

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
April 30, 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)

Call to Order:

The call to order was delayed a few minutes in anticipation of the arrival of new members (one from Plymouth and two from New Hampton). When it became apparent they were not coming, Chairman Max Stamp called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

Dan Stack made a motion seconded by Mike O'Donnell to approve the minutes of March 2, 2015 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PRLAC Water Testing Schedule:

Max asked if any of those involved in water testing under the VRAP program had any conflicts with the proposed schedule through June. Once he has heard from everyone involved, Max will make specific assignments to members of the North and South teams. Dan Stack and Carl Lehner will be attending the DES training session in Concord on May 2, adding to the resources of the North team.

There was some discussion of the problems we've experienced with the turbidity meter. Replacing the meter would cost about \$800, even if purchased through DES. Fortunately DES has provided us with a new loaner for this season. The members agreed that use of this meter would be the best solution to the problem for as long as DES extends the loan.

PRLAC Authority and Procedures on Permit Applications:

Max explained what happened when PRLAC received notification from Clark's Trading Post in Lincoln of their plan to erect a "water coaster" in close proximity to the Pemi. After Max, Fred Gunter and Dan Stack had visited the site, Max prepared a preliminary report which was sent to DES. He also scheduled a duly noticed public meeting to seek PRLAC's endorsement of the report. DES rejected the report on the basis that the section of the Pemi through Lincoln is not a designated river, so PRLAC cannot be involved. This conflicts with the understanding Max had that any project involving a fourth order or higher stream is subject to LAC review. The question then came up as to whether the new procedures involving the need for a fully noticed public hearing are workable for our group. The consensus was that if enough time is available so that the public hearing coincides with our regular monthly meeting, the new requirements can be made to work. Otherwise, this is not practical for a small volunteer group like ours.

PRLAC Finances:

A February, 2015 report from LRPC indicates that all of the participating towns are current in their contributions. However, PRLAC still owes LRPC approximately \$1,000. The requests for contributions for 2015 went out in April and should return approximately \$2,000, leaving only \$1,000 for LRPC support in 2015. There was some discussion of how the budget could be brought into balance. The possibility of trying to raise some additional funds was discussed, but seemed to elicit little enthusiasm. It was agreed that one way to reduce expenses would be to ask for Dave Jeffers' attendance at our meetings only when it is absolutely necessary.

Stormwater Strategy 2015:

The starting point for this ongoing discussion was a handout Max prepared which included the conclusions of the 2010 Stormwater Commission's report which had recommended a "stormwater utility" responsible for stormwater management. This was supplemented with some other observations which Max thought might make people more aware of the problem and some of the LoVoTECS data summaries. One of Max's additions was that there has been a 74% increase in 2" rain events in NH since 2012. The group questioned whether data from such a

short time period could be considered a long-term trend as opposed to normal variability and agreed more research is needed to determine the source of this. The LoVoTECS data showing extremely high conductivity (and therefore pollution) in a Plymouth storm drain which feeds directly into the river was discussed. This brought up the question of how much dilution occurs and how quickly it occurs. The group agreed with Dan Stack's suggestion that more data points in closer proximity would be needed to get the answers to these questions. In any case, there seemed to be little our group could do about a problem caused primarily by road salt and the discussion turned back to influencing town land use ordinances. Dan Paradis pointed out once again his belief that the most effective approach to limiting new sources of runoff would be through local subdivision and site plan regulations, but he was unable to say how effective the existing regulations are. Time did not permit a discussion of the strategy which might be pursued to evaluate the existing town regulations and to effect desirable changes in them.

Adjournment:

Mike O'Donnell made a motion seconded by Barry Draper to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Paradis
Acting Secretary