

**LMRLAC – April 27, 2017**

**LOWER MERRIMACK RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**April 27, 2017**

**Members:**

- ✓ = present

**Current:**

- ✓ Gene Porter (Chair) – Nashua (current term expires Dec 2019)
- ✓ Nelson Disco (Vice Chair) – Merrimack (current term expires 08/28/17)
- ✓ Karen Archambault (Secretary) – Nashua (current term expires 08/12/17)
- Christine Dupree (Treasurer) – Hudson (current term expires 11/25/17)
- Michael Croteau – Litchfield (current term expires 08/12/17)
- ✓ Richard LeBourdais – Hudson (current term expires 11/06/17)
- ✓ Francis Murphy – Nashua (current term expires 02/18/19)

**Pending Renewal:**

- ✓ George May – Merrimack (current term expired 01/07/14)

**Associate Members:**

Mildred Mugica – Nashua

**Also in attendance:**

Chris Barrett, Nashua resident  
Geoff Daly, Nashua resident  
Rusty Russell, executive director, Merrimack River Watershed Council (MRWC)  
Neil Swendsboe, Nashua resident

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by Chairman Gene Porter in the Activity Room of the Nashua Public Library, with a quorum present.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the February 23, 2017 meeting were approved with one clerical correction and contingent on Secretary Archambault updating the TBD reference for the Litchfield Shoreland permit application for the Pennichuck Water Expansion project. Vice Chairman Disco abstained. *(Secretary's note: The Litchfield Shoreland permit number has not yet been assigned in DES OneSpace; the reference in the February minutes is being left TBD.)*

**Old Business**

**Action Item Status from Previous Meeting(s)**

- Beazer East. Chairman Porter has requested creosote migration data but has not received it yet. He will continue to request it.
- Meeting with Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC). Chairman Porter met with NRPC to discuss possible funding for the Corridor Management Plan update. NRPC does not have any funds currently available but is willing to help with grant writing. Chairman Porter also stated that NRPC is checking its records to determine how much was spent on the last Corridor Management Plan update.
- American Rivers Report. Chairman Porter approached the Society for Protection of NH Forests and DES for watershed development data. Neither organization has data available at this time.
- LMRLAC Annual Report. Mr. LeBourdais will check with Ms. Dupree to confirm the report was sent to Hudson.

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**Merrimack: Pennichuck Water Expansion Shoreland Application (File #2017-00449),  
Dredge and Fill Application (File #2017-00386)**

**Litchfield: Shoreland Application (File #TBD), Dredge and Fill Application (File #2017-00451)**

Chairman Porter stated that Pennichuck has responded to LMRLAC's comments, as follows:

- Request that NH DES require suitable sampling of disturbed sediments – Pennichuck's response is that the testing is unnecessary since so much time has passed since the potential contamination took place.
- Request a second bathymetric survey to verify stability of the river bed – Pennichuck has agreed to conduct a second bathymetric survey.

Pennichuck has provided raw water test data to Chairman Porter. Chairman Porter gave a brief summary of a sample of the data. He stated that nitrogen and phosphorus are not in the testing profile. Chairman Porter stated he has sent an e-mail to Pennichuck, asking what LMRLAC can do to help draw attention to water quality and the effects on it by upstream discharges.

Mr. May asked for a link to the raw data. Chairman Porter will send the link.

**Litchfield: Erickson Construction Alteration of Terrain (File #20170413-053) Shoreland (File #2017-00972) Dredge and Fill (File #2017-01005)**

Chairman Porter summarized the proposed project. It involves constructing two buildings (one in phase 1 and one in phase 2), parking, a widened driveway with new culvert, and two infiltration basins. The project includes a gazebo amenity near the river for the benefit of the employees. Chairman Porter reminded members that this project was discussed at the February meeting with the consulting engineer, prior to application submittals.

Mr. Daly asked what materials will be stored on site. Chairman Porter replied that it's for construction materials such as pipe and concrete; no fuel or solvents are planned to be stored on site. Mr. Daly asked if gravel will be stored and expressed concerns about gravel being carried in runoff to the infiltration basin.

Members reviewed the plan for location of snow storage and found that most of the snow storage locations are on the northerly side of the site, but one of the snow storage locations appears to be relatively close to Colby Brook on the southerly side of the site.

Mr. LeBourdais expressed concern that the infiltration basin appears undersized for the amount of impervious surface on the site.

Mr. Daly asked whether a no salt comment would be appropriate for the driveway, expressing concern about runoff into Colby Brook. Chairman Porter commented that the land is well developed upstream of the project site.

Members agreed to submit two comments, as follows:

- Request all snow storage be on the northerly side of the property away from Colby Brook
- Request the applicant check the stormwater calculations and review the sizing of the infiltration basin

Mr. May asked whether LMRLAC could request applicants submit a link to electronic copies of applications for review prior to meetings.

