

APPENDIX D

August 30, 2019, Public Meeting

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The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
DAM BUREAU - WATER DIVISION
CONCORD, NH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

In accordance with RSA 482:79, notice is hereby given that the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Water Division (NHDES), will hold a public meeting related to an investigation of levels of inland waters (Lake Level Investigation) at Newfound Lake at 7:00 PM on Friday August 30, 2019 at the Bridgewater Town Hall at 237 Mayhew Turnpike (Route 3A) in Bridgewater, NH.

Newfound Lake is located in the towns of Bristol, Alexandria, Bridgewater, and Hebron, NH. NHDES held a public hearing relative to a petition to conduct a LLI on August 28, 2018, where NHDES sought to receive testimony related to a petition to investigate levels in Newfound Lake. Much of the testimony received at the hearing and during the comment period supported a lowering of lake levels at Newfound Lake throughout the year. NHDES held a public meeting on February 26, 2019 to announce that the comment period for the LLI would be extended until further notice, to inform the public of interim operational plans for the Newfound Lake Dam, and to collect further data and testimony.

With this notice, NHDES seeks to hold another public meeting on August 30, 2019 to provide an update on operations at Newfound Lake Dam this year and collect additional data and testimony.

NHDES will provide a brief presentation on the Newfound Lake Dam including the history of operations, past Lake Level Investigations, and operations this year. Following that, the meeting will be opened to hear comments from interested parties. Questions and/or written comments may be directed to:

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Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

Dated: August 9, 2019

08/30/2019 Newfound Lake Meeting Transcript
Started at 7:05

NOTE: This transcription of the recording of this meeting is a best effort attempt to capture the discussion at the meeting.

Good evening, hello, hello, good evening. I know we've had a number of people came even early so for the sake of getting here, it's the Labor Day weekend. The last official weekend of the summer. I know you guys want to get back out to enjoy the lake. So I think we'll get started. We still have some folks signing in, we've got some seats up front here still. Can certainly keep signing in and we'll get going. I appreciate you all coming out here tonight. It's such a fine night out. I appreciate the town of Bridgewater again letting us use their facilities here for this meetings. It's a very, very nice facility. We appreciate it, they set it all up for us and we do appreciate that. My name is Jim Gallagher; I'm the Chief of the Dam Bureau at the Department of Environmental Service. , we're responsible for the operations and maintenance of the dam at Newfound Lake. With me today is the chief of our Operation and Maintenance section Dan Mattaini, also with me is the Assistant chief engineer, my assistant, Kent Finemore who will be recording this meeting, and Nancy Baillargeon who's our outreach coordinator, and Jake is helping us out back there with the sign ins and Jakes also involved in the operations and maintenance of this dam and the other over 200 state owned dams that DES operates on a daily basis. I have a brief presentation. Before I get started I'd be curious to know, this is actually the third meeting we've had out of this lake level investigation, and I see some faces that I saw at the other meetings. I'm just curious how many people are at a meeting on this topic for the first time? If you could raise your hands. Ok, great there's quite a few. Thank you very much for coming out. In the earlier meetings I kind of went through our, described the detail of what I'm going to tonight of all the considerations we have to, of all the factors we have to consider when we operate this dam, the fisheries issue, the downstream issues, the flooding issues. I've got a little bit of that in here but not a lot. It's really kind of how we got here. Really the purpose of this meeting is to explain how we got here in the lake level investigation but hear from you on how this past summer has gone for you because we did make a change as part of this lake level investigation and the interim change to see how it worked and see how it affected your use and enjoyment of the lake. We want to hear about that tonight. To give again, a little bit of background of what we're doing here.

We have the statutory authority under one of our state statutes 482 79 283. It authorizes us to do these lake level investigations whenever we get a petition from 10 or more owners of property around the lake. So you know, any waterbody whether it be impounded by a state owned dam or a privately owned dam you can get 10 lake shore property owners petition us, to look into how that lake is being operated. We then look at all the factors involved in that, all the rights, the environmental impact. But if we determine that changes in the manner of how it's operated, would be a benefit to the use of and

enjoyment of the lake by the lake shore property owners then we shall direct those changes if it's an opinion, there's a benefit to the public. So that's our statutory authority for doing these investigations.

We have a little bit of background on the history and the water rights here of this particular dam. There's been a dam here since the mid 1800's. It was built by the Bristol Water company, then owned by the Newfound Power Company, transferred to Public Service of NH and then they realized that they didn't need it. It had become important recreation resource to the state, so the state took it over in 1973, PSNH sold it for \$1 and gave us \$50,000 for repair which we had to do right away. With the dam though came with land ownership as well. We have fee ownership of certain parcels around the lake. We have the natural lake level is an elevation of 2.24 on the gage on this lake. So that was the natural level before the dam was built which raised the lake by about 5'. We have flowage rights for that other 5'. This is just a shot of the dam. We're able to release water through three 6x6 foot gates in that gate house and then there's the spillway on the right. Those are, there are logs, what we call logs, boards between each one of those metal stanchions that have to be lifted up manually to increase discharge capacity through the dam. So, yes sir.

Man in audience, Can I ask your staff to move away from the screen?

Jim Gallagher - Ok sure yup, I'm sure I'm in someone's way too - I'll sit down, will that help.

Man in audience – yes sir

Jim Gallagher - Sure. So, in 1971 when PSNH still had this dam we received a petition from lake owners here at Newfound Lake to review their water management practices. What they would do they would be, they would drain the lake, draw it down in the summer time to provide water for their power plants down on the Merrimack River. So the lake would drop 6 feet or more over the summer and the petitioners sought to change the management of the lake and we conducted a public hearing in 1974 the time that we actually acquired the lake. As a result of that lake level hearing, just like the one we're doing now, we went through the exact process, we came up with, or collectively with the petitioners, with the folks around the lake, came up with this operating scheme in 1974. We drew it down a lot deeper than we do now to elevation 2.5 in the wintertime. We raised the lake up to 7.2 which was the full extent of our flowage rights, draw it down to elevation 5 which is about 6" below where we are today, by Labor Day, take it down to its, again down to the 2.5 level by Columbus day. And hold it there, to the extent that you can. This is the guide curve.

Well people weren't very satisfied with that. We operated like that for about 3 years and then at the request of the Chamber of commerce and the newfound lake region association, opened up the, took another look at our operating plan, and the results of that, that, really another lake level investigation,

came up with this sort of flatter scheme where, we didn't raise the lake up near as high as we did before. Not to the full, up to 6.0 in the summer time and then bring it down, and that was actually by July 1st and bring it down to, it's not actually shown accurately shown, accurately shown on this graph, to elev 5.0 by Labor day, kind of where we are now, again that's about 6" from where the lake level is now, then draw it down only to 3.5 instead of the 2.5. We went with that plan for a little while and then property owners petitioned us again. And we adopted, in 1982, this curve that we have operated the lake using this curve since that time. So for the past, what's that, 35 years, 36, 37 years we've been operating to that curve, again to the extent we can, it's a huge drainage basin, we get a lot of inflow, we only have a limited discharge capacity, so the lake levels going to fluctuate around the curve, but this is the target that we have used. The summer level we try to get on Memorial day and then over the course of the summer the lake level be gradually drawn down so that by Labor Day we'd be at something less than what we are now actually at 4.6, then do a drawdown starting on Columbus Day and draw the lake down to 3.5. And here is the three curves superimposed on one chart. Again the operating curve, the 1982 curve is the curve that we've been operating under, up until the time we implemented this interim plan we're going to be talking about today. As you can see, kind of graphically here, we really flattened the guide curve. So you wouldn't see quite as much, the extreme between the drawdown, the winter drawdown and the summer full level. So this current lake level investigation, we're doing now, and why we're here tonight, this resulted from a petition we received back in the spring of 2018. Had 30 signatories on it, property owners around the lake, also signatories to the petition was the Newfound Lake Regions Association that represents interests around the lake, the Bridgewater selectman all signed the petition, the Town of Bristol, the Town of Hebron, NH Audubon they were all supportive of this petition and also supporters of the operation plan, this interim operating plan that we've been operating under this summer. So with that, I guess you could say cross section, representatives really of the folks up here, you know the elected officials as well as the lake association, we agreed to take this on and agreed to operate as they recommended, operate for a year as they recommended and we thought this would be the most effective way to get input from the public in terms of whether they liked this recommended change in operation or they did not. Sometimes we do these lake level investigations on smaller lakes we can actually poll all the members around the lake and that's very, very helpful. But then here we have thousands of, nearly a couple thousand property owners around the lake. So many more people use the lake, and we just thought it'd be more effective, if we implement this interim operating plan that was recommended by the petitioners, and then again see your reaction over the course of the year. So this is the plan June 1 get the 5.5 feet. That's 6 inches lower than the normal summer level. We used to operate to elevation 6 on the gage, and maintain that level flat until Labor Day. And then starting at Labor Day, starting right after Labor Day, start drawing the lake down so that we're at elevation 3.0 by Columbus Day. Now that's, so what you experienced this year, was the lower lake level. I mean it did get above that target level for sure when we had a couple of inflow events and we'll talk about that. But the 6 inches over the course of the summer, but the biggest, biggest change that I see is pushing up the drawdown date

