

NH Rivers & Lakes Management and Protection Programs

NH Rivers & Lakes Management Advisory Committees

DRAFT

JOINT RMAC/LMAC MEETING MINUTES
 January 18, 2023, 11:15 AM – 1:15 PM
 Fish and Game Offices, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH

RMAC Members Present	Representing	Term	
Michele L. Tremblay, Chair	Conservation Community	Dec. 28, 2023	V
Larry Spencer, Vice Chair	NH Association of Conservation Comm.	Oct. 12, 2022	V
Peter Bowman	Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources	Indefinite	NV
Jennifer Gilbert	Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives	Indefinite	NV
Mark Hemmerlein	Commissioner, NHDOT	Indefinite	NV
Christopher Hodgdon	NH Fish & Game Commission	Sept. 28, 2021	V
John Magee	Executive Director, Fish & Game Dept.	Indefinite	NV
Frederick McNeill	Municipal Government	Nov. 16, 2023	V
Madeleine Mineau	Granite State Hydropower Assoc.	Jan. 5, 2024	V
Donald Ware	Public Water Suppliers	Sept. 28, 2025	V
RMAC Members Absent			
Natasha Cole	Department of Safety	Indefinite	NV
Shawn Jasper, Comm.	Dept. of Agr, Markets, & Food	Indefinite	NV
Robert Roseen	Recreational Interests	Dec. 28, 2023	V
Vacant	Agricultural Community	March 22, 2021	V
Vacant	Historical and Archeological Interests	June 15, 2022	V
Vacant	Local River Management Advisory Comm.	Sept. 5, 2022	V
Vacant	NH Business and Industry Association	Sept. 28, 2022	V
LMAC Members Present			
Jared Maraio, Chair	NH Travel Council	August 1, 2025	V
Garret Graaskamp, V. Chair	NH Fish and Game Department	Indefinite	NV
Shane Bradt	Scientific Community, UNH	August 22, 2025	V
Eric Feldbaum	NH Dept. of Natural & Cultural Resources	Indefinite	NV
Jennifer Gilbert	NHBEA Office of Planning & Development	Indefinite	NV
Tiffany Grade (online)	Conservation Community	September 19, 2022	V
Mark Hemmerlein	NH Department of Transportation	Indefinite	NV
Sara Holland	NH Association of Realtors	June 27, 2023	V
Andrea LaMoreaux	NH LAKES	August 1, 2024	V
Frank Lemay	NH Business and Industry Association	July 8, 2025	V
Lisa Morin (online)	State Conservation Commission	August 1, 2024	V
Susan Price	NH Fish and Game Commission	August 1, 2024	V
Dick Smith	Fishing Interests	November 17, 2022	V
Steve Wingate	NH Assn. of Conservation Commissions	August 22, 2022	V

NH Rivers & Lakes Management and Protection Programs

NH Rivers & Lakes Management Advisory Committees

LMAC Members Absent

Ryan Cardella	Marine Dealers Association	August 22, 2023	V
Tim Dunleavy	NH Department of Safety	Indefinite	NV
Shawn Jasper	NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food	Indefinite	NV
Janet Kidder	Planning Boards	August 1, 2023	V
Meredith Smith	Municipal Officials	August 1, 2024	V

NHDES Staff Present

Richelle Angelli	Land Resources Management
Nisa Marks	Rivers and Lakes Management and Protection Programs
Eddie McKenna	Land Resources Management
Dave Neils	Biological Monitoring Program
Tracie Sales	Rivers and Lakes Management and Protection Programs
Joe Schmidl	Instream Flow Program

Guests

John Mullen	Cocheco River Local Advisory Committee
David Packard	New Hampshire Rivers Council
Cory Ritz	Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

I. Introductions and Agenda Overview: RMAC Chair Michele L. Tremblay and LMAC Chair Jared Maraiio convened the meeting at 11:16 AM. Members of each committee introduced themselves.

II. State Lands Mapping Joint Subcommittee Update

Michele described that the goals of the State Lands Mapping RMAC/LMAC Joint Subcommittee are to provide the committees with more information for evaluating surplus land reviews and to enable the RMAC and LMAC to take a more proactive approach to state land disposals.

