

**Lamprey River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2025 7:00 P.M.**



Location: Lee Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED WITH AMENDMENTS NOVEMBER 18, 2025

representatives attending in person:

John Wallace (Barrington); Matt Lake, Dick Lord (Durham); Jim Brady, Sara Morris (Lee); Dan Mullaney, Patrick Reynolds (Newmarket); Grace Levergood (Northwood); Dan Davis (Nottingham); Kathy McDonald, Therese Thompson (Raymond)

staff: Suzanne Petersen

Meeting began at 6:45.

new LRAC member:

The committee welcomed Dan Mullaney of Newmarket to the group.

summary of motions passed:

- **Multiple towns, Eversource C129 Electric Transmission Line Structure Replacements, AoT: John Wallace made a motion to approve the letter as presented. Jim Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Epping, wastewater treatment facility upgrades, preliminary comments for applicant: Sara Morris made a motion to approve the letter with amendments. Kathy McDonald seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.**
- **Patrick Reynolds made a motion to submit LRAC comments regarding changes to wildlife mitigation to NHDES. Matt Lake seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Sara Morris made a motion to authorize the committee coordinator to write and for the chair to sign a letter of testimony that will be submitted to NHDES regarding proposed changes to sludge management. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

approval of minutes from November 18, 2025:

Prior to the vote, John Wallace noted that there was an omission on the SELT Banks project, and made a motion that the minutes be amended so that the following contingency be added: *2. The Lamprey River bend unit must be a priority.* Dick Lord seconded. All members in attendance voted to approve the amendment. Dick Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Jim Brady seconded. Minutes were approved with 11 yes votes and 2 abstentions.

financial report:

- Year-to-date, checking account activity, and land protection fund were reviewed with no issues noted.
- From the accountant, Dec. 9, 2025:
The funds have been expended on the previous cooperative agreement P21AC11694 with the advance request made last week. Since there was no award for the current year on that CA, draws will begin on the new agreement P25AC02099 next month.
- Now that we are spending from the new cooperative agreement, we might want to revisit the amount of money that we are transferring to the land protection account each month. Discussion and vote will be delayed to January.

approval of project review letters:

- **Multiple towns, Eversource C129 Electric Transmission Line Structure Replacements, AoT: John Wallace made a motion to approve the letter as presented. Jim Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Epping, wastewater treatment facility upgrades, preliminary comments for applicant: Sara Morris made a motion to approve the letter with amendments. Kathy McDonald seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.**

frog song display:

Dick Lord shared draft images and demonstrated the push-button call board featuring 8 different frog and toad songs, along with a button that plays a random call that requires a guess. With group input, the board should be ready to share with the public in spring.

discussion about making proposed changes to wildlife mitigation rules when habitats that support rare species are destroyed by development:

David Steinberg shared his written comments to a NHDES questionnaire which committee reps reviewed and discussed. In addition to David's comments, other committee members added comments about Blanding's turtles, small whorled pogonia, and the necessity of making full use of the 2025 New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan to identify species and locations that are most at risk of being lost. **Patrick Reynolds made a motion to submit LRAC comments regarding changes to wildlife mitigation to NHDES. Matt Lake seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

discussion about proposed changes to NHDES sludge management rules:

A summary of NHDES proposed changes to sludge management was shared with a focus on NH-designated rivers. Several changes were noted to be improvements ecologically, but one glaring omission was noted: that when a water quality or soil contamination issue is discovered, the rules make no mention of informing river LACs, abutters, or the public. **Sara Morris made a motion to authorize the committee coordinator to write and for the chair to sign a letter of testimony that will be submitted to NHDES regarding**

proposed changes to sludge management. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

other:

- The Dec. 12, 2025 Newmarket e-newsletter noted that Schanda Park will be expanding. Members remain concerned that Moonlight Brook at Schanda Park has shown very high and dangerous levels of human fecal contamination over the past few years. It is hoped that sewer system infrastructure improvements that Newmarket has undertaken this year will yield improved water quality results, but 2025 bacterial tracking data are not yet available.

Notes recorded by Suzanne Petersen.