

# **THE WARNER RIVER**

## **A Report to the General Court**

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**New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program  
Department of Environmental Services  
Office of the Commissioner  
September 2017**





# **The Warner River A Report to the General Court**

**State of New Hampshire  
Department of Environmental Services  
Water Division – Watershed Management Bureau  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03302-0095**

**Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner**

**Clark Freise  
Assistant Commissioner**

**Eugene Forbes, P.E.  
Water Division Director**

**Prepared by:  
Tracie Sales  
Rivers Coordinator**

**September 2017**



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## I. INTRODUCTION

The Warner River flows east from its headwaters in Bradford through the towns of Warner, Sutton, and Webster until it merges into the Contoocook River in Hopkinton. The Contoocook River is a major tributary to the upper Merrimack River, both of which were designated into the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP) in 1991 and 1990, respectively.

This nomination of the Warner River includes the entire mainstem of the river from Bradford to Hopkinton as well as 1.1 miles of the West Branch Warner River in Bradford. In total, 20.1 miles of 5<sup>th</sup> order river in five towns are being nominated for inclusion into the Rivers Management and Protection Program.

The Rivers Management and Protection Act (RSA 483) was enacted in 1988. The act states in part that:

*It is the policy of the state to ensure the continued viability of New Hampshire rivers as valued ecologic, economic, public health and safety, and social assets for the benefit of present and future generations. The state shall encourage and assist in the development of river corridor management plans and regulate the quantity and quality of instream flow along certain protected rivers or segments of rivers to conserve and protect outstanding characteristics including recreational, fisheries, wildlife, environmental, hydropower, cultural, historical, archaeological, scientific, ecological, aesthetic, community significance, agricultural, and public water supply so that these valued characteristics shall endure as part of the river uses to be enjoyed by New Hampshire people.*

The act directs NHDES and the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) to receive and evaluate nominations for the designation of rivers or river segments to protect outstanding values and characteristics. Nominations approved by the NHDES Commissioner shall be forwarded to the General Court for review and approval in the next legislative session following the nomination. In fulfillment of this statutory directive, the nomination of the Warner River is hereby forwarded to the General Court.

NHDES recommends that the Warner River be designated as a protected river under the RMPP. NHDES further recommends that the various segments of the river be classified as “rural,” “rural-community,” and “community” as described in the Summary and Recommendations contained in this report, thereby affording it a balance of the ecological and community use protection measures outlined in RSA 483. The outstanding statewide, regional and local resource values and characteristics that qualify the Warner River for designation are described herein.

## II. THE WARNER RIVER NOMINATION

### A. DESCRIPTION

The Warner River flows east from Bradford through the towns of Warner, Sutton, and Webster to its confluence with the Contoocook River in Hopkinton. The Contoocook River, designated into the RMPP in 1991 is a major tributary to the upper Merrimack River, one of the first rivers designated into the Rivers Program in 1990.

This nomination of the Warner River includes the entire mainstem of the river from Bradford to Hopkinton as well as 1.1 miles of the West Branch Warner River in Bradford. In total, 20.1 miles of 5<sup>th</sup> order river in five towns are being nominated for inclusion into the Rivers Management and Protection Program.

### B. RIVER VALUES AND CHARACTERISTICS

The Rivers Management and Protection Program identifies a number of river-related values and characteristics that may qualify a river for designation. The Warner River supports many of these, including a variety of natural, managed, cultural, recreational and other resource values. Some are significant at the local level, others are significant at the regional, state or national level. The resource values that qualify the Warner River for designation include geology, wildlife, vegetation and natural communities, fish, water quality, natural flow characteristics, open space, impoundments, hydroelectric potential, history and archeology, community resources, fishing, boating, other recreation, public access, scenery, land use, land use controls, water quantity, riparian interests, and scientific study.

#### 1. Natural Resources

##### a. Geologic Resources

Geological resources of local, regional and statewide significance exist within the Warner River corridor. High transmissivity stratified-drift aquifers are located all along the river, with the most expansive of these aquifers found near the termination of the Warner River, as this area was once a glacial lake. In the past, both almandite, a common type of garnet used primarily as an industrial abrasive, and soapstone, used in stoves and hearthstones, were extracted commercially, though neither of these minerals is mined today. The Warner River corridor, which extends ¼ mile on either side of the nominated river, contains over 9,700 acres of farmland of local importance, with 230 acres having been deemed of statewide importance.

##### b. Wildlife Resources

Nearly half of the Warner River corridor contains significant wildlife habitat. Of these 2,651 acres, 20 percent is comprised of Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire as defined by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's *Wildlife Action Plan*. The river corridor is an excellent location for observing moose, black bear, fisher, and bobcat due to the proximity of large areas of conserved open space, but it is also home to many smaller species of mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and insects. Rare wood turtles and the pygmy snaketail dragonfly can be found in the river corridor, while the state endangered Blanding's turtle and threatened spotted turtle, common loon, and northern black racer live in the greater watershed. Species of special conservation concern found in the watershed are the least bittern, vesper sparrow, and smooth green snake.

### **c. Vegetation and Natural Communities**

The river corridor is characterized by hemlock-hardwood pine forest, Appalachian oak-pine forest, floodplain forest, farm land (grassland or hay pastures as well as cultivated fields), with some marsh and shrub wetlands and peatland areas distributed throughout. One exemplary natural community, the temperate minor river floodplain system, is located in the river corridor, while several other exemplary communities thrive in the larger watershed. The Bradford Pines Natural Area, located at the point where the West Branch Warner River joins Hoyt Brook to form the Warner River, is home to some of the oldest white pines in the state. Three state endangered plant species live in the watershed: the small whorled pogonia, which is also nationally threatened, American water-awlwort, and sclerolepis, a flowering plant found in only two locations in New England.

### **d. Fish Resources**

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department has identified the Warner River as a warm water fishery supporting many native fish species as well as a few introduced species. Many of the streams that feed the Warner River contain cold water habitat, however, with over two-thirds of them supporting natural reproduction of native brook trout, which then venture into the Warner River itself. Additional fish species of greatest conservation need found in the river are American eel and burbot.

### **e. Water Quality**

The Warner River is classified as a Class B waterbody, suitable for swimming and boating as well as for use as a public water supply after adequate treatment. Water quality impairments for sections of the river are limited to the Aquatic Life impairment due to low pH and dissolved oxygen levels, and the state-wide Fish Consumption impairment due to mercury. Current water quality data on the river is limited, but the river nomination process has reinvigorated a Volunteer River Assessment Program monitoring effort that began collecting data during the summer of 2017 after a 10 year hiatus.

### **f. Natural Flow Characteristics**

Flow near the river's headwaters is slow and meandering, but transitions to white water in the Town of Warner. On its course through Warner, the river passes through many breached dams and three active dams, including impounded areas, flatwater, and rapids ranging from class I to class IV depending on flow levels. Flow remains higher, and suitable for paddling, on the Warner River longer into the spring than on surrounding rivers due to the large area of watershed that feeds the river.

### **g. Open Space**

Sixteen properties of protected open space totaling over 2,000 acres intersect the Warner River corridor, though only 281 of these acres lie within a quarter mile of the river. One of the most significant of these properties is the Bohanan Farm in Hopkinton, which has been a working dairy farm since the 1930's and also hosts seven miles of public walking trails. The Chandler Reservation is the largest tract of conserved land intersecting the river corridor, and also contains public recreations trails. The 2010 Warner Master Plan identifies the Warner River corridor as one of six natural resource areas where conservation efforts should be focused.

## **2. Managed Resources**

### **a. Impoundments and Hydroelectric Resources**

Three dams along the Warner River actively impound water, but none are currently used for hydropower generation. Ruins of seven additional dams can be seen in the Warner River channel, showing evidence of the river's historical uses driving industrial machinery. There is one inactive dam that has been used for hydropower generation in the past. The Warner River Nominating Committee has worked closely with dam owners to ensure that designation of the Warner River into the RMPP will not impede the river's future use by interested dam owners to generate hydropower.

### **b. Water Withdrawals and Discharges**

There are no registered surface water withdrawals along the Warner River. However, the Town of Warner depends on public water supply wells in the river corridor that are hydrologically connected to the river. Private wells in the communities of Bradford and Hopkinton also draw indirectly from the river. The Warner Waste Water Treatment Facility is the only registered facility that discharges water to the river.

## **3. Cultural Resources**

### **a. Cultural, Historic and Archaeological Resources**

The Warner River served as critical resource and travelway for the area's original inhabitants, the Pennacooks. Artifacts such as projectile points, scraping tools, hearths, and even human remains have been found in the river corridor. In the 1740's European settlers built log cabins and a sawmill, only to have them burned to the ground by the Pennacooks. The first permanent sawmill was built on the river in 1763, and mills quickly became the center of the settlement and the backbone of the area's economy. Local mills produced cloth, hard-iron, clock weights, wooden boxes, gloves, shoes, bobbins, toys, wood turned chairs, baseball bats, crutches, cloth, clothes pins, hubs, milk can stopples, transformers, and special power supplies. Early residents of the area were concerned about the river's water quality, and in 1906 mill owners were cited for breaking the law by dumping sawdust into the river.

Noteworthy sites along the river on the National Historic Register include the Dalton, Waterloo, and Bement covered bridges as well as the Lower Warner Meeting House. The Waterloo District, with its 24 houses, cemetery, school house, railroad depot, and mill building, is also listed.

### **b. Community Resources**

The Warner River is recognized by the five towns through which it flows as a valuable resource. The recreation and natural habitat values are recognized in master plans and natural resource inventories (NRIs). For example, Bradford's 2006 Master Plan recommends discussing watershed and aquifer protection on a regional scale, seeking partnership opportunities to enhance their quality. Similarly, Warner's 2011 Master Plan states a goal of protecting at least 20% of the Warner River corridor. Sutton's 2004 Master Plan recommends protection of shoreland and surface waters through regulatory, educational and voluntary efforts, while Webster and Hopkinton also both recognize the importance of buffers and building setbacks along the water in their master plans.

## **4. Recreational Resources**

### **a. Fishery**

The Warner River is an excellent freshwater fishery with varied habitat that offers anglers good access to the river and ample opportunity. As NH Route 103 parallels the Warner River, there are many unofficial access points which may be utilized for fishing for stocked rainbow trout, and both stocked and native brook trout.

### **b. Boating**

The Warner River is unsuitable for motorized boating due to its size, but American Whitewater identifies it as a highly popular destination for both local and out-of-state paddlers due to its large watershed, long whitewater season, and incredible in-stream features. Seasonally variable flows offer whitewater paddling unique to this part of the state including numerous class IV rapids and a three-foot dam sluice.

### **c. Other Recreation**

The Warner River corridor offers year-round recreation opportunities such as wildlife observation and walking in the Bradford Pines Natural Area, hiking and hunting in the Mink Hills, and organized sports at Warner's Riverside Park. A small section of the Concord - Lake Sunapee Rail Trail follows the Warner River from just north of Tom Pond to Bradford, offering walking and biking opportunities with future

expansion planned. Seasonally, several active and breached dams along the river impound sizeable swimming holes that are popular in the summer months. In the winter, a state primary snowmobile trail crosses the river on Joppa Road via the Dalton covered bridge.

#### **d. Public Access**

NH Route 103 parallels the Warner River for much of its length, offering easy river access for fishing, swimming, and paddling. Six sites along the river provide cartop access for paddlers tackling the whitewater sections of the Warner River, while an additional site at the Swain Lowell Dam offers foot access for both whitewater and swimming. The Bagley Fields athletic park includes swimming access to the river along with athletic fields and a rail trail near the river.

