

LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NH Lakes Management and Protection Program



New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
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MEETING MINUTES
July 27, 2007
Camp Calumet, Ossipee, NH
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Members present:

Jim Haney, Ph.D., Chair
Wendell Berry
Mark Gallagher
Mark Hemmerlein
Mitchell E. Kalter
Johanna Lyons
Fred Murphy
Phil O'Brien
Larry Sunderland

Representing:

Scientific Community, UNH
NH Business and Industry Assn
Commissioner, DOS
Commissioner, DOT
NH Fish & Game Commission
Commissioner, DRED
Planning Board
NH Lakes Association
Conservation Community

Term:

August 22, 2007
July 8, 2010
Indefinite
Indefinite
August 22, 2009
Indefinite
August 1, 2008
August 1, 2009
September 19, 2007

Members not present:

Jennifer Czysz
Marsha LaVallee Huntoon
Ken Jordan
James S. Morash, Vice Chair
Rich Tichko
Michele L. Tremblay
Ken P. Wilson
Vacant
Vacant

Office of Energy & Planning
Conservation Commissions
NH Association of Realtors
Tourism Industry
Exec. Dir., Fish & Game Dept.
State Conservation Committee
NH Marine Dealers Association
Elected Municipal Official
Commissioner, Dept. of Agr., Markets & Food

Indefinite
August 22, 2007
June 27, 2008
August 1, 2007
Indefinite
August 1, 2009
August 22, 2008
Expired
Indefinite

Staff Present

Jacquie Colburn
Laura Weit
Paul Currier
Carolyn Guerdet

Lakes Coordinator, Watershed Management Bureau (WMB)
Asst. Planner, WMB
Administrator, WMB
Admin. Asst., Water Division

Guests

Derek Durbin
Rep. Howard Cunningham
Tara Schroeder
Clair Unger
Blair Folts
Jean Hanson
Elizabeth Gillett
Susan Marks
Senator Joseph Kenney

NH Lakes Association
NH House of Representatives
Green Mountain Conservation Group
Green Mountain Conservation Group
Green Mountain Conservation Group
Long Sands Association
Ossipee Conservation Commission
Ossipee Lake Alliance
NH Senate

The Meeting Was Called to Order

- Jacquie Colburn, called the meeting to order.

I. Introductions/Minutes/Committee Business

1) Meeting Minutes

Corrections were noted for the minutes of May 18, 2007. Vote was delayed until the arrival of Chairman Haney.

2) Committee Business:

Committee Membership –

Confirmation has been received for Bud Berry to continue on the LMAC until 2010.

Jim Morash will not be seeking reappointment and has recommended Mel Borrin as a possible representative for the Tourism Industry.

Jim Haney arrived; from this point forward the LMAC had a quorum.

Marsha Lavallee Huntoon will not be seeking reappointment representing the NH Association of Conservation Commissions.

Larry Sunderland is seeking reappointment and the paperwork is at the Governor's office.

Jim Haney is seeking reappointment and his application has been submitted to Governor and Council.

- **Mitch Kalter made a motion to accept the May 18, 2007 minutes as corrected. Bud Berry seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.**

Existing Chair and Vice-Chair Terms –

Chairman Haney announced he will not be seeking reelection as the chair of the LMAC. Phil O'Brien volunteered for the position of Chairman.

- **Chairman Haney asked for a vote of all those in favor of Phil O'Brien as chairman of the LMAC. Vote was unanimous.**

As Jim Morash will not be returning, the Vice Chair position is available and Larry Sunderland volunteered.

- **Chairman Haney asked for a vote of all those in favor of Larry Sunderland as vice chairman of the LMAC. Vote was unanimous.**

HB 710 Commission –

A designee is needed as the LMAC is one of the members of this commission that will study issues relative to the practice of leasing state owned real estate. Bud Berry nominated Mitch Kalter.

- **Phil O'Brien made a motion that Mitch Kalter be the LMAC representative to the 710 Commission. Seconded by Bud Berry. Vote was unanimous.**

Phil O'Brien volunteered to be an alternate. Bud inquired what the LMAC strategy will entail. A lot of communication will be needed from the representative back to the LMAC. All members will be notified when the meetings occur as they are open to the public. Commissioner Burack has appointed Jacquie Colburn as the DES representative to this commission.

