

## HLLT Meeting Minutes Dec 13, 9-11am

Attendance: Kimberly Darling, Dennis Brown, Nathan Poore, Nancy Lightbody, Rosie Hartzler, Kim White, John Maclaine, Gretchen Anderson, Tom Peterson, Jeff Dennis

1. **Welcome**
2. **Approve minutes from last meeting**

This has been tabled and will be done at the next meeting

### 3. **John Maclaine/Heather to outline the Watershed Management Plan Process**

John Maclaine will be moving to a different position with the DEP in the beginning of the year. He will be the trainer for contractors on non-point source pollution, but will remain involved with this process the best he can.

Heather—the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is meeting for the first time after this meeting. There is a tentative outline that will be discussed, which is scheduled for one year to develop the plan. Rosie, Kim, Gretchen, Kimberly, Jeff and possibly John MacKinnon will be on this committee. The CCWCD will be leading this effort under Heather's leadership.

How do we go from the Management Plan for implementation?

Watershed Survey → Report → Application for 604(b) grant proposal to write the Management Plan → Grant Award with deliverables to report back → 9 Element Plan

The plan is usually a 2 year process, but this effort is on a faster timeframe with a 1 year goal of plans to completed in December 2019. The Plan needs to be approved by DEP and EPA to be considered for 319 funding. The earliest that funding would be available for projects will be 2021.

The larger sums of money from 319 grants, being 2 years away complicates projects with private roads in the near term. The grant money, when available must be used within 2 years. There is a chance that there may be competition for the 319 funding and it is not guarantee that funding will be available—also, 319 funding was used in previous years on Highland Lake a and the EPA may not fund it another time. However, there are possibly be other grants available that should be explored as well.

If the lake proble is directly related to alewives, there may be a possibility of having the Dept. of Marine Resources more involved financially.

There are many foundations out there that could speak to “sustainability” and “local partnerships” which may open up other doors in terms of potential funding. Maine Water Bond funding is a possibility which may only be available for culvert replacements primarily, speaking to connectively of habit etc., but could be used for other things. It would be great to see it also used for stream stability and erosion/sediment prevention. John will see if this is intended only for Public Roads, but some of it may

be opened up to private roads. Some communities are also going to banks which could be another option.

Private roads in Windham account for 48% of all roads. However, if the Town has an easement to maintain them, that may open it up for eligibility on the public component aspect to the potential grant above (Maine Water Bond funding).

There is a cost share-maintenance agreement in 319 grants, but it is more of an information/education piece than a regulatory component in terms of inspection of BMPs.

#### **4. Gretchen to provide an update on what the septic system review includes with the EPA funding**

The TAC is going to help frame the work of the septic survey. There is a septic system database created for the Ogunquit River watershed based on risk factors such as soil types etc. maybe a good model to use. This survey work and data collection could be a combination of mailing out and going on site. This procedure will be discussed in greater detail at the TAC meeting which will come back to the Leadership Team at a later date.

#### **5. Discuss HLLT budgets for the coming year**

Ordinance Committee has brought some recommendations to both towns, which will not require any funding for outside organizations. The Education and Outreach Committee likely will need some funds for their efforts. The Watershed Management Plan is mostly coming through grants. Two of ten of the worst Watershed Survey sites have been fixed, but there are still eight that need attention.

It would be good for the HLLT to develop a 2 year strategic plan with a matrix to be brought to the two towns for budget reasons. This would be very helpful for the Town Manager to utilize with the finance committee and the Town Council. This will be scheduled by the end of January. Perhaps this is a good focus for the next HLLT meeting.

#### **6. Committee Updates**

##### **a. E&O**

The primary focus is the second Public Forum, April 10, 2019. Will be held in Windham again, the committee felt this was the most appropriate. Gretchen has the request to the Windham High School and should be hearing back soon. Kimberly and Gretchen will facilitate the Public Forum. Dr. Karen Wilson will keynote and give an update on the science. April is a good time due to weather and the folks who winter away will likely be back.

Buffer projects and project based learning in the Schools also a work in progress.

##### **b. Ordinance**

The HLLT has brought 5 recommendations to the Town of Falmouth—starting with the CDC which is a subset of the Town Council, before being brought to the full Council. There are three remaining recommendations to be brought to the Windham Town Council. Within the shoreline zone, there are nutrient regulations in place now. The existing ordinance appears to relate just to the shoreland zone. However, because there is already existing language, it should be straightforward to expand these requirements to the entire watershed as appropriate.

Update on the Rand Farm—phosphorus samples were taken last winter at the wetland crossing location were around 300 ppb, regular ditch on the property samples were 200 ppb; riprap section ran 1500 ppb while Highland Lake typically runs 10-12 ppb. Stagnant readings showed 10,000 ppb, which was from a puddle of leachate coming from the manure pile. The plan is for the manure pile is to be removed soon. The property sale will be closed on December 18. John MacLaine and Matt Randal from the Department of Agriculture have been working with the current owner and the new owner on when the manure pile is going to be taken care of and that the agencies know who is doing what and when. The new property owner is going to have some horses but likely not as many. The paddock of the property is also likely to be affecting the drainage and could be contributing to the lake as well—this could be taken care of with proper landscaping, vegetation and reworking the drainage of the site.

Nathan has also talked to the buyer's realtor and has expressed interest in meeting with the new owner of the property because the property is having an impact on the lake. Falmouth is just waiting for a follow up and a meeting date.

### **c. Water Quality**

There are many pieces of information that are coming in, an intern has been working with the data specifically the phosphorus and bathometry data as well as pigment data. We do not have the eDNA extraction data yet, perhaps will have the start of the New Year. Zooplankton analysis is also being completed on samples that have been collected over the last several years. A lot of data will be coming on board the rest of this month and January but we can't draw any conclusions until all the pieces are there. Some of the explanation of this year's bloom which has been different, is that the depth of the portion where the lake changes most in temperature, is different than it has been in previous years; making it more resilient to movement which may be a player in the overall reason the bloom was different.

The next science roundtable hasn't been scheduled yet. We can't have it until a lot of data is back and hypotheses either supported or not by the data. Hopefully this can happen sometime before February, or by March 15 when Jeff goes to Florida, so it can all be ready for the next Public Forum.

## **7. Other**

Alewives run—the Atlantic Seacoast group overseas what the Department of Marine Resources does. No lake is required to have a management plan for their alewife run until the run is being harvested. Gail

Wippelhauser of DMR has been working with Tom Peterson to see if there can be any option of have a harvest of the alewives. This will take a combined effort with Westbrook given the dam is in that City.

**8. Next meeting date**

Dennis will send out a doodle poll for this.