

Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2023 7:00 P.M.

Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED APRIL 18, 2023

summary of motions:

Dennis Regan made a motion to approve the FY2024 budget as presented. Jim Brady seconded. Motion was passed unanimously including roll call votes from those attending by phone.

David Steinberg made a motion to approve up to \$250 to do the necessary edits to the Lamprey's *Reflections on a River* video to make it ADA accessible. Grace Levergood seconded. Motion was approved unanimously including roll call votes from those attending by phone.

Jim Brady made a motion to approve the purchase of a new projector. Dennis Regan seconded. The motion was passed unanimously including roll call vote by participants phoning in.

representatives attending in person: David Steinberg (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping); Jim Brady, Tasha Lewis, Kitty Miller, Dennis Regan (Lee); Grace Levergood (Northwood); Therese Thompson (Raymond)

representatives attending by phone: Mary Ann Krebs, Dick Lord (Durham); Jerry Martin (Newmarket)

staff: Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen, Hannah Volk

Meeting began at 7:00.

presentation with Lauren Kaehler, UNH hydrology MS candidate, Investigation into Itadori Knotweed as a Control of Bank Erosion in New Hampshire Rivers

Lauren received funding from the LRAC to help offset costs associated with her research into whether Japanese knotweed increases the risk of river bank erosion versus native vegetation.

Key findings:

- 26 patches of knotweed were identified along 26 km of the Lamprey River, mostly focused around the urban area of Epping, NH and 50 patches along 21 km of the Sugar River, focused around urban areas of Claremont and Newport, NH
- Vegetation type and density was similar between native vegetation patches and knotweed patches, respectively.
- Soil properties, including critical shear stress, were similar between paired vegetation patches, with the exception of Sugar River Site 6 knotweed patch.
- No correlation was found between the amount of erosion and estimated critical shear stress at the focal sites.

- Paired vegetation patches experienced similar amounts of applied shear stress.
- Fluvial entrainment is not the dominant mechanism of bank erosion taking place at the study sites.
- Based on comparisons using bank pins, more erosion was recorded at knotweed patches than at native patches.
- A possible explanation for the difference between native vegetation and knotweed might be the greater extent of knotweed dieback in winter, which leaves more soil exposed. More exposed soil seems to facilitate the escape of knotweed tissue that can colonize other areas downstream.

approval of minutes from February 21, 2023:

Dennis Regan made a motion to approve the minutes with a minor amendment on page 3 under history workgroup update. Grace Levergood seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously including roll call votes by attendees by phone.

financial report:

The bank account statement, year-to-date expenditures, and the land protection account were reviewed with no issues noted.

Approval of FY2024 budget:

Jim MacCartney prepared a draft budget with minor changes to the FY2023 budget. **Dennis Regan made a motion to approve the FY2024 budget as presented. Jim Brady seconded. Motion was passed unanimously including roll call votes from those attending by phone.**

request for funding:

Jim MacCartney reported that the National Park Service is creating a YouTube channel with videos of Partnership and other Wild and Scenic Rivers. The NPS would like to include the Lamprey's *Reflections on a River* video; however, it must be made 508 compliant (ADA accessible). The cost to do this is approximately \$250.

David Steinberg made a motion to approve up to \$250 to do the necessary edits to the Lamprey's *Reflections on a River* video to make it ADA accessible. Grace Levergood seconded. Motion was approved unanimously including roll call votes from participants by phone.

request for funding:

The LRAC's current projector is old and is no longer working reliably. A new one can be purchased for approximately \$600.00. The old one can be turned in at Best Buy for proper disposal.

Jim Brady made a motion to approve the purchase of a new projector. Dennis Regan seconded. The motion was passed unanimously including roll call vote by participants phoning in.