Strategic Plan/"Sustainability Initiative" –

On July 13th the Subcommittee met and Laura provided the LMAC with a summary of progress to date. Fred Murphy, Phil O'Brien, Larry Sunderland, Jacquie Colburn, Steve Couture, Ken Kimball (via phone), and Laura Weit were in attendance. The Subcommittee reviewed the latest revision of the Sustainability Initiative and based on Ken Kimball's recommendations it was decided to re-work the document. The time frame is to get another draft to the Subcommittee before the September LMAC meeting.

LMPP/RMPP Budget –

The funding was fully reinstated and the six-month intern and part-time assistant planner positions have been posted. Letters were sent to the House and Senate committees thanking them for reinstating the funding to the Programs.

- 3) LMAC meeting time and monthly schedule – For those meetings held at DES, the meetings will now start at 9 a.m. and will end at 12:30 p.m. It was decided to continue to meet monthly beginning in September.

- 4) Future Agenda Items: It was decided to visit Lake Sunapee and observe the Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network (GLEON) buoy at the September meeting.

II. Overview of Ossipee Lake – Characteristics and Management Issues

Presentations by DES, DRED, F&G, Marine Patrol, UNH, Ossipee Lake Alliance and Green Mountain Conservation Group were given. A summary of some of the highlights are below.

The Ossipee River Watershed has a total of 348.5 square miles, 45 great ponds, 12.6 square miles of surface water, 314 miles of rivers and streams, and 13 towns with a yearly residential population of over 34,000 people. Ossipee Lake contains a natural dam with 3091 acres of surface water, a maximum depth of 61 feet, a mean depth of 28 feet and 10.6 miles of shoreline (not including bays). Ossipee Lake is classified as oligotrophic and was surveyed in 1976, 1987, and 2003 by DES.

DES

Jacque Colburn summarized and briefly highlighted the numerous lake-related programs that DES administers relative to Ossipee Lake, these include: Lake Assessment Program, Volunteer Assessment Program (VLAP), Exotic Species Program, Beach Inspection Program, Lakes Management and Protection Program, Wetlands Bureau, Shoreland Protection Program, Dam Safety and Maintenance, and the Smart Growth Program. There are no pump outs or dump stations on the lake; no boat inspections are conducted to check for marine sanitation devices (onboard toilets); and a diagnostic feasibility study has not been conducted for Ossipee Lake.

Regarding the regulation of the lake's water level, two dams were constructed in 1919. The spillway dam is in disrepair and needs to be upgraded. This work will not eliminate flooding; but there will be better control of lake level during high water episodes. The repairs have been delayed because two other dams in the State were/are in more critical need of repair.

DRED

Johanna Lyons reported that DRED held a public meeting on May 5, 2007 to discuss the Ossipee Lake Natural Area. The purpose of the meeting was three fold: 1) to create a general understanding by the community, users and other interests as to the basis of management direction for the property, create more informed public comment, and ultimately develop understanding and support for management direction; 2) identify options for management direction given the attributes of the property (recreational, cultural, and ecological) legal requirements, and agency responsibilities; and 3) determine what resources are necessary to support implementation of a given management direction.

The management challenges identified at the May 5th meeting were: unmanaged recreational use including unauthorized uses (such as campfires, etc.) and sanitation; limited access to property (via water only); threats to cultural resources; loss of rare plants and unique natural communities; conflicting resource values; and availability of state resources for management.

Safety

According to Captain Mark Gallagher of the Marine Patrol there are regular patrols on Ossipee Lake and there are no particular problems on this lake in regards to boating safety. All complaints are responded to if possible. Rafting does occur on Ossipee Lake and there is a regulation that deals with this - there are no "No Rafting Zones" on many lakes in New Hampshire.

F&G

Rich Tichko could not attend the meeting but did provide information regarding fisheries. Ossipee Lake has a very sand bottom and generally lacks structure; this affects the type of fish that the lake can support. F&G stocks the lake with rainbow trout and salmon. The lake also supports warm water species including smallmouth bass, and white perch. The streams feeding the lake are fairly clean and are comprised of sandy substrate; this allows the streams to support a healthy smelt population.

UNH

Jim Haney explained that there are some unique features to this lake that will be pointed out during our lake tour. UNH owns a parcel of land where the Bear Camp River discharges into the lake. It is important that UNH study this land as it is an outwash plain from the river. Jim said that the UNH data concurs with the DES trophic survey data confirming that the lake is oligotrophic. Toxins in the sediments and in the

water are relatively low. The freshwater mussels are a unique feature of this lake. The expansive clean sandy lake bottom provides habitat for the mussels. A study of the mussels was done last September; total population, feeding behavior, and filtration rates were calculated. Mussels are one of the least understood of the macro-organisms in lakes.

