

Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

Police Station, Milford New Hampshire

June 19, 2014

In attendance were members George May (Merrimack), Spencer Brookes,(Wilton), Bill Mahar (Wilton), Nelson Disco (Merrimack), Yvonne Beran (Milford), Rich Hart (Amherst), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), Cory Ritz (New Ipswich), Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich)

Meeting began at 7 p.m.

Approved minutes from April's meeting. George noted two websites where minutes and activities are posted.

www.nashuarpc.org/about/related-organizations/sorlac and

www.souheganriver.org

No Permits to review

Updates

Frye Field-George wrote a letter and circulated via email a letter supporting Frye Field getting an LCHIP grant.

Merrimack Site Walk, McCabe Property- Cory filled us in on the situation on the McCabe property. Several years ago (approx. 10, George thought) the older McCabe tried to rip rap with large rocks on a section of river. He was turned into the state for doing this. Erosion has continued since and in an effort to deter this, he has sought help in stopping it and appears to want to address the problem in a more "correct" manner. There will be another walk through the site with Fish and Game. There are a total of 4 sites on 2 parcels of land. Cory walked 3 of them. The outside edge of where the river meanders is where the erosion is occurring. Cory was not impressed with the idea of rip- rapping to solve the problem and felt a more in depth study of the situation was in order but money was going to be an issue. Cory sited the need to take in to account a whole list of other issues, among them, water velocity and volume, stream bed shape, placement and

type of shore plantings. He felt that the erosion evident on the McCabe property was probably repeated further down the river and that proper remediation here could possibly serve as an example and demonstration project of BMP (Best Management Practices) for restoring stream banks to other landowners.

They have not “cost out” the project. Cory felt that the situation needed to be evaluated based on hydrology and other factors and a game plan developed. He felt the younger McCabe, Kyle, seemed interested, willing and capable of planting and maintaining a riparian habitat, a task that would entail close monitoring initially due to weather and events that might affect the banks. Cory mentioned that maybe outreach people could be found to put some money toward this end. Later in the meeting when we were discussing grant money, this was mentioned as a candidate for a use of the money.

At this point the discussion turned to a fluvial erosion study that was supposed to have been done by DES. Yvonne asked what was up with that. George said he would write Shane Csiki and invite him to one of our meetings. Nelson pointed out that historical data was available on stream flow and Google Maps go back approximately 20 years now. We can look in Amherst to determine what is “natural” in many cases (in the short term, anyway), but that in Amherst, mowing to the edge of the bank is the norm for the last 40 years as in the McCabe case. The Shoreline Protection Act requires a 50’ setback.

Cory felt a test for water velocity was needed. He felt the stream has been altered but could be stabilized. Spencer wants to know where the Army Corp of Engineer is in this. Talk turned to the use of rip rapping at bridges. There was a short discussion of the use of rootballs at the Milford Golf course at the point where Tucker Brook enters the river. George voiced that he felt that in the case of canoes and swimmers, root balls could be a safety issue.

McCabe is looking for suggestions and money to remediate.

Cory offers to give overview on stream erosion. Rich suggested we open this presentation up to the public, especially Conservation Commission members and landowners along the river.

Milford Medical Center- George had sent a note from DES to Meridian concerning landscaping. Meridian responded to us that they will pass along our suggestions to people in charge of landscaping.

Pilgrim Foods- We sent a letter stating what a great idea we thought it was that they were filling in the lagoons. Marshall told us that since they have done this the State has asked them to make a plan to address leaking cisterns. Greenville Conservation Commission is concerned with leakage into the un-named brook behind the building.

Watershed Assistance Grants (email 5/5)- George wanted to know if anyone had suggestions. Spencer asked if there were any problems at the old Wilton Dump that needed addressing. George said water test downriver from dump have tested resulting in high iron content. George will check to see if there is something that could be remediated.

Discussion followed on erosion at Seaverns Bridge access. It is washed out and money could be used to address this. Merrimack DES has explored ways to solve the erosion. Nelson pointed out that this is a place that people would take out and put in boats and that should be considered. A lot of people felt a catch basin might solve some of the problems. George said there had been a Japanese Knotweed problem at the site. When he went down to check it out, he found that all the Knotweed had been cut and the area covered with a material to smother it.

There was discussion on doing a presentation on Invasive Species. This would be thrown open to the public.

Milford Water Utilities Tank Cleaning- It's happening. No one expressed a problem with this. Discussion speculated on where exactly this tank was. *Yvonne looked it up after the meeting – the tank is on Dram Cup Hill in west Milford near Wilton and attached a description of the work to the end of the minutes.*

Response to Ammonoosuc River LAC in regard to time allotted for review and comment on Shoreland Applications- The question arose from Shoreland Application for Bretton Woods to construct a pedestrian bridge and a new trail.- George was one of at least 20 respondents to this egregious bending of the rules. In the past when SoRLAC is not able to respond to a permit application because of a time snafu, George usually writes the organization in question and advises them that we are unable to meet the stated deadline for whatever reason. This

has been a problem for all river advisory groups and the River Management Advisory Council will probably need to address the issue.

