

# **Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee**

**Police Station, Milford New Hampshire**

**January 20, 2022**

In attendance were members Cory Ritz (New Ipswich), Celeste Barr (Milford), Cam Lockwood (Temple), Rob Clemens (Amherst), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), and Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich).

**Approval of Minutes** -December minutes approved with changes to spelling of Rob Clemens' name and addition of Marshall Buttrick to attendance.

## **New Business**

**Permit appeal by Tonnesen and Dugger**-Appeal was filed with DES. Landowners adjacent to Gardent Property in Milford. SoRLAC reviewed Gardent project in December 2020.

**Tree Clearing along the Souhegan** - Rob talked with Hillsborough County Conservation District and the NRCS regarding potential for future tree clearing along the Souhegan to expand agricultural area. They haven't been approached for any guidance. Our thinking is that maybe we should be more proactive to provide some education/guidance/best management practices to individuals (in this case, farmers.) Discussion followed on how to disperse the information during "Covid times." Celeste had contacted Forest and Lands and was referred to a "Ranger" but has gotten no reply. It was decided to tentatively have an open forum and invite

Hillsborough County Conservation Dist., and someone from NRCS to do a presentation. Celeste is going to look into acquiring a meeting space at the Town Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor., April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 P.M.

### **Annual Reports to Towns- Done**

**RMAC Updates-** The RMAC has been very active. The Rivers and Lakes Programs Legislation Tracking Spreadsheet has been posted. The spreadsheet can be found on both the RMAC Forum and the LMAC Forum. RMAC had a meeting at the end of Dec. and a letter was sent out January 12 creating a cyanobacteria commission. That letter was included in an email sent out on Jan 19<sup>th</sup> by Cory when he sent out the agenda for SoRLAC's January meeting.

**Watershed Management Plan-** I'm including comments from Emma Rearick, Regional Planner for NRPC to Cory to begin with.

"...currently updating the Lower Merrimack River Corridor Management Plan. It is being funded by a \$9,000 Sourcewater Protection grant from DES, so we have a May 31, 2022 deadline to finish. Because it is funded by Sourcewater dollars, we are trying to emphasize the drinking water aspect in the plan (Pennichuck now pulls from the Merrimack year round) I would be happy to talk more and hear about SoRLAC's goals. Would you like to find a time for a call?"

Emma offered to have a meeting with us. Merrimack River LAC got the grant because of the nature of where their drinking water comes from. Rob wanted clarification on what she might

do in terms of difference of SoRAC and Merrimack River LAC ability to access a grant. Marshall reminded us that our river falls into two jurisdictions, the NRPC and SWPC. Greenville , Temple and New Ipswich being in SWPC. Discussion followed on how our towns accessed their water and what water protection Grants might be available. Greenville uses Tobey reservoir in Temple, Milford's drinking water comes from the Curtis Well next to the Souhegan River and Pennichuck Water Works.

The following are the stated goals that Cory summarized in December's meeting

Major project goals of this watershed management plan:

1. Develop a watershed management plan that is straightforward and available to use by local organizations, community representatives, municipalities or other stakeholders either individually or through collaborative efforts.  
(Promotion/communication)
  - a. Do we include education?
2. Promote watershed management decision-making based upon sound scientific information and by incorporating known and forecasted changes due to changes in the climate and land use trends in within the watershed. (Science based)

- a. Promote additional scientific sampling and evaluation
3. Improve water quality in the river to support recreational uses for total and partial bodily contact. (Water quality).
4. Improve water quality and instream flow in the river to support aquatic and wildlife habitat. (Water quality)
5. Manage the river as an aesthetically pleasing and accessible area. (Community based)
6. [Diversity of uses / mixed use river] – remove or include
7. Reduce pollution by the managing the watershed stormwater drainage to reduce the effect from non-point source pollution and minimize the impact from industrial, commercial, agricultural and residential development along the main stem of Souhegan River and tributaries. (Water quality)

Keeping these goals in mind we created the following chart/table. I apologize for my lack of computer skills in being able to put it into a neater form, my IT person is temporarily unavailable.

