

Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee (LAC)
Annual Report 2010
Chairman, Charlie Ryan

Highlights

The North Country Council presented the Colonel Oliver Nelson Planning Award to LAC at its Annual Meeting October 28th in recognition of river stewardship. The Ammonoosuc River Fluvial Geomorphic Assessment Project by Dr. John Field and his Associate Nicolas Miller was completed in 2010. LAC members selected a Lisbon site by the Salmon Hole Bridge for the initial restoration project, based on criteria of water quality and habitat. This location is one of the “highest yielding and deepest aquifers in the Ammonoosuc River Valley.” An island at the site is highly ranked in the New Hampshire Fish and Game Action Plan. Dr. Field and Rebecca Brown, Executive Director of Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust (ACT) met with the Lisbon landowner. Ray Lobdell, CWS collaborated with ACT on the plan to restore the site to forested alluvial flood plain and control erosion. Nicolas Miller gave a presentation to each town’s planning board, emergency management personnel, and other interested parties, identifying areas of erosion and channel instability. He advised doing floodplain conservation and riverbank restoration projects to offset future hazards. Tara Bamford, North Country Council Planning Director, facilitated going forward with the management plan. LAC held public outreach educational presentations for riparian landowners and outdoor enthusiasts. LAC hosted a DES Program, regarding most recent stream crossing and culvert rules. Press releases kept locals informed about LAC’s activities in the watershed. In future programs input will be sought from residents, incorporating their historical knowledge and concerns into the final plan. Upon completion, each town will have the option to adopt the Ammonoosuc River LAC Management Plan into the Master Plan.

Happenings

▪ **Heavy Rains and Thaw of January 25th**

Ice jam damaged bridges in Bath and Woodsville. Executive Councilman, Ray Burton gave his support to solve problems in aftermath of storm surge. NHDES Acting Rivers Coordinator Laura Weit came to the North Country on fact-finding mission. Team approach was used to mitigate hazards.

▪ **Water Main Break in Pump House at Bretton Woods on May 11th**

Water entered the Ammonoosuc River.

▪ **Heavy Rains on August 3**

Dartmouth Brook flooded on Base Road, erosion at gravel shoulder, and culvert problem

▪ **Hurricane Nicole Floodwater on October 1**

Impacted Base Road by Dartmouth Brook in Carroll, tributary of Baker Brook, and Brook Road in Bethlehem, flooded wetlands in Littleton Meadows, Palmer Brook floodwaters inundated Gary’s Drive at foot of Mann’s Hill Road in Littleton, impacted 2 soccer fields in Lisbon and reduced travel to one-lane on Route 302 in Lisbon. The raging waters of Ammonoosuc Falls closed Bath Bridge, 6-roads closed in Bath; landslide on Route 112.

Activities

▪ **NHDES Wetland Bureau Permit Applications**

In 2010 LAC members reviewed 23 applications and sites for projects in 6 of the 7 corridor towns. The members commented on 12 of the 23 applications. Seven of the 12 were Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA) applications.

- **Legislative Action on HB1451** (LAC presented testimony at hearing)
- **Workshop Attendance** (LAC members attended 14 workshops)
- **Volunteered for Allied Conservation Programs in Ammonoosuc River Watershed**

LAC members are affiliated with and/or members of conservation/planning organizations, having mission(s) held in common with LAC, including: North Country Council, Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust, NH Fish and Game, NHDES Volunteer River Assessment Program, Connecticut River Joint Commissions-Riverbend Subcommittee, Appalachian Mountain Club, Society for Protection of NH Forests, Audubon Society of NH, Trout Unlimited, NH Coverts, and Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

1. NHDES Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP)

Four LAC members conducted water quality testing May-September for measurements of turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and specific conductance. Additional sampling was collected for testing of total phosphorous, E. coli, and chloride levels. One of the LAC members assisted NHDES Manager putting in and retrieving data loggers.

2. Monitored Invasive Species Along Shoreline @ VRAP Stations

Japanese Knotweed present in Bethlehem, Littleton, Lisbon, and Bath; Bull Thistle in Bath; Purple Loosestrife in Littleton Meadows; Algae Didymo not found.

3. Atlantic Salmon Fry Distribution (Two LAC members participated)

4. NH Fish & Game Wildlife/Nongame Reptile and Amphibian Reporting (RAARP)

Two LAC members submitted data and photos for the 2010 inventory, including first documentation of mink frog in Carroll.

5. Bat Data Collection /White-nose Syndrome (One LAC member volunteered)

6. NH Dragonfly Program (One LAC member volunteered)

2010 Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee

- Charlie Ryan, Chairman (Littleton)
- Richard Walling, Vice Chairman (Bath)
- Connie McDade, Secretary (Littleton)
- Michael King, Treasurer (Haverhill)
- William Harris, Member (Haverhill)
- Errol Peters, Member (Landaff)
- Steve Jesseman, Member (Lisbon)
- Jessica Willis, Member (Littleton)
- Marilyn Johnson, Member (Bethlehem)
- Karen Pearson, Member (Bethlehem)
- Joan Karpf, Member (Carroll)
- Leslie Bergum, Member (Carroll)
- Linda Dowling, Member (Carroll)
- Michael Waddell, Member (Coos County)
- John Scarinza, Member (Coos County)
- Robert Fagnant, Associate Member (Haverhill)

Compiled by Connie McDade, Secretary

Submitted by Charlie Ryan, Chairman