

# Minutes of the Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

## Meeting March 18, 2004

In attendance were George May, Spencer Brookes, Les Tallarico, Marshall Buttrick, Doug Waitt, Kleta Dudley, Diane Fitzpatrick and Helen Dalbeck. Angie Rapp attended as staff from NRPC.

Meeting began at 7pm at the Milford Dept. of Public Works

The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

### Updates

**Instream Flow Study-** Both of the committees have met to begin the process of compiling a Water Management Study. The Technical Committee will be reviewing the more scientific data, while the Water Management Planning Advisory Committee will be reviewing the more political side. There are 6 members of the SoRLAC on the WMPAC.

**Proposed Cell Tower-** We've had no response to our letters. Les says there will be about 90 acres of land affected by drainage. The access road will be off King Brook, crossing 3 wetlands.

**Barrett Parcel in Milford-Golf Course-** Permit was accepted for erosion control- Wetlands Permit File # 2003-00179. An engineer wants to do an "on site" inspection within 48 Hrs of starting work in at least 3 places. Wants to make a "Package Presentation." Spencer questioned procedure, Diane has seen it done in a Keene project. Diane felt vegetation needed to be planted now. ??? contacted Milford Planning Board and DES March 15, told them they (the Barrett's) should have to have all permits in place for all the rip-rapping downstream otherwise he feels they'll keep coming back. Discussion followed concerning questions about necessity of permits for ponds, Do they need one? Depends on type of pond. It was pointed out that aquifer was going to be subject to direct input from "whatever." The EPA has recommended that they don't irrigate out of ponds but also saying they have no power to enforce recommendations. They want planning board to deal with the project, saying they only deal with violations.

At an information meeting on March 15 there was discussion of the clean up of the wells, recharging the aquifer. They are planning on irrigating from the river and not using Municipal water.

**Falcon Ridge Subdivision-** the planning board is waiting for drainage plans to be submitted.

### Souhegan River Watershed Management Plan

**Review of Recreation Chapter of Management Plan-**Angie lost her intern, she needs input for "recreation" chapter. Angie has skeleton of rest of plan. Milford wants State land near green bridge for parking and boat launch referenced. Doug Waitt will provide list of places in New Ipswich that would be good places to park and drop off boats. Need information from Greenville and New Ipswich (any zoning regulations and information from Master Plan) and information from SW Regional Planning

**State of the Watershed Meeting-** Angie passed out a list of participants that we would like to invite. Spencer will talk with Fish and Game, Souhegan High School and Conservation Officer. Other organizations that might want to participate are UNH Co-op Extension Center (Milford) and Fish Hatchery. Holland Community Farm in Milford wants to participate. Angie asked George about an "Adopt a Salmon" display. Diane needs to know numbers for tables, chairs, microphones, etc. Suggested schedule is as follows: 6-7:30pm walk around, 7:30 speaker followed by power point presentation. Music and refreshments were discussed. Diane's husband was

going to be questioned about this. Spencer thought the Amherst or Wilton's Woman's League would be willing to do refreshments.

**Grant Application**-This discussion expanded to what we want to display at "State of the Watershed" event and what the display should have on it.

The money is for portable displays (probably 2) to educate people about the watershed, covering aspects of pollution, industry, recreation and inflow information. Information is not limited to the above.

It was determined that the 319 money was available but SoRLAC needs to administer the money, not NRPC. We needed to appoint a contact person and then send in the application. Spencer is going to be our contact person. George is going to send it in.

Spencer thought the Wilton's Women Group would be willing to make and move display around. We need to supply them with pictures and what we want to put on the boards. Discussion on whether we needed a committee to create boards and brochures followed. What information do we want to get across? Looks like Spencer and George will head up committee. Do we send out or do we do matting and mounting? Recommended to send out. DES has a display "how to". Angie will ask Steve C. about it. We need a map of watershed. What do we want for message on brochure? Each town needs to give a sheet that has supplementary literature. Questions abounded about it being too text heavy. It could be changed at each town, displaying significant features.

