

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee

August 25, 2020 (7:00 PM)

Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID:

<https://zoom.us/j/81281677907>

Members Present: Barry Draper (New Hampton), Bill Bolton (Plymouth), Russ Brummer (New Hampton), Max Stamp (Bristol), Judy Farin (Bridgewater), Carl Lehner (Holderness), Kathleen DeWolfe (Ashland), Myrtle Lewis (Thorton), Lisa Doner (Plymouth), Richard LaFlamme (Bristol)

Guests: David Jeffers (LRPC), Katri Gurney (Thorton Conversation Commission), David Katz (LRPC New Hampton)

Meeting called to order by B. Bolton at 7:03 PM.

Approval of July 27, 2020 minutes as amended: Motion to approve by J. Farin , seconded by C. Lehner, all approved.

1. B. Bolton reported there were no new permit applications since our last meeting.
2. M. Lewis updated the committee on the Falconi Project on Depot Road, Thornton. John Roberge attended the Thorton Conservation Commission (TCC) meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup> to present the final project drawings. TCC reviewed the wetland permit application. M. Lewis confirmed with Craig Rennie (NHDES Wetland Bureau) that TCC did not need to sign the standard dredge and fill application. The TCC approved the application via email to NHDES.
3. M. Stamp reported that the VRAP north team completed their water testing this morning, and the south team will collect tomorrow morning. The last testing for 2020 will be September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - a. M. Stamp questioned the support NHDES has provided VRAP this year. The only lab testing they provided was for chloride. M. Stamp hopes that support will be reestablished next year. There is a workshop (webinar) coming up in October when PRLAC could inquire about next year's testing and support.
  - b. The committee discussed the reasoning behind the lack of support from NHDES. COVID-19 resulted in hiring freezes, no interns, and closed labs this year, other public health labs in Concord reopened and operated as essential. Members were concerned that more people were using the water this summer due to Covid-19, but there was no one monitoring the water quality.
4. Lisa Doner: Baker River water testing and update on ability to test water parameters such as coliforms locally.
  - a. L. Doner reported the problems concerning the Baker River Water Association's (BRWA) getting lab testing done at NHDES. Transporting samples to Concord within

NHDES timeframe was difficult for BRWA. BRWA bought their own water testing equipment to analyze E. Coli. The company they purchased from was IDEXX. Process of using equipment is easy and does not require a sterile room. BRWA can now do twice as many samples as they did prior and collect samples on their convenience and at times the data would be more significant (i.e. flood events). Initial cost were high (BRWA was able to purchase used equipment), but each testing is much less expensive than having it done at NHDES.

- b. L. Doner explained BRWA's goal was not to provide data to NHDES but to present town's along the Baker River quick feedback on the quality of the water. Wentworth used BRWA data to discover RV septic being dumped into the river. Datum that is contested by towns was resampled and sent to NHDES for confirmation.
5. D Jeffers reported on 2019 PRLAC budget. Expenses were greater than money contributed by PRLAC towns. LRPC contributed the difference of \$1700.00. New fiscal year 2020 started July 1<sup>st</sup>. LRPC has received payment from PRLAC towns.
6. D. Jeffer's update on PRLAC membership. While membership has increased over the past five years, each community can have up to three members. He referred to action point in the River Corridor Management Plan (RCMP) to increase awareness of the history, natural history, and conservation efforts concerning the Pemi. In the past, members have written periodical articles about the river in local papers. The goal is to capture people's attention and raise awareness about the Pemi.
7. D. Jeffers made members aware of the upcoming River Corridor Management Plan update.
  - a. The current plan is a 2013 document and should be updated every ten years. New RCMP plans should address aquatic conductivity, fluvial geomorphology (where flooding and erosion are occurring), and state owned lands (where are they where is their potential for additional protection).
  - b. D. Jeffers requested that PRLAC consider the goals and objectives of the new plan, including: scope (corridor, corridor and some tributaries, or entire watershed), guidelines of water quality, and funding. The ideal is, as communities update town master plans, they may adopt elements for the RCMP into their master plan. An example of a town doing so is Bristol.
  - c. D. Jeffers gave options on how PRLAC would fund the plan. He mentioned the 604 B plan which would require the plan to focus on water quality, impairments, and stormwater. A letter of intent would have to be submitted by Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. We have the letter from last year that can be modified and submitted. In October, the state chooses selected applicants who then need to submit a formal application in early December. If excepted, we would be able to start the project in May with 12 months to complete. D. Jeffers feels that PRLAC has a good chance of receiving 604 B funds this year for a modest update of the RCMP.
  - d. Committee members discussed how we should determine the scope and funding of the project. J. Doner motioned to appoint B. Bolton as our signatory of the letter of intent for the proposal for the Pemi River Corridor Management Plan, R. LaFlamme

seconded, all member approved. D. Jeffers will update the letter of intent and send a copy to PRLAC members.

8. B. Bolton informed the committee that NH Rivers & Lakes Management and Protection Program is holding a webinar on October 5<sup>th</sup>. He hopes members can attend.

Adjourned 8:28, Motion: R. LaFlamme, L. Doner seconded, all approved