the subcommittee considered. Mark and Michele said the intent is to cover all state-owned parcels in the state. Michele noted that the state parcel data is based on town tax maps and many of these do not identify all of the state parcels, especially state-owned roads.

IV. 2024 Legislative Positions on Amended Bills

The LMAC Policy and Legislation Subcommittee met to consider bills that have been amended to date. Nisa Marks reported the subcommittee arrived at recommendations on eight amended bills, and reserved HB 472 for discussion.

- ***Steve Wingate moved that the LMAC adopt the recommendations of the Policy and Legislation Subcommittee to delete HB 1140, support HB 1143, track HB 1158, support HB 1293, track HB 1294, support HB 1304, support HB 1360, and track HB 1429. Tiffany Grade seconded the motion, which passed by roll call vote.***

Member name	Vote
Tiffany Grade	Yes
Janet Kidder	Yes
Andrea LaMoreaux	Yes
Joanie McIntire	Yes
Amanda McQuaid	Yes
Susan Price	Yes
Dick Smith	Yes
Steve Wingate	Yes

On HB 472, Susan Price said that Fish and Game Department staff provided to the bill’s sponsor language the Department would be comfortable enforcing, but the amendment does not reflect that language. She also noted that the Commission opposes the bill as an unfunded mandate that the Fish and Game Department does not have adequate staffing to enforce. Tiffany Grade said that the Loon Preservation Committee was concerned about the original bill being too broad because it included all wildlife. Amending the bill to focus only on threatened and endangered species limits the number of cases where temporary seasonal platforms would be restricted. For loons, those sites would largely already be known because of nest site fidelity. LPC supports the bill as amended. Andrea asked if the Commission would support the bill if there were funding. Susan said that would address the Commission’s largest concern. Tim Dunleavy asked how often there would be cause for

enforcement. Tiffany said LPC anticipates conflicts would be infrequent because the bill is limited to threatened and endangered species on lakes. Steve said that department employees would have to make a judgement on priorities when the agency is short staffed, and that it is more important to protect endangered species than to hold up the process due to a budget issue. Janet said it happens too often that departments cannot enforce or manage issues due to lack of funding. She supported asking for associated funding.

- ***Janet Kidder moved to support HB 472 with an amendment to add funding. Steve Wingate seconded the motion, which passed by roll call vote.***

Member name	Vote
Tiffany Grade	Yes
Janet Kidder	Yes
Andrea LaMoreaux	Yes
Joanie McIntire	Abstain
Amanda McQuaid	Abstain
Susan Price	No
Dick Smith	Yes
Steve Wingate	Yes

Mark asked for discussion on the bills where LMAC opposed the bill but they were voted OTP-A: HB 1158 and HB 1294. Nisa provided a summary of each bill's amendment. The group affirmed the positions recommended by the subcommittee.

Andrea said the three wake boating bills have not been released from committee yet and may be amended. The group elected not to discuss hypotheticals, which means taking no position on future amendments.

V. 2025 – 2029 Non-Point Source Management Program Plan

Steve Landry provided an introduction to the Nonpoint Source Program. Point source pollution typically comes out of a pipe and is generally well-regulated. All other pollution is non-point source pollution. The NHDES Nonpoint Source Program administers 604(b) and 319 grants, the Green Snow Pro Program, and Soak Up the Rain, all of which are governed by the Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan (NPS plan). Staff work with groups across the state to develop and implement watershed-based plans.

NHDES gets about \$64,000 per year from EPA for watershed planning. Watershed plans cost about \$110,000 and there are many qualified applicants each year. NHDES awards about \$550,000 annually for implementation projects which is about \$2 million short of the need each year.

The NPS plan is updated every five years per EPA requirements. It governs how federal funding to NHDES is distributed to local partners. A full draft of the next plan is due to EPA by May 15. The coming plan includes a much-expanded discussion of cyanobacteria, chlorides, and changed conditions due to changing precipitation patterns. Steve provided a summary of three areas of interest: stormwater, chlorides, and septic systems.

