

Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee

Washington Lempster Marlow Gilsum Sullivan Surry Keene Swanzey Winchester Hinsdale

Draft Minutes
Dec. 15, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
Keene Public Library
Keene, New Hampshire

ARLAC members present: ARLAC members present: Barbara Skuly, Chairperson, Swanzey; Brett Thelen, Vice Chairperson, AVEO; Carl MacConnell, Marlow; Gus Merwin, Marlow; John Davis, Surry; Jim Holley, Keene. Pablo Fleischmann, Chuck Mills and Christopher John excused absence.
Guest: Eloise Clark

I. Minutes from November 17, 2015 were approved as corrected

II. Permits.

1. Keene wetlands- PSNH pole replacement- notification received but no actual map of locations which is promised.
2. Winchester Emergency culvert replacement, Westport Road. Town replaced 4 foot by 80 foot culvert in kind. We had questions and comments. Culvert is perched and it appears to be a tier three stream. Should have an open bottom with river material in streambed. If not corrected now, then request a plan be made to replace according to tier three criteria at the next failure.

III. Projects

1. List of impaired waters. We discussed Marlow, Swanzey, Winchester and Hinsdale impaired stretches, most sites are low pH with chemical pollution in Hinsdale. We will attempt to map impaired segments.
2. Public Water Access Advisory Board. Request to review access sites on the river. We checked their list of access sites and will submit our additional comments.
3. Swanzey- Mitchell Sand and Gravel public hearing 01/07/2016. Question is whether Mitchell will penetrate the aquifer by extending the depth of excavation. Barbara will attend to advocate against penetration of the aquifer.
4. Protected River signs available for the taking. John thought perhaps Surry might want them, will check and submit request before the 16th.
5. NH Fish & Game Award of Excellence. Barbara will submit a recommendation for six MRHS students for their work this summer with river monitoring.

IV. Meetings

1. Keene West St dam hydrological report due -- Keene Con Com 12/21
2. Ashuelot River Park Advisory Committee--Discussed whether we should establish communication or at least review their minutes regularly. No action taken.
3. KSC Senior Capstone Research poster session 12/17, 1-2:30. One proposal deals with endangered species at the West St. dam site.
4. CT river dam relicensing. CRWC, Greenfield MA, 12/22, 10am. Barbara will try to attend.

V. Other Business

1. The NH Rivers Council is seeking sponsors to host a forum called "Why Do Rivers Do That?" with Dr. John Field. Brett thought we might collaborate with the Harris Center in doing this. She will look into it.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Holley, Clerk