



Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee Meeting

April 24, 2003 - 7:00 PM

Nashua Regional Planning Commission

Present:

Angela Rapp - NRPC
Will Jewett - Litchfield
Glen McKibben - Litchfield
George May - Merrimack
Bob Robbins - Hudson
Rick Maddox - Hudson
Patrick Tate - Hudson
Nadine Parker - Nashua
Steve Couture - NH DES

I. Updates

- Depot Street
There were internal issues with the contract at NH DES, so it was not submitted to Governor and Council until the end of April. The project is slated to be heard on May 7.
- DES Updates - Steve Couture gave us an update on Instream Flow and Senate Bill 87. The Instream Flow Program is still being considered. Funding for the program will be through the NH DES budget, but that is still being considered by the legislature. For more information, please contact Steve Couture or go to the NH DES website at:
<http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/>

Senate Bill 87 is regarding the application of septage, biosolids and short paper fibers along designated rivers within the 125-foot setback. Currently that is not allowed. A committee is being formed (composition unknown right now) that will review information on the impacts of applying these materials at that distance from a waterbody. Steve will keep us updated.

Steve also mentioned that the Federal Energy Relicensing Commission is contacting stakeholders to provide input on the relicensing of three of the dams on the Merrimack River. The Lower Merrimack River LAC is a stakeholder and could be an intervenor in this process. The groups expressed that they would like to know more about the process and what the relicensing means. Steve mentioned that the Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee (UMRLAC) is active on this issue. There was a request to have Michele Tremblay, the chair of the UMRLAC, come and speak about the dam relicensing as well as activities that the UMRLAC is working on, and how they keep membership interested.

For more information on Dam relicensing:

- Jim Kerns - PSNH - call him about serving as an intervenor
- Ken Kimball - gives presentations about the relicensing process - also a PSNH representative
- Beazer Site - additional/ongoing compliance issues - the LAC received information regarding the on-going non-compliance by the Beazer East. Original issues that were raised about the site have not been addressed. On March 5, 2003, NH DES sent a letter of non-compliance to



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Beazer East, giving them until April 30, 2003 to submit information regarding how the company plans to bring the site into compliance. **Please see the attached for the specific issues. Steve Couture will give us an update on what the response was at our next meeting.**

II. **Site Specific Permit Application - 75-unit elderly housing project in Nashua**

The group reviewed the site specific permit application and site plan for this site. The site plan has been approved by the City of Nashua Planning Board as of April 10, 2003. The group compiled five comments to send to NH DES (**see attached letter**). The group also decided that from now on, any comments on applications submitted to NH DES will have a cc to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board in the community where the project is occurring.

III. **Application to Construct a Dam - Town of Merrimack (attached)**

This project is actually not within a quarter mile of the Lower Merrimack River corridor, but Steve Couture explained that the NH DES Dam Bureau sends information regarding all projects within the Towns along the corridor. This project is not actually a dam, but because of the size of the drainage and the associated earth embankment, it is considered a dam for all intensive purposes. Steve informed us that there is a Site Specific Application for this site. However, it is not within the quarter-mile corridor, and hence, the LAC will not be automatically alerted. Steve asked if the group would like a copy of it anyway, because we are still allowed to provide comments since the site is within the Lower Merrimack River Watershed. George May said that he would be interested and Steve Couture will provide that to NRPC before the next meeting.

IV. **NH DOT Notification of Activities within Wetlands - Town of Hudson (attached)**

Deb Loiselle, from the NH DOT Bureau of the Environment, called Angie on Tuesday, April 22nd to inform her that NH DOT will be conducting geotechnical explorations along NH Route 102 in Hudson during the week of April 21st. They will be conducting some of the work in wetlands. No comments are requested from the LAC - it's solely informational. **Please see the enclosed project description.**

V. **Brainstorming Future Projects - Display Board**

Due to limited time, the group decided to postpone this agenda item for a couple of meetings. Glenn McKibben brought information on the display boards that his company orders, which will be kept in the LMRLAC files until the group discusses this issue again.

VI. **Bylaws (attached)**

Due to limited time, the group decided to postpone this agenda item until the next meeting. Please find the suggested changes to the bylaws enclosed. This will be an action item on the next agenda.



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VII. NRPC Website and Workshops

Angie informed the group that NRPC has dedicated a page on the NRPC website to the LMRLAC. Agendas and minutes will be on the page, as will information about projects the group is working on. There is also a link to the NH DES Rivers Management and Protection Program. The group decided that it would be beneficial to have the LAC members names and contact information on the site to be more accessible to our communities.

VIII. Local Updates

Merrimack: George May reported that more work is being done to jumpstart the Greeley Street Boat Access ramp project. George will keep us informed of the progress of this project. George also reported that the Lower Merrimack and Souhegan River Water Quality Monitoring program plan is out from the summer of 2002. Copies were handed out to the various communities and will also be made available on the NRPC website on the LMRLAC page. The LMRLAC sponsors this every year. If anyone is interested in volunteering to take samples at a site this summer, there is a training/picnic on Saturday, May 31st at Keyes Field in Milford. Starts at 12pm.

Hudson: there will be a clean-up of the Ingersol Property that was just acquired with LCHIP funds on Saturday, April 26th. There is also work being done to GPS the trails in Benson's.

Litchfield: Glenn reported that the Conservation Commission is still trying to work with the town to obtain the LCHIP funding they were awarded for the boat ramp and begin construction. Joan McKibben is writing a letter encouraging the town to move forward with the boat ramp. LMRLAC and NH DES will be copied on this letter.

NOTE: The next meeting of the Lower Merrimack Local Advisory Committee is going to start at 6pm. From 6-8 PM, Sandy Crystall from NH DES will speak about how to minimize impacts to our State's wetlands. From 8-9 PM, the LMRLAC will conduct business. If you have any questions, please contact Angie at 883-0366, x 15, or angier@nashuarpc.org.