from Columbus Day, when we normally started it, to right after Labor Day, Tuesday. So we've had, this is the 3rd of our hearings. We're trying to get some input from the public. We were here about a year ago, right here in Bridgewater Town hall. That meeting was organized pretty rapidly and we didn't get, there wasn't a lot of widespread notification, but we had probably, this building was probably half full. We had another hearing again at Bristol library in February, course that was in the middle of the winter time, we weren't going to get the seasonal folks. Again, we thought it would be best to try to schedule a meeting when we thought a lot of people might be up here, and that's this Labor Day weekend here, and that's why we're here today on the 30th. So this is the interim operating plan that we've been operating since the winter time, is in red. That green line is our old operating curve or our operating curve that was established in 1982, when we continued to operate until this interim operating plan. And then what we've got shown in that maroon line is how we did this year. That's the lake level compared to the target and compared to the average stretch. This blue line is the average lake level over a period of record from 1982 to 2018. So you can see while we got above our target level, cause again it's very, very difficult to maintain a nice even pool when you have runoff from that large drainage area flowing into the lake. But we did respond quickly to when we had those high inflows to get that lake back down to the target when we could. But generally speaking we stayed below what the average lake level was for the past 37 year, 36 years. So that's the story. I think I'll keep this up (Jim is referring to the graph on the screen) and again our purpose here today is to hear from you folks on how that has gone for you and any issues you might see going forward with the drawdown here, this fall. And I know we didn't have a signup sheet for folks to speak. I know there are some folks here who do want to speak, and if you do we ask that you use the microphone. We'll be recording your comments and perhaps not necessarily responding to them here because we may not have the information we need to respond to you here, but all those comments will be taken into consideration when we make our final decision here about how we're going to operate this thing going forward.

Yes sir (Jim talking to a man in the audience)

(Gentleman in audience) Question regarding the handouts I think most of us were provided

Jim – that is this

(Gentleman in audience) it doesn't appear though that it matches the one you have up there.

(Jim) It doesn't? It doesn't? No, It should, oh no. This is, that's right that's the year before. I'm sorry yeah this was passed out just to show you the two operating curves super imposed on each other.

(Gentleman) so this one here is, I think it's dated 2018

Jim Gallagher - Right, so that was a 2018 year. Yup, yup. But what we wanted to show you is more than anything I think with this chart is how we expect that lake level to drop going forward between now and Columbus Day as opposed to the way it normally does. Oh I should say actually, so you see this chart, the drawdown is the 3.5, if you remember I said the petitioners recommended our drawdown all the way down to 3.0. Fish and Game objected to that, That drawdown was too deep, there's issues with spawning of white fish, largely round white fish, or white round fish and if we dropped it down below 3.5 we would dry up their spawning beds. So for that reason we adjusted the recommended, the point recommended by the petitioners to limit the drawdown to 3.5. Yes sir. We're going to ask you if you don't mind, if you want to line up behind the microphones for that, that would be fine for us to record what you have to say it's important that you get up to the microphones.

(Kent) The microphones do adjust. It's on a stand there, just grab the microphone and pull it down it goes down to your level.

Woman – I just want to get to the punch here

Kent – Great thank you

Woman – so thank you for what you just said.

(Jim) Could I ask you too, if you could, if you don't mind, could you say your name and what town.

Woman - My name is Wendy

(Jim) and last name,

Woman – Talbot

(Jim) Talbot, and from what town

Woman - Bridgewater

Jim – Thank you

Wendy Talbot – OK

Kent – in order to get a signal you have to have the microphone pretty close to your mouth

Wendy Talbot – ok here we go. So I have my list already, You probably answered some of these already, but I'm an active listener so my question number one is why. Like why? Has the lake, has the lake looked at as hazardous? Who are the petitioners? Who is unhappy with the lake level? Who, where and how does that work?

Jim – Yeah, I should have elaborated on those, the petitioners were 30 property owners, but there was also those elected officials. The Selectmen in Bridgewater, Hebron, Bristol, the protective association. I'm sorry the lake association. Those are the petitioners. The reason for the petition was they felt that these higher lake levels, the way we were operating was contributing to erosion, contributing to erosion on the shoreline. And some of those petitioners are here and maybe they'll speak to that. That should have been part of my presentation.

Wendy Talbot – Ok So I've lived on this lake all my life. So is the erosion only in one spot or is it just like all the way around the lake? Is it a big deal, is that why we're here today is because the erosion is like affecting the entire lake, and all the lake front? Literally all four towns? That would be Alexandria, Hebron, Bridgewater and Bristol. So is this a big deal around the lake, the erosion, is that why we're here today? Does this have something to do with the erosion?

Jim – That was the basis, that was the basis of the petition.

Wendy Talbot – That was the basis of the petition. And who petitioned please? I'm sorry.

Jim – The petitioners, there's a number of them. There were 30 signatories to it.

Wendy Talbot – 30?

Jim – And like I say it included the group on that slide.

Gentleman in audience – I thought it was the selectman of three towns.

Jim – The selectman of three towns, yup here it is, right here, the region association, the selectman, the town of Bristol had their administrator sign it, the town of Hebron the same thing, NH Audubon

Woman in audience – the original signatories, there were a lot more people that signed since then (unable to determine other words)

Wendy Talbot - Because they want the water dropped. OK

(Woman in audience kept talking and was difficult to hear what she was saying)

Wendy Talbot - So the authority rests with petitioners and selectman's around the town. Because, I have to be honest. I feel that this is a radical change as I look at the map over the years and unless there's proof of erosion and unhappiness and (uncertain word) and things like that and I have to kind of talk back to that. That's all. That's where I stand. I'm not clear on why this is happening and I'm not clear why it already started. By the way, last year we already went low?

Jim Gallagher – Yup

Wendy Talbot – Yup, OK. I'll be back but that's what I wanted to talk about.

Hi everybody. My name is Tom Lincoln. My wife and I are property owners on the lake now for about 5 years. Have also been on this lake since the early 70's. So I am very passionate about the health of this lake. I would like to just comment I find, I keep hearing this argument that it's only 6 inches. It's only 6 inches in the middle of the summer. That is not to me not the issue. For just in front of our house, as an example, 6 feet on the datum line is 54 inches off the end of my dock – perfectly great for operating the boat. If it's 48 inches, 6 inches less in the middle of the summer that's fine too. The issue to me, and I just don't understand why, I agree with you I don't understand why, to lower it to 3 feet that is 18 inches of water and if it's 3 ½ it's 24 inches of water. In other words we are completely shut down. As somebody that loves this lake more than, probably like everybody in this room. Where if I were here and I commend that we can have this open discussion but we all love this lake. I find September, October, May and June some of the best months here. (applause from audience) The locals of this lake, that is the beauty of the season. Honestly it's great that we have so many visitors here but the lower volume levels, when you can truly enjoy the peacefulness of the lake. I personally am out there from April to November. And this proposal completely shuts that down. I think there's a safety issue. We all know there's a lot of rocks in this lake. We're all used to running with this at basically, what would be 54 inches or 6 feet . When you drop it to that level, I watched it happen, I was here, I was out there the second the ice out happened, there were boats falling off of the ramp. If you know the public ramp, ends at some point. Boats were not floating off the trailer before they fell off the ramp. I watched boats hit rocks in front of my house that they've never hit before. I think it's just, I don't understand the rapid drawdown so early. It's a beautiful season, let's enjoy it all. That's all I have to say. But thank you for having an open environment. (clapping)

Jim – Thank you for your comment.

