



RIVERS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095
phone: 603-271-2959

DRAFT

RMAC MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2023, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

NHDES Room 208c, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH

| 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, 2025 | V |
| Peter Bowman | Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources | Indefinite | NV |
| Natasha Cole | Department of Safety | 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, 2024 | 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 |
| Cory Ritz | Local River Management Advisory Comm. | Sept. 5, 2025 | V |
| Donald Ware | Public Water Suppliers | Sept. 28, 2025 | V |

Members Absent

| | | | |
|---------------------|--|----------------|----|
| 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 | NH Business and Industry Association | Sept. 28, 2022 | V |

NHDES Staff Present

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Nisa Marks | Rivers and Lakes Management and Protection Programs |
| Tracie Sales | Rivers and Lakes Management and Protection Programs |

Guests

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| John Mullen Jr. | Cochecho River Local Advisory Committee |
| RMAC Nominees: | |
| Brooke Kenline-Nyman (Virtual) | Historical and Archeological Interests |
| Mitchell Thayer (Virtual) | Business and Industry Association |

I. Introductions and Agenda Overview

Chair Michele L. Tremblay called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. Chair Tremblay asked RMAC representatives, staff, and guests to introduce themselves.

II. Review Decisions and Action Items from January 18, 2023 and February 21, 2023 Meetings

Michele reviewed action items from January and February meetings, which were all completed.

III. Acceptance of the Consent Agenda

- ***Larry Spencer made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, consisting of the January 18, 2023 Draft RMAC Meeting Minutes, the January 18, 2023 Draft RMAC/LMAC Joint Meeting Minutes, and the February 21, 2023 Draft RMAC Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Chris Hodgdon and passed unanimously by voice vote.***

IV. RMAC Administrative Updates

1) Membership

Cory Ritz is the newly appointed representative of the Local River Management Advisory Committees. Christopher Hodgdon, the Fish & Game Commission representative, and Larry Spencer, representing Conservation Commissions, were renewed as members. Mitchell Thayer was nominated for the Business & Industry Association seat and Brooke Kenline-Nyman was nominated as the representative for the Historical/Archeological Interests position. The seat for the Agricultural Community remains vacant. The term of Frederick McNeill expires in November, and Michele Trembley's and Robert Roseen's terms expire in December of 2023. Michele encouraged RMAC representatives to submit renewal information promptly, as there are delays in the process right now. Michele asked that Tracie reach out to the two nominating organizations regarding Rob's seat.

2) Staffing

The Program Assistant position will be open through mid-May and interviewing will begin soon. The Instream Flow Assistant position is also open. Both positions are part time.

3) LAC Corridor Management Plan Status

Tracie discussed the requirement for Local River Management Advisory Committees (LACs) to develop a management plan for the designated river and its corridor. The Lower Merrimack River and Exeter-Squamscott River LACs recently completed their plans and the Ashuelot River plan is due in the next month or so. Four LACs are in the midst of or preparing to start work on their plans: the Upper Merrimack, Saco-Swift, Souhegan and Pemigewasset. The Cocheco and Mascoma rivers do not currently have management plans, and three LACs have plans over ten years old: the Cold, Piscataquog, and Contoocook rivers. The latter two have discussed updating their plans at recent meetings. Management plans completed after 2016 have additional items that LACs must consider, including aquatic organism passage, fluvial geomorphology and state-owned lands within the corridor.

Once completed and adopted by the LACs, the corridor management plans are part of the state conservation plan. FERC must consider the corridor management plan and its goals when proposing a project in or near a designated river. Madeleine Mineau mentioned that the FERC official list of FERC-approved comprehensive plans often references outdated corridor management plans. Tracie said two recently completed plans are on her list to submit, as well as checking that the Warner plan is submitted to FERC. Cory said that the Souhegan River LAC is encouraging towns to adopt the corridor management plan into their master plan.

V. 2023 River-related Legislation

Larry provided an overview of the legislative spreadsheet. He also highlighted the work stakeholders did to remove changes in the governor's budget (HB2) that would eliminate the requirement for soil and wetlands scientists to be certified.

