

**Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2025 7:00 P.M.**



Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED NOV. 18, 2025

representatives attending in person:

John Wallace (Barrington); Matt Lake, Dick Lord, David Steinberg (Durham); Lauren Kaehler (Epping); Jim Brady (Lee); Grace Levergood (Northwood); Dan Davis (Nottingham); Therese Thompson (Raymond)

staff: Suzanne Petersen

guest: Dan Mullaney, prospective rep

Meeting began at 7:05.

summary of motions passed:

Dan Davis made a motion to approve the draft letter of testimony to NHDES re: changes to AoT permitting as presented. Jim Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

approval of minutes from September 16, 2025:

Dan Davis made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jim Brady seconded. Minutes were approved with 8 yes votes and 1 abstention.

financial report:

- Checking account statement, year-to-date budget, and land protection account were reviewed with no issues noted.
- Despite federal shut-down, request for funding came through as usual.
- We are on track to spend down the FY2025 budget by the end of April 2026. The new FY2026 budget began October 1.

approval of project review letters:

- Epping, Cedar Ridge Subdivision, AoT: Dick Lord made a motion to approve the draft letter with amendments. Lauren Kaehler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Nottingham, 9 Fort Hill Road, shoreland: Dan Davis made a motion to approve the draft letter as presented. Therese Thompson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Raymond, Jewett Warehouse, AoT: Dick Lord made a motion to approve the draft letter with amendments. John Wallace seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

approval of letter of testimony to NHDES re: changes to AoT permitting:

Dan Davis made a motion to approve the draft letter of testimony to NHDES re: changes to AoT permitting as presented. Jim Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Committee requested that copies be sent to the NH House and NH Senate.

Key points:

- Replacement of “antidegradation” measures with “assimilative capacity” will not protect our highest quality water.
- Definition of “pollutant” as “waste” is not sufficient to capture the sources and effects of pollution.
- Allowing AoTs as permit-by-notification for up to 150,000 square feet of disturbance, except for solar arrays, is unacceptable.

Wadleigh Falls kiosk update:

The Town of Lee DPW moved and reinstalled the two signs today. Next step is to organize a ribbon cutting ceremony that includes the Indigenous representatives who helped craft the Indigenous panel.

SELT Trailfest (Oct. 18) wrap-up:

The event was well-attended and a few new contacts with potential partners were made. About 50 people stopped by the LRAC booth. Booth staff suggested we mount a watershed map for display and hang a LRAC banner for better visibility.

LRAC clothing:

We have one small and one X-large LRAC polo shirt in storage. The shirt color and the shirt material are no longer available. Given that short-sleeved shirts usually get covered up during exhibits, getting baseball caps imprinted with the logo was suggested for reps who attend public events. Options will be shared at the November meeting.

new management plan:

Printed copies were given to each attending LRAC rep. Reps signed up to deliver copies to libraries, conservation commissions, and planning boards. Towns not covered by in-person delivery will be mailed.

Reps were encouraged to review the paper copy and flag goals that they would like to pursue in 2026. Reps were also reminded that the management plan is best pursued by workgroups focused on a common theme, such as recreation or wildlife. We have funding; let's get to work.

FYI: From Joe Schmidl, NHDES Instream Program

There have been two relief pulses during this drought and a third is on the horizon. Our streamflow stations help us monitor the effects of these relief pulses.

All five of our streamflow stations remain in place and operational. The flow data show that the Piscassic River has been at zero flow (simply pools of exposed groundwater at our station) for months and the other stations show record-low flows. Flow measurements made this summer have helped us better define the bottoms of these stations rating curves.

We've conducted dam release tests at North River Pond and will test Onway Lake Dam on Wednesday, Sep. 15. The data from these tests will be evaluated along with the other data we've collected regarding the effectiveness of relief pulses from Dolloffs, Drowns, and Mendums Pond Dams, to rethink how these five dams might contribute to future release pulses and improve our ability to end low-flow events. These data will be incorporated into future updates to their Dam Management Plans and to the Lamprey River Water Management Plan sometime after 2027 when the third long-term monitoring round is completed (see below).

We have begun the third round of long-term monitoring on the lower Lamprey River with a round of fish surveys at 2 locations in September. There will be 2 more rounds in 2026 and 2027 and another round of riparian ecosystem surveying in 2027.

Adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Jim Brady seconded. Motion was approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00