

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
February 28, 2012 at Boyd Hall
Plymouth, New Hampshire

Minutes

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Dave Jeffers (LRPC); Gretchen Draper

Call to Order:

Chairman Max Stamp called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

John Kelly made a motion seconded by Jane Kellogg to approve the minutes of January 31, 2012. The motion carried unanimously.

Upcoming Workshops and Conference:

Max reminded members of the Local Advisory Committee Workshop sponsored by DES on Saturday, March 10, 2012. He said the agenda has not yet been set, but attendance is limited to 125. It's expected that recent changes to shoreland regulations will be discussed as well as the possibility of creating separate standards for lakes, rivers and coastal areas. Five members have signed up or plan to do so. Max will try to set up a car pooling arrangement.

Max also encouraged members to attend the NH Water & Watershed Conference to be held at PSU on Friday, March 23, 2012 and listed the topics of the various sections. Registrations can be made on line and the cost is \$35.

Dave Jeffers went over some of the topics to be discussed at the Groundwater Protection Workshop at the Grappone Conference center in Concord on May 2, 2012.

Legislation:

It was announced that HB 1222-FN, which would have drastically reduced development fees along public waters has been deemed "Inexpedient to Legislate" by the Ways and Means Committee, so is effectively dead for this session of the Legislature. One change that is being implemented is the adoption by DES of new forms which combine applications for several activities requiring a permit on a single form. The new forms are being sent to towns. No permit applications for land development projects will be accepted on the old forms after April 1, 2012. The intent is to streamline the permitting process.

Northern Pass Resolution:

A good deal of time was spent discussing the draft resolution originally prepared by Barry Draper and modified by Max Stamp to reflect suggestions made at the January meeting. Max had suggested adding a note to the first paragraph explaining that Lincoln and Woodstock were not included when RSA283 was adopted in 1988. Jane Kellogg suggested it might be better to include this in a note at the end of the resolution, and there was general agreement on this. It was also agreed that the reference in the first paragraph to the conjunction with the Winnepesaukee River to form the Merrimac was extraneous and could be omitted. It was decided to include all of the towns in the river corridor in the first paragraph as this is simply a statement of fact which does not necessarily imply approval of what follows. Dan Paradis pointed out that Bristol had been omitted and should be included.

There was a good deal of discussion regarding how to handle the city of Franklin which has expressed a lack of support for the resolution. The consensus was that this could be handled in a note to the effect that "The city of Franklin does not support this resolution." John Kelly objected to the statement in the fourth paragraph that the project *would* adversely impact wildlife habitat etc. as he feels the impacts are not predictable. After some discussion it was agreed to modify this to say the project *could* adversely affect wildlife habitat. It was also agreed that the word "criss-crosses" in the paragraph 5 revision should be replaced by "crosses".

At this point, Barry Draper displayed a poster consisting of photos he took on an aerial survey of the proposed

route of the power line and a map of the route. Barry feels the aerial view is instructive, but does not really capture the visible impacts that would be seen from the ground.

The distribution list for the resolution, originally included in the last paragraph, was also discussed. It was agreed that a wide distribution is desirable, but there is no need to include that list in the document itself. Barry Draper agreed to come up with a “final” version of the resolution based on the input received at the meeting. Finally, Dave Jeffers said he had spoken with Jacquie Colburn at DES and that she reminded him that RSA 483:8-a, III(a) requires towns to inform advisory committees such as PRLAC of regulatory actions under consideration in the river corridors. She feels the advisory committees should maintain close contact with selectboards and planning boards to assure the communication envisioned by the statute.

Management Plan (Resources Section):

Dave Jeffers explained that the Resources section in the current plan consists of sixteen sections, each describing a specific resource. The descriptions range from one to four paragraphs in length, making for a very succinct summary of each resource. At this point, Barry Draper handed out an outline which organizes the resources into four groups: Natural Resource, Human Resource, Economic Resource and Historical/Educational Resource. An objection that this didn’t balance protection with use of the resource was resolved when Barry pointed out that this is intended to show the resources that exist, not the potential use or protection of the river corridor.

Dave then passed out a four-page matrix showing where information could be found for a number of possible resources as well as a key showing how thoroughly they had been addressed in the 2001 plan and their 2011 status. He also displayed a computerized map of the Pemi watershed in PDF format which allows the user to include or strip away various layers of data and to focus in on any area of interest. Next, he displayed a map from NH Fish & Game’s Wildlife Action Plan which ranks the land in terms of the quality of wildlife habitat it provides. John Kelly said he would be interested in a map showing the buildable land that remains after steep slopes and wetlands have been accounted for. Mike O’Donnell pointed out that such “buildout plans” have been misused by developers in the past, and asked that Holderness be left out if any such maps were to be prepared. Dave Jeffers said he was working with the webmaster at LRPC to get the first map he showed us up on the PRLAC website.

At this point, Dave said he was hoping individual members would volunteer to work on one or two specific types of resources. Max suggested that a meeting of a subcommittee working on the resource section might be useful. Jane Kellogg suggested we might narrow the focus by identifying those areas which Dave had flagged as “not addressed” in 2001 in his matrix. This narrowed the list of resources to eight, but members still seemed reluctant to make a commitment to do the necessary research and writing in those areas. Dave asked members to reflect on what had been presented at this meeting and to contact him if they had suggestions or could help with some of the resources. Dan Paradis suggested that whereas the 2001 plan was kept relatively simple, the impression that a more encyclopedic approach is being contemplated for the new plan was daunting to him and possibly to others on the committee.

Adjournment:

Jane Kellogg made a motion seconded by Carl Lehner to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Paradis
Secretary