Mark Hemmerlein provided an overview of the draft mapping tool and the data behind it as prepared by the subcommittee. The tool currently contains parcels within 250' of the reference line for lakes and rivers. The subcommittee developed a list of criteria relevant when evaluating a parcel for disposal. Each parcel was then scored on a presence/absence basis for those criteria. Data layers were loaded in GIS to create an interactive dashboard for use by RMAC, LMAC and LACs. The map can be displayed either by all parcels relevant to one layer (e.g. wildlife), or by composite scoring for parcels (e.g. all parcels with a score of having four of eight attributes).

Jared suggested that the dates of each data layer be clearly indicated and that there be some sort of policy around how often data layers are updated. Garret asked for a way to show total number of attributes (e.g. five of eight attributes present). Michele suggested taking out the star in the attributes table. Don mentioned need for a data dictionary that explains what each layer is.

The committees discussed whether to make the tool publicly available. Michele preferred that there be individual log-in credentials for the site.

NH Rivers & Lakes Management and Protection Programs

NH Rivers & Lakes Management Advisory Committees

Next steps: The joint subcommittee will meet to discuss feedback from the committees. Shane and Mark will coordinate to allow access to all committee members. RMAC and LMAC members will then provide feedback on the tool to staff, who will then schedule a subcommittee meeting.

III. Road Salt and Water Quality

Nisa Marks provided an overview of road salt use in New Hampshire and the mechanisms by which road salt works. She described the benefits and harms of road salt. Available monitoring data shows that there have been statistically significant increases in chloride levels in both rivers and lakes across the state due to road salt application. Studies from the I-93 corridor expansion showed that parking lots were the largest source of salt (50%), followed by municipal roads (27%).

Mark Hemmerlein provided an overview of New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT)'s policies for road salt use. There are six classes of winter maintenance, based on traffic volumes. Few state roads have low enough traffic volumes to be eligible for low- or no-salt zones. Establishing a low-salt zone requires approval by town selectboard, fire and police departments, and the school district.

NHDOT has different application prescriptions for different conditions, with more salt needed in colder conditions down to 15 degrees. Below 15 degrees, NHDOT does not generally use salt because of its decreased effectiveness at cold temperatures. In treating roads, NHDOT's goal is to make it so the snow does not stick to the road, rather than melting the snow. Mark identified that NHDOT does contract with private operators who sometimes do not have adequate equipment to change salt application rates and follow other best practices. NHDOT has reduced salt use by 25% in the I-93 corridor based on findings during the I-93 expansion. The Green SnowPro Program was developed with NHDOT mitigation funds from the I-93 expansion.

John Magee asked what biological impacts have been demonstrated from road salt use. Nisa said that most of the studies of biological effects are mesocosm studies (studies in a controlled experimental environment). Andrea LaMoreaux mentioned that most of the available biological monitoring data is collected during summer. Mark said that winter data does show pulses of increased conductivity following storms where salt was applied.

Aubrey Voelker provided an overview of the Green Snow Pro Program. Road salt use in New Hampshire has doubled in the last 40 years. Chloride impairments are increasing across the state. There is no governing body, statewide policies, or certification for applying road salt, and many private contractors and homeowners are not aware of best practices associated with road salting. In many places, more salt is applied than is needed for safety. Private businesses are concerned about liability, so often err on the side of overapplying. The Green SnowPro Program provides training for operators and legal protection against liability when certified operators follow best practices. The program's certification is voluntary. Trainings are offered May through September with in-person and online options.

Demand for the Green SnoPro Program is expanding. There is generally a need for education materials for a variety of audiences, including the need to alter the public's expectations about when and how to use road salt. Madeleine asked if the insurance industry is recognizing operator certification with lower insurance rates. Aubrey said they are not yet.

The state legislature has approved expanding the program to municipalities. NHDES is currently drafting the associated rules, with the hope of finalizing them within the coming year.

Michele adjourned the joint meeting at 1:18 PM.