



Meeting Notes

Souhegan River Watershed Integrated Planning Project

March 3, 2009

12:00 pm

NRPC Conference Room

1. Introductions - Kerrie

2. Overview of Project – Camille and Minda

- Strengthen collaboration, partnership and data-sharing among project stakeholder groups.
- Identify potential impacts of specific projects in the watershed – using both projects in the 10 Year plan (funded) as well as projects identified in various transportation projects in the study area (unfunded).
- Develop mitigation strategies to address project impacts using regional opportunities and objectives (already identified 55 different data layer types and over 40 reports from which to pull information.
- Create a model framework that can then be applied to other regions in the State.

3. Role of Project Partners and Stakeholders - Kerrie

- Inform the model in watershed assessment and mitigation preferences.
- Act as ambassadors for the watershed communities to adopt MOUs and the working model.

3a. Existing Information Review Process and Results - Minda

- Conducted a document search and review of community master plans, natural resource inventories, open space plans and resource management plans (Rivers).
- Mapping of Transportation Projects
- GIS Resources and Layers

4. **Prioritize important resources within the watershed.** (Minda – run interactive map and Kerrie and Camille as scribes)
 - What resources do you or your agency represent or find to be of greatest importance / concern?
 - Which resources in the Souhegan River Watershed are of greatest concern?
 - What indicators of environmental quality are important when utilizing a “watershed perspective?”
 - What *one* resource should be given the highest level of consideration?

5. **Discuss general characteristics of ideal mitigation sites.**
 - Proximity / adjacency
 - Ownership characteristics
 - Connectivity
 - Pristine vs. Impaired
 - “Layered” resource values
 - Size
 - Distribution

6. **Next Steps: identify the types of project impacts that should be considered for mitigation, preliminary spatial presentation of prioritized resource areas.**

Materials Needed

Laptop set up with GIS data Layers

Project Map of the Study Area and transportation projects– mounted on an easel

Name Tags

Sign in Sheet



Meeting Notes

Souhegan River Watershed Integrated Planning Project

July 1, 2009

12:00 pm

NRPC Conference Room

1. Review and Discussion of Resource and Co-occurrence Map

Minda with back up from Julie

2. Review of Potential Transportation Projects and Impacts

Camille with back up from Minda

- Map with the transportation projects planned for the watershed. Purple are in the 10 year plan and have money allocated for them. Green are either in the long range transportation plan or have been identified in another plan – some of these are conceptual in nature and so we have made a best guess at impacts.
- The table lists each project and a number of potential impacts
- Each one is equally ranked for a maximum total of 10 points, in our review the maximum impact ranking was 7.
- Low impact projects tend to be smaller projects in already developed areas – examples include The Town Hall improvements in Amherst and the Milford Oval improvements.
- High impact projects tend to be larger and located in undeveloped areas – examples include Bridge Replacements, 101 widening and a 3rd crossing of the Souhegan River.

3. Identify Characteristics of Priority Mitigation Areas

- Our ultimate goal is to be able to provide a list of potential mitigation sites, ranked by priority for the watershed region as a whole, and for individual communities.
- From stakeholders, we hope to learn what characteristics would be present in an ideal mitigation site:
 - Mitigation site has already been identified in a previous planning effort or master plan
 - Proximity or adjacency to existing conservation areas

- Contains enough existing resources be valuable, but can be enhanced through additional effort or improvements
 - Degraded wetland sites
 - Bank stabilization
 - Revegetation or control of invasive species
- Connects important resource values
 - Contiguous forest blocks
 - Wildlife movement corridors
- Contains similar resource values as impacted site area
- Site is of sufficient size to accommodate mitigation

4. Next Steps and Meeting Date

Camille

- Determine how we relate key resource areas / values to potential mitigation sites.
- Product – develop a prioritized list of key mitigation sites for the region and each town. These sites can then be used as mitigation from transportation projects and any other development in town.
- Develop a packet for each community with project materials, resource map, mitigation sites and a letter to conservation commissions asking them to add this to their review process.
- Hold a final project meeting in the evening to attract the communities with a presentation and discussion of available products.