Local Updates

Souhegan Watershed Association/Cleanup, monitoring-The cleanup was done with Merrimack Valley Paddlers and American Rivers. 150 bags of garbage were collected. That is the least amount collected in past years.. There was not a lot of garbage at Horse Shoe Falls and George left a few empty bags there. There was a newspaper article that appeared in the Milford Cabinet, Nashua Telegraph, Manchester Union Leader, and on our website.

George noted that there was an unusually high e-coli count at High Bridge in New Ipswich for the water monitoring. Kleta will ask Doug Waitt if he noted anything unusual at this site during testing on Tuesday the 17th.

The Watershed Association is testing at Watson Park weekly as it has become a swimming hole. Lots of sand from the dam removal has settled there. Testing is also takes place at Boston Post Rd and could be upgraded to weekly testing if needed.

Souhegan Valley Land Trust-N/A

New Ipswich- There was discussion on traffic flow for the impending bridge repairs at High Bridge.

Greenville/High Street- Cory commented on how unattractive he thought the rip rapping and metal works were on the High Street landslide site. Marshall stated that he thinks it's finished. The "road closed" signs are down on the Greenville end but still in place on the New Ipswich end. The equipment is gone. Discussion followed on memories of the presentation and promises of bank stabilization using willow (?) trees. Marshall said the town administrator should be contacted as she would know if final payment had been made. It was suggested not to make final payment till planting was complete.

Wilton- There is work on the bridge in downtown Wilton near the police station.

Milford-The old school house next to the Dunkin Donuts on the west side of Milford has been torn down. They took out a few trees next to the road.

Merrimack-Nelson gave us an update on the Town Center Committee's efforts to complete a trail under the Everett Tpk between Watson Park and Wildcat Falls. They are lining up support and will need stairs and heavy equipment to complete the project. Getting from the school area to Watson Park will be tricky as it used to be a wetland and sometimes drainage can be a problem.

There is a cluster development being built at Indian Ledges. George has not seen any permitting request but that might be because all the construction is well away from the 250' boundary required by the Shoreline Protection Act. Across from this on Amherst St. is another development on a very steep site and there might be a lot of erosion during construction.

Amherst-Rich explained that the "Cemetery Fields" will be used as playing fields this summer and will be developed into a cemetery afterwards if one is to believe what is currently planned. There are a few issues that need to be resolved. The field would need an incredible amount of fill and the land is a known flood plain. There are some issues that have come to light in regards to dozens if not hundreds of plots in other cemeteries in town as to who owns the plots. Amherst might be taking Amherst to court over these issues. Meanwhile, there is discussion on selling half of the land for planning fields.

Nelson remembers that there use to be a gravel pit in the area and Marshall says Oliver Merrill took dirt out. George heard a rumor there was going to an attempt to get rid of cemetery trustees. Yes, there was a warrant article in March's vote but it failed. Bill Mahar asked about Brad Knight. He is not involved in these playing fields.

Next Meeting Thurs, July 17, venue TBA

Submitted June 20, 2014

Kleta Dudley, Secretary



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW I. WATER SYSTEM NAME:

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW I. WATER SYSTEM NAME: MILFORD WATER UTILITIES DISTRICT ADDRESS: 564 NASHUA STREET MILFORD, NH 03055 PROJECT TITLE: DRAM CUP HILL TANK REHABILITATION WATER SYSTEM EPA ID: PWS# 1561010 II. INTRODUCTION The Milford Water Utilities District has applied for funds through the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF), in accordance with Chapter Env Dw 1100. This document addresses the requirements of Env Dw 1107; the Environmental Review. V. DETAILS of PROJECT The proposed project involves the restoration of the interior surface of the tank system in order to extend the life of the asset and increase water quality in the tank. The interior surface of the concrete tank walls will need to be blasted to remove previous coatings, corrosion, and other contaminants. Any cracks, voids, and bug holes will be routed and filled with an engineered resurfacing product. The new interior surface coating will be applied in two coats; a prime coat of 3-5 mils thick of an engineered coating product and a finish coat of 50-65 mils thick of an engineered coating product. The ceiling of the tank will only require a single coating of 10-14 mils thick. The estimated cost of the overall project is \$330,000. VII. PUBLIC REVIEW The Townspeople of Milford voted to authorize funding in the amount of \$330,000. for this project on 3/11/14. A public notice will be published by the Milford Water Utilities District and a 30-day comment period will be held in accordance with the DWSRF rules. The full document is available at, and comments may be addressed to, the following locations: David Boucher, Director, 564 Nashua St, Milford, NH 03055 and NHDES Attn: Allyson Gourley, Environmental Review Coordinator, PO Box 95, 29 Hazen Dr., Concord , NH 03302-0095.

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Project: Dram Cup Hill Water Tank, Milford : tank rehabilitation

Link: <http://nh.mypublicnotices.com/PublicNotice.asp?Page=PublicNotice&AdId=3536374>

Google maps coordinates: **42.839161, -71.710860**