

Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2024 7:00 P.M.

Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED FEBRUARY 20, 2024

representatives attending in person: John Wallace (Barrington); David Steinberg (Durham); Lauren Kaehler (Epping); Jim Brady (Lee); Ben Buckley, Patrick Reynolds (Newmarket); Grace Levergood (Northwood); Therese Thompson (Raymond)

representatives attending by phone: none

staff: Jim MacCartney (by phone), Suzanne Petersen

guests: Steve Jones, UNH

Meeting began at 7:00.

Summary of motions:

- **Grace Levergood made a motion to approve the 2024 bacterial tracking proposal by Dr. Steve Jones of UNH for a total of \$12, 446. Jim Brady seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.**
- **John Wallace made a motion to remove Joe Foley as the authorized signatory of Permit-by-Notification applications and add Grace Levergood. Ben Buckley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Grace Levergood made a motion to approve a community grant up to \$4,600.00 to the Lee Historical Society for Wadleigh Falls informational panels that will be placed at the Lee Public Canoe Access. John Wallace seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.**
- **Grace Levergood made a motion to approve up to \$4,580 for mapping services by the Strafford Regional Planning Commission. John Wallace seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.**
- **Grace Levergood made a motion to approve the amended Funds Approval and Payment Policy. Patrick Reynolds seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

presentation of bacterial tracking results from 2023, Steve Jones; proposal for 2024 research

- Compared to 2021 and 2022, 2023 was rainy, allowing wet weather samples. The rain triggered higher levels of *E.coli* at all sites, especially in June and July. Moonlight Brook in Newmarket continued to exceed state limits on almost all sampling dates. Source tracking identified humans as a key source at that site. For the first time, Carroll Beach in Raymond had very high contamination in late summer.
- Bacteria associated with dogs was found at all sites.
- Samples taken upstream of Moonlight Brook showed contamination, but the outfall at Schanda Park was higher than anything upstream. Samples taken upstream of Carroll Beach were inconclusive.
- One factor that is unknown at present is exactly how long contamination persists following rain events. Some tests were taken 72 hours following rain, but contamination remained high.

- Following the presentation, the committee members reviewed the proposal for continuing bacterial tracking in 2024. The plan is very similar to 2023, with monthly tests April through November at 6 recreational sites from Raymond to Newmarket, but to help contain costs, upstream sampling of Moonlight Brook and Carroll Beach will be done every other month with a focus on capturing rain events.
- **Grace Levergood made a motion to approve the 2024 bacterial tracking proposal by Dr. Steve Jones of UNH for a total of \$12, 446. Jim Brady seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.**

approval of minutes from October 17, 2023

Grace Levergood made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dave Steinberg seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

financial report:

- Rix property project in Deerfield has closed. The land protection account now has no pending commitments.
- Monthly activity was normal. We need to have the storage facility send invoices to the treasurer, not the former chair.

Lee Public Canoe access repairs:

Lee DPW has agreed to accept and hold the granite until it can be installed. The contractor is trying to arrange delivery. This will cost \$300.

Project review:

- The Procedure for Waiving Right of Intervention on Permit-by-Notification wetland permits needed to be updated to name the current project review leader. **John Wallace made a motion to remove Joe Foley as the authorized signatory of Permit-by-Notification applications and add Grace Levergood. Ben Buckley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Nottingham, 26 Birch Tree Lane, wetlands permit-by-notification. This project is to replace a stone wall at water's edge with an in-kind wall in the same footprint. Grace Levergood will sign the application waiving LRAC's right to intervene.
- Newmarket, New Road sewer line replacement, NHDES funding grant. The LRAC is not being asked to comment on any permits at this time, but to comment on a request for a NHDES ARPA grant. The project will entail replacing 5000 feet of sewer line that is aging out of effective conveyance and is within the Moonlight Brook watershed. A draft letter supporting the grant and asking NHDES to make it a priority was reviewed and approved by consensus.

grant for Wadleigh Falls information panels:

Committee members reviewed the community grant application and learned that the grant vetting group had recommended approval. **Grace Levergood made a motion to approve a community grant up to \$4,600.00 to the Lee Historical Society for Wadleigh Falls informational panels that will be placed at the Lee Public Canoe Access. John Wallace seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.**

SRPC mapping proposal:

The LRAC contacted the Rockingham and Strafford regional planning commissions for help creating maps for the new rivers management plan. They mutually agreed that Strafford would handle the work. The SRPC provided a proposal that was reviewed by

the committee. **Grace Levergood made a motion to approve up to \$4,580 for mapping services by the Strafford Regional Planning Commission. John Wallace seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.**

renewal of outreach specialist contract

The outreach specialist left the room and the committee discussed the proposed contract. Upon her return, the chair informed the specialist that the contract had been approved.

proposed amendment to Funds Approval and Payment Policy

With the election of a non-Wild and Scenic chair last October, it became apparent that the Funds Approval and Payment Policy needed to be amended. All LRAC funding comes from the National Park Service. While NHDES appoints all LRAC members, for Wild and Scenic towns, NHDES also appoints members on behalf of the NPS. Wild and Scenic members have the added responsibility of ensuring that NPS funds are spent wisely and are in line with the River Management Plan. The proposed changes to the policy clarify that all budgetary and financial decisions must include input and approval from a quorum of Wild and Scenic LRAC members. It also allows the chair to execute duly approved expenses. **Grace Levergood made a motion to approve the amended Funds Approval and Payment Policy. Patrick Reynolds seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

other:

- FYI: Great Bay 2030 Changemaker Boot Camp: possible partnership between Lamprey and Cocheco LACs in 2024
- FYI: From NHDoT regarding sign replacements: If you are just replacing the signs and not moving them around or installing new posts then you or whomever can do the work. When DES is installing new signs on state roads, we approve the locations and I believe that they work with the towns to do the actual installs. In this case where you are only replacing the signs and not the posts we do not need to be involved as long as you are not obstructing the flow of traffic while doing the work. As far as town roads are concerned, you should check with the individual town DPW and see how they would like to handle it. If you have any other questions, feel free to reach out.
- Epping fire: On January 15, a massive fire erupted involving three oil fuel tanker trucks at North Atlantic Fuels in Epping. Several towns and Manchester Airport provided assistance. The fire was ultimately extinguished by spraying PFAS-based foam. Runoff from the site goes to the Lamprey River. The Durham-UNH Water System has ceased water withdrawals from the Lamprey River in case oil or PFAS entered the river.

adjournment: John Wallace made a motion to adjourn. Meeting ended at 8:40.