

**Approved Minutes Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
May 31, 2022 Meeting
Pease Public Library Plymouth, NH**

Members Present:

Ashland: Kathleen DeWolfe

Bridgewater: Judy Faran

Campton: Suellen Skinner, Sherrill Howard

Holderness: Carl Lehner

New Hampton: Barry Draper, Russ Brummer

Plymouth: Bill Bolton, Lisa Doner

Thornton: Katri Gurney

At Large: Tyson Morrill

LRPC:

Guests Present: None

1. Quorum established and meeting called to order by Judy Faran at 6:30 PM.
2. Approval of minutes from our April 26th, 2022 meeting with minor edits and inclusion of Max's statements regarding Eversource. **Suellen moved, Katri seconded, unanimous approval.**
3. Brief discussion by Chair Faran on the recent loss of a long-term member and Secretary of PRLAC, Dan Paradis. Dan was a High School Science and Physics teacher at New Hampton School, 30 years on Bristol Planning Board and winner of the 2014 Kim Ayers award presented by Lakes Region Planning Commission. Dan had much understanding of the environment, as affirmed by Pat Schlessinger. Barry noted that Dan was a great guy and a lot of fun to be with!
4. Tracy Sales reported that the Management Plan update moneys were approved by Governor and Council. More detailed discussion will be done at our June meeting, with a focus on breaking the award down into segments that would make it more feasible, and who would provide the data that we will need. It was agreed that not much would need to be changed to satisfy the update, and we would evaluate how best to use the moneys in our budget to seek and obtain the data we need. At our next meeting in June, we will start planning what we are going to do with the Plan Update.
5. NH DES is accepting Culvert Flood Risk Assistance Grant applications for the replacement of outdated, undersized, perched and/or degraded culverts that are highly susceptible to flooding. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to encourage the replacement of high-risk culverts with better designed crossings that meet improved structural and environmental design standards and flood resiliency criteria. Total available funding is \$1 million, with a limit of \$400K per project. July 1 deadline to apply.
6. Membership: Bill has recruited 3 new members from Lincoln. The 3 members were all of the members of the Lincoln Selectboard, OJ Robinson, Tamra Ham and Jack Daly. Katri also had a conversation with Jim Chesebrough of the Woodstock Conservation Commission to seek Woodstock joining PRLAC as well. Since 1991, the entire Pemi, with the exception of the 10 mile

section through Lincoln and Woodstock has been designated as protected under the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. Should Woodstock decide to join PRLAC, the new members from both towns would be allowed to participate and be voting members of our meetings, and PRLAC would seek that the two towns also seek protection under the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. Discussion followed regarding the need to look beyond the towns in the designated section of the Pemi, because the entire Pemi watershed should be of concern.

7. PRLAC has a new LRPC staff member assigned to us, and his name is Matt Rose. Dave Jeffers is still working with us, but Matt will take over the responsibilities that Paige Wilson was doing prior to her leaving for a position with DES. Matt may also be valuable in targeting grant opportunities but this is “To Be Determined”.
8. Barry Draper updated us on the 11 containers of leaking deicer chemicals that were stored on the Eversource pads that were laid down to protect wetlands during their work to replace utility poles. Barry sent an email to Sarah from Eversource, and she responded that the chemicals were non-toxic for human beings, but any amphibians would not be so lucky due to the high solution of salt in the deicer. Barry also expressed his concern of the destructive practice of parking Eversource trucks on the pads. Sarah said that utility trucks were parked on the pads during town mandated spring road closures. Unfortunately, this practice would compress the fragile environments beneath the pads. Sarah indicated that they should put the trucks someplace else. Barry indicated that they should update Eversource Best Management Practices (BMPs) to not store things like this in the wetlands. Unfortunately, Eversource contractors may not adhere to BMPs as Eversource staff might adhere to them.
9. Valley Brook project: Katri has been keeping her eye on the Thornton Planning Board, and there has not been any item on the Planning Board agenda yet, although some sort of construction project is going on at the site. Katri spoke with the Town Planner and he described the project so far as an update to underground services, with a future desire to buildout a residential development. The amount of current excavation doesn't support this, as it appears that the project is in excess of just underground service improvements. Katri will monitor PB minutes. Tyson brought up an excavation project going on at Hubbard Brook and Route 3, and suggested someone might be able to take a look at this due to this project's possible effects on Hubbard Brook.
10. Permits
 - a. Max and Barry took a look at 40 Beech Street, Bristol project (NHDES 2022-01218), but nobody was at the property when they visited. PRLAC will provide a general recommendation to stay within the existing footprint of the site where a building was burned to the ground as well as ask for a vegetative buffer/waterfront buffer plantings to be provided between the house and the river. Barry and Max will communicate this with the owner. Some discussion was initiated on provision of vegetative buffers and then the desire to provide follow-up inspections.
 - b. Bill received an update regarding the application for testing the capped New Hampton landfill. Judy will look into it further and get back to Barry and Max.
 - c. Irving Oil Station in Holderness – dispenser sump replacement: Lisa, Barry and Larry Spencer (Holderness Conservation Commission) met with Huseyin Sevincgil, the

engineer for the project to replace the sump and recreate the concrete apron that will redirect waste fuel off the pad into the sump. They were also going to upgrade the shut-off valve system and take out a pump from an island. Huge upgrade that will result in a betterment of the site. Huseyin was not aware of the frequency of the flooding of that site, but the proposed infrastructure improvements would only help. Barry noted that the site reviewers went on a follow-up walk behind the station to look at the Spectacular peninsula behind the Irving Station.

- d. Update on the Woodman Brook project owned by John Martin in Bridgewater. Good project to create habitat for invertebrates and fish and slow the current down as it enters the Pemi.
 - e. South Lake Road, Thornton AOT project for Owl's Nest: 48, 3-4 bedroom units, 820,000 square foot impact, with septic systems, wells and much impervious roadways. Some discussion relating to the escalating nature of previous Owl's Nest projects brought to PRLAC, and a description from an Owl's Nest representative that only 25% of the overall projected buildout is complete. DES has not yet shared a project review time for PRLAC to respond. Once we have this, Sherrill and Katri will coordinate a site visit to include Thornton's Conservation Commission members and PRLAC members.
11. Finance: Judy heard back from Paige, and we had \$449.04 as of December 18th left to spend. We receive \$2,700 from our Towns, and we expend most of this on our Principal Planner that is assigned to PRLAC by LRPC, as well as some financial management on our budget. Some discussion on what we can do internally by managing our own finances, and then reach out to LRPC as needed. Some thought about what we might do with any savings if we limit LRPC's involvement with either our meetings and/or our budget tracking and check receipt. Judy will seek to have a discussion with the Director of LRPC to determine the best use of LRPC's time; especially with an impending update to the Pemi River Management Plan. Additionally, Judy will set up a meeting with Matt to find out how we will work together.
12. **Sherrill moved to adjourn, Kathleen seconded. No discussion, and all in favor at 8:30.**

For meeting minutes, agenda, and information visit the PRLAC website at
<http://www.lakesrpc.org/prlac/prlacindex.asp>