

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes April 23, 2015
Raymond Safety Building 6:30 pm**

APPROVED MAY 28, 2015

members present: Al Hall, Dick Snow (Candia), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord, Ann Welsh (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Todd Piskovitz (Exeter), Pat deBeer (Fremont), Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond)

others present: Jill Farrell, Debbie McNelly, Suzanne Petersen

PREPA presentation, Jill Farrell

The Piscataqua Region Environmental Planning Assessment is an evaluation of environmental planning efforts and land use regulations for the 52 communities in the Piscataqua Region. Staff members from the regional planning commissions worked with town officials to complete standardized questionnaires.

The chief threats to the area come from nitrogen loading, impervious cover, and climate change. In the Lamprey River watershed, analysis has shown that 43% of nitrogen is coming from atmospheric deposition, 33.7% from human waste, 12.9% from animal waste (all types), and 10.3% from chemical fertilizer. For impervious cover, three towns (Raymond, Epping, and Newmarket) exceed DES's maximum of 10%. Above this, good water quality is difficult to maintain or improve. Only two towns in the watershed (Northwood and Epping) have demonstrated any progress toward assessing and planning for climate change vulnerabilities. All towns have a lot of work to do. On a positive note, the Lamprey River watershed has more land under conservation easement than the other watersheds of Great Bay.

Each town was rated on a scale of 0-100% attainment for best practices. The major areas of concern were freshwater wetland protection, stormwater management, shoreland buffers and setbacks, and climate change. Each town was also given a list of suggested priority actions that would have the greatest positive effect.

As an incentive for towns to address environmental planning, PREP is offering each town a grant up to \$10,000 to work on projects. Towns will be expected to match the grant including 25% cash; the rest can be an in-kind match. Towns that join forces to address a mutual problem can qualify for additional funding.

approval of minutes from February 26, 2015:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Sharon Meeker seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

project review update:

Two projects were reviewed in April: second round of review for the Newmarket WWTF upgrade wetlands permit and an after-the fact dam repair in Northwood. A letter was sent to DES for each.

Two projects will need to be reviewed in May: 1) road repairs and culvert replacement in Newfields and 2) a foot path to the river in Raymond. Next meeting is May 7 at 7:00 at the Lee Safety Complex.

town issues:

Raymond:

- The new canoe launch project is moving ahead. Several grants will be coming in to help fund the project. The site name will be Oma-Can-Canoe. A triathlon to raise additional money for the project will be held Sept. 12.
- On May 30, the public is invited to Paddle into History. The starting point will be behind the Lamprey River Elementary School.
- Debbie McNelly has been nominated by the Raymond Select Board to serve as a representative to LRAC. Her nomination has been forwarded to DES for official appointment.

Candia:

Trout Unlimited is seeking a wetlands permit to enhance fish habitat by placing woody material along the Fordway Brook. They want to do this along certain sections of the Lamprey, too. Group members are also involved in doing water quality testing in the Exeter-Squamscot River headwaters and might be interested in similar work on the Lamprey.

events:

- NH Fish and Game is eager to determine how river herring might use the river above Wadleigh Falls if given the chance. F&G will be transferring 1000 fish from the Macallen Dam to above Wadleigh for this purpose. Volunteer spotters are needed to help with reporting.
- Upcoming events:
 - April 25, Lamprey River Canoe Race, Epping
 - May 3, "Hike It" at Wiswall Falls, Durham, 11-12
 - May 6, NH Water and Watersheds Conference, Concord, all day
 - May 9, "Herring Aid" at Macallen Dam, Newmarket, 10-1
 - May 17, "Bike It" beginning at Wadleigh Falls, Lee, 9-11
 - Jun 7, "Like It" at Mary Blair Park, Epping, 10-12

representative recruitment:

Dick Snow is working at it, especially in towns that have no representatives currently. Other members noted that everyone needs to be using local connections to bring new members on-board.

future meeting sites:

May's meeting will probably entail a field trip to the Epping WWTF. Dick Snow will try to reserve the Epping Fire station for the meeting.

miscellaneous:

A limited number of Wild and Scenic logo polo shirts are available to representatives who want one. More shirts can be ordered if needed. LRAC business cards can be made and will be passed out at the May meeting.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Anne Lightbody seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:06.