

Members:

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- ✓ Bob Robbins (Chair) – Hudson
- ✓ Kathryn Nelson (Vice Chair) -- Nashua
- ✓ Karen Archambault (Secretary) -- Nashua
- Glenn McKibben (Treasurer) – Litchfield
- Cynthia Ruonala (Public Relations) – Nashua
- ✓ George May - Merrimack
- ✓ Jim Barnes – Hudson
- Ray Peeples – Litchfield
- Stan Kazlouskas – Hudson

Associate Members:

Millie Mugica – Nashua

Also in attendance:

- ✓ Julie and Dave Hudon, corridor residents in Hudson
- ✓ William Keating, City of Nashua Wastewater Engineer

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm in the east wing downstairs at the Nashua Public Library.

Minutes

The minutes from the May 22, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.

Old Business

Corridor Management Plan

Bob asked Jim if there had been any feedback on the plan presentation given in Hudson on May 7. Jim indicated that there had not been much further discussion on the plan since the presentation. Jim expects that members will split up sections of the plan to review.

Bob mentioned that he had been contacted by the media about the plan. Bob stated he believes the Recommended Actions (Chapter 5) should be the focus of discussion with the media.

Members briefly discussed the structure and content of the PowerPoint presentation being used. Members discussed the purpose of the presentation – to introduce the updated plan to the meeting attendees.

Bob will present to a meeting of the Litchfield combined boards on Tuesday, July 22.

Kath summarized the presentation to the Nashua Conservation Commission on June 3. The presentation introduced the plan to the Commission and to two members of the Nashua planning staff. No specific date has been set yet, but the plan is to present to the Nashua Planning Board in September.

Members agreed to change the order of the agenda to hear New Business and discuss the Corridor Management Plan meetings further after the Nashua CSO presentation.

New Business

Nashua CSO project

William Keating introduced himself as a wastewater engineer for the City of Nashua, handling combined sewer overflow (CSO) improvements. He presented a plan for modifications to five CSOs on the Nashua and Merrimack Rivers in Nashua. The letter on the project was received June 13, with 30 days to comment.

Mr. Keating gave a brief background of the project – that a study by Camp Dresser and McKee in the late 90s described a need to improve the sewer systems in Nashua. The EPA mandated that the city develop a long-term control plan to reduce the frequency of discharges to the Nashua and Merrimack Rivers.

Mr. Keating summarized the CSOs in Nashua and described the location of the five CSOs involved in this project, three of which are on the Nashua River, and two on the Merrimack. The CSO with the greatest change is CSO 8, located behind Nashua Power Equipment on Broad Street. Mr. Keating briefly described the changes planned at CSO 8, to capture any rain event smaller than the one-year storm (which, in this area, Mr. Keating described as 3 inches of rain within 24 hours).

Mr. Keating was asked whether a map was available indicating the location of all CSOs in Nashua. Mr. Keating will send an electronic copy of the city map, with CSOs indicated, to Kath.

George asked whether there had been any CSO releases during the recent heavy rains. Mr. Keating said he would check.

Members briefly discussed the wet weather treatment expansion project at the waste water plant. Mr. Keating stated that project is scheduled to be on-line by January of 2009.

Discussion then turned to the five CSO structures being changed under the plan. CSO 8 includes a siphon structure along the river. The City is removing an 18” pipe and putting in a 30” pipe. The pipe will run 2200’ to a 48” interceptor. Near the CSO there is a rock cap, underneath which is probably asbestos. The sewer line also runs close to the lagoon site at the former tannery. The City has a hazardous waste management plan for the project.

Bob asked whether there would be any change in appearance from the river. Mr. Keating stated there would be no visible changes from the river – the changes are all underground or within the CSO structure itself.

Members then asked Mr. Keating about the modifications to the CSOs discharging to the Merrimack River. Mr. Keating indicated changes to two CSOs: CSO 4, at the end of Burke Street, and CSO 3 at Farmington Road.

The changes to CSO 4 are minor compared to those at CSO 8. The CSO 4 improvements will handle a storm a little greater than the one-year storm. Kath asked whether there was an opportunity for a trail along the river in the area of CSO 4. Mr. Keating indicated that CSO 4 is not publicly accessible – the City is attempting to negotiate a permanent access easement from the railroad.

Mr. Keating showed some pictures of CSO 4, and described that some small trees/saplings would have to come out as part of the excavation to access and replace the pipe. Kath requested that the trees be tagged so that no more trees than necessary would be taken out. Kath also asked about a silt fence. Mr. Keating replied that the plan includes a biodegradable silt fence. Kath mentioned the CSPA and Mr. Keating indicated he believes the work and tree removal is beyond the 50’ buffer.

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Mr. Keating summarized that the work at CSO 3 is all at the golf course and not immediately adjacent to the river.

