

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
January 28, 2014 at Pease Public Library
Plymouth, New Hampshire

Minutes

Members Present:

Max Stamp (Bristol); Dan Paradis (Bristol); Dan Stack (Ashland); Barry Draper (New Hampton); Mike O'Donnell (Holderness); Jane Kellogg (Campton); Carl Lehner (Holderness)

Also Present:

Dave Jeffers (LRPC); Rebecca Steves (PSU volunteer)

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Dan Stack made a motion seconded by Jane Kellogg to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2013 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PSU River Monitoring Project (LoVoTECS):

Max introduced Errin Volitis, a research assistant on PSU's state-wide water monitoring project known as LoVoTECS, an acronym for **L**otic **V**olunteer **T**emperature, **E**lectrical **C**onductivity and **S**tage Sensing Network. The name arises from the three parameters they are monitoring: temperature, conductivity and water level. Funding for the project traces back to a National Science Foundation award. The project had its genesis in a pilot program done in conjunction with the Israel River group. The program now involves some 210 sensors located at approximately 100 sites throughout New Hampshire, including several on the Pemi. The sensors cost in the neighborhood of \$1,000 each, so great care is taken to assure their retention. Samples of these units were shown to the group.

LoVoTECS works with several regional partners who helped deploy the sensors and download the data they amass. Data from the sensors is downloaded to a "shuttle" unit which in turn passes it on to a computer. The sensors record data year-round, but the time between measurements is increased to 15 minutes in the winter to avoid exceeding the storage capacity of the sensors at a time when they are largely inaccessible for downloading. To date, over 8½ million data points have been recorded. This exceeds the capacity of Excel, so a program called "R" is used to analyse the results. Errin showed the group several graphs prepared from the data to illustrate the kind of analysis the data lends itself to. She said that the data has been most useful for education and research at several levels. To date the group has put out newsletters, hosted workshops and created a blog (lovotecs.blogspot.com). The next step in the project is to publish some of its conclusions in the appropriate journals.

At the end of her Power Point presentation, Errin answered a number of questions from the group, helping to clarify some earlier points. She showed pictures of actual installations while Rebecca Steves brought in a sample showing how the sensors could be anchored to a rock. Max and the group thanked Errin and Rebecca for a most informative presentation.

Stormwater Management in Pemi Watershed:

Max reminded everyone that we have identified runoff (and therefore stormwater management) as the most urgent issue facing PRLAC. While the new Management Plan makes a number of recommendations, we still have not decided which approaches are most likely to be successful. Dave Jeffers then filled us in on three projects that LRPC is currently working on regarding stormwater management. The first of these is a project involving the creation of model Site Plan provisions for the towns of Gilford, Meredith and Laconia. This involved adapting regulations from other communities as well as the state's model ordinance. The second project involves the creation of a bioretention area for water flowing into Paugus Bay, Laconia's water supply. The third project involves working with individual owners of shorefront property on Lake Waukewan to identify and ultimately mitigate runoff problems that are identified. It was pointed out that two of these projects involve the municipal water supply,

making them a higher priority for many people. The idea of adopting stormwater rules into site plan regulations was seen as having some potential for success. These can be passed by a town's planning board after a publicly noticed meeting, which is likely to be easier to accomplish than a new ordinance. Although one and two-unit residential structures are not subject to site plan review, these may not be the most significant contributors to increased runoff.

Mike O'Donnell pointed out that one useful approach might be to work through conservation commissions, which are likely to be aware of the threats to the river posed by runoff. Jane Kellogg suggested that we try to get towns to consider language supporting runoff controls into their master plans when they come up for revision. Dan Paradis suggested that we might need to look at the situation in each town separately and tailor our approach to the situation in that particular town. This might be accomplished by having members study their own towns and make appropriate recommendations.

Workshop:

Dave Jeffers invited members to attend a workshop on natural resources in the Lakes Region which LRPC is sponsoring on Friday, January 31. Jane Kellogg and Dan Paradis said they had signed up and planned to attend.

Adjournment:

Barry Draper made a motion seconded by Carl Lehner to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Paradis
Secretary