My name is Robert Marshall. I reside at 39 Arrowhead Point Rd, in Bristol. I've been coming to this lake for since 1962. I'm sure there's other people in here in the audience that have lived their entire

life here. My concern is at the last meeting I remember, that according to my memory, you were going to find out from everyone on the lake what their voice was regarding the drawdown. I believe that it was mentioned that there was going to be something sent out to the people. I believe you said there was 2,000 or 3,000 residents that are on the water and nothing was ever sent out like that. You made the decisions by elected officials and by Newfound Lake Regional Association that paid an ecologist last year. A very good scientist, he had a great presentation and I think it was very good especially about how the waves, especially from the wake boats, take away the shore and bring organic material into the lake. And we wanted it to drain out and not have stagnant water around the periphery. We wanted to drain out the organic material, out so it was out of the sunlight. And that made sense. It doesn't look like, so on a different subject, it doesn't look like you've done a very good job, or the people in charge doing that, of following that graph, have done a very good job. It looks like it moved less when you had the blue line. And the issue I have is the drawdown. Putting that water back in the lake after it's too late, too late, in other words what's the date on there? Where the blue line was before?

(Jim) Yeah the beginning of March

Robert Marshall, the beginning of March. And where is it now?

(Jim) the beginning of April

Robert Marshall – pardon me

Jim – the beginning of April, under this interim

Robert Marshall – So that makes a big difference at the beginning of the season. We start water skiing on the lake when ice is still in the lake, because in some places the ice is not there and we ski until November. Until November. You drop the water like you dropped it this year and last year. That affects me bringing my boat into the dock. To pick up a skier or for me to get in my boat, So I need to extend my dock out 15 feet to make that work. To me it doesn't make any sense. And I don't know how you can make a ruling based on 30 people that signed a petition when you have 3,000 people on the lake. And I don't know how the selectman in the town can make the decision for us. And we all know Money walks, shit talks... No it's the other way around, isn't it. Well however it, it's all about the money. (applause from the audience) So let's make it a rational decision based on the people that live here. Thank you very much.

Jim – Yes, thank you for your comment. This is a test. This year is a test, (people talking in the audience in the background) to get these reactions, your reactions. That's what we're here for. This is

not a final decision was made. It was a recommendation. And so we said alright we'll adjust our operation to this recommendation just as a test. Do it for a year. See what the experience of the folks around the lake is so your comments are very, very helpful. But the challenge was here, sorry if I gave you the impression that we were going to try to reach out to the thousands of folks around this lake. I think there's 1,800 properties, but then we got into issues with condominiums and trying to identify the folks. If we're only going to get the 1,800 shoreline property owners what about the folks just across the street that have probably as much interest as the folks that actually about the lake. So that was the challenge on this large lake is trying to get that. What we instead decided to do was try this interim plan, have meetings like this, and we may even have more, after, later on in the fall and get the comments that we're getting today and were going to incorporate those comments in our final decision making .

Robert Marshall - I hear what you just said and I have sympathy for your role in this case. I don't mean to be confrontational

Jim- no, you're not

Robert Marshall - I did hear that the people that lived on the lake were going to be polled, nobody was. Thirty signatures can make something happen by some powerful people on the lake and I believe that's wrong. And I want to bring it to your attention. (applause from the audience)

Hi my name is Carol Torrente. I have a place in Hebron. I'm a young, new person to this lake. I've only been on this lake for 5 years but I've noticed in the past 5 years that there's been a difference in the health of the lake. (people talking in the audience – other people shush them) I came here because I was interested in learning about, I've heard from many people who live in my neighborhood who have been here eons, and beyond me the variations in the lake and first of all I really appreciate data. I appreciate this graph. I think that lowering the lake level, and very clearly you can tell by the historical rise and fall of the lake that there's a natural ebb and flow and that changes. I'm here because I care about the health of the lake. And again in my infancy of 5 years I've noticed a difference in the lake in front of my 5 years here and I don't think that erosion is the only problem and I've heard people talk about erosion, but I don't think that's the only source of what's happening with the lake. I think it's quite a bit more complicated than that. I think temperatures changing as well, and I think that that also affects the health of our lake and one of the things that I was curious about in the proposal of the new changes in the lake level whether I'm a little, I think the lake level needs to be dropped for several reasons but one of which I think, you can probably control algae very effectively if it's not allowed to fester in warmer waters. So one of the things that I was curious about is that if you look at the red line on that graph but if you look at the proposed tableau and drop, what is going to be the effect, where I live on the lake it's very rock ledge so that means that when algae produces there, it grows in the

shallow water. The sun really make it grow more. And so I actually worry about the right half of the horizontal red line that if that stays higher longer period of time might that make the algae that's appeared that 5 years ago that didn't exist in front of my water front but now does, is that going to make it grow more and is dropping it at such a rapid pace, cause I do think that that's a very rapid pace, does that make sense and that might there be an opportunity to stagger the very, very end of that table a little more delicately to match the natural flow of what the water had been otherwise and might that be helpful long term.

Jim – Thank you for your comment. I should clarify the chart a little better than I did. So these are the two, This is our operating curve, this was the interim, this was at the request of the interim operating curve, this is the median of the elevation on this day. That's the median. So if you got a 36, 37 period year of record, half of those days the lake level was above that median and half of them were below. The shaded blue is the standard deviation around that median and then you've got these dashed lines. This is the maximum the lake level was on that day and this is the minimum. Just to explain that a little bit further. I don't know if you can compare a single years operation with the median, the average. Thank you again for that comment.

Hello I'm Helen Noel this is my 3rd or 4th meeting how many we've had, I've been here. Helen Noel from camp Greenwood, Newfound lake in Horner's Cove. We started renting in 1971 every August. We bought the cottage at camp greenwood in 1986. There was a huge beach, wide and long all along Horner's cove. Then the lake level was raised 3 ft, 4 ft and since then all of our beach is lost. We have a steep slope to the water. When the water level is maintained 3, 4 feet above normal the water batters our foundation of our cottage. This is true along Horner's Cove. At the same time back in, or just about the same time the lake level was raised, the Town of Bristol apparently gave permission for a marina and condos to be built up on the Fowler river. The dredging of the river down to the inlet of the lake started at that time, and since then the entire peninsula that was there for eons has completely disappeared except for a tiny, tiny little piece of shrub that is still above the water line. Because of the high water level, because of the storms, because of the swift water coming down the Fowler River, it has brought all the sand down into this giant gulf of an open aperture into the lake and deposited this huge high sand bar which is growing extensively toward the boat launch area, toward the shore line of Wellington State Park, and toward Bristol shores and toward Camp Greenwood and Walamut. At the same time that our beach sand disappeared the beach sand has been moving down to the, like a bridge between Manor Estates and Mayhew Island. It used to be a 10 foot water depth. It's now 4 feet. My proposal is yes lower the lake level, perhaps the water skiers can ski along the areas that have the deep water, which is away from the rocks, but if the peninsula was rebuilt with boulders so that that single lane aperture at the tip of the peninsula to the Wellington Shore line was left open and that area dredged just enough to allow the boats coming from the marina from the Fowler River into the lake, just enough that might slow down the fierce speed of the Fowler River

water during storms, during snow melt and other times of the year so that the filth won't come into the lake which is ruining the clarity of the lake. It was 28 feet clarity in 1970's. This has disappeared. We have green shrubs growing in the lake, green grass growing in the lake. We have mud coming down from the river, we have trees and trunks and branches and debris. And that is of course occurring at the Cockermouth but I can't speak for that area. I have some papers to give to your desk. (She brought papers up to Kent)

Jim Gallagher – Thank you

Helen Noel – Thank you (applause from audience)

Are you ready for me now? Hi I'm Holly Lonski I live in Hebron NH. Hebron I've attended all 3 meetings and in fact I was on the select board in Hebron and I just want to comment on my experience with this experiment for this past winter, because it was a winter I was concerned with. Back in the days, since we've all have been here so long, back in the 70's before the dam, before it even got raised where I live on Georges Brook, at the north eastern tip of the lake, that, it was a sandy bottom. And the water in the winter time was so low we had to pump water for the house, and the pump would start at the deepest part of the center of the brook (can't understand a few words) every winter. But what has happened is as the water level was higher; it used to be that when you got the spring melt it was like watching a toilet being flushed. That there would be this rush of water, down from Jordan's brook, down the Cockermouth, where ever, and what it would do is it would scour away any silt that had built up. And but what's happened and I have a question here. It may be a Rick Van de Poll, may be a question, right now, this past winter the water level was fine. I was amazed at how good the fishing was this spring. There could be no connection what so ever. There were pulling in like strings of rainbow trout, and it was really remarkable because it wasn't always that way. So whatever you did this past winter certainly didn't impact the fishing on Georges brook. And the weeds are still there even though the water level. So here's my question: If you really want, when the water's low, and you get the spring melt, to take away the silt and the weeds. Do you have to pull out the weeds first? Because there's a symbiotic relationship going on. The weeds are holding the silt in place, and the silt is nourishing the weeds. So that's my question. I really can understand your concerns about the rapid drop in the fall. I'm only to talk about, the part I was mostly concerned about, was the higher level in the winter time because all these brooks, the deltas of the brooks, they all have the same problem. A lot of weeds build up. Thank you very much.