### **5. Other Resources**

#### **a. Scenery**

The Warner River is visible at a number of road crossings and from adjacent roads at many points along its length. Scenic views of the river can be found on bridges and access points throughout the corridor, and views of the surrounding forests and fields are available from the river itself. The steeper topography from Bradford to the I-89 crossing offers pictures of whitewater and surrounding hills. As the land evens out through downtown Warner and through Webster and Hopkinton, the scenery changes as the river calms and becomes wider, providing a more bucolic landscape. All along the river are glimpses of the river's history in the remnants of the dams and mills that were once central features of the river.

#### **b. Land Use**

Over half of the Warner River corridor is forested, with forest and wetlands combined making up over 70% of the total area within the corridor. Light development, consisting primarily of residential use, accounts for almost 10% of the river corridor while moderate and highly developed areas cover only 3% of the river corridor. Two commercial areas lie within the river corridor, one at Exit 9 of I-89 and the other in downtown Warner.

#### **c. Land Use Controls**

The five communities along the Warner River are highly conscious of the need for water resource protection through careful land management. All have relatively current master plans along with up-to-date zoning ordinances, zoning districts, and subdivision and site plan review regulations to protect the Warner River. For example, all five communities have water course, water body, and/or wetland setbacks or protection regulations as well as a floodplain development ordinance of some type. All towns also have erosion and sedimentation control and stormwater management regulations for their subdivision and/or site plan review regulations, but three have gone further by adopting erosion and sediment control provisions into their zoning ordinances. These planning tools promote protection of the Warner River and the adjacent land.

#### **d. Water Quantity**

The USGS stream gauge, 01086000 Warner River at Davisville, is a full record station that lies upstream of the river's confluence with the Contoocook River. Daily streamflow data is available from 1939 to present.

#### **e. Riparian Interests/Flowage Rights**

The only documented flowage rights or riparian interest is the Warner Village Water District and its ability to appropriate any springs, streams, rivers, or ponds. There are no permitted surface water withdrawals, and only one permitted discharge on the Warner River.

#### **f. Scientific Resources**

The Warner River is used by local students in school programs to learn about the environment, water

quality, and the fish that live in the river. For example, students in Bradford take part in Trout Unlimited's *Trout in the Classroom* program, raising brook trout and learning about their habitat before releasing them into the river. Studies of the river include the volunteer water quality monitoring, culvert assessments, and an in depth study of wild brook trout in the Warner River watershed.

### III. LOCAL SUPPORT

There is strong local support for the designation of the Warner River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program. Having held one general public information meeting about the nomination in spring of 2016, five more information meetings in November and December of 2016 in each town, and five presentations to each of the Boards of Selectmen, the Nominating Committee submitted the nomination to NHDES May 31, 2017. With the nomination the Department received thirty-four letters of support. One or more endorsements were received from the Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commissions of each of the five municipalities through which the river flows, three municipal planning boards, a water district, one state agency, eight local, state or national non-profit organizations, two nearby local river management advisory committees, and eight local citizens.

On July 11, 2017, the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), in coordination with the Warner River Nominating Committee and the NHDES Rivers Program, hosted a public hearing in Warner to receive public comment on the nomination. Approximately 50 people attended the public hearing. Of the four people who spoke at the public hearing, three were in favor of the nomination and the fourth asked a question but did not make a formal comment. In conjunction with the public hearing, a public comment period was held from June 21, 2017 to July 31, 2017. Following the public hearing, five letters and emails supporting the nomination were received, and one email expressing opposition to the nomination was received.

Shortly after the nominating committee began meeting, a few riparian landowners along the Warner River expressed concern about the possibility that designating the river would prevent them from installing hydroelectric facilities in the future due to the restriction on building new dams in designated rivers classified as “natural,” “rural” or “rural-community.” In response to this concern, the nominating committee reached out to riparian landowners, particularly those owning existing and breached dams, to determine their interest in future hydropower operations and rebuilding breached dams. In response to these conversations, the committee has proposed that the river segment containing all but one of the existing or breached dams be classified as a “community” river, allowing for future development of hydropower in this portion of the Warner River. The single breached dam located on a segment of the Warner River not proposed for a “community” classification is owned by a citizen with no interest in rebuilding the dam, and who is satisfied with the proposed “rural” classification.

#### IV. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Warner River supports a variety of significant state, regional and local resources. To better protect and manage these resources, the Department of Environmental Services recommends the following actions.

***Recommendation 1: The General Court should adopt legislation that designates the Warner River for inclusion in the Rivers Management and Protection Program and designates the Warner River as follows:***

- 1) Warner River - west branch: as a rural-community river from the confluence with Andrew Brook in Bradford 1.1 miles to the confluence with the Warner River main stem.
- 2) Warner River - main stem:
  - (a) As a rural-community river from the confluence of the West Branch Warner River and Hoyt Brook in Bradford 2.9 miles to the Melvin Mills bridge in Warner.
  - (b) As a community river from the Melvin Mills bridge in Warner 1.8 miles to a point immediately downstream of the Swain Lowell Dam.
  - (c) As a rural river from a point immediately downstream of the Swain Lowell Dam in Warner 2.9 miles to a point immediately upstream of the Warner River Dam in the Waterloo Village District.
  - (d) As a community river from a point immediately upstream of the Warner River Dam in the Waterloo Village District 3.4 miles to the confluence with Bartlett Brook in Warner.
  - (e) As a rural river from the confluence with Bartlett Brook in Warner 8.0 miles to the confluence with the Contoocook River in Hopkinton.

Under the provisions of RSA 483, designation of the river will provide increased protection with respect to the construction of new dams, interbasin transfers, and the application of sludge in the river corridor. Designation will also require the establishment of a protected instream flow to maintain water for instream public uses including water quality, fisheries, recreation, and scenic values. A local river management advisory committee will be established to coordinate management and protection of the river at the local and regional levels, and will provide the residents in the riverfront communities with a direct avenue for formal input into state decisions affecting the river. The local river management advisory committee will provide the residents in the riverfront communities with a direct avenue for formal input into state decisions affecting the river. Finally, designation will result in the development of a river corridor management plan that will identify and balance the various local competing uses of the river, such as wildlife, fishing, paddling, waste water assimilation, and hydropower.

The Warner River is being recommended for the “rural,” “rural-community” and “community” river classifications. Rural rivers are defined under RSA 483:7-a, I(b) as “...those rivers or segments adjacent to lands which are partially or predominantly used for agriculture, forest management and dispersed or clustered residential development. Some instream structures may exist, including low dams, diversion works and other minor modifications.” The West Branch Warner River and the Warner River mainstem as it flows from the Swain Lowell Dam to the Warner River Dam in Warner and again from Bartlett Brook to the Contoocook River encounters primarily forests, with scattered housing, agricultural fields, and open space also contributing to the largely undeveloped areas of the river corridor which typifies the definition of a rural river.

“Rural-community rivers” are defined under RSA 483:7-a, I(c) as “... those rivers or segments which flow through developed or populated areas of the state and which possess existing or potential community resource values such as those defined in official municipal plans or land use controls. Such rivers have mixed land uses in the corridor reflecting some combination of open space, agricultural, residential, commercial and industrial land uses. Such rivers are readily accessible by road or railroad and may

include impoundments or diversions.” The Warner River mainstem from its headwaters in Bradford to the Melvin Mills bridge in Warner is flanked by a landscape ranging from forests such as the Bradford Pines Natural Area, to agriculture, historical villages and light industry.

Community rivers are defined under RSA 483:7-a, I(d) as “... those rivers or segments which flow through developed or populated areas of the state and which possess existing or potential community resource values, such as those identified in official municipal plans or land use controls. Such rivers have mixed land uses in the corridor reflecting some combination of open space, agricultural, residential, commercial and industrial land uses. Such rivers are readily accessible by road or railroad, may include existing impoundments or diversions, or potential sites for new impoundments or diversions for hydropower, flood control or water supply purposes, and may include the urban centers of municipalities.” The Warner River in Warner, both from the Melvin Mills bridge to the Swain Lowell Dam and from the Warner River Dam to Bartlett Brook, is largely forested but is also easily accessible by road and is considered locally to be an important area for the development of future hydropower. The Warner River Nominating Committee, the Rivers Management Advisory Committee and NHDES have all determined that the river segments recommended above for the “rural,” “rural-community” and “community” river classifications meet their respective definitions and should be so designated.

Designation of the Warner River under the Rivers Management and Protection Program will express the intent of the General Court regarding its future management and protection, and will focus attention on the river as a natural resource of both statewide and local significance. This attention will help to ensure greater scrutiny of plans or proposals that have the potential to significantly alter or destroy those river values and characteristics that qualify the Warner River for designation.

***Recommendation 2: The communities of Bradford, Warner, Sutton, Webster, and Hopkinton should continue to work toward the protection of the Warner River through the development, adoption, and implementation of a local river corridor management plan.***

While legislative designation of the Warner River will improve the protection and management of the rivers itself, continuing efforts at the local level will be needed to address the use and conservation of the river corridor (the river and the land area located within a distance of 1,320 feet of the normal high water mark or to the landward extent of the 100 year floodplain). A growing recognition by local citizens and officials of the Warner River’s valuable contribution to the overall quality of life in the communities of Bradford, Warner, Sutton, Webster, and Hopkinton through which it flows is evidenced by the communities’ desire to see the river designated into the Rivers Management and Protection Program. Citizen appreciation and concern for the river should be reflected in the decisions and actions of local officials. NHDES will provide technical assistance to the local river management advisory committee and to the local officials in these five communities on the development and implementation of a local river corridor management plan.

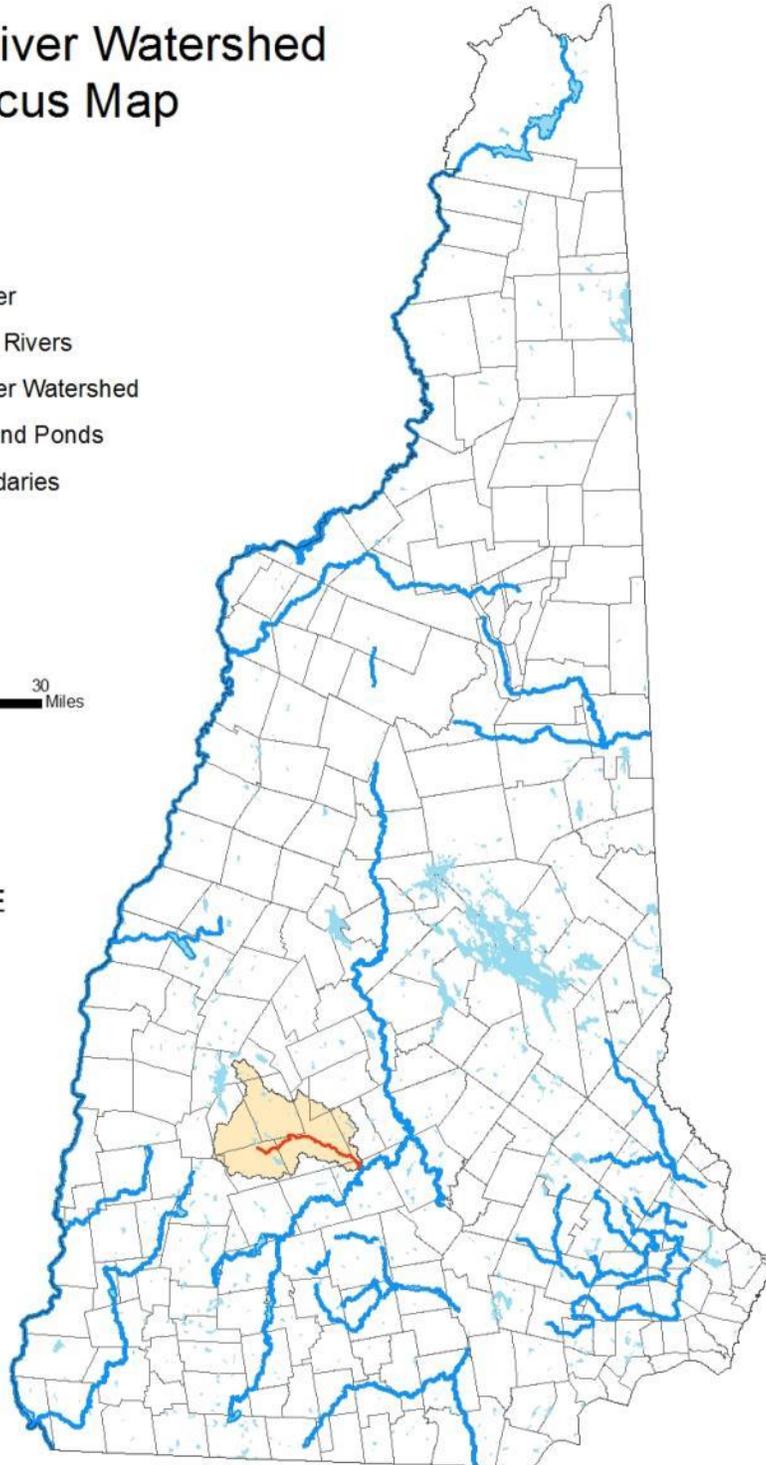
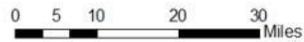
In summary, a continuing commitment on the part of the local government and residents to protect and manage the river corridor through sound land use planning and decisions will ensure that the outstanding resources of the Warner River will endure to be enjoyed by the people of New Hampshire for many years to come.

