

**LOWER MERRIMACK RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
AUGUST 28, 2003**

Secretary George May called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the NRPC conference room. Vice chair Bob Robbins took over at 7:15 PM. Other members present: Rick Maddox, Jim Barnes, John Mitterholtzer, Will Jewett. Also present was Allan Fuller, Pennichuck Watershed Council, Angie Rapp, NRPC Staff, and Steve Couture, NH Rivers Coordinator.

Minutes of the July meeting were approved as printed.

Updates

- Depot Street access – Angie presented final plans for the access and noted that construction, being done by the Merrimack DPW, may begin in October or wait till spring.
- DES updates – Steve presented the seven volume draft application for the relicensing of PSNH's three dams, Amoskeag, Garvins Falls, Hooksett, and after discussion it was moved that LMRLAC would apply to become an intervener in the process now and later decide on the requests that we would like to see (some thoughts expressed were to require bonding to pay for the eventual removal of the dam and a mitigation fund for conservation/recreation purposes in the future). Motion passed.
- Instream Flow Rules – The money to study the Souhegan River is still in the state budget (in spite of agreed-upon cuts to the DES share of the budget) and the budget is expected to be passed early in September.
- Steve passed around flyers "What's Our Water Worth," an excellent brochure put together by DES and water-related NH NGOs.
- SB 87 – The committee to review and recommend the use of sludge close to waterways has been appointed and meetings are already underway. Michele Trembley, UMRLAC, and Debbie Hinman, Cold River LAC, represent the LACs.
- Litchfield boat ramp – Steve passed along the information that F&G did not plan on building a boat ramp in Litchfield because of the cost and difficult location. We had written last month to the new director asking F&G to take action on the ramp.
- Steve and Angie have not had success in getting more representatives from Nashua or Merrimack to sit on this committee.
- Beazer Site – DES will be doing an assessment of risk associated with the property.

Old Business

- Outreach – It was moved that Bob rewrite his letter based on suggestions and that it be sent to the town/city BOS, PB, CC. Motion passed. Angie has been talking with the Nashua planners and communication is already improving. We already send our minutes to the towns/city. It was thought that we could change our stationery to list members along the left side, like many NGOs.
It was thought that we might speak to the towns about our role and the Shoreland Protection Act (SPA) at the same time. NRPC has a Power Point presentation of the SPA. Rick suggested that SPA info could be put on CDs to give away.
- Tabletop displays – Discussion was postponed until next month when Glenn will be present.
- Training – the Rivers and Watershed Conference will be held on Sat. Nov 8th, at DES in Concord.

New Business

It was moved that George put together a letter to NH DOT expressing our interest in improving the stream crossing just north of the fire station on Route 3 in Merrimack, and reducing the flow of water from the wetland near the highway and Bedford Road that impacts the Depot Street boatramp while they are improving the roadway. Motion passed.

Local Updates

The monitoring program shows that the Merrimack E. Coli level has returned to the usual low levels after the heavy rains that forced the raw sewage discharges. George also noted that he had been interviewed by NPR regarding the recent high bacteria counts.

Next Meeting

September 25th at NRPC at 7 PM. Rick will bring cookies. Angie will not be present, but a staff member from NRPC will be present.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
George May, Secretary

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