Jim Gallagher – Thank you (applause from the audience)

Hello my name is Tom Whitman. I own a little island in Sanborn Bay in Hebron, and we've been there since 1982. We are docked on Rogers Brook and it comes in and that's where we dock our boat for the

island there. Since the lake has been lowered by the 6 inches, that was proposed, it's tight getting out and getting into the dock. Also since we've been here, since you've had that planning and assistance the same amount of time we've been here, 37 years, we've been pretty accustomed to that lake level and really it's a nice dam. I have no complaints on part of the Environmental Service and how you've maintained the dam and the dam level. It's a tough place to have to do it. You have a big watershed area that comes in there and I think you guys have done a great job. In fact in Sanborn Bay I'm kind of stumped. I don't see any erosion that I've noted at any place along the way. I don't see where there are any issues. There have been always some weeds, in the area where we go to dock but that hasn't really changed over the years. We are a sampling sight for the water quality of the lake. We have a blue island sampling sight there and it's been there for there for many, many years and it says here in summary, it breaks down the water quality and everything, in summary the site the island has continue to supply excellent water quality. The long term water clarity has increased while the chlorophyll and total phosphorus nutrient concentrations has decreased. So from my stand point the Lake has become healthier. Obviously from these test that have been done by the Newfound Lake Region Association they monitor it and so I am also wondering why we're here tonight messing around and I do, I agree with everybody here as far as that drawdown that rapid drawdown in the fall, this is the time of year when the lake becomes nice and peaceful and if you draw that down to that level, because the level right now is 4.5 feet I believe. Is that correct? That's the Columbus Day level.

Jim Gallagher – It's actually right around, it's a little less than 5.5 today

Tom Whitman – The Columbus Day level though is 4.5 feet

Jim Gallagher – The Columbus Day level is, right 4.5

Toml Whitman – You're going to draw it down to 3.5 feet. That's another foot. I'll be walking to my dock.

Jim Gallagher – yeah

Tom Whitman – I will be walking to my dock. I'll have to pull the boat within the next 2 weeks if you're going to do that.

Jim Gallagher – yeah

Tom Whitman – thank you

Jim Gallagher – Thank you for your comments. (applause from the audience)

Hi sorry I have a second question.

Jim Gallagher – your name

Sorry it's Tom Lincoln, a Bristol resident on the lake. I'm confused, I've heard all the talk about erosion and obviously as I've said I want to protect the health of the lake. I'm unconvinced I guess, that lowering the lake so drastically so that one month out of 12 months, it ends up shortening the season for all of us to enjoy the lake, has this dramatic improvement in some sort of environmental impact to the lake. I will say that anecdotally it's one year, that's not a great sample size I get it. But as somebody that was on the lake the second ice out was there, there was actually more debris than I remember in previous years with sticks. I remember a comment about sticks and stuff like that. There was just as much of that type of debris this season as ever. I know that there was a lot of discussion about the water quality this year. There was a lot of clarity issues in the water this year. It's not like I felt as an experiment, that you mentioned this was, that there was this dramatic improvement that I could see in one year. I understand that's a very limited time for science, but I don't see this big impact and that we're sort of concluding that by drawing the water down 36 inches rapidly somehow we're going to have this dramatic improvement environmentally. I remain unconvinced of that and I just question what are we trying to do here? Are we all convinced this is improve the lake quality or are we trying to improve somebody's width of the beach? I just don't get it.

Jim Gallagher – Thanks for that comment.

Wendy Talbot (I believe) May I speak? So I'm going to totally springboard off of that please, because that is my question. Is this about personal lake front property or is this about the lake? The lake is beautiful and the lake is always been maintaining itself, I believe, since I've ever lived here, well. And all of a sudden now it's, to me it's a, I'm going to be sorry about these words but, a manipulation to the lake, as far as up and down I mean, (unintelligible words) It's like a man made, all of a sudden now it's being man made. It's not this lake. It's not supposed to be manmade. (people talking in the audience) It is a beautiful place to be. And one more question, one more thing it's also spring fed. So with you have a very shallow, shallow little bay. I swim there, we all swim there, and I'm just talking this one little section, but there is springs that come up through there. You drive that out and all of a sudden it is like, no water there? What happens to those underground spring feds? This is a beautiful lake. This is not about your personal property. This is about the lake. Thank you.

Jim Gallagher – Thank you

Woman in audience – That's the level of 2.4, just so you know.

Jim Gallagher – I'm sorry What's that?

Woman in audience – The natural level is 2.4

Jim Gallagher – yes sir

My name is Kurt Darcy I'm from Arrowhead Point also. (people in audience still talking in background) I've been on the lake for a very, very long time. I've been a property owner here since 81. I've come to Newfound Lake since I was a child. I have been active in the lake association, I've been a weed watcher for 35 years, and I've done water quality testing and helping the numerous NH folks through the quality measurements on the lake. A couple of things. Algae is a normal occurrence in any lake. We do not have blue green algae to the best of my knowledge, we never had. We have brown algae, obviously right now in the sandy areas. It occurs in August when the lake temperature gets up over 75 degrees. Occasionally there are a couple places where there is green algae, particularly over near Wellington, cause they don't have a lot of circulation in the cove in Wellington. As far as weeds are concerned, fortunately as far as I know, cause I've been injured this year, I haven't been able to get out, all of our weeds are native weeds, including native milfoil. So up at Georges brook, if you want to see an array of natural, native milfoil, there's a very nice cluster of it up there. I think there's a general consensus here that the Strafford property is a serious problem, cause (applause) like I said October, September and October are a very busy time on the lake with boats. In our area we have probably the largest boulder field, that's marked in irrigation and if you were to go over the lake that quickly several of the larger boulders are actually above the water. So I'm pretty happy with the way the lake has been this year. It provides my beach with about another 6 to 8 feet of beach itself. The grade with erosion is very serious, also up at Bristol shores, but most of that is the result of the development up in Alexandria. The lake is very flashy. That means water comes down off the hill and mountains at a tremendous rate and in the last 30 years I have seen that delta expand by 100 yards. I used to be able to go right down to the edge of it fishing in 40 feet of water, now it's 20. So as far as the lake quality water is concerned it is still extremely high quality. It's been diminished somewhat in the last 30 years but that's mostly because of development up in the Cockermonth River and up in Alexandria. So other than the rapid drawdown, I think the new lake level has been beneficial.

Jim Gallagher – Thanks for that comment. Thank you (applause from audience)

Yeah, Hi Jim, Dan. Rick Van de Poll in Sandwich, all right. I'm out of the watershed I admit it, but I also grew up on Newfound and learned to swim here. So I have an interest, long term interest in the lake. As many of you know I've been retained by several North Shore residents to study the lake levels and its affect. I am probably more responsible for the petitioners. So if you guys are upset with the lake levels you can blame me -more me than the Dam Bureau. They're responding to petitioner request.

