

**Approved Minutes Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee  
June 28, 2022 Meeting  
Pease Public Library Plymouth, NH**

**Members Present:**

**Ashland:** Kathleen DeWolfe

**Bridgewater:** Judy Faran

**Bristol:** Max Stamp

**Campton:** Suellen Skinner, Sherrill Howard

**Holderness:**

**Lincoln:** OJ Robinson

**New Hampton:** Barry Draper, Russ Brummer

**Plymouth:** Bill Bolton, Neil McIver, Lisa Doner

**Thornton:** Myrtle Lewis

**Woodstock:** James Chesebrough

**At Large:** Tyson Morrill

**LRPC:**

**Guests Present:** David Katz; New Hampton

1. Quorum established and meeting called to order by Judy Faran at 6:37 PM.
2. Introductions of members and guests – welcome to our two new members from Lincoln and Woodstock, and our guest David Katz.
3. Approval of minutes from our May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 meeting with minor edit to confirm the second for adjournment. **Kathleen moved, Sherrill seconded, unanimous approval.**
4. Mowing concerns from Eversource: Judy reached out to Eversource and GZA, and they confirmed their Best Management Practice of controlling vegetation in their Right Of Way. Our concern was still bank erosion due to mowing from the last pole before a river crossings. Max and Judy expressed their doubt that Eversource is exhibiting proper adherence to their own BMP's. Judy will respond to Eversource and attach a photo of the New Hampton crossing that was taken some time ago that shows erosion due to mowing all of the vegetation. Barry will take another picture to see if Eversource is still mowing everything down at river crossings. The point was made that the NH Electric Cooperative does foliage control differently than Eversource. The Coop cuts everything and sprays herbicides. Myrtle suggested that we include UNH Extension. Barry dropped a phrase that was new to the Secretary: Eco-Tone; where two habitats come together. Judy will respond to Eversource, GZA and UNH Extension. Max urged that we check in with his neighbor, Representative Ned Gordon regarding the language we should use to respond to Eversource.
5. Judy described the water quality planning and watershed assistance grants. These grants are for LACs and others for implementation projects for historic impaired waters or to protect high quality waters. Let Judy know if interested in applying. Tyson reported that he applied for a previous grant opportunity and that an applicant needs to show measurable outcomes in order to be successful.

6. Permit application review for Owl's Nest (# 2022-485A12IV-001) for water withdrawal from the Pemi in addition to the withdrawal of water for their 38 million gallon lined manmade storage pond. Owl's Nest is allowed to withdraw 1.1 cubic feet per second until October 30<sup>th</sup> while water flow in the Pemi is greater than or equal to 130 cubic feet per second, and this request is a supplemental permit to expand their use of Pemi water. In addition to Owl's Nest, Judy read off a long list of other entities (Registered Water Users) that are also permitted for water withdrawal from the Pemi. Discussion centered on the fact that so many entities that are withdrawing Pemi river water may have a cumulative effect and theoretically could result in a Colorado River type of scenario. Kathleen reviewed the DES rules and had questions whether Owl's Nest uses of the pond was properly designated. This permit is open for public comment, and comments are due July 15<sup>th</sup>. A suggestion was made to look at our Rivers Management plan to answer our concerns. Additionally, we should be cognizant and possibly concerned of Owl's Nest's own self-reporting of their water drawdowns, and we should include Pemi river withdrawals parameters in our rewrite of our Management Plan.
7. Judy provided an overview of our current administrative support from LRPC. Judy had a conversation with Matt Rose, who has taken over Paige Wilson's position as LRPC's appointee to PRLAC. Judy asked Matt what his perception was with regard to PRLAC, and a discussion of the status of our revenue commenced. Matt pointed out that PRLAC was already in the red with regard to our budget. Matt plans to start attending the PRLAC monthly meetings in July, and will come armed with a review of the Pemi Management Plan changes that will be done with the grant money from DES. Any review LRPC has with the management plan will certainly result in a cost, and this will be taken out of the funds from the grant. He will also have a plan for moving forward. In July, Matt and our group will review tasks and expectations for LRPC regarding their continued involvement.
8. Permit Applications:
  - a. "North" Lake Road in Thornton: Alteration of terrain: 48 housing units for single family living, a lake (trout pond?). A large packet of plans was received by Judy, but there has been no alert from DES regarding the need to have a project review. We'll have to wait for DES's assigned number in order for us to review. Furthermore, a PRLAC member heard from an Owl's Nest resident that a resident only beach entry on the Pemi was being built out as well – also with no alert from DES on a permit application.
  - b. New Hampton Solid Waste Management application changes: The permit for the capped landfill originally described a comprehensive gas management system. Changes are being made to this permit to decommission the gas system due to the low and/or unmeasurable methane probes inside the house that abuts the landfill. Unfortunately, there is no monitoring going on to test the effect on any leachate from the capped dump into the River.
  - c. Standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit file #2022-00163: US 3 over Bog Brook, Campton (near deadman's curve). DOT needed to resubmit the application due to improper statute references. DES suggested that PRLAC take another look at the project as it commences. This discussion prompted further, unrelated discussion on the project in Thornton on Rt. 3 where there was much soil disturbance to accommodate the underground structures for utilities in advance of some subdivision. It is rumored to be a 19 unit cluster development.

- d. Hubbard Brook under Rt. 3 in Thornton: Tyson saw someone digging post hole with a tractor that was close to the river, but no notice on the project was received from DES. The location was on property across from the road to Mirror Lake.
  - e. Town Line Village Coop – Environmental review for Drinking Water Infrastructure Project: PRLAC has until June 30<sup>th</sup> to respond. Judy will draft a note regarding this before the June 30<sup>th</sup> response date. This is to enhance drinking water infrastructure in a large mobile home park located next to Livermore Falls.
9. Management Plan Revision: Judy stated we now have money (\$1,500) to start the review. Judy's desire is to break the Management Plan down into pieces to take advantage of some organizational structure. Judy met with Matt to talk through her plan, and Matt said that the first part was to do a "kickoff", which would require public participation in the form of promotion, publicity and outreach before, during and upon the completion of the update. Judy said that we need to go to the each town, to discuss our plans and a timeline. We would solicit what THEY would like to see. Next step is to divide the updates by town or some other manner such as resource. After updates are completed, we would then go back to towns with a finished product and let them know this plan is widely available. Myrtle suggested that we could meet the need for public outreach by having the PRLAC members go to their Selectboard members and present a one-pager describing what we are doing with the Management Plan. James suggested that Judy would be a better person to educate each town have the background knowledge that would satisfy a town's need. We would get a meeting scheduled with the Towns' Selectboard to educate them to what PRLAC does and what they are responsible for in their communities. Judy suggested coming up with a rack card that would provide historical information. OJ vocalized that coming before the Boards and describing how and why the towns of Lincoln and Woodstock would benefit from becoming a protected town, would be an effective way to involve the towns in river protection. Lincoln and Woodstock will have a joint Board meeting the last week of July, and Judy will try to attend this meeting. One other thing is to map out what we need from the towns, such as data tables and map updates, and ask for them during their town's presentation from PRLAC. Myrtle agreed to look at what tables we need updated, and will produce a spreadsheet of these needed data points
10. Other Business: Max brought up what was the status of Moony Clark landing. Nik Coates was consulted by Max and Nik stated that Fish and Game was taking responsibility of the maintenance of Moony Clark.
11. **Sherrill moved to adjourn; Barry seconded. No discussion, and all in favor at 8:37.**