

**LMRLAC – October 24, 2013**

**LOWER MERRIMACK RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**October 24, 2013**

**Members:**

- ✓ = present

**Current:**

- ✓ Kathryn Nelson (Chair) -- Nashua
- Michael Redding (Vice Chair) – Merrimack
- ✓ Karen Archambault (Secretary) – Nashua
- Jim Barnes (Treasurer) – Hudson
- ✓ Michael Croteau - Litchfield
- ✓ Nelson Disco - Merrimack
- George May – Merrimack

**Associate Members:**

Mildred Mugica – Nashua

**Also in attendance:**

Gene Porter, Nashua resident

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm in the Music/Art/Media room of the Nashua Public Library by Chair Kath Nelson. Michael Redding and Jim Barnes had notified Kath that they would be unable to attend the meeting.

**Minutes**

Minutes from the March 28 and May 23, 2013 meetings were approved.

**New Business**

**Merrimack – Nanocomp Technologies, 57 DW Highway**

Kath summarized an e-mail from the civil engineer working the project. The project is on the Merrimack Conservation Commission agenda for November 7 and LMRLAC will receive a copy of the plans at that time.

Nelson mentioned that he believes the project is seeking local approval only and does not require Shoreland or Alteration of Terrain permits.

**Cottontail Habitat Restoration Project**

Kath mentioned she had been contacted by Donald Kierstead from USDA-NRCS in Durham. Mr. Kierstead is looking for potential shoreland restoration sites in the lower Merrimack River watershed for the New England cottontail and is interested in speaking with LMRLAC about the project.

Kath stated she had invited Mr. Kierstead to this evening's meeting. He was unable to attend and suggested November 12 or 19. Neither of those dates would work for the LMRLAC members present.

Members expressed an interest in learning more about the project. Kath showed a map of the study area, which includes most of Hudson, Litchfield, and Merrimack in it. Kath stated she understands the project intends to combine habitat restoration with water quality.

Kath will invite Mr. Kierstead to the next meeting when a date is chosen.

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### **Next Meeting**

Kath will solicit feedback from members on their preference for meeting either December 5, 12, or 19 for a combined November/December meeting.

### **Old Business**

#### **Nashua – DES Site #198708017, Beazer East (former Koppers)**

Kath stated that the DES Project Manager, Michael McCluskey, has been invited to attend a Nashua Waterways Committee meeting, of which she is the chair. Once the date is set, she will pass along information on the scheduled meeting date to LMRLAC members if they are interested in attending as members of the public.

Mr. Porter asked whether LMRLAC receives copies of the sampling reports for the site. He stated that technical data was available at the NH DES Web site at one time. Mr. Porter offered to review the sampling data if LMRLAC members would like him to do so.

### **Membership**

Karen and Nelson commented that the LAC workshop materials included a table with appointment expiration dates for all LAC members. All LMRLAC members have appointments which expire in 2014.

Mr. Porter expressed an interest in applying to become a member of LMRLAC. He explained that he is a member of the State Public Water Access Advisory Board, and is interested in boat access on the Merrimack River.

### **LAC Workshop October 19**

Kath reminded Nelson and Karen that they can be reimbursed from LMRLAC funds for the registration costs and mileage to the LAC workshop. Kath requested an e-mail with registration and mileage information if reimbursement is desired.

Kath, Nelson, and Karen summarized the LAC workshop for Michael C. Karen took an action to provide copies of the handout which summarizes the changes to the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act.

Karen commented on the FLUME “fluvial geomorphology in a box” setup and demonstration which was available during lunch at the LAC workshop. The setup, along with its presenters Shane Csiki and Jeremy Nicoletti, is available for presenting around the state. Members discussed options for scheduling a regional event to which we could invite them to provide a demonstration. Kath mentioned that the setup also ties in to a model ordinance and will forward it to LAC members.

### **LMRLAC Checklist**

Kath mentioned that among the presentations at the LAC workshop was the RMAC survey responses, which included a discussion of getting River Management Plans adopted and used by member towns. Kath had commented that LMRLAC had written a Development Review Checklist, with varying levels of success with its use within LMRLAC’s jurisdiction.

Kath suggested members review the checklist for potential updating. Kath will send out a link to the checklist on the NRPC Web site.

### **604(b) Grant for River Continuity Assessment (Culvert Study)**

Kath mentioned discussing culverts with Justin Kates, Nashua Emergency Management Director. Mr. Kates may either have or be able to obtain funding to work on culverts. Kath reminded members that LMRLAC has not yet presented information on the culvert study to the

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member towns, and suggested LMRLAC could work with Mr. Kates to effect some culvert improvements in Nashua.

### **Manchester – Shoreland and Alteration of Terrain Applications for Riverbend on the Merrimack**

Kath brought a copy of the plans which had been forwarded to LMRLAC. The proposed project is outside LMRLAC's jurisdiction, in the area of the Merrimack River between the Upper Merrimack River LAC (UMRLAC) and LMRLAC. Kath suggested LMRLAC could still look at the plans to see whether the plans include ideas or approaches that LMRLAC could recommend to other applicants.

Nelson took the plans to look them over.

### **Minutes Distribution**

Karen mentioned that, based on the briefing on the Right to Know Law at the LAC Workshop, minutes must be provided when a member of the public asks for them. Kath asked that she be notified when this occurs, and also requested that any draft minutes include a watermark.

### **Use of LMRLAC Funds**

Members discussed potential options for using some of the funds in the LMRLAC account. Among the potential uses discussed were:

- Printing copies of a brochure
- Distribution copies of the checklist
- Display board for conferences
- Measuring/monitoring equipment

For the brochure, Kath asked for a volunteer to design the brochure. Nelson offered to find out who had put together the Souhegan River LAC (SoRLAC) brochure.

Nelson explained that SoRLAC has a display board, which was recently displayed at a business expo in Merrimack, and appeared to raise some awareness of the river.

On the topic of measuring equipment, Kath pointed out that such equipment requires recurring costs for maintenance and probes, and are therefore not just a one-time expense.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

### **Next LMRLAC Meeting**

The next LMRLAC meeting will be on a Thursday in December at 7:00 pm at the Nashua Public Library; date to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Archambault  
secretary