That said I did so with the lake, lake in mind. With the water quality of the lake and the quantity of the water coming into the Lake and leaving the lake. And I'll say that as a scientist for the last 45 years, having a PHD in metric resource management I don't make decisions idly. I think long and hard about lake level management and the interests in the lake. Twenty five years ago I did the same kind of study in Squam. And we found a lot of concerns that we are now addressing but it took twenty five years to address them. I would hope that after this meeting people retain an open mind to keep their lake in fact, in their hearts and minds as well. Starting in September we proposed a lake level management that would, as you have well seen by the charts in front of you, maintain a higher level until Labor Day and then a more dramatic drawdown in October. If you look at the average lake levels in October, the blue line, as well as the 2018 line on the chart that you have in front of you, you'll notice that the lake levels have actually been on the average much higher than the 1982 intended curve. If you looked at a chart that, I believe is being handed out, Doug, if you could hand out that chart that would be great, there's another chart that I prepared from September 1 to August 30 for today for this past year. You'll note that only 61 days out of that entire year the lake level was actually at or below the interim management level. 61 days that leaves 298 days roughly, after, before the 26 of August when I did this, that the lake level was actually at or above the 1982 level. So where as there were a few days, certainly in this spring and fall, to be exact 10 days in the spring and 12 days in the fall, when the lake level was lower than normal I don't think that there's a great deal to be concerned about relative to the interim management plan being affected. And my comment tonight is primarily to have the Dam Bureau, give them the opportunity to maintain that interim plan moving forward for the next year. Perhaps the fall a gradual drawdown, I hear a consensus for a more gradual drawdown in the fall. But the reason and just to let you know, the reason why I moved for a more rapid drawdown is that the fall is when we are now getting more and more storm events that raise that lake level up well above the average, well above, as you know 1 inch of rain 14 inches of elevation gain in the lake. That has caused erosion and my grade stakes have shown that to be true. Let me relate that piece of data right now. I have three sets of grade stakes on the north shore. As of May 6 when I checked them, things were looking pretty good. There was sand that was being deposited back onto the lake shore. But by August, after a summer where we had some significant rain events, notably July 12, we lost .73 feet from grade stake 1 set, from grade stake 2, 1.26 feet and from grade stake 3, the third set, 1.12 feet. So that's the amount of sand that was lost on those grade stakes this summer. Now if you don't think that's erosion I think you better check your data. That is the north shore. I'm not saying it's true for everywhere but I documented 22 sites thanks to some donated boats and time, 22 sites around the lake that are showing signs of erosion. Camp Greenwood you've already heard about. Bristol Shores you've heard about coming the beach there are signs to indicate that the beach is no longer safe in certain parts. Now it comes at a price. You want the higher lake level that's fine but it comes at a price, and those of you that own beach or used to own beach know what that price is. And I'm not even talking about resale of real estate here. I'm talking about your enjoyment which is part of the RSA. Enjoyment and use of the lake. So you have to think, I think, about all the stake holders, all the balancing, all the

interests of the stake holders that they have relative to the erosion. The other good news I'll relate on the interim lake level management, was the fact the Cocker mouth finally was able to carve it's channel out a little bit deeper. We had about a 70 square foot increase by May 1st and a 95 square foot total increase by August 20th. So that means that the Cocker mouth is flowing farther into the lake, able to deposit the sand closer to the pre historic or historic flows and that was borne out by some sediment core analysis that was done by Lisa Doner at Plymouth State, she reported that out on Tuesday and it appears that other than July, the July fall event we had some significant deposition over the year of sediment reaching the deeper parts of the lake. So there's some good news latent than that. That said my other final point on the Cocker mouth we looked at about a 2 ½ times increase on the aquatic bed growth. And again as I believe Carol was indicating this is something that comes as a result of deposition of silt, increased temperatures, more nutrients that are feeding the aquatic beds and that's something that is of great concern to a lot of people that live on the north shore. It's just one spot in the lake I know that, but Fowler river is the same. As you heard earlier that sandbar is increasing and the shallow, the depths are much shallower then it used to be. So with that I would encourage the bureau to maintain its interim plan perhaps with a slower drawdown in the fall to accommodate boater concerns, but keeping in mind that only 61 days actually were at or below the levels that we set as the target so it really wasn't that much of a change folks and I hope that you recognize that the change is for a purpose and not idly set. Thank you for your time. (audience clapping)

Good evening I'm Myles Lodell and I live on the west side of the lake on Crystal Springs road. I've been coming up here since about 1950. There's a lot of points that have been made about the pros and cons of the lake levels and I think that's one of the elements that probably effects what's most important in my mind and that is the quality of the water of the lake. I'm just amazed the report of what you said of the quality of the water. I've been skin diving and scuba diving from white bersuda down to the ledges for 50 years for 55 years. And the change in that area, especially after about 1980, is just beyond belief. How many people here go skin diving? With goggles, very many of you? Ok, I don't think it's, hold it, just my little part of the lake. There's a mile long stretch that I do this. The algae is unbelievable, the last several years. This year it's twice as much. It's the green algae, it's just amazing. I just

Man from the audience – Where are you finding the green algae?

Myles Lodell – Well it's like, it's like transparent, greenish, yellowish. I'm not sure. I wouldn't call it brown. I don't think

Voice from audience – This year's twice as much? (Another voice) And where? (Woman's voice in audience) I've seen it

Myles Lodell – We're neighbors. There's a cove between Camp Berea and used to be Duchaines and I haven't gone to other parts of the lake but that has been the, I used to be able to see 28 feet. I used to see 50 feet down. Scuba diving 100 feet of the ledges, you could look up and it was like you weren't under water. It was all sand and it was, like I was saying rocks were scoured somehow. I just don't buy that the quality of water is anything like it was and this algae is comes in August and perhaps it's climate change. Maybe it's a big factor in that.

Man in audience – Have you looked at the Association website where they have a long history of water quality testing. Have you seen that?

Myles Lodell – I don't think so. No.

Man in audience – Go to NLRA's website. You'll find lake quality, and all records in the last 30 plus years. You're correct – clarity is diminished. (Man in audience keeps talking in the background)

Myles Lodell – Ok, Ok, The weeds are, 10 years ago they were 2 feet tall now they're 6 feet tall. The silt, there's 6 inches of silt. If there's some issue, then another part of the question – These people who petitioned for this activity here, the selectmen of the towns, what are they doing about controlling development? Clear cutting timber? Ok well maybe they should do something about that. (clapping from the audience)

Man in audience (Terry Murphy) – Could I speak to that, just a comment?

Myles Lodell – Sure, well maybe they should do something about that.

Man in audience - We have pages in our town report of steep slope restrictions that are around the lake in Bridgewater. We're the only town that has it. There are a number of other things.

Myles Lodell – good for you.

Woman in audience – thank you

Man in audience – I'm just saying as far as the purpose of having the big lake, of having a look at the level of the lake doesn't have to do with the water chemistry of it. It has to do with the amount of siltation that is coming into the lake. Because we have increased amount of rainfall and intensity as well. That's the only reason for this. It has nothing to do with boating, it has nothing to do with my dock, or my son's dock rather. But the thing is, that, the bottom line is, if you don't, what we tried to think about was, how do we get it back to where they used to run the lake and manage it just by accident to get us closer. It doesn't say we're going to get to it. But by turning around and what you

have is a bowl - It's 180 feet deep. And here's the bad news, or the good news rather. There's nothing that will pollute the lake because of the dilution. It is not like Squam, it is not like Winnepesaukee.

Man at mike – excuse me sir

Man in audience - You will have all kinds of weeds. What happens in Bridgewater is, Bridgewater, Bristol and all the edge of the town is that the bowl has a lip on the side of it. And that lip is fast filling with silt. That's what's causing the turbidity. But the bad news is that turbidity is inconvenient but it puts a bed to turn around and plant weeds. So you're going to see an increased amount of weeds around the lake. Already it's happened. We don't have any major issue associated with trying to exert the boating rights, or anything of that nature. I've been boated here from this place since the 40's

Man at mike – ok

Man in audience – I've been a selectman since 45. The only thing that we've cared about was the environment of the quality of the lake.

Man at mike – ok, you're saying..

Man in audience – But as far as development up in Alexandria – there isn't any. As far as development up on the Cockermonth River there isn't any. To speak of.

Man at mike – where does all the silt come from?

Man in audience – The silt comes from water runs down the highest gradient level coming into the lake. And water runs downhill, and organic material comes in and plants get down there and then you get weed growth. So if you don't turn around and address that I don't care if they want to keep it 5 feet high or 7 feet high. The reason it has to be lower in the winter is because the ground's frozen and you will overflow the lake and damage all kinds of property's. So you do have to get it down sooner or later. Because that's what happens when you put a dam on a river. As far as the 6 foot level they did a pretty damn good job this year. No pun intended. But the end result is that all they're doing here is just trying to improve the edge of the lake so it doesn't become weed infested like Winnepesaukee, even Squam.

Man at mike – Ok I understand that

Man in audience – as far as us doing all this stuff. It only has to do with, pick your number. I don't care, The bottom line is

Man at mike – can I have a point of order sir?

Man in audience - do what you have to do.

Jim Gallagher's voice in background

Main in audience - It wasn't done because there's some Machiavellian, behind the scenes thing here.

Man- no one's suggesting that I'm sure. I just know before 1976 the only weeds that we ever saw in the lake was up in Hebron Bay, maybe two other spots. It's a sandy lake and the rocks didn't have scum on them. And it's dramatically different. Whether it's the lake level or not, perhaps they can do a gradual

Voices in audience

Man – absolutely

Voices in the audience

Jim Gallagher – sir could you please finish your comment. I apologize for the interruptions to your comment. If you want, I don't want to cut you off sir.

