

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee

February 22, 2021 (7:00 PM)

Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID:

<https://zoom.us/j/86458109511>

Members Present: Bill Bolton (Plymouth), Judy Faran (Bridgewater), Max Stamp (Bristol), Barry Draper (New Hampton), Richard LaFlamme (Bristol), Lisa Doner (Plymouth), Katri Gurney (Thornton), Sheryl Howard (Campton), Janet Lucus (Campton), Suellen Skinner (Campton), Kathleen DeWolfe (Ashland)

Guests: David Jeffers (LRPB), Skip Medford (Central Rivers Power), Nic Miller (Field Geo Services), Tyson Morill (Department of Conservation), Gretchen Draper (cameo appearance), Patricia Schlesinger (New Hampton)

Call to order by B. Bolton at 7:01 PM.

1. Introductions of members and guests
2. Approval of minutes for January 26, 2021: Motion - S. Howard, seconded – M. Stamp. All who attended the January meeting approved.
3. Comments from the Chair
 - a. B. Bolton reported that he will request a letter or proclamation from the DES to celebrate the contributions of Michael O'Donnell.
 - b. Committee members who worked with Mike shared a few of his many contributions to PRLAC.
 - c. B. Bolton and M. Stamp will meet to discuss Mike's contributions further. PRLAC members should send additional comments to B. Bolton.
 - d. Bill will send the information collected to Tracie Sales (DES).
 - e. M. Stamp reported that a sympathy card was sent to Mike's family from PRLAC members.
4. B. Bolton reported having problems when copying information to everyone. To rectify this issue, he will share materials pertinent to members via a google drive document.
5. Skip Medford, representing Central River Power (CRP), owners of the Ayers Island Dam, and the land parcel containing the Mooney-Clark Boat Landing (MCBL) in Bristol, NH.
 - a. S. Medford was contacted and updated on the condition of the MCBL by M. Stamp.
 - b. Mr. Medford explained the confusion on who was responsible for the upkeep of the MCBL. In his research, he was under the impression that either Fish and Game or the Town of Bristol was responsible for upkeep.
 - c. Mr. Medford mentioned the Right to Public Water (RSA 271:20 State Water Jurisdiction). D. Jeffers explained that any body of water in NH over 10 acres has to have public access. The state identified access points and then turned maintenance and responsibility of these points back to the towns.

- d. CRP does not believe the maintenance of the MCBL is their responsibility, but they are ready to begin doing so for the time being. Their regional manager will consider what is needed and initiate.
 - i. CRP will address road and ramp conditions. The exposed rebar will be their priority. They will improve signage for parking and impede erosion and runoff of sediment into the Pemi.
 - ii. CRP will continue to research the ownership deed and other documents to verify ownership of the MCBL. S. Medford will keep in touch with PRLAC through M. Stamp.
 - iii. If the ownership were to stay with CRP, they would rather have the management go to Fish and Game or the town.
 - e. S. Medford also reported that he found 11, 5-gallon buckets of what he thinks is hydraulic fluid when he visited the MCBL on February 12th. CPR maintenance crew collected it for proper disposal. Dumped material (solid and liquid) is often found at the site. Members discussed ways to prevent dumping.
 - i. B. Draper reported that a sign was installed at another boat ramp, explaining that the ramp is private property and can be closed if the property is not cared for. Conditions improved after the sign was installed.
 - ii. L. Doner commented that the amount of waste dumped at MCBL was enough to initiate an inquiry from the town. The town could research nearby businesses that would use that quantity of fluid. If the public knew that the town was pursuing the perpetrator, the dumping might stop. M. Stamp will take a photo provided by S. Medford to the Town of Bristol.
6. Permit Applications
- a. Nic Miller, representing Glove Hollow Tree Farm (GHTF), described a new form of riverbank stabilization that GHTF wants to install on 455 feet of the Pemi (west bank).
 - i. Bioengineering style: Building log jams.
 1. Uses eastern hemlock trunks with roots still attached.
 2. Trunks are pounded deep into river sediment. Then additional trunks are laid perpendicular, with their roots extending toward the river. Backfilled with soil and a 35-foot wide, native shrub buffer will be planted.
 3. The goal is long-term bank stabilization.
 4. A softer approach when compared to rip-rap.
 5. 30-year minimum design life.
 6. From a habitat perspective – log jams provide habitat to fish and amphibians.
 7. The project will reduce the sediment and nutrient load that enters the river.
 8. If the project is funded, it will start July 15 and end October 1st. NRCS will plant buffer in fall or spring.
 - ii. N. Miller described the potential impact of the Project on the Pemi.
 1. Anticipates the channel will move out 15 ft.
 2. A scour pool will develop just upstream of the structure.
 3. A lot of the energy (of the river) would be expended at the leading edge of the structure. Creating an eddy.

4. The channel will narrow about 15 ft.
- iii. Members raised questions/concerns over the project:
 1. L. Doner questioned how the structure would affect the ice dynamics of the river in spring. That area of the Pemi is a common site of ice jams resulting in flooding in Plymouth. Would the structure make that problem worse?
 2. L. Doner questioned how the riverbank's change from a slope to a vertical face would affect the behavior of the river, especially downstream.
 3. J. Faran was concerned that a project to protect a private property could impact other properties downriver. She also was concerned that this project could set precedence other property owners will follow. She worries about the unnatural look of the riverbank if that was to occur.
 4. Members wondered who would be responsible if the trees ripped out of the bank. N. Miller explained the unlikeliness of that occurring because the trees are embedded into the riverbed (10ft), and the horizontal trees extend 20 ft. into the bank.
 5. N. Miller will keep in touch with the group and welcomes questions. His contact information will be with B. Bolton.
- iv. B. Bolton contacted DES about the log jam approach to riverbank stabilization. He confirmed that DES prefers this technique over others.
- v. D. Jeffers and L. Doner reported that Jon Field owns the company Nic Miller works for. Jon Field has a very good reputation.
- b. Permit application for the underground tank in Franklin(?)
 - i. Neil McIver and Myrtle Lewis were not able to visit the site last month.
 - ii. B. Bolton checked with Chad Hayes, who is responsible for taking the tank out, and Tracie Sales (DES). T. Sales wanted members from PRLAC to check out the site to make sure the Pemi shoreline was not affected.
 - iii. B. Bolton, M. Stamp, S. Howard, J. Lucus will visit the site on Thursday.
7. Permit application for a private home in Thornton on Remington Road.
 - a. The house would be very close to the river (8ft).
 - b. They are meeting the setback.
 - c. K. Gurney reported that she had visited the site (for the Town of Thornton) about erosion control but did not know they were planning to build a house there.
 - d. The slope is about 20ft.
 - e. B. Bolton, S. Howard, J. Lucus will visit the site.
8. B. Bolton introduced Tyson Morill, who is interested in becoming a member of PRLAC.
9. B. Draper reported that EverSource is replacing wooden poles with metal poles from Franklin to New Hampton. PRLAC should keep attuned to their progress.

Motion to adjourn 9:06 - S. Skinner, seconded - S. Howard – All approved.