

**2008 REPORT**  
**PEMIGEWASSET RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PRLAC)**

PRLAC is one of 15 Local Advisory Committees working on designated rivers around the state. Our focus continues to be water quality in the Pemigewasset River. Bi-weekly monitoring from April to mid-September continues to provide a strong (now six years) base of water quality data. This data is used to satisfy the state's reporting requirements to the US Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act. Although currently limited to eight sites – Thornton through Bristol – our data should provide a signal for early signs of potential impairment. Spikes of *E. coli* runoff pollution have been noted after significant rain events. A critical step in mitigating this runoff problem is the revised Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA) (RSA 483-B), which protects the Pemigewasset as of July 1, 2008. CSPA includes improved buffer management and more attention to the potential impact of impervious surfaces resulting from development in the 250 foot protected shoreland area. PRLAC is now asked to review and comment on all such development applications.

For the first time in our history, PRLAC has asked Pemigewasset corridor towns for financial assistance in keeping our basic monitoring activity up and running. Historically, we have been funded by Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act through the Department of Environmental Services and distributed by the Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC). These funds are no longer automatically given to each LAC for program administration, but are for competitive water quality planning projects, so we are asking each Pemigewasset town to commit \$200 annually to our program.

Emphasis in 2009 will be on a) expanding water quality monitoring (*E. coli*) if lab test costs can be funded; b) milfoil control; c) review of shoreland development permit applications and certain other applications with water quality implications (eight projects reviewed in 2008); and d) following up on LRPC's Co-Occurrence Mapping and Analysis project, identifying aquatic resource conservation opportunities that might attract state funds accumulating under the state's Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund (currently \$80,000 available for the Pemigewasset watershed).

We have representatives from all towns from Thornton through Bristol except for Ashland and Bridgewater. In October, the efforts of PRLAC and other Local Advisory Committees were recognized with the Volunteer NH! Champions Award. We meet the last Tuesday of most months on the campus of Plymouth State University. Call Max Stamp at 744-8223 for details if you are interested in attending.

Max Stamp, PRLAC Chair  
12/6/08