### V. MAPS

## Warner River Watershed Locus Map

### Legend

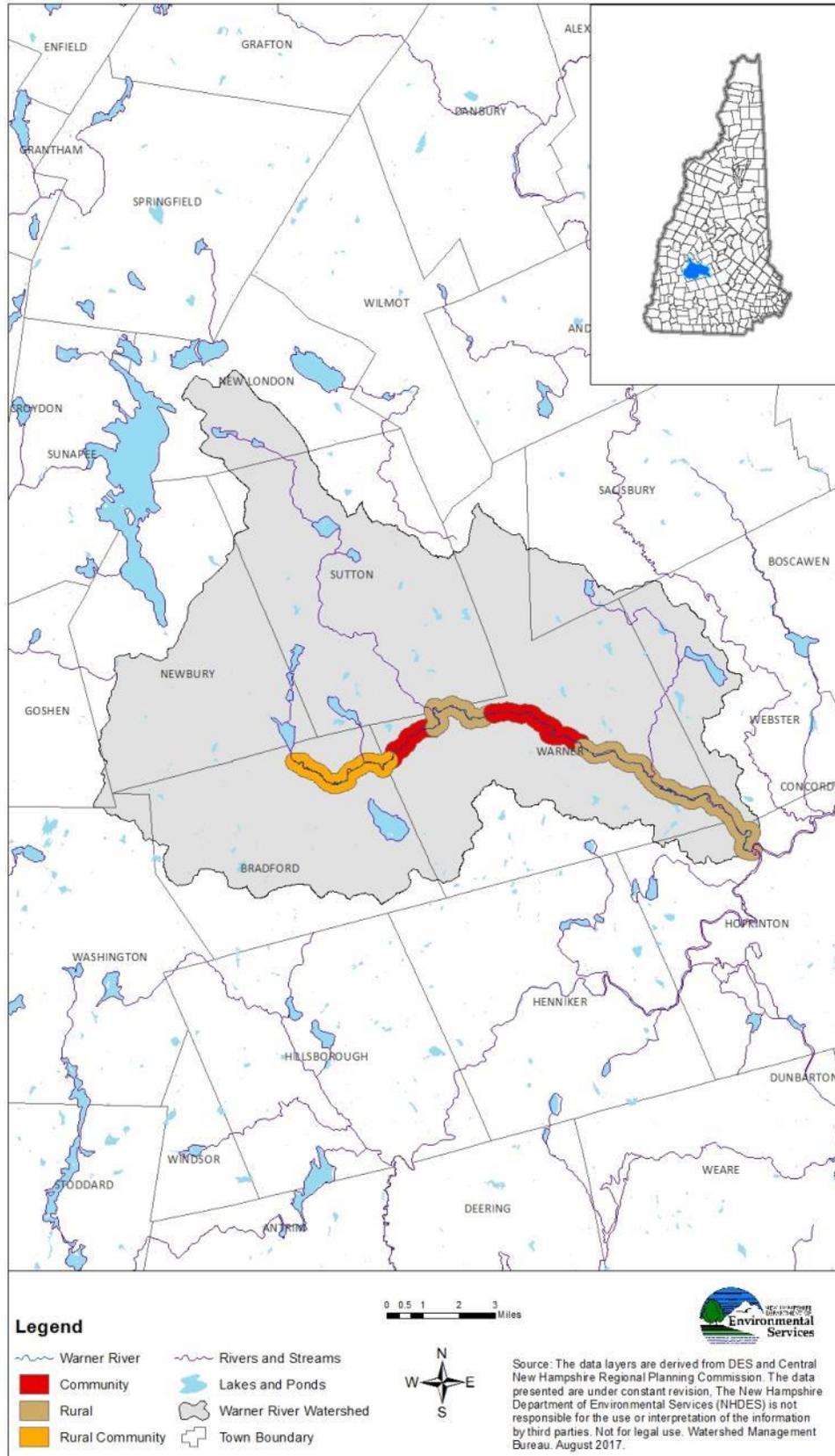
-  Warner River
-  Designated Rivers
-  Warner River Watershed
-  NH Lakes and Ponds
-  Town Boundaries



Source: The data layers are derived from DES and Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission. The data presented are under constant revision. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is not responsible for the use or interpretation of the information by third parties. Not for legal use. Watershed Management Bureau. August 2017.



# Warner River and Watershed





The State of New Hampshire  
**Department of Environmental Services**



**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

January 16, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Avard  
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
State House, Room 100  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: SB 445, An Act Designating the Warner River as a protected river.**

Dear Chair Avard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 445, which would designate the Warner River into the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is pleased to support this grassroots-driven legislation.

The designation would begin on the West Branch Warner River at its confluence with Andrew Brook in Bradford, extend 1.1 miles to the headwaters of the Warner River mainstem, and continue 19 miles through Warner, Sutton, and Webster to the Warner River's confluence with the Contoocook River in Hopkinton.

NHDES' review of the Warner River nomination considered the important resources outlined in the nomination form, public comments received, and the recommendations of the Rivers Management Advisory Committee and the NHDES Rivers Coordinator. In each of the five resource categories evaluated - natural, managed, cultural, recreational, and other - the Warner River contains resources of local and regional significance. The river is also valued statewide for its natural, cultural, recreational, and other resources.

Public support for the nomination of the Warner River has been strong. The nomination document included 34 letters of support, and three members of the public spoke in favor of the nomination during the public hearing on July 11, 2017. During the public comment period, NHDES received five additional letters and emails of support, and only one email expressing opposition to the nomination.

A Report to the General Court on the nomination of the Warner River into the RMPP was submitted on September 20, 2017. The report specifies in greater detail the values and characteristics that qualify the Warner River for designation, and includes a map of the proposed designation. Both the Report to the General Court and the full nomination document are available on the NHDES website at <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/nominations.htm>.

The Honorable Kevin Avard  
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
January 16, 2018  
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The Warner River meets the criteria for designation based on the factors listed in RSA 483:6, IV and is consistent with the purposes of RSA 483. It is a worthy addition to the Rivers Management and Protection Program, and NHDES strongly recommends its inclusion in the RMPP.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on SB 445. If you have further questions or need additional information, please contact Tracie Sales ([tracie.sales@des.nh.gov](mailto:tracie.sales@des.nh.gov), 271-2959) or Ted Diers ([ted.diers@des.nh.gov](mailto:ted.diers@des.nh.gov), 271-3289).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Scott", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner

cc: Senator Ward, and Representatives Suzanne Smith, Carson, Mullen, Myler, Luneau



The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

September 20, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Avard  
NH Senator Dan Feltes  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
State House, Room 100  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: Nomination of the Warner River to the Rivers Management and Protection Program**

Dear Chairman Avard and Senator Feltes:

I write regarding the NH Department of Environmental Services' (NHDES) receipt, in June 2017, of a nomination for the inclusion of the Warner River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). As proposed by the Warner River Nominating Committee, designation would begin on the West Branch Warner River at its confluence with Andrew Brook in Bradford, extend 1.1 miles to the headwaters of the Warner River mainstem, and continue 19 miles further to the Warner River's confluence with the Contoocook River in Hopkinton.

My review of the nomination considered the important resources outlined in the nomination, public comments received by the Department, and the recommendations of the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) and the Rivers Coordinator. Based on this review and considering the factors listed in RSA 483:6, IV, I have determined that designation of the Warner River would be consistent with the purposes of RSA 483, and I am strongly recommending its inclusion in the RMPP.

In each of the five resource categories evaluated - natural, managed, cultural, recreational, and other - the Warner River contains resources of local and regional significance. The river is also valued statewide for its natural, cultural, recreational, and other resources.

Public support for the nomination of the Warner River has been strong. The nomination document included 34 letters of support, and three members of the public spoke in support of the nomination during the formal public hearing on July 11, 2017. During the public comment period, the Department received five additional letters and emails of support, and only one email expressing opposition to the nomination.

The RMAC reviewed the nomination, conducted a site visit, and hosted the public hearing. The RMAC was impressed with the level of local support for the nomination as well as with the Warner River Nominating Committee's dedication to working with community members to ensure that the designation would be compatible with landowners' desire for future hydropower generation. The RMAC unanimously recommended that the Warner River be

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29 Hazen Drive • PO Box 95 • Concord, NH 03302-0095  
(603) 271-3503 • Fax: (603) 271-7894 • TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

Senators Kevin Avard and Dan Feltes  
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September 20, 2017  
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designated into the RMPP. The committee's letter of recommendation is enclosed. The Rivers Coordinator reviewed nomination materials, listened to testimony at the public hearing, received correspondence related to the nomination, and visited the river. Based on this information, the Rivers Coordinator recommends that the nomination of the Warner River into the RMPP be forwarded to the General Court for consideration in the 2018 session.

Enclosed please find a Report to the General Court on the nomination of the Warner River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program. The report specifies in greater detail the values and characteristics that qualify the Warner River for designation, and includes a map of the river proposed for designation. The full nomination document is available on the Department website at <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/river/nominations.htm>.

The Warner River meets the criteria for designation and is a worthy addition to the Rivers Management and Protection Program. I hereby forward the Nomination to the General Court for review and legislative approval according to RSA 483:7.

If you have further questions or need additional information about the nomination, please contact me at [robert.scott@des.nh.gov](mailto:robert.scott@des.nh.gov) or 271-2958, or the Rivers Coordinator, Tracie Sales, at [tracie.sales@des.nh.gov](mailto:tracie.sales@des.nh.gov) or 271-2959.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner

Enclosures

cc: Senator Ruth Ward  
Representative Suzanne Smith  
Board of Selectmen, Bradford  
Board of Selectmen, Hopkinton  
Board of Selectmen, Sutton  
Board of Selectmen, Warner  
Board of Selectmen, Webster  
Clark Freise, Assistant Commissioner, NHDES  
Gene Forbes, Director, Water Division, NHDES  
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Management Bureau, NHDES  
Tracie Sales, Rivers Coordinator  
Warner River Nominating Committee  
RMAC Members  
LRMAC Chairs

# NEW HAMPSHIRE RIVERS COUNCIL

Rivers Make New Hampshire!

