

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Wild and Scenic Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes September 8, 2015
Lee Safety Complex, 22 George Bennett Road, Lee, NH**

APPROVED OCTOBER 13, 2015

members present: Joe Foley, Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord, Sharon Meeker, Kitty Miller

staff/affiliates present: Laurel Cox, Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 7:08.

summary of motions:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the FY 2016 outreach contract as presented. Sharon Meeker seconded. Anne Lightbody made a motion to increase the hourly wage by 2%. Dick Lord seconded. Motion to approve the amendment passed unanimously. Motion to approve the contract as amended passed unanimously.

approval of minutes from July 14, 2015:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Anne Lightbody seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

land protection update:

- Project "B" is expected to close by the end of September.
- Project "L" should be complete by January 2016.

outreach update:

events:

- Sat., Sept. 12: Oma-Can-Can-Oe Triathlon in Raymond: LRAC and LRWA tables will be set up and staffed by Sharon Meeker, Dawn Genes, Debbie McNelly, Carolyn Matthews, and Emily Schmalzer.
- Sat., Sept. 12: Lee Fair, Mast Way School field: Suzanne Petersen will set up the tent and display starting at 10:00. Dick Lord will relieve her in the afternoon if possible.
- Sat., Sept. 19: Nottingham Family Fun Day, Nottingham Elementary School: Suzanne Petersen will set up the tent and display starting at 8:45.
- Sat., Sept. 19: Lamprey River stream clean up sponsored by LRWA. Dawn Genes is coordinating.
- Sat., Sept. 26: Durham Day Picnic at Wagon Hill Farm: Sharon Meeker, Dick Lord, and Anne Lightbody will set up the display at 12:00 and stay until the 4:00 close.

Oct. 17 (?) paddle on tidal portion:

We will need to investigate tides, potential highlights of the trip (McCallen Dam and fish ladder, fish weir, WWTF, oyster farm, great blue heron rookery, etc.), and coordinate the event for LRAC and LRWA members as a trial run for a potential public offering. *Post script: following the regular W&S meeting, the outreach group decided to delay this activity until 2016 due to several issues that will make the event difficult this year. It was suggested that W&S work with the Gundalow Company to customize a Lamprey program as a reward for LRAC and LRWA participation paid for with a W&S subsidy and member contributions. If the paddling option is pursued, a high level of safety will be required. Perhaps we could work with GBNERR to provide boats and safety personnel.*

improving outreach:

LRAC is in a tough position to offer outreach opportunities alone. We will be much more successful if we can build partnerships with local libraries and recreation departments. Suzanne Petersen will create a list of simple offerings or opportunities and then meet with program directors. LRAC members will be encouraged to meet with local librarians and recreation programs.

recreation update:

- The LRWA/LRAC group that is investigating woody obstacles in the river between Route 87 and Wadleigh Falls is still considering a pilot project to relocate some wood to improve canoe passage. The suggestion was made that LRAC consider placing signs at various launch sites that indicate the suggested skill level in the vicinity of the launch, such as noting that x miles upstream requires several portages and that x miles downstream is family friendly during certain times of the year.
- Portage access around Wadleigh Falls continues to be an issue. The owner of the land that is the most convenient wants to ensure that the river and banks remain protected and requests that all visitors to the site seek his permission, but actually contacting him is a sometimes difficult task. The law is clear that paddlers have the right to portage as needed, but some workable compromise with the landowner would be highly desirable.
- The footpath proposal is moving along. A public presentation/ comment session in Durham is scheduled for September 16 and one for Lee is scheduled for September 17. Presentations for Epping and Newmarket are still being arranged.

cows in the river update:

Laurel Cox has tried to contact the landowner's son several times without success. Observations of the site verify that cows are still going to the river for water and are disturbing the river bank. Once contact is made, Laurel will ask if the landowner is aware of the problem and if he has any

suggestions about what can be done to correct the problem. She can then offer help from LRAC if that would be helpful.

outreach specialist's contract for FY 2016:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the FY 2016 outreach contract as presented. Sharon Meeker seconded. Anne Lightbody made a motion to increase the hourly wage by 2%. Dick Lord seconded. Motion to approve the amendment passed unanimously. Motion to approve the contract as amended passed unanimously.

A suggestion was made to discuss creating a policy to address cost-of-living increases for staff going forward.

draft Lamprey River instream flow management plan comments session:

NHDES will have a presentation and seek comments on September 23 at the NH Fish and Game office in Durham. One key question that remains for W&S members is how to define success of the plan and of relief pulses. Members were encouraged to attend and ask questions.

other:

- Judith Spang shared an email that Durham is not taking any water from the Lamprey presently due to low flows. Questions remain about water sustainability from all sources in the Durham/UNH Water System, especially considering the explosion of new housing in Durham recently.
- The group was reminded that the Mendum's Pond draw down for repairs to the dam will begin September 9. The water gauge at Packers Falls should reflect the increased flow in the lower Lamprey.
- Jake Poirier will be presenting his research findings on the Woodman Brook siltation problem to the full LRAC on Thursday, September 24.
- water quality:
 - Analysis of water quality data will be picking up again now that UNH is back in session.
 - Ann Welsh, the working group leader, is no longer engaged with the group or the committee. She has indicated informally that she will be leaving, but she has not provided anything official. The water group needs some leadership and a succession plan.
 - Data are available, but they are mostly still in a raw form. Much work remains on how committee members and the public might use the data. All members are encouraged to participate in creating a strategy and plan.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Anne Lightbody seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30.