Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2016
Durham Public Library 7:00

APPROVED MARCH 24, 2016

members present: members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Al Hall, Dick Snow (Candia), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord (Durham), Todd Piskovitz (Exeter), Pat deBeer (Fremont), Kitty Miller, Preston Samuel (Lee), Michelle Shattuck (Newmarket), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond), Dawn Genes (associate member)

members absent: Cynthia Kelsey (excused), Joe Foley, Debbie McNelly (excused), Sharon Meeker (excused)
staff/affiliates: Suzanne Petersen
guests: Mark Kotowski (UNH student)

Meeting began at 7:08.

Summary of Motions Passed:

Dick Snow made a motion to nominate Al Hall as secretary/treasurer for another term. Pat deBeer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentation: Summary of Dissolved Oxygen and pH Measures in the Lamprey River Watershed, by Mark Kotowski

Analysis Dissolved oxygen (DO) and pH measurements have been collected at 18 sampling sites throughout the freshwater portion of the Lamprey River watershed over the past 23 years. Sites used for this analysis were selected to be representative of the river network, not pipes or small tributaries. Because of warmer air temperatures, DO levels are lowest during the summer. Therefore, only DO measurements made during 7/1 – 9/10 of each year were considered. There is no such seasonal pattern for pH, so data from the entire year were included.

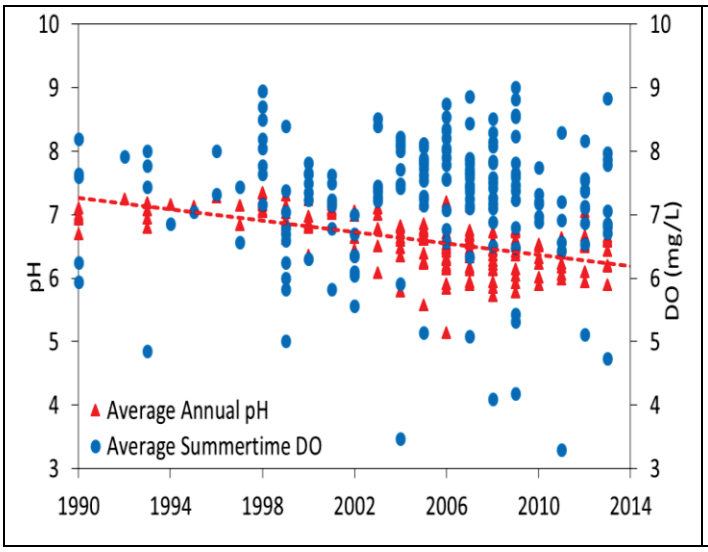


Figure 1

Summertime average dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations and annual average pH for each site over the entire record of data collection.

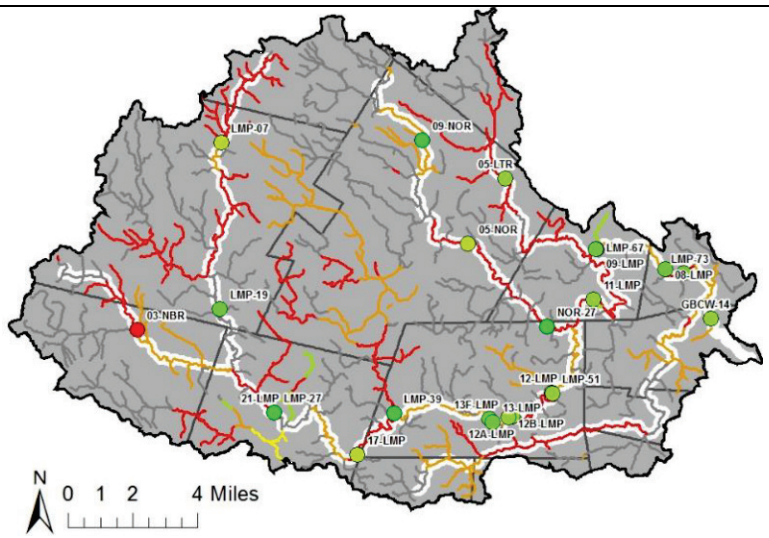
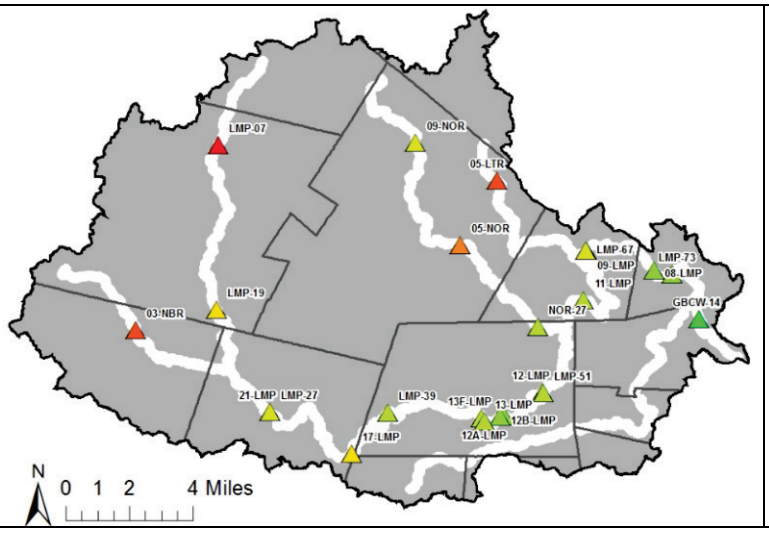


