

Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Meeting Approved Minutes
Haverhill, Bath, Landaff, Lisbon, Littleton, Bethlehem, Carroll, and Coos County
Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Members in Attendance: (Haverhill) Bill Harris; (Bath) Rick Walling; (Landaff) Errol Peters; (Littleton) Charlie Ryan, Jessica Willis, Connie McDade; (Bethlehem) Marilyn Johnson; (Carroll) Leslie Bergum, Joan Karpf, Linda Dowling; (Coos County) Michael Waddell

Members Absent: (Haverhill) Michael King; (Lisbon) Steve Jesseman; (Coos County) John Scarinza

Guests in Attendance: Molly Fuller, District Ranger, Pemigewasset Ranger District, White Mountain National Forest and Sheela Johnson, Forest Hydrologist

Review and Approval of Minutes

Chairman Ryan opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. at the North Country Council in Bethlehem. Joan made the motion to accept the August meeting minutes, seconded by Rick. Passed.

Treasurer's Report (none)

Correspondence

1. Announcements and Letters
 - Members reported on Hurricane Irene's impact along the Ammonoosuc River.
 - Charlie read a letter from Steve Jesseman that gave account of the event at KOA Campground in Lisbon. River stayed within banks but did wash debris into one of the tent sites; river encroached upon Whipple Brook; raised 8 feet at peak flow. Errol said there was flooding of the Lisbon soccer field-ballpark.
 - Charlie shared photos downloaded from the Bretton Woods Property Owner Association website, provided to the members by Leslie.
 - Charlie said it was reported in the Caledonian Record that sewer overflow occurred at the Littleton waste water treatment plant when the pumps could not keep up with the volume of storm water, entering the plant. The DES took water samples; results were within DES standards when the tests were done.
 - Leslie informed the group that NHDES Rivers Coordinator Jacquie Colburn toured North Country rivers impacted by Irene together with NHDES Staff on September 2.
 - Michael Waddell said the hurricane, a mountain stream issue in the North Country, impacted the Peabody, Wild, and Moose Rivers.
 - Rick was contacted by residents south of the weirs concerned about the weirs contributing to stream velocity, bank erosion, and trees falling into the river.
 - Leslie contacted Darlene Forst of the NHDES Shoreland Dept. about storm clean up and need for permits. With the Governor's state of emergency status, emergency permits are good for 30 days and DES is keeping a list of work requests as well as work that would typically require shoreland permits.
2. Incoming Permit Applications (none)

Guest Presentation

Leslie introduced District Ranger Molly Fuller and Hydrologist Sheela Johnson. Molly's talk covered the following topics: (1) Hurricane Irene and the White Mountain National Forest (2) Crawford Purchase Stewardship Project and (3) Watershed Prioritisation Process. She recounted what it took to close the forest and open it up again by Labor Day. Forest Supervisor Tom Wagner reported estimate of 7 million dollars in damage was sustained in WMNF, including State roads and facilities closed. Assessment teams went out in the field to compile reports for request of funding. The Environmental Strike Team, a Resource Assessment Team, was involved in the permitting process. Sheela talked about the Emergency Wetland Permits (assessment of soil, water, and wildlife). Issues in certain locations (Zealand and Tripoli Roads) were rectified early on. Engineers did assessment of major damage of roads, trails, and water places of intersection to determine areas of vulnerability. Replacement of certain bridges, undersized culverts, etc. would be long-term. Public safety being the most important criteria, the plan will be to rectify basic problems instead of repeating the mistakes of the past.

The Crawford Project timber sales will combine stewardship with contracting. The project includes improvement of recreation facilities, wildlife habitat, timber stand improvement, and watershed management. The process will result in a plan for 15 to 20 years. A mixture of projects will be funded by sale of timber. Assemblage of infrastructure will be based on collaboration of various entities. The Appalachian Mountain Club, other conservation groups, and the Mt. Washington Resort will provide community involvement. The Ammonoosuc River LAC is being invited to participate. Projects on the list include the Ammonoosuc Lake Dam replacement, Crawford Brook, introduction of native plants along Route 302, removing non-native invasive species, relocating Nancy Barton Ski Trail, increase size of culverts (there are 5 on Mt. Clinton Road), and perhaps the historic Fabyan Cabin Project Restoration on Cherry Mt. Road.

Nationally, the Prioritisation Process for watershed conditions totals 154 projects. Assessment of National Forest lands involves (1) determination of condition of water quality with emphasis on *headwaters*, (2) prioritisation of projects in the watershed, *the headwaters of the Ammonoosuc River*, (3) Engagement with *Partners in Action Plan*. The Ammo LAC is being asked to recommend projects to be considered for the *timber receipts to projects list*. Currently, the Base Road culvert of Dartmouth Brook located on private property on a State road is a potential site for the project list.

Molly talked about the Oliverian Project in the Pemi District, where the non-native invasive species (NNIS), Japanese Knotweed was located upstream of the National Forest and treated to prevent infestation downstream within the forest. Infestation of NNIS identified on private land requires owner permission to treat it. The Wyden Amendment allows the expenditure of federal funds for projects of this type. Marilyn expressed concern about use of herbicides near streams. For point of information, Connie asked what type of control was used during applications. Reply was that use of herbicides was an activity limited to individuals licensed to do the applications. Other projects include noxious weed control, removal of asphalt, re-contouring of the landscape, and removal of old bridge abutments. Contractor bid will provide needed funding for projects through stumpage. Errol pointed out that participation would be limited to large-size logging operations. Integrated management of natural resources serves the public, which fits under the national effort to look at watersheds in the stewardship process. Sheela passed

the map around the table, showing different levels of watershed risk. Joan asked about high-risk shown on the map for our watershed area. Sheela explained that it had to do with the proximity of the roads and trails to the vast network of streams. Bill asked if reinstating the Lisbon stream flow gauging station could be put on the projects list (important to Woodsville Water). Conclusion was that this would require participation by USGS and getting a grant. Leslie asked Sheela, if she could send a brief summary on what was discussed today. Leslie made the suggestion that LAC send Molly and Sheela a copy of Dr. John Fields Planning Guide. Charlie will send each of them a copy on a CD.

Old Business

1. Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (the new CSPA)
Leslie proposed the Ammo LAC work with the North Country Council to host a presentation on the new “Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act.” As a member of the state Shoreland Advisory Committee, Leslie offered to contact Tara Bamford of North Country Council and Jay Aube of the NHDES to see about coordinating a presentation. Rick offered to include Riverbend Subcommittee. This program should include invites to extend to surrounding towns’ planning boards, conservation commissions, engineering firms and natural resource professionals. Leslie will get with Tara and Jay to set date and move forward on such a presentation by NHDES.
2. Northern Pass (discussed)
3. VRAP Leslie reported on the 2011 water quality testing done. Await total phosphorus and E. coli results. Cost of sample bottles to be paid; await billing.
4. Leslie raised issue of storage of chemicals and pesticides in flood plain areas. There were issues when ice dam occurred last winter with the storage area for the Mt. Washington Golf Course and people were asking if this area was once again inundated with water during the Irene storm. Jessica added that the application of fertilizers on the golf course is also a concern. Charlie to inquire if information is on file about the actual cleanup occurrences along the river. Rick and Connie suggested that the topic of storage of chemicals in the riparian area be addressed as an educational activity, as part of the Ammonoosuc River Management Plan.

New Business (Deferred to October LAC Meeting)

Adjournment

Rick made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Leslie. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Connie McDade

[Next Meeting Takes Place on Wednesday, October 5](#)