

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee
September 26, 2017 at Plymouth Town Hall Upper Chambers
Plymouth, New Hampshire

Members Present:

Bill Bolton (Plymouth); Carl Lehner (Holderness); Fred Gunter (Thornton); Barry Draper (New Hampton); Leigh Sharps (Ashland); Max Stamp (Bristol); Dan Stack (Ashland)

Also Present:

Russ Brummer (New Hampton resident), Lisa Doner (Plymouth resident), David Jeffers (LRPC)

Call to Order:

Chairman Bolton called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 7:00 PM

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Fred Gunter to approve minutes of August 29, 2017 with a minor adjustment; seconded by Carl Lehner. The motion carried with one abstention.

Permit Application Reviews:

1. File Number: 2017-02402. Review of observations made by Barry Draper and Bill Bolton during their 9/1/17 site visit of the L176 Transmission Line ROW in Franklin
2. File Number: 2017-01729. Review of observations made by Mike O'Donnell and Bill Bolton during their 9/7/17 site visit of Plymouth Water and Sewer project. There is not enough money to complete the project this year; but will just do three pre-capped stations. No weight scale this year, yet fencing off an area for security purposes; with an intent to keep open 24 hrs. for trucks to dump septage via obtaining access to the site via a security card
3. No new applications to review

Life after Northern Pass:

March 31st is the projected date for a written decision from the SEC. We need to re-focus back onto corridor management and a good start is to return to the Implementation Matrix from the 2013 Pemi River Corridor Management Plan.

It was noted by members that pH level testing in our VRAP sites is outside of state standards. Could this be natural, or due to acidic wetlands feeding into the Pemi? Most surface water in N.H. is highly acidic; so we'll focus on water quality first.

Since 2001 have been going out through the summer sampling half dozen river spots and tributaries for host of properties: conductivity, turbidity, temperature, salt, acidity and oxygen level. The State DES does testing once every three years. The values from State, VRAP, and PRLAC data goes into the EPA records every two years. Also, the Baker River Valley Test group provides their own testing information.

The Implementation Matrix lists dozens of recommended actions. Representatives took time to review the status of some of these actions and agreed to focus their attention first on *Section 3 Water Quality – Impairments*. Some items where specific action could be occurring in the next several months included:

- 3.2.1. Consult with PSNH about dissolved oxygen
- 3.2.2. Learn more about NHDES monitoring to ensure coordinating of efforts (Draper, Doner)
- 3.4.1. Maintain volunteer efforts such as Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP). It was noted that getting new volunteers is needed
- 3.4.2. Septic system maintenance at state facilities

- 3.4.3. Develop public education program on private septic systems. Lessons learned from Lake Waukewan (Doner, Jeffers)
- 3.4.4. Expand VRAP program to include more sites and testing for E. Coli and salt. (Bolton)
- 3.4.5. Develop program to use PSU underwater testing devices (In-situ data loggers for continuous monitoring of sensitive areas such as at agricultural areas and waste water treatment plants. (Bolton)
- 3.5.1 (Jeffers) Utilize LRPC/PRLAC webpage
- 3.6.1 Encourage town road agents to develop low salt areas of roadways in winter. Pre-treatment of roads is now becoming more prevalent (less salt) Through UNH T2 Road Agents and private companies can get Green SnowPro Training <https://t2.unh.edu/road-salt-reduction>
- 3.6.2. (Sharps, Jeffers) LRPC is assisting Ashland this year in addressing aquifer protection through a Source Water Protection grant

Town membership payment status discussion:

The eight PRLAC communities that were asked for donations to support administrative and technical support through LRPC have paid, totaling \$2,300. Through August \$510 have been spent. Requests to communities for support are going out and some communities require attendance at a meeting. Max Stamp will attend the Bristol meeting on October 23; while towns like Ashland require a petition warrant article with at least 25 resident signatures and approval at Town Meeting

Open Issues

- After a brief discussion of wording that had been proposed at the August 29 meeting, Bill Bolton moved and Max Stamp seconded a motion that the new By-Laws be adopted. The motion passed.
- PRLAC still does not have a Secretary for this year. Chairman Bolton said that until someone agrees to serve in this capacity or other arrangements are made, the task will need to be assumed by representatives on a rotating basis.
- Russ Brummer (New Hampton) and Lisa Doner (Plymouth) both expressed interest in becoming PRLAC representatives. The necessary form will be sent to them by LRPC.
- Bill Bolton updated the group on HB 486 (wetlands) and SB 30 regarding woodland buffers – effective date September 9, 2017

Northern Pass

Max Stamp and Barry Draper reviewed current issues associated with Northern Pass. They will be attending many of the meetings this month.

Adjourn at 9:30

Next Meeting October 31st, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

David Jeffers and Leigh Sharps