George asked who was doing the work. Mr. Keating replied that the job is currently out for bid.

George asked if the LAC could receive a history of releases. Mr. Keating replied that he will make a copy of the CSO monitoring report and send it to the LAC for review. He indicated the report is produced either monthly or quarterly and is 100 pages or more.

George asked for clarification on the EPA mandate. Mr. Keating replied that the goal of the Clean Water Act is to have swimmable, fishable rivers – essentially, no discharges. He summarized the cost benefit analysis that went into the plan the city ultimately presented to the EPA, which was approved. He also stated the EPA consent decree is available on the City of Nashua Web site.

George asked whether the city is still separating stormwater from sewer. Mr. Keating indicated that this is being done where it's feasible to do so. This led to a brief discussion about stormwater treatment and the benefits vs. drawbacks of separating stormwater.

Mr. Keating indicated there will be a separate re-evaluation study for CSOs 5 and 6 on the Nashua River. Members asked him to keep the LAC in the loop on this.

Members discussed having Mr. Keating back at the June 2009 LMRLAC meeting to discuss the status/progress on Nashua's CSO projects.

Kath reiterated the request that the trees be marked and that a silt fence be in place to make sure the machinery stays away from the bank.

Members thanked Mr. Keating for coming to the LAC to discuss the project. Kath will put together a letter on the project to send to DES and will copy Mr. Keating on the letter.

Old Business

Corridor Management Plan

George will work on having a joint meeting in Merrimack for LMRLAC to introduce/present the updated Corridor Management Plan. George will ask for a 30-minute time slot on the agenda, with 20 minutes for the PowerPoint presentation, and 10 minutes for Q and A.

Kath brought several hard copies of the plan to hand out to LAC members who did not already have one. In addition to copies for LAC members, one hard copy of the plan is available per town. Sufficient electronic copies of the plan on CDs are available to hand out to meeting attendees. Kath also had hard copies Minda had made of Chapter 5, Recommended Actions, to hand out to meeting attendees.

Bob will make copies of Chapter 2, Goals, to hand out along with the copies of Chapter 5, Recommended Actions, at the Litchfield meeting on July 22.

Members discussed what kind of time frame to suggest to the towns for a followup meeting to keep the process moving forward, and agreed that 3 months was a reasonable time frame to recommend to the towns to review the plan and prepare to discuss adoption of the plan.

Members briefly discussed whether to pursue a joint meeting at NRPC, and decided that such a meeting would probably not be as well attended as the meetings in individual towns.

RMAC June meeting

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Kath mentioned that she formed a subcommittee at the June RMAC (Rivers Management Advisory Committee) meeting to look into the issue of adequate notification of the LACs by DES. Kath is putting together a questionnaire to send to LAC chairs to start gathering information on the process. Her intent is to look into possible legislative/administrative changes to come out of the subcommittee.

Lowell Dam Level

The Hudons introduced themselves and asked whether the Boott Hydropower dam repairs were complete. They indicated that the river level appears to be back up again, but were not certain whether it was due to recent heavy rains, or whether the dam had been raised again in Lowell. Members mentioned that the letter from Boott Hydropower had indicated repairs would be complete on June 27.

The Hudons described how they live on the river and have noted roughly 10 feet of erosion on their property over the past 20 years. They attribute this, at least in part, to the changing water level. They also described how they can feel vibrations from the trains on the Hudson side of the river. They also described how they can see evidence of bank erosion, including fallen trees, along the section of the river from Hudson all the way to Lowell when they boat on the river.

George raised the question whether the LAC should take any additional action about the river level – for example, contacting FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) about Boott Hydropower's license. Members indicated that the fact the Boott Hydropower now provides notification of dam lowering is at least a step in the right direction. George offered to write another letter to Boott Hydropower, reiterating points from last year's letter and indicating that concerned citizens have spoken to the LAC about not only recreational concerns, but also about erosion along the river due to the changing water levels. Members supported George's offer to write and send the letter.

Local Updates

Nashua

Karen handed out electronic copies of an erosion report prepared by Aries Engineering on Thoreau's Landing. She also passed along information from Aries requesting LMRLAC consider writing a letter of support for a bioengineering approach to erosion control at the site. Members will review the report for the July meeting.

Miscellaneous

Bob requested that a discussion of recordkeeping be added to the July agenda. He expressed concerns that LMRLAC should maintain records of correspondence for future reference.

Karen took a stack of copies of Chapter 5, Recommended Actions, for the Nashua Planning Board meeting when it occurs.

Karen will e-mail Bob with the Power Point slides needing corrections or updates for the Litchfield meeting. Karen and Kath had noted during the presentation to Nashua that one slide had a reference to the Hudson joint committee, and the last slide listed the Nashua LMRLAC members.

Meeting adjourned 9:00pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 24 at 7pm at the Nashua Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Archambault
secretary