



RIVERBEND SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes - January 29, 2009

PRESENT: Rick Walling, Bath; Dennis Goodwin, Waterford; P.J. Blanchard, Monroe; Bill Graves, Barnet; Deb Noble, Concord; Bob Elwell, Lancaster; John Severance and Adair Mulligan, CRJC

ABSENT: Guildhall, Ryegate, Newbury, Lunenburg, Haverhill, Dalton; Littleton

1. Housekeeping - Lancaster has appointed Bob Elwell to the Subcommittee. Bob introduced himself with a short reading. Minutes of the meeting of May 29 were approved. The Recreation Plan will soon be mailed to the 350 communities, organizations, commissioners, subcommittee members and agencies on the distribution list, and posted on the web. The Water Resources Plan is currently being designed. Staff time shortage and budget concerns have precluded CRJC from printing the subcommittee versions, but their summaries will be included in the published overviews and the full plans will be posted on the web. The next meeting, likely to be held in March/April, will showcase the Water Resources Plan. Adair displayed DES' new handbook for sustainable development: *Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques*, and gave the subcommittee's copy to Rick Walling.
2. Permit Reviews - none currently.
3. Reports from the tributaries
 - a. Ammonoosuc River - CRJC has won grants from DES and the Mitigation & Enhancement Fund for geomorphic assessment, floodplain conservation, riverbank restoration on the Ammonoosuc River, in cooperation with Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust, North Country Council, and Ammonoosuc Local Advisory Committee. There will be an initial public meeting to explain the project, visits with the planning boards and conservation commissions of all seven watershed towns, and a follow up presentation on findings, sponsored with the LAC. The Subcommittee voted to ask Rick to testify in the legislature on behalf of the bill to designate the headwaters of the river. Rick said that engineering studies are out for two new potential bridge crossings in Bath village, although there are no present plans to go ahead with construction.
 - b. Wells/Stevens River Watershed Council has published its watershed management plan.

PROTECTING LOCAL SHORELANDS

A large audience of approximately 45-50 people attended the following presentation, which was recorded by Channel 7 of Lyndon State College.

1. CRJC and the new Water Resources Management Plan: Adair Mulligan welcomed members of the public and gave a brief presentation to introduce the work of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions and the Riverbend Subcommittee. Their new Water Resources Management Plan calls upon NH DES to inform citizens about the updated Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act, and urges towns and landowners to carefully consider how their shorelands are managed and developed. The Commissions and the Subcommittee recommend that riparian buffers and floodplains be protected, and that Vermont, the only Northeastern state without shoreland protection, adopt such a law.
2. The Updated New Hampshire Shoreland Protection Law - Jay Aube of NH DES's Shoreland Program gave an extensive presentation about the newly updated law, the purpose behind it, the protections that apply, and what requires a shoreland permit and examples of what does not. Jay explained how to handle projects that were underway as the law changed, and offered himself as a source of information. Approximately 50 people attended, and an energetic question and answer session followed. The evening's presentation was supported by a grant from NH DES' Clean Water Act section 604(b) funding.