

Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Meeting Approved Minutes

Haverhill, Bath, Landaff, Lisbon, Littleton, Bethlehem, and Carroll

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Members in Attendance: (Haverhill) Bill Harris; (Bath) Rick Walling; (Carroll) Leslie Bergum, member emeritus; (Landaff) Errol Peters, Marilyn Booth; (Lisbon) Steve Jesseman; (Littleton) Charlie Ryan, Jessica Willis, Connie McDade; (Bethlehem) Marilyn Johnson

Members Absent: (Lisbon) Rosalind Page

Guests: Jacquie Colburn, NHDES Rivers Coordinator, Kenneth Kimball, Director of Rivers Management Advisory Committee, Tara Bamford, Planning Coordinator North Country Council, and members of CT-Headwaters, CT-Riverbend, Swift LAC, and Trout Unlimited.

Chairman Ryan welcomed guests at 4:45 p.m. to the Regional LAC Meeting held by the NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee and the NH Rivers Program at the Littleton Senior Center. The purpose of the meeting was to determine if any changes are needed to components of the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program 25 years since enactment of RSA 483. Jacquie Colburn and Kenneth Kimball co-hosted the round table presentation about current statutory elements on the RMPP spreadsheet, asking for feedback on what currently works and what needs to be improved upon. Based on input received from the 6 state regional meetings being held, revisions to the RMPP could be made, during the 2015 General Court. Special highlight of the meeting was Kenneth Kimball presenting Leslie Bergum, Carroll LAC Representative Member with the NHDES-NH Rivers Council Water Quality Monitoring Award.

The regular LAC Meeting opened at 6:15 p.m.

Review and Approval of December Minutes

Steve made the motion, seconded by Rick to approve the December minutes as written. Passed.

Treasurer's Report

Jessica sent the March Treasury Report to the members by e-mail prior to the meeting and then went over the report with the members, during the meeting. The treasurer's report was received, as given.

Correspondence

1. Announcements and Letters

- **Members:** Chairman Ryan announced that it is with regret he has accepted Leslie Bergum's resignation. A letter was sent to her on behalf of all the LAC members, expressing appreciation for all her dedicated service and outstanding contributions.
- **Term Renewals:** DES sent renewal of member terms for Marilyn J., Steve, and Rick. Connie will send out new members' list with this information.
- **Littleton Application/Urban Shoreland Exemption:** Littleton town government has requested a letter of support from the Ammonoosuc River LAC. Charlie provided a copy of the application to the members on a CD in advance of the meeting. Marilyn J. brought in mapping from Dr. Field's Study for the committee's perusal. Following discussion, members voted by consensus to send a letter of support for the Littleton urban exemption. Connie made the following motion based on input by the members: The Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee supports the Littleton Application/Urban Shoreland Exemption, whereas the town has expressed recognition of the outstanding features of the Ammonoosuc River and wants to make the riparian zone and access to it a town focal point. The proposed river district

improvements paired with commitment to take all necessary measures ahead to preserve and protect the existing riparian buffers and to enhance the buffers where and when practical would offer opportunities for outdoor recreation, bring greater public knowledge about the river, and spur involvement for residents to look after what has come to be seen, as their river. Marilyn B. seconded the motion. Passed by unanimous vote.

2. Incoming Permit Application

- NH DOT Dredge& Fill Application, Littleton Palmer Brook crossing through twin culverts under Route 116 for installation of concrete box culvert on south side of road. Rick to review before letter is sent out and if nothing additional noted, LAC will communicate that we commented on earlier project and have no further comments at this time.
- FERC Preliminary Application/Permit to do Feasibility Study to upgrade Bethlehem Dam to produce electricity. Charlie spoke on phone with Brandon Cherry at FERC and got assurance that LAC would be kept informed.
- File #2014-00333 Shoreland by Notification Application, Littleton from Headwaters Hydrology for Littleton Water & Light project to demolish existing shed and construct a pervious embankment. LAC to comment that the application has been reviewed and LAC has no problem with it.

Old Business

- Amend Bylaws: Meeting List to be posted in town offices, showing new start time for LAC meetings. Marilyn J. made motion to change meeting time to 4:30-6:30 p.m.; motion seconded by Jess. Passed. Connie will send out amended Meeting List to be posted in town offices.

New Business

- Rick informed members about the proposal to reverse flow in NH pipelines to carry Alberta tar sands bitumen to Portland, Maine. The pipeline right of way parallels US Route 2 by towns of Shelburne, Gorham, Randolph, Jefferson, and Lancaster. The route has more than 70 streams and wetland crossings, including the Connecticut and Androscoggin Rivers (reference, NH Audubon).
- Connie let members know the VRAP Report for 2013 is now available online.
- An article appeared in University of NH Cooperative Extension News, reporting Covert Cooperators Leslie Bergum and Naomi Levesque discovered a Big Tree in NH, bigger than the current Grafton County Champion. This Eastern Cottonwood Tree in Sugar Hill has since been entered into the record books of the NH Big Tree Program to be the official Grafton County Champion.
- Rick said he would serve as LAC Representative to Trout Unlimited.
- Rick has submitted his name to Michele Tremblay, as a candidate to be considered for the membership opening on the Shoreland Advisory Committee.
- Members checked out the conference room in the Senior Center, which has been offered to us for our meetings to take place. Everyone liked the location and so future meetings will take place in the conference room.

Adjournment

Marilyn J. made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Steve. Passed. Adjourned @ 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Connie McDade

[Next Meeting Takes Place on Wednesday, April 2, 2014](#)