Epping Wastewater Treatment Facility:

The facility is still discharging partially treated wastewater. New filters and membranes have been ordered, but delivery and installation are not expected until fall. The water and sewer supervisor has left the position and the town is seeking a replacement. Letters from NHDES and the Durham town manager were shared. Joe Foley expressed his belief that warmer temperatures will enable better treatment, but full treatment might not occur until fall when the new filter are installed.

workgroup updates:

project review:

- Raymond, Jewett Industrial Development, Route 27
AoT and wetland permit applications were not available for review. Plans show that approximately 10 acres of currently natural area will be converted to impervious surface. The applicant informed the LRAC that he was seeking approval from the Raymond Planning Board prior to their seeing the full NHDES permit applications. Without full disclosure of potential impacts, we can only urge the planning board and conservation commission to withhold approval until all impacts can be properly assessed.
- Nottingham, 100 Smoke Street proposed subdivision:
The developer previously proposed 4 lots and is now proposing 3. The middle sections of the lots are rich in wetlands, but we have no data about the functions and values of them. Protection of the wetlands is a priority and it was suggested that the town impose deed restrictions pertaining to the wetlands. The lot closest to the river is predominantly in the 100-year flood plain. The risk of flooding should be taken very seriously and development of that lot should be kept to a minimum.
- Raymond, permit-by-notification for a seasonal dock, LRAC sign off request
Michael Harner, property owner, would like to install a 30-foot dock in a section of the river that is 200+ feet wide. All criteria for a permit-by-notification have been met. Committee members reviewed the application and maps and had no concerns. Chair Joe Foley signed the permit application to waive additional review.

End of regular meeting.

As was discussed at the February meeting, no workgroups met independently this month. The members attending in person were divided into an outreach group and a water group for an initial new format meeting. In April, the two focus groups will be history and wildlife.

outreach:

Joe Foley, Lauren Kaehler, Suzanne Petersen, Dennis Regan, Therese Thompson, and Hannah Volk

Key remarks:

- Outreach efforts were greatly curtailed by Covid. The situation has calmed enough now for us to re-engage the public with educational and recreational offerings.
- Herring Aid will take place on Saturday, May 20.
- We need to try for some kind of monthly event, be it outside or a presentation inside. Seeking partners is critical.
- The Lamprey River Race in Epping could be an opportunity for us to build an alliance with the Lions Club. Helping to buy t-shirts with our logo might go a long way in building LRAC's visibility as well as the fact that the river is central to the community.
- We should explore offering monthly public paddles along different segments of the river, for example Raymond to Mary Blair Park, MBP to Epping Town Hall, and the Piscassic to Schoppmeyer section. Partner with Seven Rivers or other outfitters.
- Could we seek public help in planting native plants in impaired buffers?
- Should we offer to provide benches or picnic tables at river access areas?

water:

Jim Brady, Grace Levergood, Tasha Lewis, Jim MacCartney, Kitty Miller, David Steinberg

- Group agreed that continuing to support grants to UNH for ongoing water quality monitoring is important.
- Discussed that the fecal coliform/E.coli source (septic/straight potential source pipe; old infrastructure) in Newmarket should be a key focus item in 2023. Dye testing and/or smoke testing would potentially identify the source. Work with NHDES to identify the source. LRAC could provide financial support.
- Discussed the importance of presenting the water quality data collected by UNH and/or others online and allowing ease of access by the various stakeholders.
 - White Clay Creek National Wild & Scenic River (White Clay River) provides an excellent example of what could be done for the Lamprey River. Website: <https://whiteclay.org/maps-1>
 - Using White Clay River as the example, meet with UNH (Shane Bradt - Shane.Bradt@unh.edu) or Strafford Regional Planning Commission to develop concept/seek input with goal to obtain proposal and implement.
- Continue to support instream flow program. Add more stations.
- Continue bacterial tracking.
- Dave (biology professor) with UNH
 - Mission – incorporate into syllabus.
 - Consider how to better utilize UNH and resources to collect data. Frequency of monitoring. Trying to bracket DO.
- VLAP (Volunteer Lake Assessment Program) – Where are these data collected? Data go to DES and there is a VLAP DES Manager. Where do the data go from there?
- VRAP – Volunteer River Assessment Program