

Draft Minutes

New Durham Water Quality Committee (NDWQC)

Community Room

August 18, 2021@6:30PM

Present: Fred Quimby, Bill Meyer, Keith Barnard, Mike Gelinas, and Maureen Knepp.

Absent: Penny Meyer, Casey Buell, and Cynthia Quimby (alt)

Fred called the meeting to order at 6:35PM

The Draft Minutes of the July 21,2021 meeting were discussed and the word “was” ,found in the first sentence, was misspelled. Other changes included those made earlier by Bill and Maureen and the word June found in item 8 was changed to July. With these changes noted, Bill moved and Keith seconded a motion to accept the Minutes of July 21, 2021 as modified. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Fred read an email sent to him by Tom Irwin, Vice President of the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) ,which stated the court is holding the lawsuit in abeyance to allow CLF, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NH F&G) an opportunity to explore a resolution. He also reminded the group that until an agreement is made the substance of these discussions is confidential.

Fred asked members if there were any question about the mission statement of the Committee. Hearing none, Fred offered members a draft history of the NDWQC and asked everyone to look at it carefully and if anyone spots an omission or error, please bring it to his attention.

Fred passed out 6 tables of data covering studies conducted by the NDWQC to date in 2021. These included: 1.A Comparison between Main Street Dam and Lower Merrymeeting River in Alton for Monthly Flows and Phosphorus Loads, 2.A Summary of Water Quality Parameters in New Durham Swimmable Waterbodies, 3.Monthly Tally of Water Quality Parameters for New Durham Waterbodies, 4. Total Phosphorus from Monthly Surface Grabs at Site 1 (Boat Access), 5. Tributary Phosphorus Concentrations following the March Snow Melt and 2 Rain storms, 6. Cyanobacterial Counts in Various Waterbodies in 2021. The Flow and Load Analyses showed the marked increase in water volume and phosphorus loads following rain storms including Tropical Storm Elsa. Water Quality Parameters in New Durham Ponds show phosphorus concentrations in Marsh, Jones and Downing Ponds are lower in 2021 compared to 2019 and 2020, however, each pond is still classified as eutrophic. Phosphorus concentrations and secchi disk transparencies were stable in Marchs, Chalk and Shaws Ponds and all three have high water quality(either Oligotrophic (Marchs) or Oligotrophic-Mesotrophic). To date only Marsh Pond has an advisory for Cyanobacteria. An incident occurred at Site 1 in July following a rainstorm where the Total Phosphorus Concentration (TP) was reported as 232.2 parts per billion (ppb). Repeat sampling in July and August show this cleared quickly and did not return after another rainstorm. That unusual water sample was also filled with organisms Chlorella (green algae) and Cryptomonads (flagellates) to numerous to count. Mike reported that the water at this site looked green. Repeated sampling did not demonstrate these organisms again. The Tributary analyses show an increase in TP in Maggie Lane culvert 2 (from 16 to 57 ppb) after a rainstorm. This is a tributary to Marchs Pond which didn't seem to have any effect of the pond's water quality. In general TP increased after rain compared to earlier samples. As previously mentioned Marsh Pond is the only waterbody in New Durham which

has an advisory for Cyanobacteria. The July sample was over the threshold for an Advisory. In August a repeat sample had a Planktothrix isothrix count of 200,000 cells/mL at 5 Meters(M) and 300,000 cells/mL at 4M. These samples plus one from Jones Pond were sent to California for toxin testing.

Maureen told the group there was nothing new to report on the LOCSS project. Fred told Maureen that he had brought up the issue of erosion at Shaws Pond public beach with Road Agent Don Vachon. Maureen reminded Fred that during storms the water behind the beach moves into the lake, therefore, diverting the rainwater to this marsh may not be the best BMP.

Fred completed the 2022 grant application for matching State funds for the treatment of Variable Milfoil and it has been received in Concord. Anyone with an interest in this process can get a copy of the application from Fred.

Fred asked if there were any question regarding the 2022 Budget. Keith moved and Mike seconded a motion to accept the Budget as written. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Fred updated the section 319 grant process by stating the bidding documents were going out to remove the trees this year and NH F&G has approved the revised engineering plans but we have not heard anything from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT). A Shoreland Permit is being readied for submission.

Fred brought the milfoil signs and posts to Mike Gelinas and offered to assist Mike in their placement.

Mike Gelinas reviewed a recent request by the Powder Mill Snowmobile Club to use a portion of the State Boat Landing on Merrymeeting Lake to access the lake during winter. A meeting at the site occurred on August 5, 2021 where Peter Varney (Fire Chief) explained that a right away had to be maintained to allow the fire truck clear access to the hydrant. This would require the movement of three boulders backward about three feet. It was suggested at the time that Mike prepare a Shoreland Permit to allow this. In the intervening time, Pete Varney decided the club could wait and have the rocks removed when the NDWQC proceeded with Phase 2 of the erosion control Best Management Practice (BMP) at the same location. Fred asked the Town Stormwater Engineer, Eric Reitter, if this was feasible and Eric noted that this was acceptable and he would include this in the 319 proposal. Fred moved and Maureen seconded a motion to include the movement of these boulders during our Phase 2 of our s319 work. The vote was 4 in favor with one abstention. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.