Figure 2

Map of the Lamprey River watershed. Average summertime DO concentrations are shown for each site by the colored symbols. DO impairments are shown by the colored lines over the river network.



Map of the Lamprey River watershed. Average pH over the entire record is shown for each site by the colored symbols.

Results Average summertime DO levels have remained stable over the past 23 years (Figure 1). Nearly all sites have average summertime DO concentrations above 5 mg/L, with the exception of one site located along New Boston Road in Candia with a summertime average concentration of 4.4 mg/L. There was no clear spatial pattern of sites with high and low DO within the watershed (Figure 2). Even though most sites have DO concentrations above 5 mg/L on average, sometimes DO concentrations are below 5 mg/L, leading to the NHDES determination, based in part on these data, that many reaches are impaired for DO.2 Spatially, pH levels are lower (water is more acidic) in the headwaters (Figure 2), possibly due to the high abundance of wetlands near the headwaters. A decrease in pH was observed from 1990 – 2013, though it appears that levels may have stabilized from 2004 – 2013, suggesting that the region may be recovering from harmful acid rain impacts.

Future Steps Analysis of nitrate (NO_3-) data will be undertaken to discern what if any patterns exist spatially and temporally. Dissolved oxygen, pH, and nitrate will

be compared with stream slow data. Final analysis and report should be completed by May 2106.

Approval of Minutes from January 28, 2016:

Pat deBeer made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dick Lord seconded. Minutes were passed with 5 yes votes and 4 abstentions.

Work Group and Wild & Scenic Subcommittee Updates:

recreation:

See Wild & Scenic notes attached at end.

history:

See Wild & Scenic notes attached at end.

outreach/education:

See Wild & Scenic notes attached at end.

Wild & Scenic Meeting Notes Feb. 9, 2016:

See Wild & Scenic notes attached at end.

land protection:

See Wild & Scenic notes attached at end.

wildlife:

See Wild & Scenic notes attached at end.

Request for Library Outreach Help:

Representatives from the outer watershed were asked to deliver a poster noting LRAC's outreach offerings to the town libraries.

Project Review:

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, March 3 at 7:00 at the Lee Safety Complex. Topics will include the following:

- A wetlands permit for 67 Mast Road will be reviewed.
- The lack of permit notification or review for the repairs to Mendum's Pond Dam will be discussed.

Town Issues: Nothing to report.

Increased Dissolved Silica in the Lamprey:

Michelle Shattuck noted that the UNH water research lab has seen ~~an increase~~ a change in the relationship between dissolved silica and discharge where concentrations of silica are higher at a given discharge in the post flood years (2009-2014) than concentrations were at the same discharge during the pre-flood years (2002-2005). ~~that occurred during the flood years of 2006-2008.~~ Dissolved silica normally occurs as a result of bedrock weathering and tends to increase with groundwater inputs. It is unknown at this time how or why this is occurring. Possible explanations might be related to increased levels of road sand/salt, human waste, or impervious surfaces and less vegetation taking up silica. Dick Lord suggested that samples be gathered from the white sand layer deposited by the floods on Durham's Doe Farm.

