

Draft Minutes

Meeting of the Alton/New Durham Cyanobacteria Mitigation Steering Committee
by Zoom Thursday January 28, 2021 6:00PM

Present: Fred Quimby, William Meyer, Mark Sullivan, David "Swens" Swenson, Robert Craycraft, Ray Howard, Gene Young, William Mannion, David Neils, and Jason Smith.

Absent: Reuben Wentworth

Guests: Elizabeth Dionne, Scott Kinmond, and Casey Buell

Call to Order: Quimby called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and conducted a roll call of members and read the Governors Executive Order allowing Zoom meetings.

New Business:

1. The Draft Minutes of October 15, 2020 were reviewed and an error was found on page 2 where HDR should have been Gannett Fleming. Quimby moved and Meyers seconded a motion to accept the Draft minutes of October 15, 2020 as approved with the one name change as noted. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous.
2. Quimby explained that the Alton Board of Selectmen and Alton Road Agent requested a meeting, by Zoom, on December 7, 2020 with the Principal Engineer who wrote the Mill Pond supplement to the Watershed Management Plan. Gene Young reported to Fred Quimby that this was a very helpful meeting for the attendees. Quimby moved and Gene Young seconded a motion to pay an invoice for \$630.00 to Forrest Bell Environmental Associates for providing Brian Laverriere to speak to the Alton Board of Selectmen and answer questions regarding the recommendations in the Mill Pond Supplement to the Watershed Management Plan. The money to come from the Merrymeeting Lake and River Watershed Management Plan Account. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous.
3. Quimby explained that in 2019 Don Kretchmer was hired to calibrate 4 stream gauges on the Merrymeeting River. During August of 2020, the very low flow conditions associated with the drought fell off the calibration curve. To remedy this, Don should be hired to recalibrate the stream gauges at Marsh Pond outlet and Coffin Brook under very low flow conditions when they occur in 2021. Kretchmer estimate for this recalibration was \$600.00. Quimby moved and Meyer seconded a motion to pay Don Kretchmer \$600.00 to recalibrate the Marsh Pond Outlet and Coffin Brook stream gauges under very low flow conditions in 2021. A roll call vote in favor was unanimous. Following the vote, Swens asked two questions: 1. Will the timing of the new calibrations have any impact of the validity of the readings already taken? And 2. Was my estimate that the very low flow readings were somewhere between 100,000 and 500,000 gallons per day the same for both stream gauges? Quimby answers that in 1. The timing of the future calibrations will have no impact on previous measurements. All other readings taken at any of the stream gauges were within the calibrations already made for those gauges and therefore the conversions to flow (gallons per day) were all reliable. The readings taken under very low flow conditions were never submitted to conversion to flow since they were not on a calibration curve. And 2. Yes, the low flow readings were likely within this range of flows at both gauges.

The balance in the Merrymeeting Lake and river Watershed Management Plan account was \$2495.68 before either motion was approved. With both motions approved the new balance in the account is \$1265.68.

4. Quimby also explained that in one instance the water level was so high that they exceeded the calibration of the stream gauge below Alton Dam. In conversation with Kretchmer they decided due to the high water levels encountered that this calibration would be too dangerous to conduct. Quimby got in touch with Daniel Mattaini, Dam Bureau Operations and Maintenance, and arranged to have Daniel measure the flow going over the top of the dam under very high flow conditions in 2021 while Quimby read the reading on the stream gauge just below the dam. This will provide the missing calibration and it will cost nothing.
5. Quimby explained that New Durham was recently awarded \$94,448.00 from the USEPA as the federal commitment to Section 319 funding for Phase I Best Management Practices. The wetlands at this site have been identified and the property was fully surveyed. Eric Reitter, stormwater engineer, is working on the Full Construction Drawings in advance of writing the Site Specific Project Plan, the Wetlands Permit, and the bidding documents. Construction is expected to be in September-November, 2021. Swens mentioned that he remembered that we were planning to alternate years with Alton to seek section 319 funding. This year would be Alton's year to submit an application. Quimby volunteered to assist the person from Alton who writes the application.
6. Quimby conveyed the essence of a conversation with Jonathan Higgins, Earth Scientist and patent holder for a device to remove cyanobacteria from cyanobacteria bloom infested waters. Jonathan recently received a National Science Foundation Grant to test the efficacy of the device in a riverine site which has annual cyanobacteria blooms. Jason Smith referred Jonathan to Quimby who suggested Jones Pond as a potential site and since this meeting Jonathan has been discussing permitting with David Neils at NH DES. USPTO patent numbers and web site addresses were shared with the committee for future reference.
7. Quimby opened to meeting to any member or the committee or public. Hearing no comments Quimby adjourned the meeting at 6:19PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Quimby, chairman