Man at mike – My point is the quality of water is the most important thing here. If we don't have that we're not going to have recreation and real estate value and enjoyable. My grandkids have to wear goggles now when they go swimming in our bay, in our cove.

Jim Gallagher – thank you. A couple more people haven't spoke. Yup. You go ahead sir.

Thank you. My name is Steve Ellis I live in Bristol past Westward (?) Shores. We have 8 boat slips there. When we accomplish this drawdown all the boats will be on high ground so we will have to take the boats out. So as I've been listening to this I understand it's an awful lot of stake holders and different axes they're trying to grind. But I heard there's after the erosion of the beach fronts, there's the water quality issue, and then there's sedimentation. But then I am probably missing some issues, but I would ask if it's only a one year take. But has this, has this lower level, retention over the fall and early spring season, has it accomplished what you wanted to accomplish in terms of retarding the rate of erosion?

Jim Gallagher – well let me answer, this isn't something that we wanted. This is an experiment. What we're going to see if it is done anything.

Steve Ellis – could not decipher

Jim Gallagher – alright if it hasn't done anything

Steve Ellis – then lets go with the benefit of the doubt that it has

Jim Gallagher – OK

Steve Ellis – it has improved things. Then a major issue that I've heard tonight and it's a personal issue for our property owners is that this drawdown that will go into effect beginning September 1st will essentially put us out of business during a prime, or subprime part of the boating season. So on the presumption that this scheme works, isn't it sensible to just take all the same scheme but just delay this turndown, the rapid decrease by 2 months or a month and a half (applause in audience) and satisfy everybody here. Again on the presumption that that's net where you want to end up with that overall plan. Finally, The sedimentation issue, take my engineering memory, as I recall, the lower lake levels, in the spring will actually exacerbate the sedimentation problems, will it not, because the lower lake level are going to accelerate the rate of influence of water from the rivers and to some extent the groundwater as well. So that has to be something to be considered. As to the algae that I heard about tonight, I can buy the, I can buy the sedimentation as a problem for the catch weeds. That's something that's got to be dealt with through the erosion. But in terms of the suspended algae that's nutrient driven despite what I've heard this evening. I've studied this my entire life and it's all nutrient driven and if we have to have control, the nutritional content of the lake if we want to retard the growth of algae. And I'm not sure that the level that we're at now is sufficient. It's evident that it's not because of the algae growth. I'm sorry to take so much time.

Jim Gallagher – No, thank you for your comment. Excuse me, thank you for comment. Let's see. Go ahead.

Robert Nelson Marshall – I want to say one thing, or three things actually. We all wouldn't be here if we didn't love this lake. We wouldn't be here; we'd be doing something else. We'd be barbequing or doing some smores or drinking. (laughter from the audience) Whatever you choose. People took time out of their schedule today, people signed in, had balls enough to get up and speak. Everyone I've asked should give their name, where they're from and there should be any interruptions. I did not know this was going to be a conversation or a debate. I thought we were going to get a presentation as you did and you listened to us the audience. That's what my assumption was. If I'm incorrect tell

me. So I appreciate everyone's comments. We all want the same thing, we just need to get along. I will give up my boat during the month of August, or whatever month you want. My primary concern is, just like very one of you, is the quality of the lake. The quality of the water has not improved. The quality of the water is much worse. I grew up camping at Pines Acres. There wasn't as much sand there, there were never any weeds over by the Fowler river. I used to take my boat up the Fowler river and it was disgusting but the rest of the lake was clean. I would dive for golf balls, in 8 to 10 feet of water between Mayhew and Bristol, what are those condos called that they put in?

Audience - Manor estates.

Man at mike- Manor Estates. My dad then worked, a lot of people did, he worked for a construction company and Manor estates was filled in with sawdust in the 50's. Yup sawdust. As an aside the problem we have really is the construction around the lake. That's all it is. People building houses, more bigger than they said, the runoff from that, the condo developments have gone in around the lake. Everything, from little things. From the developments in the back. I understand what the scientist has said. I forget his name. He's very good. I want to know from you, from the people here, what scientist does the state have? Because I'm a scientist myself, and one scientist can have a different opinion than another. And you can show the facts, but facts can be interpreted differently by different people. So during this manufacturing of this scheme, sorry if I call it a scheme, but this thing, on your part to, but to respond to the 30 people but more importantly to the other side, and to the other scientists, how many other scientists have weighed in and to and given the fact that everybody in this room wants one thing. Cleaner water. To be able to see your bottom of the lake. Whether it's the foot of the lake or the middle of the lake, anywhere on the lake, its unnerving and thank you for your giving your time.

Jim Gallagher – Sure and to answer that question. Yeah we'll be taking all this information, taking the data on erosion, on water quality and working with our watershed folks, our limnologists, and our water quality folks, in assessing all that data and determining what affect lake levels have or do not have on these before we make a final decision.

Man at mike - Is it too much to ask for that data to be shared with everyone in the room that left their email address there?

Jim Gallagher – Well the, what we'll be doing is we'll be, when time comes to write the decision, we'll be all the technical basis of the final decision will be in that decision document.

Man at Mike – and what's the decision document?

Jim Gallagher – It will be a final, final lake level determination

Man at Mike – No I mean where do I find it?

Jim Gallagher – Oh, what we, we're still collecting the data. So it's going to be a

Man at Mike – where will I find the decision?

Jim Gallagher - We'll be providing it, absolutely be providing it on the website. Distributing it, distributing it to everybody who signs up for it.

Man at Mike – so by putting my email on the list today or anybody else

Jim Gallagher – yup, yup

Man at mike – Thank you

Woman in audience – was your name Robert Mitchell.

Man at mike - my name is Robert Nelson Marshall. My birth date is January 13th 1954 and (laughter in audience) 001

Jim Gallagher – go ahead

Hi my name is Jeff Frost I live in Alexandria. I've been on the lake since 1965. Ten years before you folks, about 8 years before the dam was still controlled from the power company you made the contract and fixed the dam. You actually moved the dam up closer to the lake. The, there's a couple things I we all knew lake amerit and I grew up in the (not able to understand) which is the largest, longest environmental research on the east coast, both here and with unesco. One of the things that I don't think a lot of people realize was in the 50's 60's and early 70's, until the steel mill shut down we had a lot of acid rain. That did affect the clarity and bacteria and things growing in the lake. The other thing and this drawdown was going to correct that, is that in the winter time, I know on my property, the first year for many years until they changed, until you folks got control of it, we'd have about 8, 10 feet of shoreline, that I haven't seen since 1975. What that did is in the winter time everything froze and it cleaned, and it provided a leveler, a place for this ice to expand without causing problems to like my walls and other peoples walls in the lake. Two years ago, and I forgot to say this last August when we were talking, that we had basically like an earthquake in our home. Because the level was so high in the winter time, the fall and the winter, particularly when the ice froze very quickly, that it expanded

so fast and then when it finally let loose, it caused, and I had neighbors calling me asking me what it was. They thought it was a sonic boom or a tree came down, but we actually had pictures came off the wall. My wall's 110 years old. And I'm the second owner since 1910. I have a picture of that wall in 1910 and I've been able to point up the bottom of that wall or step onto my property, which is not your arbitrary Natural high water mark, because that natural high water mark is based on a manmade dam that wasn't even there until 1975. The old dam was down river, which was far lower than that dam is. So you're using a foot on that. Needless to say, in the old days, I'll say since before, by the way whoever was talking about water skiing. We built the first slalom course on the lake in 1973. (clapping in audience) There is one, somebody has one but he hides it. (voices in audience) We used to ski until December, mid December. It was tougher and I will say one other thing to all the people that are here, there's more people here that have boats then when I came to the lake in 1965. The whole lake didn't have this many boats. So when you're talking about keeping the level higher in the summer time – when all the boats and the wave boats, everybody just skied back then. We used to put on ski shows in the old days. You're going to get more erosion when the lakes high because of the wave action. I mean the wave action on the fourth of July is ridiculous. But I do agree that it shouldn't be going down so quickly, so fast, because you can do work on your walls, you can do work in November, you can add lye to the cement and stuff like that but it should be going down lower than what you're even asking. By maybe the end of October, mid November, because sometime, I own to the natural high water mark in the lake. I know the state has done that. I want to be able to use my property and I'm being denied that. And it's causing a lot of damage. The last thing that I didn't come across, I think I talked about it last year. When we held the lake up so high in the wintertime such as in 2006 and 2007 we had those floods. Paswaney(?) bay got flooded and a lot of parts of the lake got flooded. Down river, I was on the board of the Red Cross down in Manchester, we assisted in the disaster relief with the downriver floods, there was a lot of damage. Millions and millions of dollars of damage, which not keeping this catch basin of which Newfound lake is the second largest catch basin in the state, second only to Winnepesaukee, a 90 mile radius. If we don't keep this low enough in the winter time and in the spring when the rains come and the melting, and the snow, you're going to cause a lot of damage. And that's not for the public good. You're job first as a public servant, so it's for the public good. And that's all I've got to say. (audience applause)

Jim Gallagher – Thank you, thank you for that comment.