Green Mountain Conservation Group

Blair Folts, Director of the Green Mountain Conservation Group (GMCG) explained that GMCG was established in 1997 and that their website gmcg.org has a great deal of information regarding their work over the past 10 years. Blair said that there is controversy regarding the recreational designation of the Ossipee Lake Natural Area because there are rare plants and natural communities, cultural resources, and archeological sites. This is the only place in the world where some 40 plants exist in one place. How should this area be managed?

Clair Unger, GMCG summer intern for the Lake Host Program, shared that GMCG has worked with the NH Lakes Association Lake Host Program for the past 6 years to staff the Pine River boat launch. Since 2002, the Pine River Launch Lake Hosts have inspected nearly 4000 boats for milfoil & other invasive plant species.

Tara Schroeder, Program Director for GMCG, discussed the water quality monitoring in the Ossipee Lake and Saco River watershed. A rivers monitoring program began in 2002 where the monitoring is conducted between April and October. There is also the OLT program (Ossipee Lake Tributary) where tributaries that feed into Ossipee Lake have been monitored since 2003. Water quality data is collected at 5 different deep spots within the main lake and the 4 bays. In 2006, a biomonitoring program was started through the DES Volunteer Biological Assessment Program (VBAP). GMCG has teamed up with DES, UNHCE, the Saco River Corridor Commission (SRCC) and the Ossipee Lake Alliance (OLA) for these various monitoring programs. They have accomplished a great deal as a result of these collaborations. They have compiled baseline data for 35 sites for 19 different parameters, they have conducted GIS mapping of the monitoring sites, they have provided data to DES for their biennial surface water quality report to EPA, and they have shared this information and have educated residents, visitors, children & town officials about the water quality of the lake and its watershed.

Ossipee Lake Alliance

Susan Marks, Director of Programs and Development for the Ossipee Lake Alliance (OLA) said that the Alliance started about 4 years ago, that it is a volunteer organization that represents the various lake associations on Lake Ossipee with about 22 condo associations and other small lake associations as members. OLA initiatives include milfoil prevention and control, restoration and permanent protection of the Ossipee Lake Natural Area, information and education outreach and water quality monitoring. In addition to these efforts, OLA recently facilitated a Lakes Representatives Forum to identify current and critical issues for the lake, its bays and its watershed. They conducted a member survey this year in their newsletter and online. OLA believes that there is a management problem at the Ossipee Lake Natural Area with the number of boats rafting offshore. They support closing the Natural Area to prevent further damage until there is a policy that is developed to address public access to the property. According to OLA other issues that need attention include the rafting in Cassie Cove/Turtle Cove, and that a carrying capacity study of the lake and its bays should be conducted.

Jacque thanked all the presenters for their participation and further discussions were encouraged on the boat ride.

III. Other Items and/or Issues

- **Meeting was adjourned to the boats and Lake Ossipee at 11:00 a.m.**

NH Lakes Management Advisory Committee July 27, 2007 Meeting

Overview of Ossipee Lake: Characteristics and Management Issues

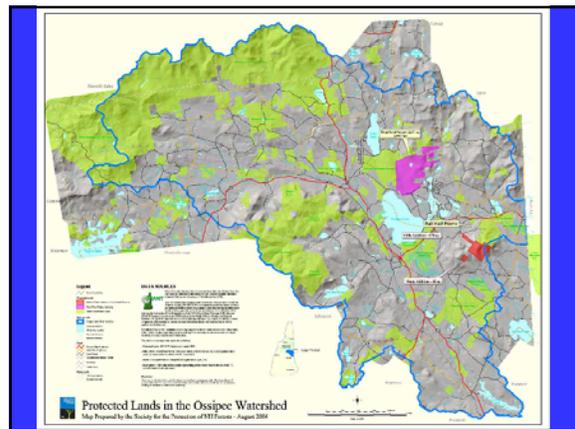
Ossipee Lake Alliance
www.ossipeelake.org



Ossipee River Watershed

Watershed Information:

Area: 348.5 sq.mi.
Great Ponds: 45
Surface water: 12.6 sq. mi.
Rivers/Streams: 314 mi.
13 Watershed Towns
YR Res. Pop. Of Watershed Towns: 34,000±





