

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee  
March 29, 2016 at Pease Public Library  
Plymouth, New Hampshire  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Max Stamp (Bristol); Dan Stack (Ashland); Bill Bolton (Plymouth); Mike O'Donnell (Holderness); Barry Draper (New Hampton); Kelly van Lingen (New Hampton).

**Also Present:**

Lisa Doner (Plymouth State University [PSU] research assistant professor); Maggie Mumford, Holderness citizen

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Max Stamp called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:**

After a brief review of the last meeting minutes by Max, Dan Stack made a motion, seconded by Barry Draper, to approve the minutes of February 23, 2016. The motion carried with no abstentions.

**Housekeeping Issues:**

2016 Water Testing Schedule being organized. Test kit is at DES for check-up, new standards, other supplies. Staffing may be problem this year.

We currently owe LRPC \$300 for their services. Next week we will send out 2016 budget requests for money from each town. We will "refund" PRLAC in May. To avoid deficit issues experienced in the past, PRLAC will have to judiciously use Dave Jeffers time going forward.

**Review Draft Comments to NH Department of Environmental Services (DES):**

1. Max would like to create two draft letters: one for DES and one for NP
2. We will all have to go back to our towns with our drafts.
3. Max sent a draft of our DES letter to Darlene Forst (from Shoreland Protection) and Bill Thomas. They asked if we had suggestions for mitigating erosion taking place at Right of Way (ROW) crossover points. Max provided feedback such as buffers, setback distance from the last pole to the river (100'-150'). Darlene suggested we add these options, show issues and present ideas to address concerns.
4. We would like to limit machine activity- ROW crossovers. We don't want the areas maintained with equipment but rather by foot and hand with tools.
5. Maggie Mumford gave us a quick overview of the SEC bus tour she attended and the erosion issues that were identified along the Pemi.
6. Lisa Doner suggested we request the UNH Cooperative Extension conduct soil quality testing of ROW.
7. Lisa also informed the group of the Two Chiefs Initiative which is an Obama fund program involving the US National Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture. The initiative protects the water quality of the Pemi. Protections should be maintained by Northern Pass (NP) so as not to undermine this initiative. The Pemi is marked as a national priority. It was

suggested that PRLAC send a letter to the Two Chiefs regarding NP. Lisa will ask the contact at Two Chiefs to reach out to Max.

Barry said the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Society for the Protection of NH Forests) SPNHF will allow us to present/review PRLAC positions. We should go to Peter Roth NH DOJ Office (Counsel for the Public) for his help in gathering hydrology/erosion experts.

**We reviewed the two draft letters with the following recommended changes/notes:**

PRLAC's possible comments to be incorporated into NP Intervenor "team" presentation before the SEC

**Section 2 A.** – remove

**Section 2 B** – note how community, state and federal efforts worked to improve/maintain the river quality

**Section 2 E.** – Change “One hundred year flood” to “major flood”. Reach out to expert witnesses such as Peter Rolf and Sam Miller. Mark Green and Jake Cordea of PSU can speak to the increased likelihood of extreme weather events. Lisa Doner was concerned that our statement on “70% of flow in the Pemi is from groundwater inventory” would be hard to defend.

Section 2 G. – regarding an “independent Hydrologist” – Lisa Doner will send us contact information for a specialist in this field.

**Additional notes:**

- a. Lisa will check to see if she can locate an expert soil witness.
- b. Determine who is responsible for ROWs that are affecting water quality? Landowner or NP?
- c. Note somewhere that the stabilization of the watershed is critical for the Pemi.

Preliminary Draft – Submit to DES

Change the **opening paragraph** to the following: The following focuses mainly on storm water management and its effect on water quality and water ship issues caused by North Pass's above ground proposed development form Ashland/Bridgewater to Hill. (remove second sentence)

**Section 2** – Note that: current tree cover on slopes provides necessary sediment stability.

**Additional notes:**

- a. Address specific concerns around storm water management as it relates to the river

**Adjournment:**

Dan Stack made a motion, seconded by Bill Bolton to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly A. van Lingen