

Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee

September 29, 2020 (7:00 PM)

Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID:

<https://zoom.us/j/81281677907>

Members Present: Bill Bolton (Plymouth), Russ Brummer (New Hampton), Max Stamp (Bristol), Judy Faran (Bridgewater), Myrtle Lewis (Thorton), Lisa Doner (Plymouth)

Guests: David Jeffers (LRPC), Katri Gurney (Thorton Conversation Commission)

Meeting called to order by B. Bolton at 7:05 PM.

Approval of August 25, 2020 minutes as amended: Motion to approve by Judy Faran, seconded by Lisa Doner, all approved.

1. Katri Gurney is going to fill out an application to join PRLAC. Myrtle will send an email to Jon Gallagher asking for his resignation.
2. B. Bolton discussed building membership to PRLAC
 - a. Members brainstormed towns and organizations that are not represented, including: Towns on northern sections of the Pemi, Sanbornton, Hill (most of their property is ARMY CORP, Campton, Cultural resources, National Forest Service, NHDES, Hubbard Brook, and the Quincy Bog Association
 - b. B. Bolton could send a letter out to some of the above, and/or members who know a person or persons to contact at the towns could make the invite.
 - i. Myrtle can reach out to Campton. Possibly Jane Kellogg
 - ii. B. Bolton will reach out to Amey and Scott Baily (Hubbard Brook)
 - iii. M. Lewis will reach out to Jess Halm or the Quincy Bog Association (and Campton Conservation Committee)
 - c. Elections for positions will be held next April.
3. Permit Applications:
 - a. 2020-02131 STANDARD DREDGE AND FILL APPLICATION: Remove an existing embankment. Constance Falconi Project at 101 Depot Road, Thornton. Response to Craig Rennie of DES
 - i. Application made to NHDES.
 - ii. B. Bolton and M. Lewis sent a letter to NHDES to approve the bill. He will forward a copy of the letter to PRLAC members and Tracie Sales (NHDES).
4. Max Stamp: End of year comments on VRAP 2020

- a. The last sampling of 2020 was completed on Sept 8th. All documents have been to VRAP.
 - b. M. Stamp will work to receive compiled data from VRAP so we can use the information at town meetings to request funding (necessary in Bristol and N. Hampton).
5. D. Jeffers updated PRLAC on the potential update to the Pemigewasset River Corridor Management Plan (PRCMP).
- a. Update on letter of interest.
 - i. Tracie Sales (Lake Management and Protection Program – NHDES) and Jeff Marcoux (Watershed Manager - NHDES) were consulted and, with their support a letter of interest was submitted. B. Bolton sent a letter of support from PRLAC.
 - b. North Country Council (Director - Michelle Moren-Gray) will be subcontracted to work with towns in the North (Campton, Thorton, Franconia) and will reach out to Woodstock and Lincoln, while LRCC will work with towns in the south.
 - c. Timeline
 - i. We will hear from NHDES in mid-October if we can go forward.
 - ii. We would then need to prepare a full application by early December.
 - iii. Startup to occur in May 2021 with a 12 month time period to complete.
 - d. LRCC and NCC would prepare the application with input from PRLAC membership. Members should reach out to their towns for letters of support.
 - e. The discussion between D. Jeffers, T. Sales, and J. Marcoux, and Michelle Moren-Gray resulted in the following decisions:
 - i. The Pemi watershed was too large for a 319 Watershed Plan.
 - ii. The PRCMP should focus on water quality efforts and activities and build capacity within the corridor to achieve goals.
 - iii. The PRCMP could identify troubled sub-basins of the Pemi, which would be small enough for a 319 Watershed Plan.
 - 1. D. Jeffers would identify troubled sub-basins by studying various water quality report cards and materials that are already available, including the data collected in the Baker River watershed.
 - 2. The new PRCMP could then identify actions that would target the sub-basins.
6. M. Lewis made inquiries concerning the actions of the current PRCMP, including:
- a. the 10 annual actions that PRLAC is responsible for.
 - i. Where are we accounting for the annual actions that are completed? Where are we documenting that we are completing the annual actions?

- ii. D. Jeffers and B. Bolton explained that annual reports of PRLAC's are sent to each town and included in the town's annual report. DES and LRPC also post PRLAC reports. J. Faran reported that Bridgewater does not include PRLAC's report in their annual report.
 - b. organizations other than PRLAC, who are listed as responsible for many of the actions in the PRCMP. Who holds them accountable, and where is their progress documented?
 - i. D. Jeffers and B. Bolton explained that some of the actions were "reaches." They were included in the plan as a reminder of goals.
 - ii. D. Jeffers explained that when creating the actions, T. Sales and Jacquie Colburn (DHDES) reviewed the 2013 plan and helped with suggestions on what organizations could help with each action. The organizations did not "sign off" on the plan.
 - iii. D. Jeffers agrees there should be further discussion concerning more outreach and inclusion, which would improve the next PRCMP.
 - iv. M. Stamp suggested we need to spend more time prioritizing the list of actions. M. Lewis agreed and suggested we review the list in preparation for next year.
 - c. It was discussed that with better documentation and structure, we could show the progress of PRLAC achievements, which could lead to more funding, donations, and public interest.
- 7. B. Bolton reported on the upcoming October 5th NH Rivers & Lakes Management and Protection Programs LAC networking meeting. The meeting will somewhat make up for the lack of the spring workshop and will be a check-in with LAC members to talk about burning issues and have a chance to network with other groups. B. Bolton will forward the invitation to PRLAC members.
- 8. B. Bolton reported on an upcoming public session on Oct 29th concerning the Alteration of All-Terrain Rules as they relate to threatening and endangered species. We, unfortunately, missed the first meeting. Members should attend if they would like to add input. Bill will forward a link to the first hearing to members.
- 9. Members discussed the documentary Dark Waters, which is about PFAS contamination in a West Virginia river. It was a worthwhile watch currently found on NetFlix.
- 10. M. Stamp commended L. Doner and the Baker River Watershed Association (BRWA) on identifying a polluter in Wentworth. L. Doner reported that she just completed the latest testing of E. Coli.
 - a. E. coli counts per 100 mL were: 84 near the well on Rt 3 next to Foster Steakhouse, 104 at the Silver Bridge Tenney mountain, 162 at the Smith Bridge. At sites in

Rumney, all were low except the Green Bridge, which was 140. Wentworth and Warren sites were both under 40, including the site M. Stamp had referenced.

- b. A few sites were high because of the low water levels this summer. Contaminates are not getting diluted by rainfall.
- c. M. Stamp questioned whether towns should be fined for high levels. L. Doner explained that the towns had been good about responding to high counts. For example, signs to warn the public were posted the day after high counts were reported in Wentworth, and subsequent samples had lower counts. Warren and Wentworth request the data from BRWA.

11. L. Doner updated members on the progress in obtaining a grant for the proposed Oxbow Recreation Area in Plymouth and Holderness.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23, Motion: L. Doner, R. Brummer seconded, all approved.