Garret asked if project ranking accounts for the amount of nutrient reduction per dollar spent. Steve answered yes. Mark asked if most activities are retrofitting existing development issues or are newly permitted projects. Steve replied that differing future and past build-out scenarios are

run as part of watershed planning. Nippo Lake was the first time that grant money was put towards a land purchase for conservation. Good relationships between watershed groups and municipal public works departments are important for implementation success.

Heather Shank asked about the benefits of community septic systems as she had been told they were undesirable. Steve gave an example from Baboosic Lake where a cluster of camp septic fields were flooded every year. A community system was installed which resulted obvious water quality benefits. Steve said he would follow up with NHDES' Subsurface Bureau to determine if there is inconsistent messaging from NHDES. Joanie McIntire noted that flushing items down a septic system that it is not designed to handle can shorten the lifespan of or cause issues in a community system.

Garret asked if there is a lifespan analysis for best management practices. He also said that homeowners benefit from lake management (including management like preserving land further from the lake) more than people further from the lake. Steve replied that lake associations often contribute funding and other match, and that reducing cyanobacteria blooms benefits any member of the public that uses the lake.

Garret suggested effectiveness monitoring for community septic systems. Steve responded that monitoring funding is not available but wondered if a partnership with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to fund a pilot or demonstration project could be added in the NPS plan. Joanie asked if all types of septic systems are created equal in removing phosphorus. Steve said he does not know, but that typically phosphorus is removed through soil binding in the leach field. Alternative designs are expensive.

Eric Feldbaum wondered if there would be opportunities for collaboration between watershed groups looking to do land conservation and Land and Water Conservation Fund grants. Andrea said that there need to let stakeholders know that resources like the stormwater manual exist. Amanda McQuaid asked how to get funding to lakes where there is not community support. Steve said a conservation commission or an existing group often takes the lead on watershed plans, and that it often takes a couple of years to cultivate relationships prior to having a successful grant application. Joanie asked how to improve communication so groups can learn from each other about best practices.

Mark asked what the most effective type of project is. Steve said that NHDES emphasizes the importance of individual homeowners controlling runoff on their own property as a first step. He also said there is good success from gravel wetlands, despite being expensive, and that setbacks from small streams and tributaries are an effective regulatory tool but require political will.

VI. Lakes Management and Protection Program Updates and LMAC Administrative Updates

Nisa shared that a public hearing about the proposed alum treatment on Lake Kanasatka will be held March 19 at 6:00 PM at the Moultonborough Academy. Talk with Dave Neils if you want more information or to submit comments. HB 1143 would create a process for NHDES to permit future alum treatments.

New Hampshire has a good data set about our stream crossings but lacks a prioritization process or criteria for prioritizing culvert replacements. UNH is working with NHDES and the New Hampshire Stream Crossing Initiative to change that. They are interested in getting feedback from stakeholders about the ecological, infrastructure, public safety, and economic needs associated

with culvert replacements. They are putting together a survey to elicit stakeholder preferences for stream crossing optimization criteria. They are also aiming to collect additional information about what resources stakeholder need, such as tools, technical assistance, and networking opportunities. That survey will open in late March. LMAC representatives are invited to participate. Reach out to Polly Crocker at NHDES for more information.

VII. New Business, Member Comments, and Action Item Review

Tiffany reported that LPC is concerned about the Trio Ponds dam project in the Nash Stream Forest. The dams are in poor condition and need replacement. NHDES Dam Bureau needs to widen the roads to the ponds to replace the dams, which will change the remote character of those lakes. LPC is wondering if the LMAC would want to engage on the project. Tracie Sales said that the Dam Bureau's intent is to bid the project this summer and construct the project next year. There will be another public meeting in early summer. LMAC members asked for a presentation from the Dam Bureau at the next meeting.

Andrea LaMoreaux adjourned the meeting at 4:02 PM.

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