## **New Business**

**Wetlands Application**-Angie passed out a copy of application for pedestrian bridge at Keyes Field in Milford, NH. Discussion followed about bridges that shade rivers. George expressed concern about height of bridge and would it impede canoeists and kayakers when the height of water changed with seasons. It appears from studying the plan that the height of the bridge is easily 6-8 feet from ground level and the water is below that by as much as 8 feet, so we guessed that there is probably 6-14 feet of clearance. It was decided that we need to make a comment on clearance. We want to make sure there is at least 6 feet, Kleta asked how they would fix it and was told that the bridge could be designed to be raised another tier if necessary. Discussion followed on whether we needed to address jumping off the bridge. We decided not. George will write a positive letter to wetlands saying we like the plan, and asking for clearance. He said he would "jazz" it up.

**Other Business**-Discussion of getting salmon program in Greenville. Probably contact Darrel Fournier (may be spelled Daryl) He runs the annual Fishing derby

Spring "Special Places" Conservation Conference- Angie will email it Watershed Ecology presented by the Environmental Education Institute, sponsored by NH Fish and Game and UNH Coop Extension. Angie had brochures, Cost are as follows; Undergraduate credit- \$410 for NH residents, \$462, non-residents Graduate Credit \$490 resident and \$540 non-resident Non-credit \$150. Discussion followed about auditing. Class runs from July 26<sup>th</sup>- Friday, Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am-3:45p.m., not including weekend.

## **Local Updates**

**Souhegan Watershed Association**- April 5, Wadleigh Library 7pm, Alex Lee, will speak on legislation for superfund sites, hopefully will talk about sites in Milford.

**Souhegan Valley Land Trust**- An organization that was formed in 70's and never had a meeting. Kept alive by Bill Ferguson. Has 12K in bank account and there is now an interest in reviving it.

**Merrimack-** Person who destroyed several beaver dams was caught. Discussion on Beaver dams and what you can and can't do. Can't dynamite. Okay to dismantle if dam is on your own property, if you pull apart by hand. There is a wildlife activist in Milford that has information on how to handle Beaver dams.

Other business in Merrimack had to do with putting up signs to name streams. Discussion followed on signs all up and down river, how big, how many, how much do they cost, etc.

**Amherst-**nothing

**Milford-** Storm Water Team update There is a restoration project using Federal grant money that has been put on hold. Discussion follows on Birchbrook (Brox land) there is a 15 acre pond that is being dredged Discussion follows on clean out of farm ponds.

George talked about EPA edict to separate storm water drainage from sewage in Nashua. The end result is that storm water is treated at Nashua WWTP after it is held in storage.

**Wilton-**Sand pit on Route 31 will be expanding. Town approved study to lease land within aquifer. Soil will be removed with the trade off that the town will own all of affected land after the reclamation. Town just got information. Spencer wants to know about ground cover regulations. Marshall wanted to know how much land the town owned here. The project will not be seen from road. The project will pay 500K to town to use land and in the end town will buy back for 400K. Do we need to comment? What type of studies should be done?

Convenience 101 and Garage- (Letter form DES, Restoration Plan Approval was presented to group)- Wm. A Thomas to be commended on working out plan with plant specific plan. Discussion on whether to send him a letter from our group noting our appreciation for his professional job. Decided that Wilton Conservation Comm. should do it, Spencer says they have done so.

Intervale Rd.- Elderly housing unit proposed but there are questions on setbacks and the need for an easement. (Map was presented to group)

**Greenville-** Revision of Master Plan in progress. The Capital Improvement Plan was approved by Planning Board.

**New Ipswich-**all zoning ordinances were voted down but Conservation Comm. got two articles passed: 1. Easements can be passed on to 3<sup>rd</sup> party and 2. Conservation Comm now gets 100% of money from current use fees up to 25K.

There is a proposal for a gravel pit in quarry area near the SE border of New Ipswich.

**In Closing-**Spencer passed out an article out of the New Yorker (Dec. 15, 2003, "Five days on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers" by John McPhee) He had limited copies and if anyone wants a copy he would be glad to oblige them.

Next meeting is April 15<sup>th</sup> in Amherst at Peabody Mill, 7pm. George will contact Rich Hart about reserving the space. He will be doing taxes at the Milford Library on April 15<sup>th</sup>, so Celeste is in charge.

Respectfully submitted, Kleta Dudley, acting secretary pro tem