- ***Larry Spencer moved to endorse the RMAC Policy and Legislation Subcommittee recommendations as posted on the RMAC website. Fred McNeill seconded.***

Chris asked if there are bills with changed positions. Tracie said that some positions have been updated based on the release of new bill language. New bills have also been added to the list.

Larry withdrew his motion in order to discuss SB250, which had not been considered by the RMAC Policy and Legislation Subcommittee. Cory supported a reduction in the quorum requirement, citing that it would be helpful to the LACs. Don supported continuation of RMAC's position to increase use of remote meetings. Many LACs have experienced increased participation during remote meetings.

Chris asked about HB308 and SB258. Madeleine explained that SB258 provides that the state could dispose of real estate below market value for a variety of benefits, including economic. The committee felt that was too vague, so they support an amendment with removal of economic benefits. Regarding HB308, the committee wanted to see broader support of remote meetings than the amended version allowed.

- ***Larry Spencer moved to endorse HB308 and SB258 with Policy and Legislation Subcommittee recommendations, and to support SB250 with standard language. Don Ware seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.***

VI. RMAC Member Spotlight

Jennifer Griffin provided an overview of the state's Floodplain Management Program, which sits within the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs. The program focuses on providing technical assistance, training, and informational materials. Flooding is the most common disaster in New Hampshire. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) allows construction in floodplains. The NFIP is a voluntary program where communities agree to adopt and enforce floodplain regulations at the local level in exchange for FEMA offering insurance. Municipalities must adopt the minimum NFIP regulations but may impose more stringent regulations. Where the national regulations do not address a flooding issue, the state encourages additional provisions in community regulations. Jennifer stated that 93% of communities participate in the program. Maps of flood areas are viewable on the FEMA Map Service Center, NH Flood Hazards Viewer, and GranitView. Maps are released at the county level but analyzed at the watershed level. Trainings are available on YouTube.

Fred asked how climate change is reflected. Jennifer said that the regulatory maps are based on past data, but their new insurance methodology is no longer tied to the map. FEMA also provides some maps with future conditions. Mark said homeowners are still required to buy the insurance. Jennifer said homeowners are fined if they do not have insurance and live in the mapped area.

VII. RMAC/LMAC State Lands Mapper

Mark explained that the higher the score that a state land receives in the mapper, the more applicable the parcel is to the RMAC and LMAC's interests. Michele described a goal to use the mapper to identify parcels that the RMAC and/or LMAC believe should not be considered for

disposal. Michele asked for additional subcommittee membership; Cory agreed. The next step is for the subcommittee to meet again and for staff to ensure the link is posted on both committee’s websites.

VIII. Member Comments

Larry provided an update on Livermore Falls. The west side of the project is still not complete.

IX. New Business and Action Item Review

1) Next meeting

Michele expressed interest in having an RMAC meeting on a river with a local presenter. Boat time is logistically tough, but perhaps a local tour of relevant sites would be valuable. Michele suggested looking at the site of an Exeter-Squamscott dam removal. Larry suggested Livermore Falls. Mark asked if there are topics that would be relevant to the committee in considering sites. Michele asked that RMAC representatives email her and Rivers Program staff with topic and location ideas.

2) Action Items

| Action Item | Leader | Supporter(s) | Target Date |
|--|--|-----------------|---------------|
| Send email to NH Rivers Council and AMO regarding Rob Roseen’s seat (Recreational Interests) | Tracie Sales | - | 4/30/2023 |
| Start membership renewal process | Frederick McNeill Michele L. Tremblay | Tracie Sales | 8/31/2023 |
| Send job postings to RMAC | Tracie Sales | - | 4/17/2023 |
| Present information on LACs | Cory Ritz | - | Next RMAC mtg |
| Email LAC plan updates | Tracie Sales | - | 4/17/2023 |
| Post NH Floodplain Management Program presentation on website | Jennifer Gilbert | - | 4/17/2023 |
| Poll for State Land Mapping subcommittee | Michele L. Tremblay | Nisa Marks | 4/24/2023 |
| Send Letters of Testimony | Nisa Marks | Michele | Hearing dates |
| Email Michele and RMPP staff relevant meeting topic and location ideas | Michele L. Tremblay | Representatives | Next RMAC mtg |

Chair Michele L. Tremblay adjourned the meeting at 2:40 PM.

Meeting summary prepared by Rivers Program staff.