

## Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2021 7:00 P.M.

Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED JANUARY 19, 2022

representatives attending in person: John Wallace (Barrington), Anne Lightbody (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Dennis Regan (Lee), Patrick Reynolds (Newmarket), Grace Levergood (Northwood), Peter White (Nottingham), Therese Thompson (Raymond)

representatives attending by phone: Mary Ann Krebs, Dick Lord (Durham), Jerry Martin (Newmarket)

staff: Jim MacCartney (by phone), Suzanne Petersen

### Summary of motions:

**Joe Foley made a motion to move forward with plans for finalizing the transfer and approving submission of the final invoice for the website rebuild. Dennis Regan seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, including roll-call vote by representatives on the phone.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:03.

### Bacterial Tracking Grant Presentation by Steve Jones, UNH Jackson Lab

During the summer of 2021, Dr. Jones and his students took monthly baseline samples at four sites: the mouth of Moonlight Brook in Newmarket, downstream of the Macallen Dam, the Wiswall Dam impoundment, and at the Lee Public Canoe Access. Samples were taken to his lab and tested for total coliform bacteria, fecal coliform bacteria, *E. coli* bacteria, and enterococcus. The bacteria were then subjected to microbial source tracking to determine from what organism or class of organisms the bacteria were derived.

#### Key findings:

- Moonlight Brook far exceeded acceptable limits for risk of serious human illness in 4 of 5 samples and was just below the cut-off on the 5<sup>th</sup> sample. The source of the bacteria was determined to be human.
- Dog fecal bacteria were detected at all sites, except for two samples at Moonlight Brook.
- Other sources (mammals, birds, ruminants, Canada geese) were detected at all sites, but in some cases were apparently subject to seasonal factors.
- Other sites showed consistent detection of the freshwater recreational bacteria *E. coli*, but only one sample exceeded the State of NH standard
- Rainfall events were not captured even though they can be a major cause of pollution.

- Results will be shared with PREP, GBNERR, NHDES, and towns. Moonlight Brook warrants further investigation, particularly leaks in public infrastructure.

### Welcome new representative Peter White from Nottingham

### Approval of minutes from September 21, 2021:

Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed with 9 yes votes, including roll-call votes by representatives on the phone, and 2 abstentions.

### Financial report:

The bank activity report and land protection fund report were reviewed, with no concerns noted. The year-to-date report was not yet available.

### Workgroup updates:

- Grants:
  - Bacterial tracking, final report should be in soon, see notes from presentation.
  - Little River Trail improvements: The wetlands permit to construct two wooden stream crossings was approved by NHDES. They will be built next year. The kiosk panel has been completed and installed.
  - Wiswall water quality: New equipment has been installed. Final report should be in soon.
  - Erosion modeling: Equipment has been installed and summer work summary has been received.
- Outreach:
  - Presentations and field trips were offered to two senior citizen groups in September and October.
  - The new website is nearing completion and committee members have had a chance to explore the site. **Joe Foley made a motion to move forward with plans for finalizing the transfer and approving submission of the final invoice for the website rebuild. Dennis Regan seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, including roll-call vote by representatives on the phone.**
- Recreation:
  - A cost estimate for proposed work at the Lee Public Canoe Access has been requested, but not yet received.
- History: Nothing to report.
- Wildlife: Nothing to report.
- Project review: Four projects were reviewed immediately prior to tonight's meeting:
  - Nottingham, Kubota Gravel, AoT
  - Epping, Governors Run, AoT
  - Epping, 417 North River Road, shoreland
  - Newmarket, Tucker Well, wetlands

Other:

- Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition: This is a new group comprised of NGOs such as American Rivers and other W&S River groups. The mission is “to protect and defend existing and potential Wild and Scenic Rivers and broaden the movement for their conservation by raising awareness about their value.” Key functions include funding initiatives, lobbying, and outreach. This newly-formed group is the only one at a national level. The group has encouraged us to join by signing an agreement to abide by rules established by them. Initial concern has been flagged by one LRAC rep that these rules were created without stakeholder input. All LRAC reps have been asked to review the website, [www.wilddriverscoalition.org](http://www.wilddriverscoalition.org) to learn more and prepare for a discussion about potentially signing-on.
- National Park Service “origin story” video: The NPS has requested that the early/founding members of LRAC be interviewed to share their story. The LRAC already has a similar video, but this video would have a more W&S focus. NPS would pay for expenses related to production. Dick Lord expressed interest. We will try to engage others and proceed as appropriate.
- Pawtuckaway Lake update: Therese Thompson reported that variable milfoil continues to spread and increase in the lake. The increasing amount of milfoil removed might be due to expanded efforts to seek (through side-scan sonar, drones, and more divers) and remove plants, but this does not seem to be the only explanation. The possibility of using herbicides is beginning to be considered.
- Project review and the website: A request was made to post project review packets on the website for easier access by LRAC members. Applications are mostly accessible for review by the public, but NHB reports are confidential. Possible scenarios will be explored prior to sign-off with the website designers.
- December LRAC meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 21, which is close to Christmas. If we have no projects to review, we can probably cancel that meeting.
- Anne Lightbody’s final meeting: Anne’s 3-year appointment will expire on December 10. After 9 years of representing Durham, she has decided not to seek re-appointment. She will be missed. The committee thanked her for her expertise and insights and encouraged her to continue to suggest river-related projects to her students that have proved so helpful to the committee in the past.

Adjournment: John Wallace made a motion to adjourn. Patrick Reynolds seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:47.