

HLLT Watershed Management Committee Meeting

Monday March 21, 2022 | 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

In attendance:

Gretchen Anderson

Ashley Krulik

Amanda Pratt

Heather Huntt

Dennis Brown

Kevin McElearney

Item #1 – Public Comment – no public comment.

Item #2 – Review meeting minutes – no comments. Meeting minutes accepted unanimously.

Item #3 – Review Action Items of the 2020-2030 Highland Lake Watershed Management Plan.

1) Continue to Monitor and Track Pollution Sources

- Review and assess potential phosphorus inputs
 - Part of 319 grant efforts
 - Developing list of potential sites – Heather coordinating with HLA and DEP
 1. Intervale Rd – question will be *where* to divert the water, ditch and culvert, road association needs to align on goals and should be a part of all further conversations/site visits
 - Continuing to monitor water quality coming from Ashland Farm – include a bacteria check – if found, complete DNA testing to further understand where the bacteria is coming from – this could not be covered using the 319 grant funds
 - Heather following up with Ashland Farm to schedule a site visit
- Regularly updating site tracker
- Support private road initiatives
 - there are 96 private roads, some may be for property owners only,
 - should get road associations more involved in this process – HLA sent a reminder to road associations
 - Another private roads workshop? Include in the next 319 grant proposal?
Walk roads with associations.
 1. Include two road maintenance plans in the next 319 grant proposal – what would the match be? Can HLA help with the match?
 2. Instead, should Chris (CCSWCD) just walk roads with associations as a lower cost solution? HLA volunteer to take notes for records.
Could be in conjunction with a workshop to meet 319 requirements.
Need to have a deliverable. People like to be more hands-on.
- Continue to explore potential impact of septic systems?
 - Focus on northern area of the lake due to different soil types
 - Diann could potentially help recruit volunteer sites

- Align problem sites with road associations and reach out directly to the association
 - Yearly water quality monitoring
 - HLA continues to conduct
 - Need to update water quality testing costs –\$2800 in 2021, budgeted \$3400 for 2022
 - May need to do some additional testing this year given new DEP findings from 2018 bloom samples – will investigate what is covered in the grant
 - Dennis to draft summary from last year’s sampling and a proposed 2022 plan
- 2) Reduce known pollutant levels going into lake
- Address ongoing water quality impacts of existing private roads
 - Heather, Kevin, and Rosie Hartzler to review potential road sites to include in Phase V 319 proposal this spring
- 3) Limit/Prevent New Phosphorus Inputs into the Lake
- Delegate to Ordinance Committee – Dennis, John, CCSWCD to meet with Falmouth soon to discuss next steps
- 4) Maintain Installed Conservation Practices
- Implement determined methods to enhance/encourage ongoing private road maintenance – E&O Committee
 - i. Important to keep the momentum going and continue to build relationships
 - ii. Highlight road association accomplishments
- 5) Expand Education and Outreach to Modify Behavior
- Develop assets about the HLLT and what we are working on? Gretchen to lead.
- 6) Manage Alewife Migration
- Modify outlet to ensure alewife migration can easily be facilitated (Dennis serves on the committee looking into this)
 - i. Needs further study/survey to better understand implications based on number of alewives that come in – what is the optimal number?
 - ii. Use alewives as tool to manage phosphorous?
- 8) Develop funding mechanisms to support plan implementation:
- Updated cost included from last 8/2021 meeting: Need ordinance and water quality information yet to do to incredible amount of in-kind match, costs are a lot lower than originally predicted
 - Funding for septic system maintenance/replacement
 - i. Need to develop strategy
 - ii. Maine EPA coordinator doesn’t want to fund septic systems – want to focus on other demonstrated issues – need to be able to convince EPA that septic systems are impacting lake

1. Have David Rocque complete an assessment?
2. Amanda to talk with our coordinator to gauge chance of funding

Additional Projects for 319 Grant funding:

- Amanda looking into past projects and reports
- Ag support if willing
- Private road support

Next meeting: September or October 2022 to assess plan effectiveness