

**Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2023 7:00 P.M.**

Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED FEBRUARY 21, 2023

summary of motions:

Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve \$9900.00 for monthly bacterial tracking research from April to November 2023. Dick Lord seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.

representatives attending in person: Joe Foley (Epping); Dick Lord (Durham); Jim Brady, Tasha Lewis, Kitty Miller (Lee); Patrick Reynolds (Newmarket); Grace Levergood (Northwood); Therese Thompson (Raymond)

representatives attending by phone: none

staff: Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:00.

presentation with Cory Riley, GBNERR, on coastal conservation planning

The New Hampshire Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan was summarized. Many mapping tools are available to help identify areas of special concern and personnel to provide technical assistance. Such resources will be very helpful as the LRAC updates its rivers management plan.

presentation with Steve Jones, UNH, 2022 results of bacterial tracking on the Lamprey River

Six sites were tested from April through November: the outfall at Moonlight Brook in Newmarket, Piscassic Park boat launch in Newmarket, Wiswall Dam impoundment in Durham, the Public Canoe Access upstream of Wadleigh Falls in Lee, the river access behind the town hall in Epping, and Carroll Beach at the elementary school in Raymond. As was the case in 2021, all sites tested indicated some degree of fecal bacterial contamination, but in most cases the contamination was within state criteria for fishable and swimmable waters. The exception was, as before, the outfall at Moonlight Brook in Newmarket where human-source fecal bacteria were very high. Only one post-storm sampling could be obtained and bacterial counts were elevated at most sites, indicating that stormwater might be a significant source of contamination. A recommendation was made to continue the research and add one site above the outfall at Moonlight Brook to determine the state of the water before it disappears under the built area of downtown Newmarket.

Following the presentation and after Dr. Jones had departed, the committee discussed funding bacterial tracking for another year and adding a new site. **Patrick Reynolds made a motion to approve \$9900.00 for monthly bacterial tracking research from April to November 2023. Dick Lord seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.**

approval of minutes from November 15, 2022:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Patrick Reynolds seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

financial update:

Bank account statement and year-to-date budget tracking were shared. No issues were noted.

workgroup updates

- project review
 - Therese Thompson joined members of the Raymond Planning Board site walk at the old Rex/Regis tannery site in Raymond, now proposed as Raymond Distribution Center (AoT and wetlands permits reviewed in September). There were many wetlands and signs of contamination on this brownfield site.
 - NHDES notified us of two wetland permit-by-notifications for electrical corridor work in Candia and Raymond.
- land protection: Two projects were completed in December (Rix Family Forest in Deerfield, Mathes Family Living Partnership in Epping).
- outreach: No updates.
- recreation: Dead trees at Piscassic Park have been felled and removed, as per goals of the recently approved LRAC Community Grant.
- history: No additional movement from Lee regarding signage at Wadleigh Falls.
- wildlife: Riparian knotweed grant results will be presented in March.
- water quality: Instream flow management expansion update will be presented next month with Joe Schmidl.

other:

- The bylaws require election of a chair and secretary in odd-numbered years. Joe Foley agreed to continue serving as chair, but he also indicated that when his appointment ends in September that he most likely would not seek re-appointment. Suzanne Petersen agreed to continue serving as secretary. The committee agreed by consensus that this arrangement was satisfactory.
- The Epping Wastewater Treatment Facility has come to the attention of several LRAC members lately. The WWTF has released partially-treated sewage into the Lamprey River, which is not acceptable to anyone. Information shared by Joe Foley (who has also served on the Epping Water and Sewage Board) and April Talon (Durham town engineer) indicate that NHDES is well aware of the problem and is managing the situation until a permanent solution can be implemented. The design of treatment seemed good at the time of installation, but under the real-world conditions of winter in New Hampshire, the design flaws became apparent. When a discharge of partially-treated sewage occurs, NHDES notifies downstream water users, such as the Durham-UNH Water System, and withdrawals of water from the river are discontinued. The partially-treated sewage must meet standards for suspended solids reduction, chlorine disinfection, and dechlorination; however, the amount of nitrogen being released is a primary concern. NHDES is currently working with the EPA to develop a new comprehensive enforcement action to address the current issues and for Epping to come into full compliance with its current NPDES permit.

- Some initial progress has been made on revising the current rivers management plan, but this is a big task. Examples of recently published river management plans were recommended and other resources, such as the coastal conservation plan materials, should be very helpful. The update should include inclusion of goals not formerly addressed for climate change, recreational and water-use carrying capacity, visitor use management, recognition of Indigenous principles and presence, and issues of inclusion and equity.
- Jim MacCartney had several reports on Wild and Scenic Rivers:
 - The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System budget fared well in the recent federal omnibus legislation. The York River in Maine was designated, as well as segments of the Housatonic River in Connecticut; both rivers likely will receive federal funding to implement their management plans without subtracting from funding for previously designated rivers.
 - The W&S Rivers gathering at the Wekiva River in Florida was productive, with many tools and business practices shared.
 - The NPS office in Concord, NH will be supporting a fellowship this year, so extra help is potentially available.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Jim Brady seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:35.