My name is still Tom and I apologize that this is the third time I'm speaking. I only wanted to react to what the PHD person said. I apologize that I didn't catch your name but you had a lot of facts in there. I feel compelled to say that some of the arguments you're making sir are misleading to me. First and foremost you talked about this is only a 61 day impact below the level, 292 days or what ever you said was not below the level. Most of that time the lake's frozen, that's a completely irrelevant argument. Number two we're talking about these erosion statistics. I want to hear causality. That dropping the

lake down 36 inches in this month of September, October is going to fix that. You're quoting just general erosion levels with no causality that this solution is fixing that, and I find that to be misleading. I'd like to propose a compromise to everybody here. Sorry I was looking at this graph a little bit closer and I believe the PHD was referencing the blue line. The blue line, there's a couple things here. The blue line is I guess the average. And he was making the point that it is above what the green intended plan was. Am I correct? Is that what you, the point

Man in audience – it was this one, the one that was handed out

Tom- Sir I'm just looking at the screen. We're all just looking at the screen

Talking in the audience

Tom – Ok, The blue line here, I believe is what the overall average was, and his point was that it was in fact in the fall slightly above what the planned green line was. My point is, and I think what everybody's mainly arguing here, is the dramatic drawdown and so early in the season and so abrupt and I would like to propose a compromise. His point was this blue line has actually been above what the plan was. By here that looks like a centimeter above and the proposal is like 2 inches below. Let's, how about a compromise? If there is some benefit, which I have not heard any science to prove that this rapid drawdown in the fall is going to solve any of the problems that were mentioned here, but if it even was, can we propose something that is a little bit more of a compromise? Maybe bring the blue line closer in to where the plan was. Not come up with some dramatic new plan that shuts down the lake two months early. That would be my proposal. I believe the erosion argument is really around the extraordinary events on the high end. Ok, there was one time the dam did get away from us, and I believe at my dock it came up to 76 inches. I think that's the event that a lot of folks are referring to that's causing damage to either their property or to erosion on the lake. Let's focus on that. On controlling the extreme high events. I know it's a very difficult job to manage the dam and there is a lot of watershed and there's a lot of factors that go into that. But if the dam person that runs it here, I'm sorry that I forgot your name, but I have called you many times actually and we talked about it. You probably remember me. Maybe my voice. (laughter in the audience) But you remember sir and I, am please, this is not a criticism of you, because I know that, and I actually said this to you when I called you, this is a very difficult job but if you remember that time, it was a year or two ago that we got that very high level, and I think this caused a lot of this concern. We saw it coming up. I was calling you and I was saying oh my god I think this is going to get away from us. Open it up, open it up, it's going to get away from us. That is the type of event that is going to cause erosion to the properties. The solution to drop it three feet so that there's no chance that that could ever happen is not the right solution. Let's focus on managing those extreme events more proactively and control the erosion that way. Not by shutting the lake off two months early. That's my last comment. But sir with the PHD, you

sound very knowledgeable but I'm sorry that your arguments are misleading. That's my opinion. Thank you. (audience applause). I couldn't see the graph that far away sorry.

Audience talking

I'm not Tom Lincoln but I'm here tonight to say I think this past year this level worked better from my perspective. I've been trying to get my front, my water frontage repaired, the dock, since 1996. I've had three permits. I've failed at several years in a row, cause the water would come up in the fall and the contractor would say bye and then I'd file for another one. So we have another one now. What's happened to the, my neighbors wall is he just spent \$56,000 to get fixed, because lake levels up in the fall, then into winter, the water freezes, the ice pushes against the wall. It knocked out the whole four feet bottom portion of his wall. He was in danger of falling into the lake and when we made certain people aware of that and why don't we just fine you until we get it fixed. So right now we're trying to get the dock fixed and I'm being promised by the contractor to come in September and we're looking for this drop in water level down to 3.5. Just pray that this may be the year that we get our work done. Then you know it's we got the permit, it only cost \$12,500 to get the permit and wall dock cost 25, \$26,000 to get fixed. It's a cement dock, it's right now, fourteen feet of it's hanging in mid air, because the water is frozen to ice in the winter. So I'm very interested in getting this work done, before it falls in the lake, and it will be my problem. But we found this spring more sand. I thought our lake front, instead of having rocks, pebbles and cement chunks from my dock, it was much, much better. So I can't say what it's attributed to but I do have enough perspective. I've been here since 1978. So we get to see the lake every spring, every fall and sometimes in the winter when the ice is frozen. But you know, I think maybe this may be the year we get it done. Keeping the lake level up, I can understand why fisherman want to fish and maybe why water skiers want to water ski, but the property owners who have to maintain their property, they have to find contractors. I had to find a bridge contractor from 100 miles away, finally to come over here to do this repair. It's just no one wants to work in the water, and when the water's up it's pretty hard to pour concrete and fix it. The first dock was poured in 1953. It lasted all this time but the high water, from about the mid 1985 on and the ice in the winter is destroying it. And it destroyed my neighbors wall and right now we're trying to fix it. Maintain the quality of the lake. From the water quality perspective, I think that the water is not, it's not the quality it was back in 1978, 1980's, 1985. The skin diver said visibility, and I'm a skin diver it's not as clear. Right now I just scuba around with a mask but fortunately in front of my place I don't have any weeds. If I see it I pull it and get rid of it, but in any event I think this past, this lower water level. I understand the concern about the precipitous drop, but here's the problem. How many years I thought my god it's down to where it's supposed to be. My contractors going to come, we get a 4 inch rain storm and it's three feet above. The guy says that's it, I'm out of here, find somebody else. So that's concern with a lot of property owners that are trying to maintain our properties and I appreciate your listening carefully. Thank you

Jim Gallagher – Thank you

Good evening every one. Frank DiPetro, Bristol, been a property owner on the lake since 2001. I think we've heard a number of people, you know talk about a number of their personal desires etcetera and they're all valid. I'm very happy that I think what happened tonight was we all came around and heard some folks really rally around what's the most important issue and that's the quality of the lake and a number of factors regarding the lake and it's perpetuity. I don't envy this Dam Bureaus job in this at all because you've got a lot of varying factions, personal interests and during the last meeting we even heard a lot about some of the variables that you have to operate under. What I think is important, regardless of the determined plan, is the ability to stay as close as possible to that plan. and on all the graphs that we've seen thus far, there's a lot of variance. And so I think my request, my hope is that there is budget allocation, there is ingenuity, for being able to stay closer and closer to the plan. Because whether it's Bob Marshall that wants to waterski in November or this gentleman that wants to repair his dock, if we can plan on some of those lake levels being as close to plan as possible, it helps us all. I think the erosion, I think it only happens in spring. April and May if we have severe weather. And the lake level is much higher than the plan had indicated. That's when we seem to see the erosion where myself and some of my neighbors that are here tonight experienced the erosion. That's in the Hornet's Cove area. That's where a lot of the sand gets drawn out into the middle of the lake down toward Mayhew island. So if there is anything you can inform us about, either partly or in the future, to stay closer to that plan or have the ability to stay closer to the plan, I think everyone would like to hear that. I'll just close out by saying at the last meeting, you know I mentioned that I had a recurring nightmare. That nightmare was that there was one person in concord with the dam switch (laughter from the audience) and that person got sick and they were out for a week and everything at the lake went crazy. So I hope we're far away from that and certainly we'd like to hear about anything that might give some information about the ability to stay on plan. Because I don't think I have the intellect to determine what that plan should be. I hope that there are professionals that have a rhyme and reason for developing that plan and trying to stick to it. Thanks very much.

Jim Gallagher – Thank you for that comment. Thank you.

