

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
February 26, 2013 at Boyd Hall
Plymouth, New Hampshire

Minutes

Members Present:

Max Stamp (Bristol); Dan Paradis (Bristol); Barry Draper (New Hampton); Mike O'Donnell (Holderness); Jane Kellogg (Campton); Carl Lehner (Holderness)

Also Present:

Dave Jeffers (LRPC); Tara Bamford (North Country Council)

Call to Order:

Chairman Max Stamp called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

Jane Kellogg made a motion seconded by Barry Draper to approve the minutes of November 27, 2012. The motion carried unanimously. The Secretary explained that there no minutes for the two public input workshops on the new management plan held in January and February as there was no agenda for those meetings and they were not considered to be regular PRLAC meetings.

Status of Corridor Management Plan Project:

Dave Jeffers reported that the Governor and Council have approved an extension for the completion of work supported by the DES grant to April 31, 2013. This means that PRLAC must adopt the new management plan at the March 26 meeting.

Management Plan:

The rest of the meeting was facilitated by Dave Jeffers, who sought input on the latest iteration of the Management Plan. Dave had mailed out copies of the latest draft to PRLAC members prior to this meeting and had asked members to review it and to be prepared to comment on it. He had also e-mailed a matrix of local regulations and provided hard copies. After a few minor changes were suggested, Tara Bamford pointed out that this type of minor correction could easily be handled by e-mail and that our time could be used more profitably dealing with issues that needed the group's input.

Mike O'Donnell suggested that we might want to recommend that the definition of a "100-year flood" be changed to reflect apparent changes in the climate. Either the maps could be redrawn raising the level for such an event or the current levels could be referred to as something like a "7-year flood" levels. Since these maps are prepared by FEMA, this type of change is unlikely to happen in the near future. Tara Bamford pointed out that the "Floodplain Ordinance Adopted?" column on the matrix is misleading. Every town shows a "Yes" to that question, but in general this simply means they have adopted the minimum standards required so residents can obtain federal flood insurance. Dave Jeffers said he would clarify this in the final draft. He asked if the matrix should be in the body of the plan or in the appendix, and the consensus was that it should be in the body.

Carl Lehner and Tara Bamford suggested that Section VI (Present and Anticipated Problems) might be eliminated as the problems are all repeated, or at least summarized, in the "Recommendations" section. There was general agreement that this made sense but later in the meeting Dan Paradis pointed out that this would mean losing the "Background" section on which much effort had been spent. He was assured this would be retained. Carl Lehner suggested that the recommendations be identified by numbers and letters rather than just bullet points, and this was agreed to. Max suggested using italics for the "concerns" that triggered the recommendations to make them stand out from the related text in the combined section and the group thought this was a good idea.

There was some discussion as to whether the plan recommendations should be limited in some way, either by including only those on which PRLAC could act directly or by including only those judged most important. In the end, it was decided to include virtually all of the recommendations. Dan Paradis pointed out that when the original plan was drafted, some effort went into identifying exactly who should be taking each of the recommended

actions. Dave Jeffers said he would try to include this sort of information in the final draft.

At this point, Dave suggested that we go through all of the recommendations one at a time for comment. A large number of changes were suggested, mainly to improve clarity or to eliminate redundancy. Dave took extensive notes on the suggestions and will incorporate them into the text. Some time was also spent going over the resource maps and the tables in the Appendix. The maps are clearer now than the original drafts and basically met with approval. Several members pointed out errors or omissions they had noticed in the appendix tables and these were duly noted. As an example, Carl Lehner pointed out that the water use figures in Appendix E appear to be off by several orders of magnitude. Dave will go back to the source of this material and make the necessary corrections.

As the meeting came to a close, Dave reminded members to send in any minor suggestions they had not had a chance to make. He will work on a final draft, which will be posted on the PRLAC website.

Other:

Because of the lateness of the hour, these agenda items were passed over.

Adjournment:

Carl Lehner made a motion seconded by Jane Kellogg to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Paradis
Secretary