

HLLT Watershed Management Committee Meeting - virtual

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 | 10:00 am – 11:30 pm

In attendance:

Rosie Hartzler

Gretchen Anderson

Kim White

Amanda Pratt

Jeff Dennis

Heather Huntt

Review of 2020 Highland Lake Watershed Management Plan Action Items

Number 1. “Continue Monitoring and Tracking for Pollution Sources”

- Kim White to reach out to Kevin McElerney who is heading the HLA private road grant committee on status of Number 1. A., B., and C.
- Heather says a landowner from Sunset Road contacted CCSWCD for assistance with driveway drainage yet it is not necessarily a water quality impact site – Kim will provide Kevin with this information

Number 1. D. “...Septic Systems...”

- 1.D.i. Has been mostly completed while determining highest risk parcels – to be updated as new information is found in the field
- 1.D.ii. Gretchen has drafted a letter to send to all at-risk parcels (21 total). Letter to be reviewed by HLLT next week. Unsure who letter will come from (Towns, HLLT, CCSWCD) – HLA Board has voted not to be primary contact and Towns could be seen as regulatory. Kim thinks initial outreach should come from CCSWCD as they are non-regulatory. Heather to see if this can be done.
 - Heather to check with Dave on when sampling should/can be done – Dave is usually gone most of October for bird hunting and may be retiring in January. Perhaps Dave can train Chris Baldwin and others on procedure for conducting these surveys. Heather has one landowner on Highland Lake and one on Forest Lake willing to be surveyed – perhaps use these sites as training and then continue to reach out to others on Highland Lake to get more to do later on.

Number 1.E. “In-lake monitoring...”

- 2020:
 - HLA did monitoring and have early readings back
 - Karen collected eDNA samples through the larger grant project she is working on
 - USM student work didn’t happen much due to Covid 19
 - Not sure if Keith took phosphorus samples to send to UNH lab – Jeff will check with Keith prior to next week’s HLLT meeting

- Rosie: Early readings are back from UNH on phosphorus readings from streams yet still need deep hole data
 - Jeff: No high density data was taken this year yet that shouldn't be an issue as this year looks as though it repeats years 2018 and 2019
 - Kevin created a graph of water clarity in the HLA newsletter
- 2021 Sampling:
 - Jeff: Want eDNA data from Karen; Ned to discuss next year's plan with Karen
 - Jeff: Unsure of what degree funders will want to continue to give for water quality testing given that the lake appears to becoming equilibrated in regards to the picocyanobacterial blooms: Do funders want to pay for detailed data to know what exactly has been occurring (of which Jeff is always interested in) or do they prefer to just let things take its course and perhaps the blooms won't be a future issue
 - Kim: Thinks donors will want a conclusion
 - Dennis is the lead of the HLLT Water Quality Committee
 - 2019 eDNA needs to be organized and want to revisit eDNA of 2018
 - HLA doesn't see Karen as the lead for the lake's water quality testing; Karen did eDNA on Highland Lake through outside grant and not through HLA
 - Rosie: There is a Stewardship Plan being compiled for the alewives with partners that include PRLT, FOPR, DEP, HLA, USM, etc. – group is meeting this fall
- Next steps:
 - Heather to ask Dennis about next steps in planning for 2021 water quality sampling (should an HLLT Water Quality Committee meeting soon to discuss and possibly bring discussion to the greater HLLT for funding considerations?)
 - Jeff to talk with Karen about the likelihood of getting more in-depth information from the 2018 and 2019 data

Number 2. "Reduce Known Pollutant Loading to the Lake"

- Windham's ditching on Cottage Road helped tremendously (Public Work's spent two months this summer addressing this area)
 - Rosie to draft a thank you letter to send them

Number 2.A.iv. "...challenging high impact sites"

- Jeff: is the limiting factor due to limited technical capacities or due to landowner cooperation? If technical, could have Dave Waddell visit site with Chris Baldwin.
 - Rosie: Mostly landowner-related issues
- Rosie: Challenging sites left include:
 - Lantern Lane (Site 7-16)
 - Had Town funds to address yet not residential support
 - Lydon and Haven Road
 - Landowners unwilling to cooperate, even with John MacKinnon
 - Leighton Road Residential Site 2-21
 - Landowner didn't have matching funds, yet are cooperative
 - Unsure if Falmouth's ROW has been addressed
- Kim: Kevin should be on this Committee in place of her (Kim)

- Heather: Need Kim for 319 Steering Committee. Should SC be part of HLLT Water Quality (WQ) Committee? Pros and cons discussed. Most likely SC meetings will be held as special HLLT WQ meetings.

Next steps:

- Next WQ Committee Meeting: Need to discuss Private Road Workshops (2.D.). This is also a task of the 319 project to start next month.
- Will mention possibility of forming a Dam Management Committee (6.A.) and Funding Committee (8.A.) to the greater HLLT meeting next week. The Dam Management Committee may be able to be covered by the Alewives Stewardship Plan?
- Heather to send date selections for next WQ Committee meeting