

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee  
April 24, 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); Barry Draper (New Hampton); Fred Gunter (Thornton); Paul Branscombe (Ashland); Dan Stack (Ashland-pending appointment)

**Also Present:**

Dave Jeffers (LRPC); Lisa Morin (Coordinator, Belknap County Conservation District)

**Call to Order:**

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

Carl Lehner made a motion seconded by Barry Draper to approve the minutes of February, 2012. The motion carried unanimously.

**Presentation by Lisa Morin:**

Max introduced Lisa Morin, Coordinator for the Belknap County Conservation District. She described some of the functions of the Conservation District including public outreach. She also informed us that there is an association of conservation districts which has a state-wide focus. Her presentation to PRLAC is prompted by a USDA report (*Private Forests, Public Benefits*) which includes three NH rivers among the top five rivers nationwide which are likely to experience the greatest change in water quality as a result of increases in housing density on private forestlands. The Merrimack, which is really an extension of the Pemi, is ranked fourth on that list. In response to this report, the NH Association of Conservation Districts is sponsoring workshops to provide outreach to landowners, environmental professionals, municipal officials and others. The Upper Merrimack workshop will be held at Jellystone Park in New Hampton from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on June 21<sup>st</sup>. A panel discussion will be moderated by Dave Jeffers, and PRLAC's role could be to participate on this panel. Barry Draper said he would be glad to help if he is free on that date. Some discussion about publicizing the event was prompted by a question from Jane Kellogg.

**Northern Pass Resolution:**

Dave Jeffers explained that the reason this is on the agenda again is that the final vote should take place at a public meeting rather than by e-mail, which brings up some questions under the right-to-know statutes. The only revision needed at this point is to correct the reference to Franklin as a city rather than a town. It had been agreed upon earlier that the Chairman would sign for the group along with a statement of group support. Three options for this statement were suggested on the agenda and after several members expressed support for the one reading "Approved by PRLAC 4/24/12", Barry Draper made a motion seconded by Paul Branscombe to adopt that language. The motion passed unanimously. Dan Stack pointed out the need for a distribution list to be included, and after some discussion it was agreed that such a list will be included in a cover letter which would accompany the resolution. After Dan Paradis pointed out that we still hadn't taken a formal vote on the final form of the resolution itself, Fred Gunter made a motion seconded by Paul Branscombe to approve the resolution as presented with the change of the word "town" to "city" in reference to Franklin. The motion passed unanimously.

**Workshop and Conference Reports:**

Max asked Dan to report on the Local Advisory Committee Workshop held at DES in March. He said he thought the presentation on the changes to the CSPA (Now SWQPA) was particularly useful in understanding the changes and how they came about. He also mentioned that the LAC handbook which was given to all participants provided a nice summary of DES policies and procedures as they apply to LAC's. Max added that he had found the discussion of the short time period now allowed for DES to respond to applications and its effect on allowing time for comments from LAC's to be quite useful.

Carl Lehner, Barry Draper and Max reported on the Watershed Conference held at PSU in late March. Some of the highlights included:

- a report on a pilot project on the Lamprey River to enlighten septic system owners of use and maintenance issues in a non-threatening way.
- a report on a probably carcinogenic substance (1,4-Dioxane) which is unexpectedly being detected in groundwater and drinking water supplies. This chemical is used in such common products as shampoo and is described as a “solvent stabilizer”.
- information regarding the newly formed NH Water Sustainability Commission.
- a review of the effects of Tropical Storm Irene, particularly with regard to the huge increase in phosphate loading equivalent to 1/3 of a year’s worth in a single storm.
- information on the expanding interest in Low Impact Development (LID) methods to reduce runoff effects.
- discussion of a method of artificial groundwater recharge during wet seasons to provide for dry seasons.

**Management Plan:**

Dave Jeffers reported that feedback from his presentation at the last meeting suggested his original approach may have been more comprehensive than necessary and included too much detail. Using a “cut and paste” approach, he has taken material from our original management plan and some others and prepared a ten-page document which suggests questions that need to be answered or updates which need to be made. Although the focus of this document is mainly on the “Resources” section of the plan, it contains some material which might better be considered as “potential problems” or elsewhere in the plan. Working through the entire document, Dave asked members to help answer some of the questions if they could or to volunteer to do some research where necessary. He noted the responses and thanked the members for their help.

**Other:**

Max reported that the water testing schedule has been distributed to those involved. Because most our VRAP participants have been involved for several years, the group has been excused from the DES training session in May. Max also reported that four permit applications have been received for review, none involving riverfront property.

**Adjournment:**

Jane Kellogg made a motion seconded by Fred Gunter to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Paradis  
Secretary

These minutes are DRAFT pending approval by the PRLAC representatives.