

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
March 2, 2015 at Pease Public Library
Plymouth, New Hampshire

Minutes

Members Present:

Max Stamp (Bristol); Dan Paradis (Bristol); Barry Draper (New Hampton); Mike O'Donnell (Holderness); Dan Stack (Ashland)

Also Present:

Dave Jeffers (LRPC); Ashley Hyde (PSU); Kendall Perkins (Riparian Landowner)

Call to Order:

Chairman Max Stamp called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Approval of the minutes was deferred until later in the meeting to better accommodate our guest speaker.

PSU LoVoTECS River Monitoring Program:

Max introduced our guest speaker, Ashley Hyde from PSU's Center for the Environment. The purpose of her talk was to provide an update on the LoVoTECS program which had been introduced to PRLAC by Errin Volitis at our January 24, 2014 meeting. LoVoTECS is an acronym for **L**otic **V**olunteer **T**emperature, **E**lectrical **C**onductivity and **S**tage sensing network. Ashley explained that the program involves the use of data loggers to record data on temperature, conductivity and water level at approximately 120 sites, most of which are in New Hampshire. There are four sites on the main stem of the Pemi and six on its tributaries. There are also two sites located in storm drains. Several months' worth of data can be stored on the data loggers for eventual retrieval. In addition, "snapshot" sampling of another six measures of water quality takes place three times during the summer.

Ashley presented several tables and graphs summarizing key results of the study. The data show that the parameters being measured are well within the EPA's drinking water standards for the four sites on the Pemi. The storm drain readings, however, give readings outside the EPA standards. As would be expected, conductivity in the storm drains spikes during winter storm events due to the application of road salt. Although counterintuitive, readings taken during the summer show a similar and even more pronounced effect. Ashley said she would make her Powerpoint presentation available to PRLAC members. She also offered to help anyone seeking to review the data available on the web. (The LoVoTECS home page is at lovotecs.sr.unh.edu.) Max thanked Ashley for bringing us up to date on the LoVoTECS program.

Kendall Perkins Introduction:

Kendall Perkins was introduced as the owner of a parcel of land on the west bank of the Pemi in Bridgewater and was asked to tell us about his background. He attended PSU and did an internship at DES, where he has now served a total of 23 years. He is currently involved in the state's air quality monitoring program as an administrator in the Air Resources Division. Although he resides in Loudon, he is very interested in PRLAC's activities.

Approval of Minutes:

After Max summarized the highlights of our last meeting, Dan Paradis made a motion seconded by Barry Draper to approve the minutes of September 30, 2014 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Revised Permit Application Requirements:

Max explained that in November of 2014 he had attended a DES workshop dealing with permit review requirements. The main types of applications that require our input deal with shoreland impacts, alteration of terrain and wetlands. DES has concluded that the LACs are subject to the right-to-know law and therefore come under the strictures of RSA 91-A. This requires that decisions regarding LAC recommendations must be made at properly noticed "public meetings" with a quorum present. Use of email or conference calls does not satisfy the requirements. Fulfilling these requirements is a real challenge, particularly when comments are required within 25 days. Dave Jeffers said LRPC might be able to give some limited support with such things as meeting notification, but this only addresses part of the problem. Mike O'Donnell and others made the point that since we can only make

recommendations, not impose requirements, the dictates of the RSA seem overly stringent. Dan Stack questioned the validity of the legal opinion on which these new procedures are based. Some relief might come from legislation being proposed (HB-447), but this bill does not address all of the problems. Dan Paradis thought we might come up with a more complete proposal for legislative action.

Max explained that he had tried to work out a "standard operating procedure" that would satisfy the requirements as they now stand. This was not provided in writing, but Max read what he had prepared. The procedure would spread the work out among the membership and satisfy the new requirements, but struck many as being overly onerous. However, no better suggestions were forthcoming. A copy of the UMLAC permit application review guidance was handed out but time did not allow for any detailed review of their procedures.

Review of Priorities/Goals for 2015:

Max had sent out an email some time ago asking members to list their priorities for 2015 and he sent out the results based on four replies. The group agreed that the first three items listed (water quality testing, DES permit application review, and improving local stormwater regulations) are all high priority. Dan Paradis suggested that the best path to getting better stormwater regulations implemented in the various towns might be to work through the conservation commissions. The other potential areas for action were discussed briefly and were seen as desirable, but perhaps not as high a priority as the first three.

Update on Livermore Falls State Park:

In Jane Kellogg's absence, Max reported on the Livermore Falls project. He said that all of the development is taking place on the eastern bank of the river. Picnic tables and fireplaces are in place and effort is now going into increasing the parking. Due to objections from local residents the original plans to create 50-60 spaces are being scaled down. Max said he was impressed with the progress that's been made in a short time.

Adjournment:

Dan Stack made a motion seconded by Barry draper to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Paradis
Acting Secretary