

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes February 26 2015
Community Center, 190 Route 125, Brentwood 7:00 pm**

APPROVED APRIL 23, 2015

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Al Hall, Dick Snow (Candia), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord, Ann Welsh (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Todd Piskovitz (Exeter), Pat deBeer (Fremont), Sharon Meeker, Kitty Miller, Preston Samuel (Lee), Jim MacCartney (NPS), Suzanne Petersen (staff)

absent: Michelle Daley (excused), Carolyn Matthews

guests: Ethan Nedeau (presenter)

Exeter-Squamscot River Advisory Committee: Don Clement, Patrick Seekamp (Exeter), Ellen Douglas, John Roderick (Fremont), Evy Nathan, Bob Smith (Kingston), Nathan Merrill (Stratham)

Theresa Walker (Rockingham County Planning Commission)

prospective LRAC representatives: Kath Nelson (Newmarket), Ed Kotowski (Nottingham)

Meeting began at 7:03.

Presentation: 2014 Mussel Survey Results

Ethan Nedeau, Principal and Senior Scientist of Biodiversity

Ethan conducted a survey of state-endangered brook floater mussels (*Alasmidonta varicosa*) and co-occurring mussel species and habitat in the Lamprey River in 2014. This survey was a follow-up to a broader 2010 Lamprey River watershed survey and focused on key reaches not previously surveyed and those where brook floaters were found in 2010.

Key Findings:

- Brook floaters, once abundant, are in a terminal state in the Lamprey. Four mussels were found in Epping and one was found in Lee. All were geriatric and in poor condition. Efforts to collect the remaining individuals and get them to breed will not be worth the effort and will fail in all likelihood.
- Removal of the Bunker Pond Dam in West Epping had no significant effect on mussels or mussel populations. Studies before the dam removal and after the dam removal were not significantly different.
- Eastern elliptio is a generalist mussel that is increasing in number. The species is tolerant of warmer water than brook floaters. Warm water might be a factor in brook floater decline.
- The Suncook River, like the Lamprey, suffered substantial damage by floods in recent years, but brook floaters are doing well in the Suncook.

The Suncook is now home to the only viable population of brook floaters in New Hampshire.

- Recent attempts to study brook floaters revealed extensive shell damage. All mussels have a soft membrane called the periostracum that covers the shell. Once this is damaged, shell erosion occurs. Brook floaters have a thin periostracum and are more susceptible to damage compared with eastern elliptios.
- Water quality parameters are unlikely to be causing the brook floater decline in the Lamprey. The only positive cause and effect correlation between mussel toxicity and water quality measures occurs with ammonia, common in heavy agricultural run-off. This is not a factor along the Lamprey.
- Next step: Perform a final assessment in 10-20 years to see if any brook floaters are left.

Regular Business:

approval of minutes from Jan. 22, 2015:

Joe Foley made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dick Lord seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously with one abstention.

Work Group Updates:

education and outreach:

- A river issues seminar series for the public is being planned. Representatives were asked to complete a survey to help determine needs and to solicit help with the project. The series will be given a test run with LRAC representatives before a public offering.
- A children's book that introduces Lamprey River history has been drafted. Requests for proposals will be solicited from illustrators.
- Small Grants up to \$5000 are being offered again this year to help address issues identified in the management plan.

project review:

- DES is still working to refine the project review process. Many improvements have already been implemented.
- The Newmarket wastewater treatment facility has submitted a request for an alternation of terrain permit for its planned upgrade. Any and all representatives who would like to review the plans and add comments are welcome to attend the project review session on Thursday, March 5 at 7:00 at the Lee Public Safety Complex. This is the second permit of three that will be required for this project.
- Discussion continues on how LRAC should perform project review: whole committee or project review working group. On June 26, 2014 the following motion was passed by the committee:

Michelle Daley made a motion to send all projects to the project review workgroup for initial assessment and review if appropriate. When needed, the workgroup will bring big projects to the attention of the full committee. For projects that do not require a permit from DES, committee representatives may bring individual projects to the attention of the full committee for initial assessment and referral to the project review workgroup. Sharon Meeker seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

miscellaneous:

Representatives from the Exeter-Squamscot River Advisory Committee shared that they are hard at work on stormwater management and identifying hot-spots. They are working on pilot projects for non-point source pollution, especially the tidal portion. They are particularly interested in helping communities with the tracking and reporting requirements of MS4 permits.

Adjournment: Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Todd Piskovitz seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:09.