Lake Related Programs & Ossipee Lake

- Lake Assessment Program
- Volunteer Lake Assessment Program
- Exotics Species
- Beach Inspection Program
- Lakes Management and Protection Program
- Wetlands
- Shoreland Protection
- Dam Safety and Maintenance
- Smart Growth Program

Clean Vessel Act – no pump outs or dump stations
 Boat Inspections – none conducted
 Clean Lakes Program – no diagnostic/feasibility studies

Dam Safety and Maintenance



2 dams constructed in 1919
 Spillway dam in disrepair, needs to be upgraded
 Work will not eliminate flooding; but there will be better control of lake level during high water episodes
 Repairs delayed

Smart Growth Programs

1. DES has provided several grants to GMCG for natural resource based watershed planning
2. GMCG has developed natural resource inventories for the watershed towns
3. Long range goal – improved natural resource planning in local land use regulations



National Lakes Assessment – EPA



Trout Pond
 Upper Danforth Pond



Dept. of Resources and Economic Development

Ossipee Lake State - Park May 5, 2007 Meeting Purpose

Create a general understanding by the community, users and other interests as to the basis of management direction for the property, create more informed public comment, and ultimately develop understanding and support for management direction.

Identify options for management direction given the attributes of the property (recreational, cultural, and ecological) legal requirements, and agency responsibilities.

Determine and what resources are necessary to support implementation of a given management direction.



Ossipee Lake Natural Area
 Ossipee, New Hampshire

Management of State Lands

227-H:1 Declaration of Purpose.

It is hereby recognized and declared that state-owned reservations contribute to the conservation of natural resources and distinctive quality of life in the state. The public welfare of this state is served by the prudent acquisition and management of reservations to provide forest benefits and for the purposes of demonstrating sound forestry principles, protecting habitat for plants, animals, and other organisms, conserving forested watersheds, preserving areas of rare and exemplary natural beauty and ecological value, and providing for perpetual public access and use. Source. 1995, 299:1, eff. Jan. 1, 1996.

"Reservation" means public land under the jurisdiction of the department including but not limited to: state forest, state park, natural area, historic site, geological site, recreation trail, memorial area, fire tower, wayside area, heritage park, resource center, agricultural area, state forest nursery, administrative facility, information center, demonstration forest, certain islands, and lands under lease to the department.

RSA 227-H:8

Use of Land for Recreational Purposes

Any land acquired by the department or under its jurisdiction, pursuant to this chapter, may, in the discretion of the department, be used for public recreational and park purposes, provided that such use is not contrary to the conditions incident to any bequest or gift. Source. 1995, 299:1, eff. Jan. 1, 1996.

RSA 216-A Expansion of state park system

Section 216-A:1 Intent. – It is the intent of the general court that a comprehensive state park system shall be developed, operated, and maintained to achieve the following purposes in order of the following priority:

I. To protect and preserve unusual scenic, scientific, historical, recreational, and natural areas within the state.

II. To continually provide such additional park areas and facilities as may be necessary to meet the recreational needs of the citizens of all regions of the state.

III. To make these areas accessible to the public for recreational, education, scientific, and other uses consistent with their protection and preservation.

IV. To encourage and support tourism and related economic activity within the state.

Source. 1961, 263:1. 1985, 389:3, eff. June 25, 1985.

Zoning

- To maximize public use and benefit each parcel of forestland is zoned according to its highest and best uses. In this manner, work activities focus on conserving and enhancing the highest and best uses. However, other uses may be permitted under situations and limitations, which will not impair the area for its dominant use.

Ossipee Lake Zones

Natural Preserve Areas

Natural preserve areas are those, which contain (a) unique geological features and/or (b) unique plant communities, which will not change their composition in a relatively short time in the natural course of plant succession.

The only projects permitted in these areas are construction of basic access facilities such as trails, footbridges and signs and other activities compatible to protecting the natural character of the natural preserve area.