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Michele L. Tremblay  
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Webster

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Frank Tupper  
Canterbury

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Patricia Schlesinger  
Kelly Short

**Consultant**  
Carl Paulsen  
Fundraising and  
Membership Services

**Mission**  
Ecologically sound  
management of New  
Hampshire's rivers,  
watersheds, and related  
natural resources.

January 16, 2018

The Honourable Kevin Avard, Chair  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, State House Room 103  
Concord NH 03301

RE: Senate Bill 445 Warner River nomination into the Rivers Management and Protection Program

Dear Chair Avard,

The New Hampshire Rivers Council Board of Directors enthusiastically voices its support for the nomination of the Warner River into the Rivers Management and Protection Act, under RSA 483.

The Warner River is an important, shared natural resource for the Towns of Sutton, Bradford, Warner, Webster, and Hopkinton. To maintain and improve the quality of this asset, collaborative management and protection is required to ensure that the highest of water quality and watershed conditions are sustained and enhanced. The Warner River Nomination Committee has conducted an exceptional public process over the last two years. They have brought together citizens, town leadership, natural resource experts, riparian owners, and local businesses to learn about and work together on this project and build diverse support.

One of the greatest strengths of nominating the Warner River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program is the creation of the Warner River Local Advisory Committee, which would bring together the river corridor towns of Bradford, Hopkinton, Sutton, Warner, and Webster and other stakeholders. This Committee would give *a local voice to the Warner River towns in state permitting processes*. The Committee representatives' local knowledge and perspectives will inform a sound river corridor plan that brings together all river users to assure that diverse interests are represented in its recommendations.

The Warner River and its five communities would join eighteen other rivers and 126 cities, towns, and places comprising nearly a thousand river miles in a successful and positive program that has been in existence since 1989.

The New Hampshire Rivers Council formed as the New Hampshire Rivers Campaign, a group of concerned citizens and conservation organizations that united in 1985 to create a voice for protection of New Hampshire rivers. The Campaign helped establish the state's Rivers Management and Protection Program in 1989. The Campaign also helped shepherd river nominations into the

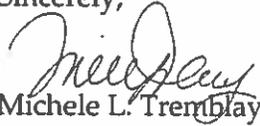
# NEW HAMPSHIRE RIVERS COUNCIL

Rivers Make New Hampshire!

new state protection program and helped establish river corridor protections under the state's Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 603.796.2615 or [president@NHRivers.org](mailto:president@NHRivers.org) if I may provide any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Michele L. Tremblay

President, Board of Directors

CC: Senator Feltes  
Senator Ward  
Senator Bradley  
Senator Fuller Clark  
Rep. Carson  
Rep. Mullen  
Rep. Smith  
Rep. Myler  
Rep. Luneau  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NH Department of Environmental Services  
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Management Bureau, NHDES  
Tracie Sales, Manager Rivers Management and Protection Program  
Michele L. Tremblay, Chair, Rivers Management Advisory Committee

Voting Members:

**Michele L. Tremblay**  
Chair  
Conservation  
Community

**Harry T. Spencer**  
Chair  
Conservation  
Commissions

**Edna Feighner**  
Historic/Archeological  
Interests

**Mark Lombardi**  
Granite State  
Hydropower  
Association

**Fredrick J. McNeill**  
Municipal Officer

**Roger Noonan**  
Agricultural Community

**Allan G. Palmer**  
Business & Industry  
Association

**James W. Ryan**  
NH Fish & Game  
Commission

**Norman Sims**  
Recreational Interests

**Ruth Ward**  
Local River Management  
Advisory Committees

**Donald L. Ware**  
Public Water Suppliers

Non-Voting Members:

**Jennifer Gilbert**  
NH Office of  
Strategic Initiatives

**Mark Hemmerlein**  
NH Department of  
Transportation

**Patrick Hummel**  
NH Department of  
Natural and Cultural  
Resources

**John Magee**  
NH Fish & Game  
Department

**Gail McWilliam Jellie**  
NH Department of  
Agriculture,  
Markets & Food

**Whitney Welch**  
NH Department of  
Safety

Staff:

**Tracie Sales**  
Rivers & Lakes Programs  
Manager, NHDES

**Kathy Black**  
Rivers & Lakes Programs  
Assistant, NHDES

N.H. Rivers Management and Protection Program

# N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

January 16, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Avard  
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
State House, Room 103  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: **SB 445** *An act designating the Warner River as a protected river*

Dear Chair Avard and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 445, which will designate the Warner River into the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). The designation of the Warner River, including a short segment of the Warner River West Branch, will make it the 19<sup>th</sup> river or river segment to be protected under the RMPP. The RMAC strongly supports this bill.

The Warner River, based on the nomination documentation, qualifies for designation into the RMPP and has the strong support of its citizens and elected officials. The impetus for the nomination was an assessment of the naturally reproducing native Eastern Brook Trout population in the Warner River watershed. NH Fish and Game Department staff and Trout Unlimited Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter volunteers jointly surveyed the watershed and found that two-thirds of the streams studied in the Warner River watershed are home to the trout, and that excellent stream water quality has been the key to their survival. Based on these findings, an effort to protect the water quality that enables the trout to thrive in the watershed began and resulted in the nomination.

The RMAC was impressed with the level of public support demonstrated throughout the nomination process, and particularly at the public hearing on July 11, 2017. Approximately 53 individuals, including three New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) staff, seven RMAC representatives, and thirteen nominating committee members, attended the public hearing. Of the four community members who spoke at the hearing, three were supportive of the designation of the Warner River, and one asked a question without providing a formal comment. During the public comment period, the Rivers Coordinator received five letters and emails supporting the nomination and one email expressing opposition to the nomination.

The RMAC is aware that concern was expressed by a small minority of owners of existing and breached dams along the Warner River. They were concerned that designation of the river would prohibit them from the future development of hydropower. Rivers Management Advisory Committee representatives have been impressed with the effort made by the Warner River Nominating Committee to work with these riparian landowners to facilitate a compromise which will allow development of hydropower within the designated river in the future. The nominating committee delayed submission of the nomination for a year in order to conduct

additional public outreach, invited members of the Warner Energy Committee to join the Nominating Committee, and adjusted the proposed river classifications in the portion of the river where those interested in hydropower own land. The RMAC's Granite State Hydropower Association (GSHA) representative, Mark Lombardi, has communicated these concerns to GSHA, and the association has reached out to a few dam owners on the Warner River. GSHA is satisfied that hydropower concerns relating to the future designation of the Warner River have been addressed.

The RMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with the NHDES to administer RSA 483, the Rivers Management and Protection Program. The Governor and Council appointed Committee is composed of representatives from business, agriculture, hydroelectric, municipal government, water supply, conservation, recreation, fish and game, and historical interests. Among its other responsibilities, the RMAC is charged with reviewing nominations of rivers to the Program and with advising the NHDES Commissioner on the merits of such nominations.

In conclusion, the RMAC has determined that the Warner River nomination meets the criteria in the statute and rules, RSA 483 and Env-Wq 1800 respectively, for rivers protected under the program and also has the support of the local communities. The RMAC thus strongly supports Senate Bill 445.

Should you have any questions regarding our recommendation, please feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or [MLT@naturesource.net](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net).

Sincerely,



Michele L. Tremblay  
Chair

cc: Sen. Ruth Ward  
Rep. Clyde Carson  
Rep. David Luneau  
Rep. John Mullen  
Rep. Mel Myler  
Rep. Suzanne Smith  
RMAC Representatives  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES  
Eugene Forbes, Director, Water Division, NHDES  
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES  
Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager, NHDES  
Nancy Martin, Warner River Nominating Committee  
Local River Management Advisory Committee Chairs



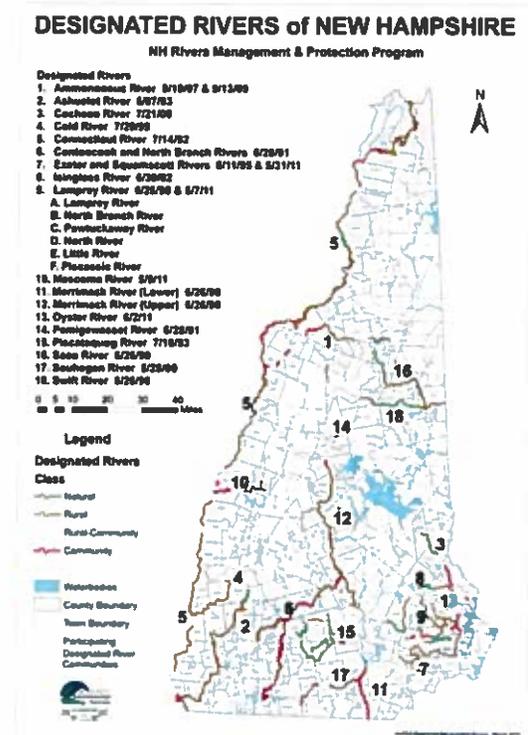
# New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program

## Biennial Report: Fiscal Years 2016-2017



The purpose of the Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP), established in 1988 and defined in RSA 483, is to protect certain New Hampshire rivers, called designated rivers, for their outstanding natural and cultural resources. The program is administered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and uses a two-tier approach to manage and protect rivers at the state and local levels through the advisement of the state Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) and the Local River Management Advisory Committees (LACs).

As of June 30, 2017, there were 18 rivers or river segments designated under RSA 483 totaling 990 river miles and representing 126 towns, places, and State Parks. These 18 rivers had over 200 volunteers in 21 LACs overseeing their management (the Connecticut River has multiple LACs due to its length). One full time and one part-time staff administer the Rivers Program, with an additional full-time staff administering the Instream Flow Program.



The RMPP is primarily a volunteer-based program, and most of its achievements are the result of the work of the volunteer members of the RMAC and the LACs. The Governor and Council appointed RMAC is composed of seventeen members representing various business, conservation, public service, and state agency interests. LAC members are nominated by their local communities and appointed by the NHDES Commissioner, and represent interests including local government, business, conservation, recreation, agriculture, and riparian landowners. The time spent by RMAC and LAC volunteers on river protection efforts during Fiscal Years 2016-2017 totals approximately 37,262 hours, and is valued at \$927,830.<sup>1</sup>

### RMPP Accomplishments

**Warner River Nominated to the RMPP:** The nomination of the Warner River, flowing through the towns of Bradford, Warner, Sutton, Webster, and Hopkinton, was submitted on June 1,

<sup>1</sup> Calculated using the 2016 New Hampshire volunteer rate of \$24.90 per hour.  
<https://www.independentsector.org/resource/the-value-of-volunteer-time/>.

2017 and will be considered during the 2018 legislative session. A second group proposed the nomination of the Androscoggin River, but ultimately, the Androscoggin River Committee decided not to move forward with the nomination submission.

**Instream Flow Program Expanded to All Designated Rivers:** In December 2015, the legislature recommended the expansion of the Instream Flow Pilot Program, initially applied to the Lamprey and Souhegan rivers, to all designated rivers. The Pilot Program successfully demonstrated that minimum flows can be defined, and management actions applied, which will ensure that rivers continue to flow and the needs of both humans and wildlife can be met. In order to expand the program, an effort was begun to revise the Instream Flow Program rules, Env-Wq 1900, using a series of public meetings to solicit public input. Formal rulemaking is expected to occur in 2018.



**RMAC Supports Legislation for Clean Water and Healthy Rivers:** The RMAC submitted 21 testimony letters on water quality and river-related bills during the 2016 and 2017 legislative sessions. The RMAC and Rivers staff not only supported legislation, but provided testimony and met numerous times in work sessions with key legislators and concerned parties to craft mutually agreeable bill language for the Instream Flow Program and the Rivers Management and Protection Program.

