

Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee (SoRLAC) Meeting
Minutes April 17, 2025
Location: Milford Police Dept. Meeting Room 19 Garden
St, Milford, NH
Meeting: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Attendees: Marion Kastner, Richard Hart, George May, Alan Preston, Celeste Barr, Eric Doberstein
Guest: Emma Rearick, Daniel Herrero, Marcy Stanton
Absent: Cory Ritz, Jaclyn Hodgkins, Marshall Buttrick, Cam Lockwood, Robert Clemens

Agenda

Review and approve:

Motion made by Marion: *That SoRLAC accept the minutes of the February meeting as presented, 2nd by Celeste, all in favor.*

Old Business:

Pine Valley Dam Update

There was discussion amongst the group, Eric had questions on e-coli monitoring and public access and further discussion was had on fish migration/passages, benchmarks and the reporting of the amount of water released downstream on a continual basis. Flow changes is poor for wildlife and the objective is to make it better.

Action: Eric will call the NHDES Dam Bureau representative and see where the study process is at.

Proposed motion made by Marion: ***“That SoRLAC formally requests that the results of the water quality monitoring conducted at Pine Valley Dam be shared directly with the committee and we are inquiring about non-motorized boating access, fish passage improvements, downstream flow monitoring and providing benchmarks for all data from the water sample.”*** Motion seconded by Eric, all in favor.

New Business:

Hitchers’ Haz Waste Permit Renewal: Comments required by 4/18/2025! –
No comments added

Corridor Management Plan

Discussion was had on the progress of the plan.

Proposed Motion made by Cory through agenda: ***“That SoRLAC accept the draft Souhegan River Corridor Management Plan as presented and support its final development without further comment at this time.”*** 2nd by Marion, all in favor.

Emma stated that the Final draft will be posted to the website soon.

George suggested having a full press release about the completion of the plan. Emma agreed to work on this.

Next steps: meetings are to be scheduled with the towns to review the plan. Emma can assist with setting up meetings but SoRLAC representatives may need to set up and present. Emma will work with Cory on these.

Outreach:**Celeste** - report out 2025 Souhegan Sustainability Fair in Milford

There were nearly 400 participants. An evaluation was sent to participating organizations, results showed a general average positive score of 4.75 out of 5 overall for the fair and its execution. Good comments were also received for the next year.

Marion - next steps for names collected at Sustainability Fair

Email outreach was sent to 8 candidates who signed our volunteer sheet. Two have shown interest and joined the meeting today, Marcy Stanton and Daniel Herrero.

Other events for 2025?

- Marcy asked about the paddling events. Eric is to work on posting some dates and discussion was had on this topic. Marcy was willing to help as a trip leader.
- Daniel asked how to get involved in the water sampling. From this a discussion was generated in regards to invertebrate testing. George will be leading the set up of some testing for this year with the assistance of Daniel and Marion.
- Marion asked if we wanted to have a booth at the Amherst 4th of July day again. Group agreed and Marion will complete the form.
- Marion advised that on June 19th the ACC was hosting a speaker from NH LAKES at the Amherst Library to discuss water in Amherst. The group decided to start the June meeting at 6:00 pm at the Amherst Library and then all could attend the presentation. Marion will forward the flyer in early May so all can register.

Recruiting - new category to capture ideas and effort for recruiting new SoRLAC members

Marion - article for UNH Extension – this has been published.

Local updates:

- i. Souhegan Watershed Association
- ii. New Ipswich
- iii. Greenville
- iv. Temple
- v. Wilton – Alan spoke about the Stonybrook, Mill Brook areas where they are trying to get a bridge through the area to access corridor 13 trails (snowmobile). This would go directly through wetlands. It currently has been shut down and will now have to go to the planning board.
- vi. Milford- DPW has been trained and is now using the green snow pro process. The town has a grant to increase volunteerism, there is a consultant working on a plan for this.
- vii. Amherst- no updates
- viii. Merrimack- George to follow up with the conservation commission about getting members for SoRLAC. They stated they would think about it.
- ix. Lyndeborough- Marcy is a member of the Lyndeborough Conservation Commission, they are experiencing a loss of volunteers there also. There is a new Planning Board Chair and the SoRLAC new management plan could be helpful. Lyndeborough is conducting testing for road salt contamination in the water.

x. RMAC & NH DES

1. **Eric** - report on LAC Workshop held 4/12 – Eric reported that Cory had a large role in the brainstorming part of the workshop. The head of DES spoke and it was positive. A Hydrogeologist also spoke about how frustrating it is to see building happening on flood plains. There were several discussions amongst the various LACs and Eric learned that the Executive Council has ultimate authority on any changes.

Celeste advised that the feasibility study for dam removal passed during the town vote.

Celeste was given several booklets: Rehabilitation Assessment Reports on Souhegan River by NHDES, NRCS and Gannett Fleming, August 2016. She will store them.

For reference, below is a list of the booklets.

1. Site 35 Dam - Binney Hill Road New Ipswich
2. Site 12 A Dam - Greenville
3. Site 26 Dam - Wilton
4. Site 28 Dam - South Lyndeborough
5. Site 33 Dam - Wilton
6. Site 25B Dam - West Wilton
7. Site 19 Dam - High Bridge New Ipswich
8. Site 8 Dam - South Lyndeborough
9. Site 13 Dam - Greenville
10. Site 15 Dam - Wilton
11. Site 10A Dam – Wilton

Team SoRLAC: [SoRLAC Members](#) ([nomination form](#))

Next Meetings: ideas for locations and/or activities?

- i. May 15 – Milford Police Station
- ii. June 19 – Amherst Library – Amherst Loves Lakes presentation

Celeste made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm, Eric 2nd, all in favor.
