

**SOUHEGAN RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 24, 2003**

The meeting was held at the Peabody Mill Environmental Center in Amherst.

Members in attendance:

George May, Merrimack  
Andy Powell, Merrimack  
Spencer Brooks, Wilton  
Les Tallarico, Wilton  
Rich Hart, Amherst  
Diane Fitzpatrick, Milford  
Celeste Philbrick Barr, Milford  
Marshall Buttrick, Greenville  
Steve Couture, NH Rivers Coordinator  
Angie Rapp, NRPC

Guests:

Tim Allen, State Representative and Chairman of SB 87 Study Commission  
Deborah Hinman, Acworth Cold River LAC  
Jeff Porter, SW Region Planning Commission/Ashuelot LAC

The minutes of the August meeting were approved.

We reviewed the timeline for the Souhegan River Instream Flow Pilot Project and the fact that there are four slots on the study committee for conservation interests and 2 for technical or business representation. Committee members received a copy of the timeline.

Tim Allen gave an overview about SB 87 Study Commission. The group is reviewing the literature about the applications of residuals and the effects on water quality. They will review all the criteria used to establish setbacks for septage, biosolids, and paper fibers and recommend studies to fill in any gaps in the information.

George will write a letter regarding the Intervale Road subdivision in Wilton. This letter needs to address the wetlands and historical canal crossing for the driveway. The developer has agreed to a 50-foot easement for a pedestrian walkway along the river at this site. The town of Wilton has the right to access the river via this land.

George will also write a letter to AT&T & PSNH regarding the LAC request for underground wires along 3.2 miles of Route 31 which is a scenic road.

George will write a 3<sup>rd</sup> letter to Audrey Barrett (Hayward's land) inquiring whether the owner is interested in selling their land on the Souhegan rather than attempting to construct a driving range on it.

Jeff Porter (SWRPC) and Deborah Hinman (Cold River LAC) gave their histories and experiences writing River Corridor Management plans for the Ashuelot and the Cold Rivers, respectively. The Ashuelot was the first river to have a management plan drafted and the Cold River plan is not final yet. The two approaches were very different. Their conclusions are to utilize the expertise and interests of the committee to steer the plan development. The Ashuelot LAC invited guest speakers to their meetings from US Fish and Wildlife, UNH Cooperative Extension, USDA Natural Resource Conservation District, and USGS. They suggested bringing base maps of the river corridor as worksheets to write on. Reread the town's master plans. Use the attribute list of the Souhegan River generated at an SoRLAC meeting in Summer 2003 at the Wilton Town Hall.

Members then began talking about the Souhegan River Watershed Management Plan. Angie said that the 1<sup>st</sup> DES grant task is to develop a timeline and workplan with specific tasks. She presented a draft workplan (attached)/timeline, and asked the members to identify specific tasks that could be completed for each work item. The goal is for this workplan to be submitted to DES in November.

Members discussed forming a Development Review Committee because of the expedited applications and short deadlines associated with these and some wetland applications. Steve Couture mentioned that some LACs form an ad hoc committee when necessary to review these applications. The committee is comprised of the chair of the LAC and the members community where the development/activity is proposed. All members agreed this was acceptable.

#### Local Updates:

##### Merrimack:

1. Violation at Severns Bridge Road canoe launch.
2. Harcross Chemical site being evaluated for hazardous waste. If it passes, an anonymous towns person is planning to purchase it and give or trade it to the town of Merrimack. The site is 10 acres along the Souhegan River.
3. Mr. Gray's dock on river downstream of Severn's bridges has been asked to make modifications but there has been no replanting of vegetation to date. Who will follow up on this?

##### Amherst:

1. There is a Land Trust group writing a warrant article to raise money for land preservation.
2. UNH will be doing some DNA testing on river organisms on Boston Post Road.

##### Wilton:

1. Convenience Store 101 may have larger wetland violations than first thought.
2. Sam Proctor is proposing a Shell gasoline station across from Monadnock Water.

##### Greenville:

1. The town is renegotiating the lease with Pilgrim Foods for use of the old town wells. The company pumps heavily but says the water is worth little. Greenville and New Ipswich are updating their master plans currently.

Due to a conflict in the current meeting schedule, SoRLAC is changing their regularly scheduled meetings from the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. The new schedule is as follows:

October: Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Merrimack  
November: Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, in Greenville.  
December: Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, place TBA

The next meeting will focus on the Souhegan River Watershed Management Plan and developing a workplan for the development of the plan. SoRLAC would like to hold a “State of the Watershed” meeting with all committed partners in the municipalities participating.

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