Election of Officers:

In accordance with the bylaws, elections for vice chair and secretary are to be held in January of even number years. There were no volunteers or nominations for vice chair. **Dick Snow made a motion to nominate Al Hall as secretary/treasurer for another term. Pat deBeer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Membership Status:

It was noted that appointment terms for Dick Lord, Ann Welsh, and Pat deBeer will end soon. It was reported that Ann Welsh will not be seeking reappointment.

Legislative Update:

Carolyn Matthews made a quick presentation about HB1595 relative to the rivers management and protection program. Key issues concern protection of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd order streams and exemptions granted to the Lamprey and Ham Branch from provisions of the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act. Other issues concern notification of pending RMPP designation to riparian landowners, meander belts, and perennial versus intermittent streams.

Carolyn also noted SB380, establishing the drinking water and groundwater trust fund and establishing the New Hampshire drinking water and groundwater advisory commission.

DES Reorganization:

Dick Snow noted that DES will be transitioning to an integrated permit and permit process. Instead of having a few specialists who handle specific permits, all permit reviews will be handled regionally. This will have a big impact on developers, DES, towns, and LACs. Dick will try to arrange to have a DES representative speak to the committee at the March meeting.

Miscellaneous:

- The annual "Saving Special Places" conference will be held on April 9.
- The NH Rivers Council is working with LACs to offer presentations by John Field about fluvial geomorphology. This might potentially take place in May. There is a charge for his presentation.

Adjournment:

Al Hall made a motion to adjourn. Preston Samuel seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee
Wild and Scenic Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2016
Lee Safety Complex, 22 George Bennett Road, Lee, NH

DRAFT

members present: Joe Foley, Dick Lord, Anne Lightbody, Kitty Miller, Preston Samuel

staff present: Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

absent but excused: Sharon Meeker, Laurel Cox

Meeting began at 7:05.

summary of motions passed:

> **Dick Lord made a motion to change the definition of a quorum for the Wild and Scenic Subcommittee from five members to four members until such time that membership increases. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
>
> **Dick Lord made a motion to approve the contract for the land protection administrator as presented in December. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed with 3 yes votes and 2 abstentions.**

redefining a quorum:

> With only 6 active members in the Wild and Scenic Subcommittee, reaching a quorum of 5 can be difficult.
> **Dick Lord made a motion to change the definition of a quorum for the Wild and Scenic Subcommittee from five members to four members until such time that membership increases. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

approval of Minutes from December 8, 2015:
Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Anne Lightbody seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

financial report:

> Preston Samuel provided copies of the most recent financial statement. In land protection, Project B has closed and LRAC's financial commitment was paid. Project L will close in March and will be paid. Project T should close soon. Several additional contractual expenses are anticipated to be reflected in the next statement.
>
> The National Park Service announced that LRAC W&S was awarded two grants for 2016: Illustrating a children's history of the river (*Chick and DeeDee's Lamprey River Adventure*) and increasing passive recreation at town parks in the Lamprey River watershed. Jim MacCartney will amend the cooperative agreement to reflect these two new accounts.
>
> It was noted that the monthly charge for the office photocopier increased substantially in the last few months based on copy counts. The cause of this increase is being investigated. Alternatives to the big copier were discussed, including using the computer printer for small copying jobs and cancelling the copier service contract. Per the terms of the contract, LRAC owns the copier, but the company must provide a new one at its expense if the current copier breaks while under contract. No action was recommended until the reason for the increase in copies can be determined.

The grant that NPS awarded LRAC last year for the footpath feasibility study was for $6000, but only $4000 was actually used. NPS agreed that the excess could be held in reserve at the Strafford Regional Planning Commission (where the maps were created) for use in outreach to towns that might lead to enabling the foot path. In January, a staff person at SCRP brought the foot path map to the Lamprey River Symposium. Preston Samuel accompanied the map and answered questions during conference breaks. SRCP sent a bill to LRAC W&S for bringing the map. Preston contacted SRPC and made sure the staff there knows that no further bills will be accepted without prior written authorization from LRAC W&S.