OBJECTIVES		STAKEHOLDERS							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication Plan</li> <li>• Target audience (specific)</li> <li>• Objectives</li> <li>• Channels / Tools</li> <li>• Implementation</li> <li>• Metric - Did it work?</li> </ul>		Businesses	Municipalities w/ H <sub>2</sub> O	Business w/ H <sub>2</sub> O	Business HYDRO	Businesses Agriculture	Land Owners	Individuals Recreation	State County
Key Individuals	Southwestern Fly Fishing	CC's WWTP • Milford • Greenk Planning Boards	Amherst C Club Other DES Permitters	Pine Valley Greenville New Ipswich	Farm Bureau - NRES - HCLD	Residence Service Groups 4H Scouts Abutters vs watershed residence	SWA	Fish & Game DES NRPC SWPC Forests Lands	
Priorities	Temp/Flow Good Neighbor Good Views \$		Flows	Flows	Flow Crops \$	Non Profits Conservation Organization Non Profit Business Flows WQ View Access	Flows WQ Access	Flows WQ Laws/ rules	
Influence - Where we focus SOLAC effort		CC water Quality Public Access Wildlife Habitat Views Hi Influence Hi Effort		yes	→ Partnering		High Effort Low Influence		

Discussion on how to organize our efforts to achieve our goals. Rob is currently working on In Stream Flow issues for the Amherst Conservation Commission's efforts to

contribute to the Master Plan there and he offered to check with the State One Stop Data Base for looking into issues of water withdrawal permits.

### **Local Updates-**

**SWA-** George was not available to update

**New Ipswich-** nothing to report

**Greenville-** Nothing to report

**Temple-**Moving toward water testing

**Wilton-**Peter was not at the meeting but sent this in an email to Cory.

Wilton Planning and Zoning has been a little quiet over the holidays, but River's Edge is back in front of Planning Board tonight with a totally new plan that has them connecting to town sewer and water, which allows for 0.5 acre lots, the same 20-22 of them, but that also increases the buffers. The access road appears to drop to just under 600' from the >1000' that had been planned. I haven't spent any real time with the new plan yet, just saw it this morning.

Another PB case I'm keeping an eye on is not yet in front of them but should be in February. a zoning special exception was given to a home occupation on Intervale Rd, which runs along the river between 101 and the N bank just across from Rivers Edge up to roughly the flooring store. It is a firearms exchange business and while the ZBA said customers can't fire inventory at his outdoor shooting range, it didn't say the owner can't use

it as part of the business. I do not know the orientation/direction of the range but since it is zoned residential, I'm not hopeful for recreationists on the river. He goes to the planning board next, but isn't there yet. I have no idea how SoRLAC folks might feel about that one, and no DES permit will likely be pulled unless they force him to construct an earthen berm backstop in the buffer, so it is a bit weird but could be alarming to kayakers and fisherpeople working through that stretch and just feels to me like the wrong place for an outdoor range. Even in NH.

**Milford**-Boy's and Girl's Club has applied for a EPA Watershed Grant to improve trails along river and there is an educational aspect as well.

**Merrimack**-Nothing to report

**Amherst**-the consultants for Amherst's efforts to update their Master Plan didn't seem to be making progress on the issues of water resource protection, so the Conservation Commission has taken it on. As stated above, Rob has been very busy investigating instream flow issues for this undertaking. He has been all over the State's databases that have anything to do with water withdrawals. Rob will plan to share any findings or progress w/SoRLAC.

And lastly, Cory announced that Antioch officially denied our request for help updating our Watershed Plan.

Next meeting Feb. 17, 2022 7:00

I have submitted a request for the Police Facility meeting room, I will let you know when I hear from them.

Submitted 1/22/22 by Kleta Dudley