## **New Business**

**Nashua: Park and Ride Alteration of Terrain (File #201700221-024)**

Chairman Porter electronically presented excerpts of the application. A small portion of the

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project area is within the quarter-mile corridor. The project proposes to tear down an existing vacant warehouse and put in a 250-spot park and ride lot. The original plan to infiltrate on-site was determined to be not feasible due to contamination detected in the soils. Instead, there will be an underground retention facility under the park and ride lot.

The project will have a reduction in overall impervious surface, from 96,790 square feet to 92,435 square feet.

Members agreed to submit two comments, as follows:

- LMRLAC is pleased by the reduction of impervious surface on site and that the runoff will be captured for treatment and not sent to the river
- LMRLAC requests that there be a vehicle weight limit for the parking area over the retention structure

### **Nashua: Greeley Park Boat Ramp Improvement**

Chairman Porter explained that Nashua is applying for a Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for improvements to the Greeley Park boat ramp. The planned improvements include relocation of the stormwater drainage pipe near the ramp area, and making the ramp ADA compliant. Chairman Porter recommended that LMRLAC endorse the City's plan to improve the ramp.

Mr. May asked whether the option to relocate the ramp downstream had been considered, and whether the plan includes improvements to the access road. Chairman Porter replied that the proposal would be more costly if it included relocating the ramp. The access road improvements are not within the scope of the project.

Chairman Porter suggested LMRLAC's comments could include a recommendation for additional improvements in the future.

### **Other Business**

#### **Water Quality/Water Treatment Options**

Chairman Porter introduced Geoff Daly, who gave a brief presentation on alternative methods for removing contaminants from water. He brought a jar of zeolite, which can be treated to have either positive or negative ionic properties, depending on the type of contaminants it will be used to trap. Once the contaminants have been 'locked in' to the zeolite, the substance remains stable and it can be legally disposed of in landfills. Mr. Daly contrasted this to activated charcoal, which can break down over time. Mr. Daly explained that zeolite can be used in booms, which can passively trap contaminants when water flows through, or in circulation pumps.

Mr. Russell asked if there were examples of peer-reviewed literature on the substance. Mr. Daly showed Mr. Russell a copy of a paper by a Dr. Brown from Rice University.

#### **New England Inland Rivers Geographic Response Plans**

Chairman Porter showed a map of prospective sites from Manchester to the state line. The intent is to have a local ability to deploy booms to trap and retrieve spills (e.g. oil spills).

#### **Water Monitoring**

Chairman Porter gave a brief presentation on a water monitoring project on the Indian River in Florida, using Kilroy water monitoring systems. The Kilroy devices communicate to a central monitoring system. Chairman Porter plans to find out what a demonstration program would cost.

Mr. Russell commented that there are two EPA real-time monitoring stations in the Merrimack

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River, in Lawrence and Andover. He will send Chairman Porter the link to the data from the stations. Mr. Russell also commented that the EPA monitors will likely stop in September when funding runs out.

Mr. May stated that MRWC put monitors in the river a few years ago, but the program ended. Those monitors required removal from the river and connection to a computer to retrieve the data.

### **Prospective Car-Top Boat Launch in Litchfield**

Chairman Porter indicated that, as of Wednesday, April 26, there is a location proposed for a car-top boat launch in Litchfield on town owned land. There is a parking area planned, a gate to prevent trailers from going into the river, and car-top boat access.

### **Nashua River Waterfront Initiative**

Chairman Porter summarized that Nashua has kicked off a crowd sourcing process to collect feedback on the Nashua River waterfront from Ledge Street to the Bridge Street bridge. He displayed the Web site ([courbanize.com/projects/nashua-riverfront](http://courbanize.com/projects/nashua-riverfront)) and encouraged members to look it over and submit comments if they have an interest in the Nashua River downtown.

### **Upcoming Events**

5/12 – Nashua/Manchester Wastewater Coalition Meeting, at NRPC, includes discussion on Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) requirements

5/13 – DES workshop for LACs, at DES

5/18 – DES drinking water source protection conference, at the Grappone Center in Concord

5/24 – EPA Geographic Response Plan site surveys along the Merrimack River

6/16 – MRWC 2<sup>nd</sup> State of the Waters Conference with a focus on MS4 requirements, at NRPC

### **Items from the Floor**

Mr. May stated that canoe trips, jointly sponsored by the Souhegan River Watershed Association and the Merrimack River Watershed Council start this weekend with a trip on the Nissitissit River in Brookline.

Mr. May said the water monitoring program will start in June. Chairman Porter asked whether phosphorus could be added to the testing. Mr. May explained phosphorus was part of the testing at one time. It required separate samples which had to be taken to DES for testing and there was a separate charge for it. The testing was phased out due primarily to cost. Mr. May explained that the e. coli results are primarily what's given to the newspapers for public education. Mr. Russell asked whether there were any sample areas with cyanobacteria issues. Mr. May replied that there was. Mr. Russell explained that, since cyanobacteria can kill pets, there would be a public interest in that data as well.

Chairman Porter will send his meeting presentation to the membership.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

### **Next LMRLAC Meeting**

The next LMRLAC meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2017, at 7:00 pm at the Nashua Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Archambault  
Secretary