**RMAC Agrees to Advise on Shoreland Program:** The RMAC and its lake counterpart, the Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC), agreed to jointly act as a stakeholder advisory body to continue the work of the sunsetted Shoreland Advisory Committee. The LMAC and RMAC provide diverse representation of stakeholders who are ideally poised to provide the necessary perspective of lakes and rivers for the continued refinement of the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act.

**RSA 483 Updated:** The 2016 legislative session enacted a four-year RMAC effort to update RSA 483, ensuring that river protection and instream flow laws remain relevant and free from unnecessary administrative burdens. The RMAC solicited input from the LACs on proposed changes during six regional LAC meetings. Resulting statute changes included the application of the Instream Flow Program to all designated rivers, simplifications to the membership requirements for RMAC and LAC members, definition changes reflecting scientific progress, and the elimination of long range management plans as separate documents from the river corridor management plans developed by LACs. A further change was made in RSA 483-B, the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act, to limit Shoreland jurisdiction to the first 50 feet from the river for newly designated first through third order streams.

**RMPP Nomination Rules Simplified:** The RMAC successfully recommended revisions to the rules for river nominations, Env-Wq 1800, to clarify the process and align the rules with recent changes to RSA 483. The point-based nomination evaluation system was eliminated, shortening the rules by six pages, and greater emphasis placed instead on ensuring public and community support for river nominations.

## Local River Management Advisory Committee Activities

LACs are the voice of the river in the communities through which the river flows, provide a forum for discussion river management, and are valuable conduits for educating community members about river protection. LAC members sample water, assess stream habitat, review permit applications, and host events to promote stewardship of their rivers.

**Permit Applications Reviewed to Protect Rivers:** LACs reviewed 377 actions requiring a federal, state or local permit, submitting comments to permit reviewers in support of clean water and healthy riparian habitat. To help ensure that LACs receive permit applications for activities which may impact designated rivers, NHDES staff developed the [Designated River Corridor Web Map](#), an interactive map that identifies which projects are located in a designated river corridor. The map tool then provides the contact information permit applicants need to ensure that LACs receive a copy of the application.

**Signs Educate the Public about Rivers' Protected Status:** Three LACs purchased and installed six sets of Protected River signs on the Lower Merrimack, Souhegan, and Oyster rivers. These signs signify the river's importance to the state's natural and cultural heritage, and bring visibility, awareness, and interest in the river's location and protected status to travelers through the area.



**Workshops Offer the "How To" of River Protection:** Committees across the state hosted a variety of workshops geared toward increasing public knowledge on topics such as septic system maintenance, residential stormwater control tools, invasive aquatic plant species, stream bank restoration, and more.

**Recreational Opportunities Promote River Appreciation:** LACs sponsor or support recreational activities on or around their rivers. Some LACs promoted events on the water such as paddling trips and boat parades, while other groups worked adjacent to their rivers installing signs and interpretive trails or supporting public events such as "Hike It, Bike It, Like It," a summer recreational series offering guided tours of three of the Lamprey River's key historical and natural areas, and the Splash and Dash- 5K Fun Run.



**Middle School Students Help Restore Warren Brook:** The Cold River LAC has been instrumental in the Warren Brook Restoration Project to repair river bank damage to one of the river's primary tributaries caused by a major flood. The project entailed restoring the serpentine shape of the brook and its wildlife habitat, with restoration of 900 feet of the brook completed. The LAC recruited 120 middle school students from five towns who planted 1,100 plants along the stream bank to prevent erosion.

**LAC Adds Valuable Input on Creosote Remediation Project:** The Lower Merrimack River LAC ensured that the best environmental protection practices were employed for a creosote remediation project adjacent to the river, and that mitigation funding from the land owner was applied locally to Nashua's Merrimack River waterfront. The LAC also continues to lobby with municipalities, with land owners, and in their permit application comments for public river access, river trails, and right of ways along the lower Merrimack River.

**Local Children Learn about the Lamprey River:** Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee members visited elementary schools to educate children about the river and its environment. The committee was also awarded a National Park Service grant to illustrate a children's book on Lamprey River history and nature called *Chick and Dee-Dee's Lamprey River Adventure*.

**Upper Merrimack River LAC Assesses Water Quality and Habitat:** The Upper Merrimack River LAC monitored seventeen sites through habitat assessments, *E. coli* testing, field water chemistry, and biomonitoring. Since 1995, the LAC has hosted Bug Nights, a popular education event which is part of the Upper Merrimack Monitoring Program. On Wednesday nights from January through May, participants assess river health by sorting and identifying benthic macroinvertebrates collected in rock baskets deployed in the river over the summer.



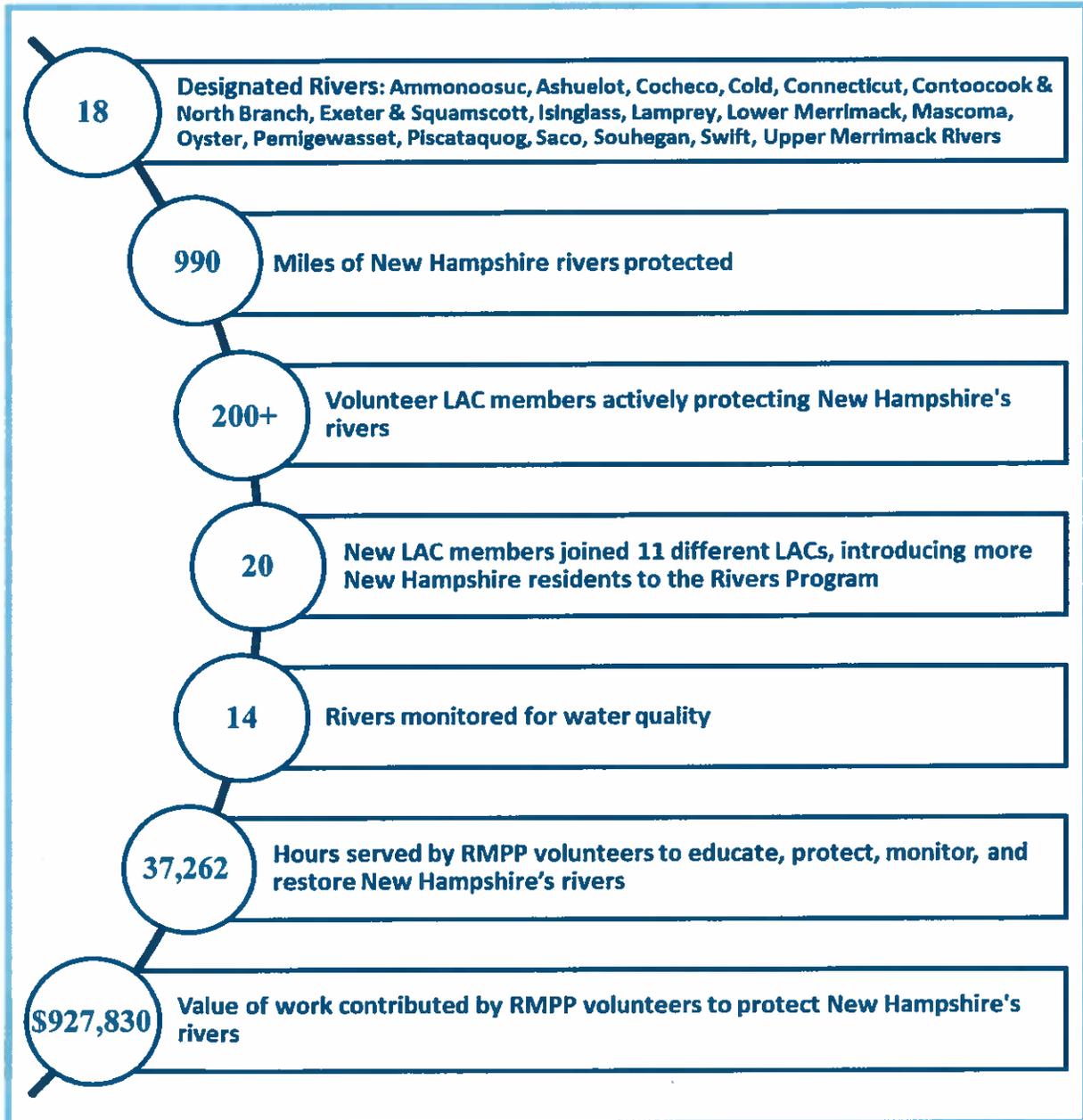
**Ammonoosuc River Stream Crossing Assessment Project:** The Ammonoosuc River LAC partnered with the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust (ACT) to improve and restore connectivity in the watershed to allow the wild brook trout access to spawning areas previously blocked by culverts. The LAC also participated in ACT's Clean Water Healthy Trout initiative to protect trout habitat and target sections of river for restoration.



**LACs Clean Up Rivers:** Many LACs organize river cleanups to protect water quality and habitat as well as to bring LAC members and local community members together on the river. For example, the Ashuelot River LAC hosted river cleanups in the fall of 2015 and 2016 in conjunction with the Connecticut River Conservancy's Source to Sea Cleanup, and was awarded the Source to Sea Makes a Difference Award for longstanding service.

**LACs Voice Concerns on Federal Energy Projects:** Worried about the potential impact of the project on their river, the Pemigewasset River LAC became an intervenor in the Northern Pass project, ensuring that disturbance around rivers along the powerlines would be minimized. The Connecticut River Headwaters, Upper Merrimack, Ammonoosuc, and Lamprey river LACs also monitored and participated in the Northern Pass project. Other federal energy projects that LACs reviewed and commented on were the Seacoast Reliability Project over the Oyster River, the Kinder Morgan Pipeline Project across the Souhegan and lower Merrimack rivers, and numerous hydroelectric dam licensing efforts on the Connecticut, Pemigewasset (impacting the upper Merrimack), Ashuelot, and Mascoma rivers.

## New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program Fiscal Years 2016-2017 – By the Numbers



### For More Information

For further information about the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program, visit the NHDES website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/index.htm> or contact the Rivers Coordinator, 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095; (603) 271-2959; [riversprogram@des.nh.gov](mailto:riversprogram@des.nh.gov).

Warner Conservation Commission

April 26 2017

5 East Main Street  
PO Box 265  
Warner NH 03278

C/o Ms. Nancy Martin,

I have been asked to give my opinion on the future of the property which I own in Davisville with respect to the character of its further use. The property begins at the Davisville Bridge and then winds downstream some 1800 feet including a defunct dam, rapids, an 800' mill run, two islands, two natural sand beaches one of which was known as the "Dynamo", plus the ruins of 25 varied commercial interests sited here as early as 1750.

We purchased the land in 2009 and very frankly the only way to describe it was a "mess" encompassing years of neglect, and for me it was almost overwhelming as to where to begin. Despite this I always thought the property was special but until we began to clean it up only then we did we truly begin to appreciate what was there. So for the past several years our focus has been to repair, restore, remove trash and dead trees, vines, glass and become a steward of the land. Our reward has been the gradual revelation of an exceptional location with some of its secrets, and as long as our backs and money hold out this is what we will continue to do.

I think without question its best use going forward is to remain rural in character which would maintain this unique combination of raw beauty and historical significance.

Respectfully,

John Warren

## **The Blue Heron**

Within the depiction  
which is this river,

The Blue Heron is composed.

In the moving world,  
like the rock which  
is his perch,

He must be the stillness.

He knows that what  
he needs, will come.

He must be ready for it.

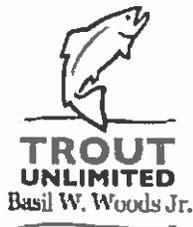
This morning's rain runs  
off the slate of his back.

He understands, somehow.

The rain is the river, and  
The river is the fish, and

The fish is himself.

