

## Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2022 7:00 P.M.

Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED MAY 17, 2022

### summary of motions:

- **Dennis Regan made a motion to approve \$4,054.32 to support the Instream Flow Program Community Grant to NHDES. Grace Levergood seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, including roll call votes from those participating by phone.**

representatives attending in person: John Wallace (Barrington); Joe Foley (Epping); Jim Brady, Tasha Lewis, Kitty Miller, 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)

staff: Jim MacCartney (by phone), Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:03.

### presentation on water quality at Wiswall, Bill McDowell, UNH:

- Key questions of the Lamprey River Hydrologic Observatory were presented. Data from recently installed equipment funded by the LRAC were put into the context of historic research. The Lamprey is exceptional for being a small river with such detailed data over a long period of time.
- Graphs of trends over two decades for several important indicators were discussed: discharge in cf/s, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, and four nitrogen measures
- A significant spike in nitrogen that occurs each fall was possibly connected to draw-down at Pawtuckaway Lake. Further research will be needed to verify.
- Suggestions for additional study were made, including assessing instream green algae as an indicator of river health.

### approval of minutes from February 15, 2022:

John Wallace made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Grace Levergood seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously including roll-call votes from those participating by phone.

### financial reports:

Bank statement, year-to-date, and land protection accounts were reviewed. No issues were noted.

### Instream Flow Management Plan Extension Community Grant application:

In March, Joe Schmidl from NHDES gave a presentation to the committee about plans to expand the Lamprey River Water Management Plan to the five tributaries. As a first step, NHDES will deploy flow meters to determine baseline flows. Three meters will relay near-real-time data, but two will need to be manually checked. Opportunities for public engagement were planned, including participation in a citizen hydrology app. The committee, lacking a quorum, encouraged Mr. Schmidl to apply for a LRAC Community Grant to ensure all five stations were automated and that funding was available to pay for the citizen hydrology program.

A grant application was submitted in early April and was vetted by the grants workgroup. The unanimous decision was to recommend approval by the full committee.

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### workgroup updates:

#### outreach:

- Several presentations have been planned for adults this spring. Herring Aid will take place on May 7 at Macallen Dam.
- website:
  - Project review packages were placed on the website for access only by LRAC members; the new process works very well.
  - We are still waiting for written guidance on how to perform certain website administrative functions.
  - Training will be provided to Mary Ann Krebs as the back-up administrator.

#### recreation:

- Potential summer activities were discussed, but no plans were made.
- Grace Levergood provided an update on the Lee Public Canoe Access. The contractor who installed the granites steps appears to have gone out of business. The steps involve work in the water. She requested permission to invite contractors who have worked with NHDES on dams to do a site visit. By consensus, the group encouraged her to pursue this.

#### history:

Dennis Regan suggested working on a history kiosk at Wadleigh Falls.

#### wildlife:

Nothing to report.

#### water quality:

Nothing to report.

#### project review:

Two projects were reviewed, one wetlands in Candia and one shoreland in

Nottingham. No serious concerns were noted.

other:

- FY2023 budget: Jim MacCartney noted that the FY2023 budget will need to be finalized at the May meeting. He requested suggestions from workgroups for proposed projects and priorities as soon as possible.
- The outreach specialist will be away for the summer, but will be available for support via email and phone. She will be stepping away from LRAC obligations in the future. An *ad hoc* workgroup consisting of Patrick Reynolds, Dennis Regan, Peter White, Kitty Miller, Dick Lord, and Therese Thompson will work to define what tasks are important to the committee and solicit applicants.
- SELT requested LRAC's support in requesting earmarked land protection funding from the US Senate. Joe submitted a letter to senators Shaheen and Hassan in early April.
- The May meeting will feature a question-and-answer session with representatives from the two local planning commissions. LRAC representatives were requested to review the current Lamprey River Management Plan and suggest possible goals and projects for the next 8-10 years to prepare for the next meeting. How can the regional planning commissions help the LRAC update and improve the next plan?
- Jim Brady noted that he had trees in the river near his property in Lee. He requested LRAC's help to address this issue. No discussion or plans were made.

adjournment:

John Wallace made a motion to adjourn. Peter White seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:47.