

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
September 25, 2012 at Pease Public Library
Plymouth, New Hampshire

Minutes

Members Present:

Max Stamp (Bristol); Dan Paradis (Bristol); Fred Gunter (Thornton); Barry Draper (New Hampton); Jane Kellogg (Campton)

Also Present:

Dave Jeffers (LRPC)

Call to Order:

Chairman Max Stamp called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

Jane Kellogg made a motion seconded by Fred Gunter to approve the minutes of July 31, 2012 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

2013 Funding:

Max reported that the 2013 funding letters were going out, asking for an increase in each town's annual contribution from \$200 to \$250. He attributed the request for increased funding to consistent deficits in the LRPC account, the need for more E. coli testing, potential meter repair or replacement and the need to support more outreach and education efforts. Committee members were in agreement with the need for increased funding but were unsure how the towns would respond. Barry Draper felt that New Hampton, which includes our funding in the Conservation Commission budget, would probably not object. Jane Kellogg thought that Campton, which also provides funding through the Conservation Commission would probably be OK. Fred Gunter thought there could be some resistance to the increase in Thornton and Max anticipated objections from the Budget Committee in Bristol. He also pointed out that a contribution from Sanbornton would be very helpful.

Dave said that an anticipated contribution of \$250 from PSNH had not yet been received. Max explained how their expected gift had come about and asked for other suggestions for outside funding. Jane mentioned the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce and promised to follow up on this. Another suggestion was to ask the outfitters who benefit directly from the river to contribute. Plymouth Ski and Sports and Ski Fanatics in Campton were mentioned specifically. Max asked the members to pass along any other suggestions which might come to mind.

PRLAC Management Plan:

Dave provided members with new maps of Water Resources and Wildlife Resources in the Pemi corridor. The Committee found the maps informative and discussed them briefly, asking a few questions for clarification. The Recreational Resources section of the Management Plan was discussed next. Dan Paradis had updated and expanded on the material in the original plan, following the outline Dave had provided earlier. Dave thought Dan's draft could be used as is, but since committee members had not seen the draft, they really did not want to make a final decision on this. Dave read aloud the sections dealing with access and descriptions of paddling conditions and he promised to send a copy of the draft to members via email. Jane Kellogg suggested that it might be a good idea to include a caveat about the potential hazards on the river but Dan thought the descriptions of paddling conditions might suffice. Dave said he would add language reminding people that some of the access points, such as the Sahegenet Recreation Area, are not open to the general public.

The draft of the "Present and Anticipated Problems" section which had been emailed to members was discussed next. As drafted, this section begins with a two-page "Background" section which is mostly devoted to a summary of water quality initiatives on the state and federal level from 2007 to 2011. While members generally agreed that this material should be included in the plan, Dave suggested that this section might work better if it focused on local concerns first (especially those identified in the survey) rather than on the conclusions of state or federal studies. Jane Kellogg pointed out that the first paragraph, focusing attention to the runoff problem, might be kept where it is to serve as an introduction to this section. Dan Paradis was OK with this, but suggested that the

singular emphasis on runoff be toned down. Discussion of the runoff issue sparked considerable discussion about the issue of contamination of groundwater by road salt, a topic Fred Gunter, Max and Dave had learned about at a recent seminar. Max summarized what needs to happen with this section in three parts: 1. Soften the language on runoff; 2. Rearrange the material so the local concerns come first; and 3. Weave in survey results.

The Committee then went through the list of anticipated problems on pages 26 and 27 of the draft plan. Members agreed with #1, which includes population growth and climate change. With regard to #2 and #3, which deal with political climate and state support, it was suggested that the date of the earlier, more effective law (2008) be added to show how quickly things can change. It was also suggested that the broader cuts in resources at DES, particularly for outreach efforts, be cited. The Committee agreed that #4, "Public Apathy" should be included, though some evidence of this should be cited. Members also thought #5, "Lack of a Watershed Approach" was important, and mentioned that successful application of this approach to Newfound Lake watershed should be cited when the "Proposed Actions" section is written. It was thought that the current #6 referring to the lack of protection for 3rd order and lower streams could be included under "Lack of a watershed approach". What needs to be done for #7, "Impairments" will be clearer once the USACE/DES report is available. With regard to #8, "Failing Septic Systems", the Committee felt that even though the survey identified this as a serious problem, it may have received undue emphasis. In fact E. coli counts remain low, and there is not a high density of homes along the shorefront. Members thought this should be listed as a potential problem, but with some explanation of why it is not a major concern right now. It was recommended that #9 "Invasive Species" emphasize that this problem did not exist ten years ago, illustrating the difficulty of predicting the problems that are likely to occur. It was agreed that the "Drinking Water" section (#10) should include some of the information about the effects of road salt pollution discussed earlier in the meeting, including contamination of the aquifer. The Livermore Falls situation was the most egregious under #11 "Trash/litter issues". Jane Kellogg told the Committee that a "friends of Livermore Falls" group is forming, though not necessarily under that name. The Plymouth Rotary is also concerned and may take some action. These initiatives should be mentioned in the "Solutions" section. It was the opinion of the group that #12 "PRLAC funding" could be included under #3 dealing with support issues. Finally, #13 "Flooding" could be tied in with the section on climate change in #1. Time did not allow for any discussion of the "Toolbox" or "Recommendations" sections.

Adjournment:

Fred Gunter made a motion seconded by Barry Draper to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Paradis
Secretary