2010 Daniel Thomas Moran



Trout Unlimited  
Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter  
PO Box 3302  
Concord, NH 03302-3302  
concordtu@yahoo.com

COPY

16 January 2018

The Honorable Kevin Avard, Chairman  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
State House, Room 100  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB445: Designating the Warner River as a protected river

Dear Chairman Avard and Members of the Committee,

In accordance with its mission to support New Hampshire's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds, the Basil Woods Jr. Chapter of Trout Unlimited has performed public outreach at numerous events for this multi-community effort to designate the Warner River as a protected river under the Rivers Management and Protection Program. In addition to those events listed in Appendix D of the nomination '*Summary of Outreach Efforts Performed at Various Events*', we have assisted with community outreach at the following additional events:

- ☞ Warner Farmer's Market, June 10, 2017
- ☞ Bradford Independence Celebration, July 1, 2017
- ☞ Newbury Old Home Days, July 8, 2017
- ☞ Hopkinton State Fair, September 1 – 4, 2017, and
- ☞ Town of Bradford Presentation, September 14, 2017  
(Warner River Watershed Conservation Project and Warner River Nomination)

When the nomination was approved by NHDES Commissioner Scott and assigned an SLR number, we assisted community residents by developing letters of support and collecting signatures at the following events:

- ☞ Warner Fall Foliage Festival, October 7-8, 2017
- ☞ Annual Meeting of NH Association of Conservation Commissions, October 14, 2017, and
- ☞ Chapter Meeting, October 19, 2017 (special presentation on the Warner River Designation)

Accordingly we have enclosed the letters and one hundred original signatures of support for your reference. Please note that we initially sought signatures of those residing within the Warner River watershed. However, relatives and friends of residents, part-time residents, even vacationers who value the river requested to sign in support, so we allowed them to do so.

We sincerely thank you for your support and sponsorship of this extraordinary community effort.

Sincerely,

Chris Connors, Vice President  
Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter Trout Unlimited  
concordtu@yahoo.com  
(603)456-2173 mobile

cc: Senator Dan Feltes  
Senator Ward  
Senator Bradley  
Senator Fuller Clark  
Representative Carson  
Representative Mullen  
Representative Smith  
Representative Myler  
Representative Luneau  
Representative Spang  
Tracie Sales, Manager, Rivers Management and Protection Program  
Michele L. Tremblay, Chair, Rivers Management Advisory Committee  
Nancy Martin, Chair, Warner River Nomination Committee  
Sam Durfee, Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission  
Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter of Trout Unlimited

The Warner River Nomination was approved by NHDES Commissioner Scott and sent to the NH Senate!!!

Senator Feltes, our prime sponsor, and Senator Ruth Ward are currently writing a bill for the 2018 Legislative Session.

*\*\*\*Please sign these letters to the NH Senate & House to show your support!!!*

The Honorable Kevin Avard, Chairman  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
State House, Room 100  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Designation of the Warner River to the Rivers Management and Protection Program

Dear Chairman Avard and Members of the Committee,

We, the undersigned, voice our strong support for the designation of the Warner River into New Hampshire's Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). The local advisory committee for the river that will result from the designation will bring our communities together to develop a management plan that will identify management goals and recommend actions to protect the resources and outstanding qualities of the river. At the state level, the Department of Environmental Services will provide priority assistance with the development and implementation of the management plan, help balance the various uses of the river and assist with the enforcement of regulations concerning the quality and quantity of flow within the protected segments. We understand the importance of clean drinking water and the many other services and opportunities the Warner River and its watershed provide. The designation will result in protecting one of our region's most valuable resources so that future generations will benefit from its exceptional natural, cultural and economic resources.

In closing, we strongly support the designation of the Warner River into the NH RMPP. Should you have any questions, please contact us by using our respective contact information below.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

cc: Senator Dan Feltes  
Senator Ruth Ward

The Honorable Chris Christensen, Chairman  
House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 305  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Designation of the Warner River to the Rivers Management and Protection Program

Dear Chairman Christensen and Members of the Committee,

We, the undersigned, voice our strong support for the designation of the Warner River into New Hampshire's Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). The local advisory committee for the river that will result from the designation will bring our communities together to develop a management plan that will identify management goals and recommend actions to protect the resources and outstanding qualities of the river. At the state level, the Department of Environmental Services will provide priority assistance with the development and implementation of the management plan, help balance the various uses of the river and assist with the enforcement of regulations concerning the quality and quantity of flow within the protected segments. We understand the importance of clean drinking water and the many other services and opportunities the Warner River and its watershed provide. The designation will result in protecting one of our region's most valuable resources so that future generations will benefit from its exceptional natural, cultural and economic resources.

In closing, we strongly support the designation of the Warner River into the NH RMPP. Should you have any questions, please contact us by using our respective contact information below.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

cc: Senator John Mullen, Vice Chairman  
Representative Judith Spang  
Representative Suzanne Smith  
Senator Dan Feltes  
Senator Ruth Ward

| Date    | Signature                       | Printed Name             | Phone Number   | Email Address              | Home Address                         |
|---------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 5/7/17  | <i>Julie Boucher</i>            | Julie Boucher            | 225-1993       | jboucher711@gmail.com      | 56 Bela Brook Ln Concord             |
| 10/7/17 | <i>CHRISTIANA CONNORS</i>       | CHRISTIANA CONNORS       | 456-2173       | CONNORS@TDS.NET            | 28 THE OAKS <sup>RD</sup> , HENRIKEL |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Carl Beverly</i>             | CARL BEVERLY             | 456-2364       | CARLBEVERLY@YAHOO.COM      | 14 MINK HILL LN. WARNER              |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Carly Beverly</i>            | Carly Beverly            | 456-2364       | CKBRONTE@YAHOO.COM         | 14 MINK HILL LN WARNER               |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Katharine Mitchell Nevhr</i> | Katharine Mitchell Nevhr | 456-3614       | Knevinr@tdr.net            | 433 Burnt Hill Rd, Warner            |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Zachary Brock</i>            | Zachary Brock            | 802 837 8383   | zbrack@gmail.com           | 29 E Sutton Rd, Warner               |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Michael L. Murphy</i>        | Michael L. Murphy        | 461 255-2792   | streetthumb@gmail          | 315 Lafayette RD N.K. R.I.           |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Jeanette Boisvert</i>        | Jeanette Boisvert        | 603 774 0043   | jeanette@gsinet.net        | 71 Grapevine Rd Dumbart              |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Jamie Murray</i>             | JAMIE MURRAY             | 603 456 2086   | myhr99@yahoo.com           | 355 BURNTHILL RD WARNER              |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Anastasia Glavas</i>         | Anastasia Glavas         | 603-456-2634   | anastasia.glavas@tds.net   | 247 Bean Rd, Warner, NH              |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Sabin</i>                    | SABIN                    | " 456-3473     |                            | 78 Mink Hill Ln Warner               |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Judy Cloues</i>              | Judy Cloues              | 770-500-8048   | judycloues@gmail.com       | 57 Lake Rd - Webster                 |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Richard Cloues</i>           | RICHARD CLOUES           | 770-789-8810   | rcloues@gmail.com          | 57 Lake Rd Webster NH                |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Liz Charlebois</i>           | Liz Charlebois           | 928-230-1101   | lizcharlebois@yche.com     | 115 SUMRIS Warner NH                 |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Pamela Dunlin</i>            | Pamela Dunlin            | 914-523-6437   | Pamelasdonline@mail.com    | 1282 Rt 114, Sutton                  |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Steven Serny</i>             | Steven Serny             | (603) 783-0195 | steveserny@comcast.net     | 35 BAPTIST RD, WARNER NH             |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Brian Holt</i>               | Brian Holt               | 603 456-2878   | photo@brianholt.com        | 760 Kearsarge Mt, Warner NH          |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Nancy Martin</i>             | Nancy Martin             | 603-456-3064   | nancy.martin@comcast.net   | 25 School St. Warner, NH.            |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Maria Stora</i>              | MARIA STORA              | 603-938-6452   | mstora31@comcast.net       | 659 Fawcetts Rd, Warner NH           |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Klare Nevins</i>             | Klare Nevins             | 603-748-3299   | klarenevins@gmail.com      | 433 BURNTHILL Rd. Warner NH          |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Mary Cloues</i>              | Mary Cloues              | 603-456-3440   | mcloues@comcast.net        | 121 Lake Rd Webster NH               |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Ed Cloues</i>                | Ed Cloues                | 456-3440       | edcloues@comcast.net       | " " " "                              |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Nancy Heckel</i>             | Nancy Heckel             | 603 938 2802   | nancy.a.heckel@gmail.com   | Box 343 So Sutton                    |
| 10/7/17 | <i>David Heckel</i>             | DAVID HECKEL             | "              | DHECKEL77@comcast.net      | "                                    |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Mary Lynn DeLay</i>          | MARY LYNN DELAY          |                | bronxet@yahoo.com          | Concord 33 Branch St                 |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Wayne Colby</i>              | Wayne Colby              |                | WAYNE@SHOPS.COM            | " "                                  |
| 10/7/17 | <i>DAVE GILFFIN</i>             | DAVE GILFFIN             |                |                            | WEAVER NH. 03281                     |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Rebecca L. Courser</i>       | Rebecca L. Courser       | 603-456-3997   | rebeccacourser@hotmail.com | 374 DE SCHORACK RD 03278             |
| 10/7/17 | <i>JASON S GRAY</i>             | JASON S GRAY             | 910 478 5610   | JASON.S.GRAY@GMAIL.COM     | 51 WHEAT ST BRADSDORF                |
| 10/7/17 | <i>GARLY HAWORTH</i>            | GARLY HAWORTH            | 603-361-3349   | panama.tiger@comcast.net   | 73 Claire - Manchester               |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Lynn Annicchiarico</i>       | Lynn Annicchiarico       | 603-225-3716   | lricca@comcast.net         | 24 Eastman St Concord                |
| 10/7/17 | <i>DAVID ANNICCHIARICO</i>      | DAVID ANNICCHIARICO      | 603-225-3266   | RICASBUSTO@GMAIL.COM       | 24 EASTMAN ST CONCORD                |
| 10/7/17 | <i>Gary M Alister</i>           | Gary M Alister           | 603-320-8840   | Crazy4Races@yahoo.com      | 48 Hyndsog Ln Weare, NH              |
| 10/7/17 | <i>WILL ECKHART</i>             | WILL ECKHART             | 603-809-2162   | polycomitec@comcast.net    | 62 Old Stage Rd. L. Tol. K. L.       |

