

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee  
August 27, 2013 at Pease Public Library  
Plymouth, New Hampshire

**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Max Stamp (Bristol); Dan Paradis (Bristol); Dan Stack (Ashland); Fred Gunter (Thornton); Barry Draper (New Hampton)

**Also Present:**

Dave Jeffers (LRPC)

**Call to Order:**

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

Dave Jeffers mentioned some errors he had been made aware of, including: Replace 'Pam' with 'Pat' in 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph under "Outreach Initiatives"; Replace "Michelle" with "Michele" in both paragraphs under "Outreach Initiatives"; Explain that that "Bug Nights" are one of a number of initiatives sponsored by UMLAC.

Dan Stack made a motion seconded by Fred Gunter to approve the minutes of May 28, 2013 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

**Update on Management Plan distribution/introduction to towns:**

Max asked the members present to report on what progress they had made since the last meeting in arranging for distribution of the new management plan to the towns. They reported as follows:

- Dan Paradis (Bristol): Dan made his presentation to the Bristol Planning Board on June 26. They were receptive to the emphasis on runoff being a major concern, but immediate action is unlikely because the Board is currently working on a new master plan. Dan has no doubt the Board will adopt the new Management Plan as part of the new Master Plan as they adopted the old Management Plan.
- Barry Draper (New Hampton): Barry has discussed the Management Plan with Town Administrator Barbara Lucas and it has been shared with the Planning Board. Barry has also discussed the plan with the Librarian at the Gordon Nash Library, and she would like a hard copy for the Library.
- Dan Stack (Ashland): Dan has passed the Management Plan along to Susan MacLeod, Chair of the Planning Board. He has not received any feedback from her.
- Fred Gunter (Thornton): As he reported in June, Fred has talked informally with the Planning Board (on which he serves as an alternate) and to Town Administrator Tammie Beaulieu. The main focus of the BOS is the controversial proposal to build a large campground for park model RV's so he is not expecting action any time soon.
- Max Stamp (Bridgewater): Max met with the Planning Board on July 16<sup>th</sup>. The Board felt that the current laws do not give them very much control over runoff. In a follow-up letter Max suggested they explore using the U.S. EPA's Construction General Permit, which applies to disturbances over 1 acre, as a possible approach. Max also pointed out that Plymouth representative Kelly has been absent for several months, so it may be necessary to make other arrangements so Plymouth is covered.

This led into a discussion of the possible effectiveness of the EPA regulations. Fred Gunter pointed out that planning boards generally require adherence to all applicable local, state and federal regulations, so if they are aware of the EPA rules, they would enforce them for site plans and subdivisions. However, individual building permit applications do not undergo planning board review, so an applicant could avoid application of the rules simply by checking a box on the application indicating less than an acre of disturbance.

At this point, Dave handed out a DES poster entitled "Got Permits?" which succinctly outlines when DES permits are required for Land Resources Management Projects. All present felt this was a useful tool for anyone involved in land use permitting and several members indicated they would share this with the appropriate people. Next, Dave passed out a blowup of a matrix of local land use regulations contained in the new Management Plan. This provoked some discussion regarding the wide range of approaches taken by the various towns and how much

attitudes differ from one town to the next depending on local conditions. It did suggest that local zoning ordinances are a useful tool if the planning boards take the initiative in proposing them. Finally, Dave handed out copies of a draft of some runoff control legislation which LRPC is working on for the towns of Meredith, Laconia and Gilford. The specifics of the proposal were not discussed, but Dave presented it as “fodder for discussion” at a later date. Dan Paradis pointed out the difficulty of getting such comprehensive ordinances passed, particularly when they may have a direct impact on the voter. After further discussion of the practical problems involved in trying to accomplish our goals through local legislation, Dan Paradis suggested the Committee take a step back and consider other approaches, specifically one directed more toward education. He cited the PRLAC flyer of a few years back and the improvements made at the Bristol’s Cummings Beach as examples of projects he thought had been effective.

#### **“Conservation Matters”**

Max reminded the group that we agreed to help with an initiative to submit a monthly column called “Conservation Matters” which the *Record Enterprise* has begun to publish. PRLAC has been asked to submit an article for November. Max asked for suggestions for topics and Dan Paradis thought something along the line of “Why Runoff Matters” might be appropriate for our first submission. The group discussed this briefly and agreed this would be fine.

#### **Other:**

Friends of Pemi Clean-up Day: Max reported that he had participated in this effort by the “Friends of the Pemi” group on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and he felt it was successful, with good participation and a lot of cleaning up accomplished.

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rivers Management and Protection Program: This event was held on August 14<sup>th</sup> in Plymouth and was attended by Governor Hassan, DES Administrator Barack, and many other notables. PRLAC members in attendance included Max Stamp, Fred Gunter and Dan Paradis. Max and Fred put on a demonstration of water sampling measures used by our VRAP group which was attended with apparent interest by the Governor. Dave shared some pictures of the event, some of which will be used in press releases by LRPC.

Conversation with Michele Tremblay: Max reported on a phone conversation he had with Michele Tremblay regarding the work of the Shoreland Advisory Committee, which is charged with reviewing the SWQPA. Michele indicated that there will continue to be one Shoreland Protection law but there may be some changes to elements governing rivers. Michele felt that these changes would benefit LAC’s in managing rivers. Max agreed PRLAC would support her position, however, he did ask that we receive more details, preferably in writing.

#### **Adjournment:**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Paradis  
Secretary