

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2015
Northwood Meadows State Park and Northwood Community Center**

APPROVED JUNE 25, 2015

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Al Hall, Dick Snow (Candia), Cynthia Kelsey (Deerfield), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord (Durham), Pat deBeer (Fremont), Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee), Michelle Daley (Newmarket), Debbie McNelly (Raymond)

staff/associates present: Dawn Genes, Suzanne Petersen

guests: Brooke Smart, Colin Lawson, Joel DeStasio, Steve Roy, Ed Katowski

Northwood Meadows State Park site visit began at 6:30.

Members viewed the site of the emergency dam repairs last winter and discussed on-going concerns about the resultant five foot lowering of the lake. The dam is made of an unknown mix of earth and rocks. The site of failure shows a culvert with clear evidence of erosion around the pipe. The new outlet is lower on the dam and is just at the current water level. If the pond were to be raised back to its original height, the failed outlet would be subject to the same erosive forces that caused the original breach. According to the DRED engineer, DES will not permit minor repairs to the breached area. The whole dam would need to be removed and replaced with fresh material that meets current standards. The project might cost about \$500,000.

Despite the lowered water level, the pond is still a good expanse of water and fish and fishermen were on site. The banks are rather steep, so the surface area of the pond was not badly reduced.

The regular meeting began at approximately 7:30 outside the Northwood Community Center, as the building was locked and no key was available. An electrical outlet was found on the outside of the building, so a laptop, projector, and screen were set up.

reappointment of Dawn Genes as an associate member:

Sharon Meeker made a motion to reappoint Dawn Genes as an associate member for one year. Michelle Daley seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Her new term will expire June 26, 2016.

approval of Minutes from April 23, 2015:

Sharon Meeker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dick Lord seconded. Minutes were approved with 8 yes votes and 3 abstentions.

presentation by Trout Unlimited and NRCS:

Colin Lawson is coordinating a Trout Unlimited project to strategically place large woody material in streams to enhance habitat for aquatic insects and fish. The material provides a substrate for the insects and creates small pools for fish to hide and spawn. The streams selected for the project are predominantly small, first and second order streams that run through land with young trees, so little natural fall-down occurs. Trees are cut from outside the 50 foot buffer zone and hand carried to the stream for placement. Improvements in aquatic insect communities and fish spawning are usually noted within 2 years. Occasional placement is arranged for third order streams to increase sinuosity, but 1/3 of the channel is left clear. Overall effects on dissolved oxygen often vary, with some increases downstream and some decreases upstream of the wood.

Joel deStasio is working on the Trout Unlimited culvert project to restore connectivity for animals, both aquatic and terrestrial. In the Lamprey watershed, 250 crossings will be evaluated both for connectivity and vulnerability to failure. In the Piscataquog watershed, 60% of culverts were found to be inadequate, with 57% being less than 25% of the stream bank width. New regulations mandate 1.2 times the bank-full width for culverts.

Brooke Smart gave a presentation on the wetlands reserve easement program through NRCS. Projects need to adhere to a boiler-plate format and have an impact on hydrologic restoration. New Hampshire currently has 119 of these easements on 11,217 acres.

adjournment:

Sharon Meeker made a motion to adjourn. Emily Schmalzer seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:39.