| Date    | Signature                | Printed Name      | Phone Number | Email Address              | Home Address                        |
|---------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 10/7    | <i>Neil Nevins</i>       | Neil Nevins       | 456-3614     | knevins@tds.net            | 433 Burnt Hill Rd                   |
| 10/7    | <i>Phil Vecchio</i>      | Phil Vecchio      | 774-6166     | vecchi1@comcast.net        | Warner 03279                        |
| * 10/7  | <i>Kathy Rodgers</i>     | KATHY RODGERS     | 748-9207     | kridders@rcapsolutions.org | 20 Fortune Rd                       |
| 10/7    | <i>Tim Hicks</i>         | Tim Hicks         | 748-9207     | tim@eastnewell.com         | 20 Fortune Rd <sup>grad for d</sup> |
| 10/7    | <i>Alex Lawler</i>       | Alex Lawler       | 603-396-0164 | alexlawler52@yc.edu        | 4 Magnum Stone Rd                   |
| 10/7    | <i>Mike Stickney</i>     | Mike Stickney     | 568-1613     | Mstickney@pelletier.com    | 1000 S. Vermont St VT               |
| 10/7    | <i>Mimi</i>              | Mimi              | 603-774-6600 | Dengard and clean ham      | 30 Cotton Rd Sutton NH              |
| 10/7    | <i>Steve Wurtz</i>       | Steve Wurtz       | 603-781-8260 | dailyh2o@verizon.net       | 882 Mill - Hanover                  |
| 10/7    | <i>Peppi Ritacco</i>     | Peppi Ritacco     | 603-938-2759 | peppir@yahood.com          | 69 Big Street W. Rd. S. Sutton      |
| 10/7    | <i>Tom Ritacco</i>       | Tom Ritacco       | 603-938-2759 | tantacco@yahood.com        | "                                   |
| 10/8    | <i>Sean P. Toomey</i>    | Sean P. Toomey    | 456 3020     | stoamey@comcast.net        | 124 Iron Kettle Rd Warner, NH       |
| 10/8    | <i>Michael Amaral</i>    | Michael Amaral    | 456-3179     | hamichu@comcast.net        | 5 Gould Rd Warner                   |
| 10/8    | <i>Rene Gerselman</i>    | Rene Gerselman    | 603-714-2781 | rene.gerselman@comcast.net | 358 S. River Rd                     |
| 10/8    | <i>Cheryl Huddleston</i> | Cheryl Huddleston | 603-606-2332 | -                          | 358 S River Rd Bedford NH           |
| 10/8    | <i>Arnold Morrill</i>    | Arnold Morrill    | 603-763-1225 | ARNOLDMORRILL@GMAIL.COM    | 1A Indian Ave Lancaster NH          |
| 10/8    | <i>Bonnie L. Hill</i>    | Bonnie L. Hill    | 603-927-4143 | hillbonnie@aol.com         | PO Box 485 S. Sutton, NH            |
| 10/8    | <i>Donna Catanzaro</i>   | Donna Catanzaro   | 603-927-4143 | catdtd@aol.com             | PO Box 485 S Sutton, NH             |
| 10/8    | <i>Leslie Williams</i>   | Leslie Williams   | 603-648-6623 | -                          | 129 Frost Ln, Webster, NH           |
| 10/8    | <i>Vicente Bennett</i>   | Vicente Bennett   | 603-648-6623 | -                          | 109 First Love Webster, NH          |
| 10/8    | <i>Matt Gatzke</i>       | Matt Gatzke       | 603-496-9644 | m.gatzke@comcast.net       | 1 Shore View, Ben, NH 0356          |
| 10/8    | <i>Marella Major</i>     | Marella Major     | 603-788-3374 | m.major@ne.rr.com          | 126 Portland St Lancaster NH        |
| 10/17   | <i>RS KINGSBORN</i>      | RS KINGSBORN      | 491-9675     | -                          | 539 Saurer Hill Epoufay             |
| 11/4    | <i>Britni Haley</i>      | Britni Haley      | 603-391-2456 | britnic@comcast.net        | 742 US Rt 3 Stratford NH 03590      |
| 11/4/17 | <i>Chelsea Peteraj</i>   | Chelsea Peteraj   | 603-922-5508 | cpeteraj@myfairpoint.net   | 72 McCulloch Rd. Stratford, NH      |
| 11/4/17 | <i>CHRIS CARON</i>       | CHRIS CARON       | 603-922-5293 | chris.d.caron@gmail.com    | 796 US RT 3 STRATFORD NH 03590      |
| 11/4/17 | <i>Christine Rowell</i>  | CHRISTINE ROWELL  | 603-616-1601 | madia@comcast.net          | 11 Whitefield Rd Dutton NH          |

| Date  | Signature | Printed Name         | Phone Number | Email Address            | Home Address                        |
|-------|-----------|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 10/9  |           | Jennifer Olier       | 456-2319     | johler@tds.net           | 173 Gore Rd Warner                  |
|       |           | Robert Bunker        | "            | "                        | "                                   |
|       |           | Lisa Eber            | 860-4287     | lisaP59@comcast.net      | Widfield Wt                         |
|       |           | Michael Brown        | 603-496-2849 | mbrown59@gmail.com       | 100 E. Bourne St Warner             |
|       |           | Paula Brown          | 496-1614     | pjbrown95@gmail.com      | "                                   |
|       |           | Timothy Courser      | 456-2164     | 163 COYARDS RD           | WARREN NH                           |
|       |           | Julie Barsey         | 938-5154     | JABARSEY@ymail.com       | 81 Fox Chase Rd Prudhoe, NH         |
|       |           | Abigail Bowser       | 748-0265     | abowser@gmail.com        | Epre Rd Warner                      |
|       |           | Mimi Wiggins         | 456-3482     | mwiggin@tds.net          | 98 Howe Lane Warner                 |
|       |           | DONNA STAMPER        | 863-2621     | dstamp@tds.net           | 1150 OLDE FARM RD                   |
|       |           | Mary Claire Matulay  | 795-2585     | mc.matulay@gmail.com     | 65 Pouttendin Ln Lyme, NH           |
|       |           | Noigail Neme         | 860-459-8122 | dearab@charter.net       | 148 Prock Hill Rd Colbrook          |
|       |           | Gretchen Krug        | 603-454-7999 | gretchen.krug@qval.com   | 158 Keenega Mtn Rd Warner           |
|       |           | Richard Bloxson      | 860-459-8124 | richy.bloxson@tds.net    | 23 Illinois Ave Somerville MA 02885 |
|       |           | Ali Bloxson          | 800-309-5919 | ali.bloxson@gmail.com    | Prume                               |
|       |           | Riana F. Szymkiewicz | 603-456-2732 | rianafrust@gmail.com     | 37 Schoodic Road Warner, NH         |
|       |           | Sam Bauer            | 748-4392     | SamBauer@gmail.com       | 173 Gore rd Warner NH               |
|       |           | Dustin Laverack      | 707-1673     | dustin.laverack@mail     | "                                   |
|       |           | Will O'Connell       | 248-2689     | wconne22@tds.net         | "                                   |
|       |           | Ross Mingacelli      | 748-0707     | rossmingacelli@gmail.com | 11 Jones Pond Lane Warner, NH       |
|       |           | Karen M. Becker      | 540-1156     | karijibee@gmail.com      | 457 Birch Hill Rd Warner            |
|       |           | LAURETTE CARROLL     | 456-3947     | laurette@tds.net         | 44 Prospect St Concord NH           |
|       |           | Stephanie D'Agostino | 753-6701     | stacy.pope@comcast.net   | Box 63 Warner NH                    |
|       |           | Larra Ernst          | 856-1734     | Terleyk@aol.com          | 138 Broad Ave 2. Concord NH 03303   |
|       |           | John S. Burke        | 456-3949     | jsb28553@gmail.com       | 113 Jungs Hill Rd Warner            |
|       |           | SUSAN D. BLISS       | 456-3276     | "                        | Warner                              |
| 10/19 |           | GEORGE T. EMBLEY     | 456-2315     | gembley@tds.net          | 55 Roke Rd Webster NH               |
|       |           | ERIC LINGER          | 938-2023     | carlarlinger@rol         | 540 Mtfield Newbury 0525            |
|       |           | Sally Embley         | 456-2315     | ssembley@gmail.com       | 65 Rolfe Rd. Webster                |
|       |           | JAMES TIMMINS        | 783-4726     | jtimm151@tds.net         | 7 Hackett Hill, Loudon NH 03307     |
|       |           | Robert Bnil          | 715-5342     | withwoodstish@tds.net    | 24 Stone Brook 03307                |
|       |           | Bruce Edwards        | 340-0046     | becmar252002@tds.net     | 70 High St Bristol NH 03307         |
|       |           | Charlie Stueb        | 226-2386     | cstumb@comcast.net       | 90 Bow Big Rd, Bow, NH 03307        |



01/16/2018

Senator Kevin Avard, Chair  
Senate Energy & Resource Committee  
NH State House, Room 105 A  
107 N. State Street  
Concord, NH 03301

**Subject: SB 445- Designation of the Warner River to the NH Rivers Management & Protection Program**

cc: Senator Jeb Bradley  
Senator Dan Innis  
Senator Martha Fuller Clark  
Senator Dan Feltes

Dear Chairman Avard, Members of Senate Energy & Natural Resources,

Thank you for the opportunity to present a statement in support of SB 445.

Born from of a joint watershed study conducted by NH Fish & Game and Trout Unlimited, the nomination of the Warner River to the State's Rivers management and Protection Program has been a grassroots effort. This study showed that two thirds of streams in the Warner River watershed host wild brook trout populations – an indication of exceptional water quality. To educate the public and gain widespread appreciation of this outstanding resource, the Warner Conservation Commission reached out to the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC) to explore the possibility of a five-town river nomination with help from residents of Bradford, Sutton, Warner, Webster and Hopkinton.

The project began with a small grant to CNHRPC from the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund (NEGEF) to support the technical assistance needed to write a Warner River nomination document. From September 2016 to February 2017 representatives from five towns met with five Select Boards and convened six public information sessions to hear input from all interested parties. Based on feedback from riverfront riparian landowners and the public, the nomination committee adjusted the river classifications to accommodate the needs of landowners and river users.

During the process we have received thirty-four (34) letters of support representing a wide variety of river interests from municipal groups, landowners, the American Whitewater Association, NH Fish Game, the Warner Village Water District, and many more. Inspired by the work and success thus far of the nomination committee, NE Grassroots Environmental Fund recently awarded CNHRPC a "Grow Grant" to assist with additional education, outreach, and technical assistance.

The nomination committee feels the Rivers Management and Protection Program is the best way to ensure a healthy future for the river and all that rely on it. The RMPP will allow for greater regional communication across the 5 towns sharing this natural resource. It will open doors for future grant funding and further study of the Warner River watershed. Designation will improve the public's awareness of the river, existing water regulations, recreation opportunities and stewardship. Designation of the river to the RMPP will strengthen local authority when making decisions that impact the Warner River.

Sincerely,



Sam Durfee, Regional Planner - CNHRPC

## River chemistry - 2007 vs 2017

### Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l)

|      |          |
|------|----------|
| 2007 | 8.551667 |
| 2017 | 7.542857 |

For class B river minimum value is 5.

### pH

|      |          |
|------|----------|
| 2007 | 6.141667 |
| 2017 | 6.224286 |

Essentially no change.

For class B rivers the range is 6.5 - 8.0,  
except when due to natural causes.

Likely the low pH is the result of natural factors.

### Turbidity (NTU)

|      |          |
|------|----------|
| 2007 | 0.483333 |
| 2017 | 0.814286 |

There is no formal standard to turbidity.

The 2017 values are strongly influenced by one very  
high value, 2 times higher than an other value in the set.  
If this number is deleted the values go down to 0.64

### Specific conductance ( $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ )

|      |          |
|------|----------|
| 2007 | 93.21667 |
| 2017 | 80.57143 |

NH water standards have no formal standard for SC.

High values may result from road salt, agriculture, runoff  
or ground water pollution.

Lowering of SC is probably not significant.

### Temperature C

|      |          |
|------|----------|
| 2007 | 18.01667 |
| 2017 | 17.82143 |

About the same; no standard

Main difference highs not as high and lows not as low  
in 2017.

In summary, water chemistry has changed little over the last decade.

January 12, 2018

SB 445

Bradford Conservation Commission

436 E. Main Street

Bradford, NH 03221

To the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee:

Dear sirs and madam;

The Bradford Conservation Commission strongly supports the inclusion of the Warner River to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. Bradford is at the headwaters of the Warner River and the commercial and cultural heart of town is situated in this area.

We support the nomination for the following reasons: to raise awareness of the idea that what happens upstream affects all downstream, to raise awareness of the need for protection of this area which is underlain by the largest potential drinking water aquifer in this town; to assist in securing funding from the town and other agencies for remediation of existing problems; for local oversight of planning along the river and its major tributaries; and to help inform the population about the value of the river and its tributaries upstream.