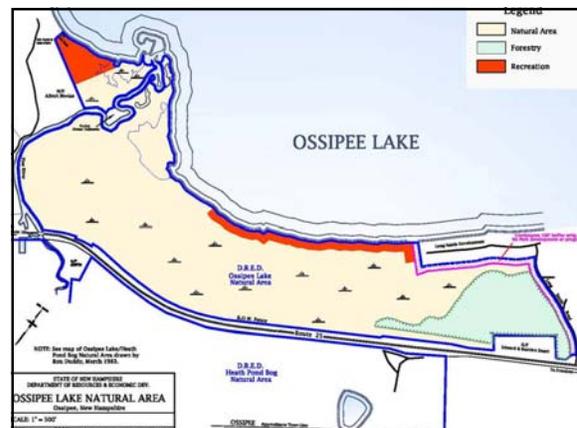
Recreation Areas

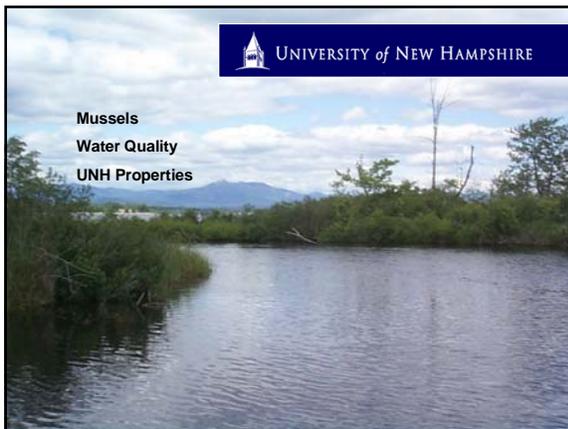
Recreation areas are those in a forest area not part of a developed recreational area that may have some identified recreation use passive in nature such as a trail of any type, primitive campsites where allowed, identified natural springs in use and areas known to be heavily used by the public for recreational purposes.

Timber Management Areas

Timber management areas consist of all lands under Forest Management Land Use not included in the above categories.

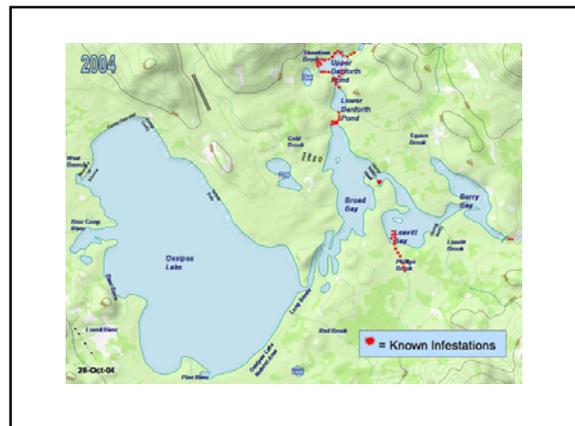
Timber management areas are managed for the sustained yield of timber products while allowing flexibility for other multiple use objectives. Silvicultural practices applicable to a given stand are used, but the practice may be modified if its application will seriously impair other resources.





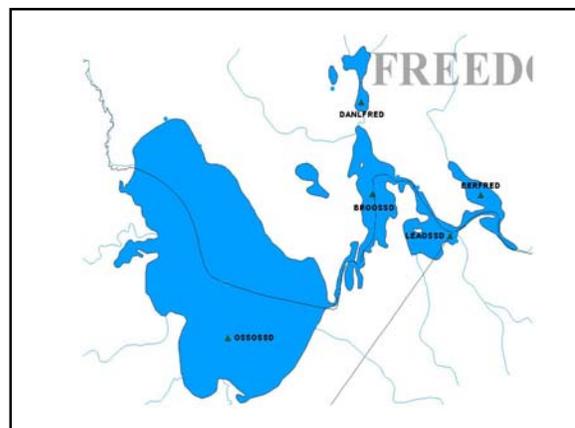
Lake Host Program

- GMCG works with NHLA since 2002 to hire local youth as Lake Hosts at Pine River boat launch
- Lake Hosts inspect boats for milfoil & other invasive plant species
- 3,992 boats inspected since 2002 on Lake Ossipee
- 42% of the people in 2006 had "high awareness" of the milfoil problem
- NHLA recorded 70 saves this summer on lakes in NH so far!

Ossipee Watershed Water Quality Monitoring

- River monitoring since 2002 with SRCC, UNHCE, NH E
- Tributary & Lake Monitoring since 2003 with OLA (VLA)
- *What has been accomplished*
- Baseline data for 35 sites for different parameters
- 2,500+ boats inspected for milfoil
- Equipment to maintain the program
- Biological monitoring program (VBAP)
- Year-round sampling
- Information & Education for residents, visitors, children, town officials
- GIS mapping bracketing of sites
- Data for biennial DES/EPA surface water quality report
- Groundwater monitoring



Per the Loon Preservation Committee:
2 pairs – one on Ossipee Lake and one on Leavitt Bay
Unfortunately, both nests failed

