

CRJC Headwaters Subcommittee
 Minutes
 Thursday, October 25, 2018
 7:00PM
 Colebrook Town Office

Pittsburg	John Amey		Northumberland	Edwin Mellett	X
Pittsburg	Alan R Williams		Northumberland		
Colebrook	Kevin McKinnon	X	Bloomfield	Denault Routhier	
Colebrook			Bloomfield		
Stratford	Jamie Sayen	X	Lemington		
Stratford	Clayton Macdonald	X	Lemington		
Clarksville			Maidstone	Louis Lamoureux	
Clarksville			Maidstone		
Clarksville (alt)	Alan Karg		Canaan	Tom Caron	X
Stewartstown	Allen Coats		Canaan		
Stewartstown			Brunswick		
Columbia	Kenneth Hastings	X	Brunswick		
Columbia	John Lanier	X			

Dale Covey (Groveton)
 Tim Purrington (GRH)
 Amy Smagula (NHDES)
 Olivia Uyizeye (UVLSRPC)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The attendees go around and introduce themselves.

2. Speaker – Amy Smagula from NHDES on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

See PowerPoint slides and informational material presented over the course of the talk. Supplementary comments have been recorded.

Smagula opens with an illustration that shows that there is not a current significant problem with AIS in the Headwaters region. The Headwaters region had a scare of didymo blooms that has been since determined to be a native species that grows in blooms in areas of low Phosphorous. This impact is still significant with impacts on the food web, but is not a result of AIS. There remains risk for AIS to spread from other regions, including Hydrilla in CT/MA and European Milfoil in Southern NH. Current locations of AIS can be found on the NHDES Lake Mapper App.

AIS of concern include

- Purple Loosestrife: All the way up to the border. Blooms in August/September. Management has used beetles that were studied for 10 years by Cornell University by exclusion plots. The Department of Agriculture and NHDOT monitor the impact to ensure no adverse effect. The beetle populations may have been

hurt through recent droughts. Alternatively, the plant can be cut down, best when it is in flower before going to seed.

- Phragmites: The plant can create islands/barriers with thick root systems in water.
- Water Chestnut: Occurs in Southern NH. Spreads in part due to a spiny seed that can hitchhike on birds, moose and boats. Management is often done through mechanical harvesting.
- Variable Milfoil (underwater).
- Eurasian water Milfoil: many in VT and calcium rich parts of NH due to the plant preferring a higher pH.
- Fanwort: In Southern NH.
- Hydrilla: This species exists in every state around except NH and VT. The plant can grow 6 inches in one day. The tubers can survive in a duck's digestive system. It is at high risk of boat transport due to its brittleness.
- Spiny Water Flea: In Lake Champlain. It has spines made of silicone that when fish eat, they cannot digest. This makes the fish feel full when they are not getting enough nutrients and cause death.
- Zebra Mussel (not in NH yet) and Asian Clam (in 7 NH waterbodies): Both have a big impact on fisheries because they filter the water of microbial life and algae.
- Chinese Mystery Snail: It is the size of a golf ball and located in a hard bottomed area. Eat a lot of algae.

NHDES emphasizes identification of AIS and prevention. Integrative-Adaptive management is the current approach. NHDES pays 100% of the first year's infestation and requires a match for subsequent years.

Comments and Questions from Members

- Hastings notes a concern of increased risk of transport because of increased recreational use of inland waterbodies.
- Does NHDES work with marinas? Yes, NHDES communicated largely through the Marine Trades Association. NHDES also works with fire departments and sea planes.
- Concern that the funding for monitoring is too low. Smagula agrees that we need more "eyes on sight."
- What is the AIS management end game? It is site specific with a goal to reduce to lower management. Eradication is not always possible
- Natural eradication? Hasn't seen any yet.
- Climate change impacts? There is potential for AIS to expand due to effects such as later ice in/earlier ice out and warmer summers. NHDES is partnering with ME and VT to study lake temperatures in a longitudinal study.

3. Approve Minutes – April 30, 2018

Review of meeting minutes from April 30, 2018.

Hastings Motions to accept meeting minutes.

Caron Seconds

Vote unanimous.

Minutes from April approved with edit to correct Clayton Macdonald's name.

4. Permit Reviews

Garage in Pittsburg, 108 Varney Road. No comment.

Second Connecticut Lake dam repairs approved. Repairs began this past week, however had to be put off until 2019 because the water was too deep and not planned for. It is unlikely the owners will need a new permit if finished in 2019.

Lake Francis, Butterfly Valves. Suggested that the subcommittee speak with NHDES.

5. Updates and Other Business

Mellett discusses a project to expand the Groveton Town Forest. This will depend on the tax impact on the current owner of the sale. A public meeting on the potential purchase received positive response from residents.

Sayen discusses the report "Wildlands and Woodlands: Broadening the Vision for New England"

Uyizeye distributed pamphlets to attendees for distribution to all towns in the Headwaters region. This included the Homeowner's Guide for Water Quality Protection and the Shoreline Buffer Fact Sheet.

6. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15PM.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Colebrook Town Offices

7:00-9:00PM