For these reasons and more, we urge you to accept this nomination.

Sincerely,

Judith Ann Eldridge, chair, Bradford Conservation Commission



## **Town of Hopkinton, NH**

### **Office of the Select Board**

330 Main Street, Hopkinton, NH 03229-2627

Tel: (603) 746-3170 E-mail: [selectmen@hopkinton-nh.gov](mailto:selectmen@hopkinton-nh.gov)

Fax: (603) 746-3049 Web: [hopkinton-nh.gov](http://hopkinton-nh.gov)

January 8, 2018

Senator Kevin Avar, Chair  
Senate Energy & Resource Committee  
NH State House, Room 105 A  
107 N. State Street  
Concord, NH 03301

**Subject: SB 445- Designation of the Warner River to the NH Rivers Management & Protection Program**

Dear Members of the Senate Energy and Resource Committee,

The Hopkinton Select Board supports the designation of the Warner River to the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). Our support is based on discussions with the Warner River Nomination Committee, feedback from Hopkinton's public information sessions, and the recommendation of the Hopkinton Conservation Commission.

If the river designation succeeds a Local Advisory Committee (LAC) will form bringing representatives from five communities together to develop a river management plan to identify goals and recommend actions to preserve the outstanding qualities of the Warner River. Based on input from public information sessions in all five abutting towns, the Warner River Nomination Committee has already adjusted classifications of segments of the Warner River to accommodate the wishes of landowners with deeded water rights.

Successful designation of the river to the RMPP will enhance the partnership between New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) and the Warner River LAC as we develop and implement a river management plan to balance the various uses of the river. Designating the Warner River to the RMPP will result in the protection of one of our Town's most valuable assets so that future generations will benefit from its exceptional natural, cultural and economic resources.

Please give serious consideration to supporting the designation of the Warner River to the RMPP. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Hopkinton Select Board



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Jim O'Brien, Chair



---

Steve Lux, Jr.



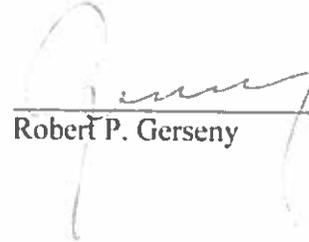
---

Sabrina Dunlap



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Ken Traum, Vice Chair



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Robert P. Gerseny

cc: Senator Jeb Bradley  
Senator Dan Innis  
Senator Martha Fuller Clark  
Senator Dan Feltes

Roderick J Maclean  
207 Cressy Road  
Bradford NH 03221

January 15, 2018

Senator Kevin Avard, Chair  
Energy Resource Committee  
NH State House, Room 105A  
107 N. Main Street  
Concord, NH 03221

Subject : SB 445 Nomination of the Warner River to the River Management and Protection Program

Dear Members of the Senate Energy and Resource Committee,

I am here today wearing several hats; First as a concerned citizen, second as a member of the Bradford Conservation Commission and finally as a member of the Warner River Nomination Committee. I come to voice my support for the passage of SB445. By passing this bill out of committee the Warner River will be one step closer to gaining designation into the New Hampshire River Management and Protection Program.

Further, I am here to remind you that this bill would not exist today if the nomination process had not initially had the grassroots backing of each town's selectmen. The Bradford Selectmen continued their support when it came time to document their approval of the nomination to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services last fall.

Like so many labors, the nomination opened the door to many opinions. The committee purposefully slowed the process at one point to encourage greater community participation. By slowing the process and opening larger doors, the committee successfully heard and responded to the needs and desires of many individual citizens and landowners. It was a fluid process that took into account all that voiced their opinions. The final nomination document is a testament to that effort.

In the end I am proud to support SB 445 but even prouder of the effort by the many hard working and dedicated citizens who have participated in the nomination process.

Sincerely,  
  
Roderick J MacLean

Cc:  
Senator Jeb Bradley  
Senator Dan Innis  
Senator Martha Fuller Clark  
Senator Dan Feltes

Attachment: Letter of support from a Bradford resident who could not be here today to testify.

**Michael Bauer**  
**16 Sunset Lane**  
**Bradford, NH 03221**

**January 8, 2018**

**Senator Kevin Avard, Chair**  
**Energy Resource Committee**  
**NH State House, Room 105A**  
**107 N. Main Street**  
**Concord, NH 03221**

**Subject : Nomination of the Warner River to the River Management and Protection Program**

**Dear Members of the Senate Energy and Resource Committee,**

**I would like to voice my support for the nomination of the Warner River to the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. As a businessman and an abutting landowner to Andrew Brook (that is with in several hundred feet of the confluence of the West Branch of the Warner River and Andrew Brook forming the Warner River) I understand the importance of a clean and prosperous river. The Warner River is one of our Town's most valuable resources for its varied uses. It is important that we work to protect the Warner River to sustain its many uses and maintain a healthy balance between them all.**

**Sincerely,**



**Michael Bauer**

**Cc:**

**Senator Jeb Bradley**  
**Senator Dan Innis**  
**Senator Martha Fuller Clark**  
**Senator Dan Feltes**

January 16, 2018

To: Senator Kevin Avard  
Senate Energy and Resource Committee  
NH State House Room 105 A  
107 N. State St.  
Concord, NH 03301

Subject: SB 445 – Designation of the Warner River to the NH Rivers Management & Protection Program

cc: Sen Jeb Bradley  
Sen Dan Innis  
Sen Martha Fuller Clark  
Sen Dan Feltes

Thank you for the opportunity to present our personal statement in support of SB 445.

We moved to 112 Newmarket Rd, Warner, NH, in July 2016. Our property is 27 acres of fields, young successional forest, floodplain riparian woodland, and 2,500 feet of frontage along the Warner River. We feel extremely fortunate to live here and have committed ourselves to being the best stewards we can be for this land and for our community.

We support passage of SB 445 because we believe this measure will be an effective and equitable way to preserve the quality of this special resource. We value this grassroots effort that has arisen in the five towns of the Warner River watershed. Nomination of the Warner River would not only serve to protect the river and its critical habitats, it would also increase cooperation and communication, enhancing each of our communities by creating a Local Advisory Committee. We attended many of the public information sessions, learning more about the nomination process and hearing from other landowners, as well as members of the Warner River Nominating Committee and Trout Unlimited. We learned that the specific river classifications could be adjusted to meet landowners' preferences regarding their current and future needs. This seemed fair to us and alleviated our concerns about our rights and responsibilities as riparian landowners.

Ultimately, our decision to urge the passage of SB 445 is due to the wonderful experience of living next to the Warner River. In the brief time that we have lived here, we have watched the seasons of the river from our kitchen window. We hear it when the windows are open. We walk along it every day. We swim in it, kayak in it, fish in it, photograph it, paint it, and watch the wildlife on and around it. We have helped monitor its water quality by participating in the VRAP program, and we have spent time with NH Fish and Game wildlife biologists learning about the plants and animals that depend on the river's clean water. We are amazed at how well the floodplain accommodates heavy amounts of rain and snow melt while the water remains clear, telling us that the river and surrounding wetlands are still able to function as an effective ecosystem. We believe that supporting SB 445 is good stewardship of this precious resource.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Frank A. Moltz & Laura Russell  
112 Newmarket Rd  
Warner, NH 03278  
978-771-7891  
[russellmoltz@gmail.com](mailto:russellmoltz@gmail.com)





# Town of Webster

945 Battle St, NH 03303 | Telephone: 603.648.2272 | Fax: 603.648.6055

January 8, 2018

**Select Board  
Members**

Bruce G. Johnson  
*Chair*  
Michael P. Borek  
*Member*  
Nanci A. Schofield  
*Member*

Leslie M. Palmer  
*Administrative  
Assistant*

Senator Kevin Avard, Chair  
Energy and Resources Committee  
NH State House, Room 105 A  
Concord, NH 03301

**Subject: Nomination of the Warner River to the State Rivers Management and Protection Program**

Dear Senator Avard,

The Webster Select Board would like to offer its strong support to the Warner River Nomination Committee in its efforts to nominate the Warner River to the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program.

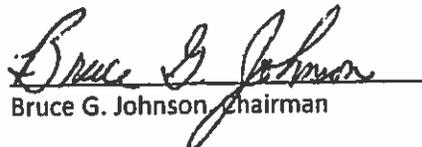
This water body provides habitat for a variety of species and its tributaries are home to wild brook trout. The river corridor is home to a number of rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species. Significant areas of high quality habitat can also be found along the Warner River, as defined in the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan.

In addition to natural habitat, the Warner River provides residents of the communities of Bradford, Warner, Sutton, Webster, and Hopkinton with recreational opportunities and has been a focal point within these communities for centuries. There are a number of sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places including three covered bridges. There is still historical evidence of once thriving mill communities in the river and on its banks.

The establishment of a Local River Management Advisory Committee would be hugely beneficial to the preservation of the Warner River's many valuable resources and services. Induction of the Warner River into the New Hampshire RMPP would also elevate the awareness of the river and would create an inter-municipal forum where local residents, business owners, and stakeholders can discuss and address river-related issues and work to balance the needs of many who enjoy the countless uses of the Warner River.

The Webster Select Board is pleased to support the nomination of the Warner River into this important program.

Sincerely,

  
Bruce G. Johnson, Chairman

*The Town of Webster prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, marital or family status. Webster is an equal opportunity employer.*



The Nature Conservancy in New  
Hampshire  
22 Bridge Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-4987

tel [603] 224.5853  
fax [603] 228.2459  
nature.org/newhampshire

January 16, 2018

Hon. Kevin Avard, Chair  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
State House Room 100  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: SB 445, designating the Warner River as a protected river.**

Dear Chairman Avard and members of the Committee:

The New Hampshire Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is in support of the nomination of the Warner River to the Rivers Management and Protection Program. Our scientific analyses, coupled with the detailed information collected by our partner organizations including Trout Unlimited and the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game clearly demonstrates the ecological importance of the river and the need to elevate the level of protection afforded to the riparian habitat to maintain this ecological integrity into the future.

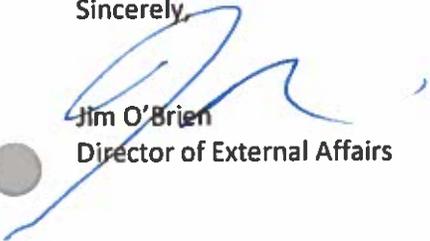
The Nature Conservancy has identified the Warner River as a Priority River, i.e. an outstanding freshwater ecosystem based on its existing ecological integrity. Furthermore, our aquatic resilience data identifies the river as "Highest Relative Resilience". This scoring is indicative of a river that, if maintained in its current natural state, is likely to be able to withstand environmental disturbances such as climate change.

The ecological quality of the Warner River is further evidenced by the presence of wild brook trout throughout much of the watershed; the fact that over 25% of the land area within the river corridors has been identified as the highest ranked wildlife habitat in the state by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Wildlife Action Plan; and the occurrence of 260 acres of exemplary temperate minor river floodplain system (S3) and rare wood turtles (S3) in the river as documented by the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau.

One of the keys to successfully maintaining healthy watersheds such as the Warner River is finding approaches for communities to work together. We applaud the grass-roots efforts of the Warner River Watershed Conservation Project to build a strong coalition of support among local communities, state agency partners, and non-governmental organization.

Furthermore, this group has contributed countless hours of volunteer time in the field, collecting vital data that will allow resource managers to make well-reasoned decisions and prioritize management actions that will have the most benefit to the health of the river. The Nature Conservancy sees these efforts as a model for a community-based approach to conservation and hopes to see similar projects develop in other areas of the state.

Sincerely,



Jim O'Brien  
Director of External Affairs