2105 marks the final year in the five year cooperative agreement with the National Park Service. Approximately $101,000 will need to be spent by Sept. 1 or it will be returned to NPS. All workgroups are asked to determine projected expenses for the meeting in March. A possible transfer of funds from the operating budget to the land protection account will be discussed.

land protection:

Project B has closed and LRAC's financial commitment was paid. Project L will close in March and will be paid. Project T should close soon. SELT is watching the Z property, but if and after a house is built, the remaining land might not need active protection due to its location in the protected shoreland zone.

It was noted that the contract for the land protection administrator has not been approved yet. **Dick Lord made a motion to approve the contract for the land protection administrator as presented in December. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed with 3 yes votes and 2 abstentions.**

As part of the potential footpath and for wildlife tracking, Laurel Cox was asked to determine which LRAC-assisted easements allow public access and to what extent. She will be asked for an update at the next meeting.

outreach and education:

- Schanda Park sign: As noted before, the kiosk was discovered under water recently. It was old and is a total loss. The kiosk panel that LRAC W&S designed and funded is fine and is being held at DPW. Preston checked the financial records; rec and history both have sufficient funds for a replacement kiosk. The group agreed by consensus to offer financial help to Newmarket for this project with the proviso that we would like to participate in the process of where to place the kiosk if possible.
- *Chick and DeeDee's Lamprey River Adventure*: The artist mailed a revised copy. It is much better. Some additional edits are still needed.
- septic system outreach: A septic system specialist who presented at Newington's septic system day in 2015 has agreed to help. A request was sent to PREP for other contacts from the Newington event. Dave Cedarholm should be contacted to offer info about ways to reduce the amount of urine that goes to septic systems. The event will be geared to adults, but children's activities will be offered. It was recently revealed that the Durham Conservation Commission is investigating some excess nitrogen concerns in town streams that seem to be related to septic systems. We will need to coordinate efforts so that we do not pursue similar programs.
- video shows and discussions at local libraries: Local libraries will be contacted to set up a schedule. It was noted that we have lots of DVDs and that we could be offering them for free to attendees.
- W&S 20th anniversary celebration: Sharon Meeker and Dick Lord will create a list of invitees and contact info, if known. It was suggested that invitees could write a paragraph about why the Lamprey is special. Debbie McNelly suggested a photographic timeline for a wall or two. Sharon will contact a river specialist from NPS as the main speaker. The

venue might be the Lee Community Church. Sharon will check on catering services that the church might be able to provide.

- Volksmarch- nothing to report
- Small Grant possibility: Lamprey River Quiz Challenge: A suggestion was made to invite youth teams to compete for cash prizes and reimburse the coaches for their time. The consensus was to contact teachers and youth leaders to gauge their interest before spending too much time and energy refining the details.
- *Lamprey River Curriculum*: Debbie McNelly has been gathering quotes for water quality test starter kits that teachers who are new the program could use.

recreation:

- The easement for the Newmarket canoe portage is complete. Preston Samuel will visit the site in spring and make some recommendations for improving the site for safety and accessibility.
- Epping Recreation is looking to develop trails on SELT land across from Mary Blair Park. Sandy Goodspeed of Epping could be a strong champion and contact. SELT is looking into building a foot bridge across the Pawtuckaway River from this site to Mary Blair Park.

history:

- Dick Lord and Janet Mackie of the Durham Historic Association visited the former Sullivan mills site. They found some evidence of past mill buildings. They will revisit the site in spring.
- The kiosk being considered for historic Wadley Village continues to be explored. Details of who owns the site need to be clarified before any further action can take place.

wildlife:

A high priority right now is to update maps of known rare species and habitats along the river. Kitty Miller will start work locating a qualified contractor to take this on.

water quality:

The focus is currently on collating data on pH and dissolved oxygen and packaging the information in a clear, user-friendly format. Data on *E. coli* exist and should be made available. When people ask what the condition of the river is, ideally everyone should be able to state accurately what the overall condition is. If the condition is less than fishable and swimmable, we should have a common understanding of where those sites are.

miscellaneous:

- Partnership W&S River video conference in Boston February 23: Jim MacCartney encouraged attendance by at least one LRAC representative. Joe Foley and Suzanne Petersen indicated they would attend by phone. Likely topics include mandatory electronic submission of reports and the proposed FY 2017 budget.
- Next meeting: Due to town meetings, the March meeting will be delayed by 30 minutes and will start at 7:30.

adjournment:

Anne Lightbody made a motion to adjourn. Dick Lord seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:15.