Gary Frost from Bristol. This graph that was handed out, I think it was very informative and I applaud the Dam Bureaus efforts to maintain that. The one thing that I do see on here is in the fall it really didn't fall as close to the level as some of the other times of the year. And I think that's a good indication of maybe a possibility to adjust that fall time period, because I do think we're, I'm from Camp Greenwood. And I can tell you that we did not experience as much erosion this year as we have in years past. Which was a nice thing to come up to the lake and not find all kinds of roots and stuff sticking out but I think that's indicative of keeping the level of the lake lower in the springtime as well. And I think that would be important to, to try and continue to do that. You're always going to get big

blips in the spring time as well but being conscientious about, even anticipating some of those to try and maintain that and then if you have a storm that comes on with it we gets winds of the north west that really does a number on us if the lake level is really high. But I do applaud you for your effort and really continue to try to work on this, because it really is about the quality of the lake. I take my boat out into the Hornet's cove quite often and I can tell you there's a lot more of the grass. Dark browns and stuff in that area in Hornet's Cove. You used to be able to walk around there and not sink down to your ankles, but a lot of it you do now. And I think it has a lot to do with inflows of all kinds of muck and stuff and if we can control and kind of scour that stuff out at the times of year where it's going to not going to impact people to the extent that they can't enjoy the lake, then I think that's certainly something that should be done and should be considered as we all want the lake to be the best quality possible.

Jim Gallagher – Thank you. Thank you very much for that comment. On this chart I do want to point out, if you get the impression that we didn't, we're very far off the top target last fall. The fact is we didn't implement this interim plan until really this very, very end of last year. And because we know the impact of this drawdown. We've heard about it today, and we had not informed anybody around the lake of any accelerated drawdown last year so we weren't going to do it. We weren't going to start this interim plan until, until when we did, and that was the very end of December of last year.

My name is Doug McLane. Do you mind if I turn my back to you? It's not very polite but I first want to start saying I appreciate your coming. It's a heck of a hard way to start a holiday weekend. A number of people have asked about taking a perspective on the lake, and I'd like do that and then we end up like some very good points have been made. I do think we need to talk about it again we do need some kind of a compromise made, but I want to give a little perspective here. If you took the lake as it exists it would be a foot below the bottom of that chart. Newfound lake for 9000 years, since the glacier melted, was a foot lower than the bottom line on that list. If you go to the Hebron town beach, and right next to the parking lot there's a bog and another bog down further down Hebron town beach that was just carbon dated this past year, the bottom of it 9,000 years old. So it's been there for 9,000 years. It was 5 feet or 6 feet above Newfound lake level. It's now being flooded by Newfound lake. And if there's any questions about if erosion is happening on Newfound. I'm going to pass these around. These in 1980, mid 80's we started finding lots of artifacts that were being washed out of the shore line along the Hebron town beach. And the state archeologist said they had been there for between one and four thousand years. Maybe more. Please be a little careful, half of them are my nephews and half are mine. Don't drop them. They're also beautiful to look at but the point being these things did not appear by accident. My father actually was an amateur archeologist. We never, ever found an artifact along the beach until late 1980's and we've now found thousands of them. They're coming right out of the land. These are some pretty impressive pieces of pottery and arrowheads and that doesn't prove anything, but all it is, is showing that since 1980, when the lake

level was raised, that there has been a dramatic change. There's nothing wrong with that. We have to figure out how to live with it. We're lucky enough to have a piece of land that's been in our family for over 100 years now, and for almost 70 years there's no question that the quality of Newfound lake has gone down a lot. I remember when we were, everybody likes the boat, so we do need to compromise. Boats are a fact of life. We grew up with a 15 horse power Evinrude and my brother and I would waterski on it. We would get two skinny boys up on the 15 horse power. I remember when Dick Cowen started selling a 50 horse power motor would come down the channel. It's like wow, can this lake take a 50 horse power motor? Now there are 200 and 300 horse power motors so we gotta think about that. That's not. In other words, that's not the fact that you can't get your 200 horse power motor boat to your dock easily needs to be talked about, but that's not.. Newfound lake exists not just for boaters, it's owned by all the people of the state of NH. It's also there for the bald eagles and the salmon and the loon and the otter. It's the quality that's gone down and we ought to be able to talk and I would maybe propose that the Dam Bureau appoint some people here if they would volunteer to talk. It's a little unfortunate that we're here because of one month. We're here because of the month of September. It's important that you look at that chart. Newfound lake is higher in August and half of September than it ever used to be. The problem is the drawdown and it's unfortunate. The idea was to draw it down, the rivers will flush themselves out better and that will help keep the lake cleaner. It's inconvenient for people with boats so maybe there is a compromise there. If the problems are made by man, such as the bridges that washed out in Groton and the logging roads up in the Province road State forests that are washing out, and the higher winds and the bigger rains, that has to be taken into consideration, but it's also, it's a combination of both manmade and natural forces and there aren't a lot of things that the Dam Bureau can do. About the only thing they can do is to try lowering the lake. It's taken since 19 mid 70's for the problems to happen. The sedimentation coming down the river is because of the, counter intuitive, it makes the lake deeper, remember the lake used to be here, and in the civil war they raised the lake level 6 feet at the civil war with the dam. And since 1970 they've raised it another foot and a half. We're talking trying to lowering it an average of 8 inches and I just think we have to, we do need to address the drawdown in the fall for the boats, but we also have to realize that you're not going to get an improvement in one year. It might take 10 years, it might take 20 years, to see some of the reversal of the sedimentation that's happened. So anyways I hope that we can maybe have a committee the Dam Bureau could work on and talk about some compromises. Thank you.

Jim Gallagher – Thank you, thank you

Hi my name is David Lincoln. Actually we live over in Bristol. But I hope people realize what happened this spring is, I made a few posts on facebook and took a lot of flack for it but I just want to remind everybody that when the lake was so low in the spring after ice out, and people were trying to put their boats in prior to Memorial day weekend and get ready for the big weekend. In fact I was looking

around to see if Greg from West Shore Marine is here. I don't know if anyone is here to represent West Shore Marine but there were a lot of problems launching the boats this spring because the lake was so low. We have a very shallow drop boat personally, a very low bed trailer that should be one of the easiest boats to launch because it requires very little water to get under it. We put the boat trailer right to the brink of the boat ramp in Wellington State park and the boat did not float off the trailer. At one point I talked to Greg and he was shut down from launching boats, getting ready for the big weekend, the holiday weekend. He could not launch boats over at his place in Bristol and I don't mean to speak for him here but I wish he was here to speak for it, because I know there were quite a few customers that were hoping to have their boat in the water for the weekend, it wasn't there. I'm looking at this graph and somebody just pointed out, quite rightly I think, that don't, don't get confused. This plan, the red line, was not in effect last fall. Right?

Jim Gallagher – That's correct.

David Lincoln – We did not manage the lake to that new plan last fall. So this year in 3 days when they pull the drain plug at the dam to start trying to lose 3 ½ feet of water in one month this will be new uncharted territory for everybody at the lake. Ok? (people talking in audience) Absolutely. If you were here last fall we were way above target all the way up until the first of the new year. (talking in the audience) We're not thirty years ago, all I'm saying is a lot of people leave their boats in till October, November. There may not be a way to get them out of the lake without a crane if you follow that new plan. If you get down to the levels you were in the spring, that boat ramp over at Wellington becomes totally useless. So does Gregs ramp over at West Shore Marine. So you're going to leave a lot of people high and dry with a boat in the water. When the cold weather is coming we're going to float frozen boats and a whole bunch of other problems are going to come up with that, if you do this dramatic drawdown that nobody has seen happen yet. This will be brand new territory this year. Get ready it starts Tuesday. Right?

Jim Gallagher – Yeah, that's the

David Lincoln – ok (audience applause)

Hi I'm Chuck Kimball? from Bridgewater since 1984. I kind of like the level of water from June through August. We're used to it. I put my dock in up here and the water's down here by the end of August. I'd rather have it 6 inches higher but if I have to live with it like it is that's fine. But I agree with the comments about September 1 is too soon to take the water down. Why don't we wait till the end of September to take it down? Greg from West Shore Marine sent us a memo. He said the waters going to be down early this year, get your boats out. So we're getting ours out pretty soon. One comment

that I wanted to make. People keep saying that it's a 2, a 3 foot drop. I see it as being a 2 foot drop. It's not 3 feet. It's just 2 feet. Agree. Ok

Jim Gallagher – Thank you. Do you have other, anybody want to speak? (audience talking) Sure

Wendy Talbot – So this is an experiment, correct?

Jim Gallagher – I'm sorry Wendy just a second. You know if you don't want to speak and I understand that (people had started leaving). This public comment period is going to be open till the end of the year. The end of the calendar year, so if you have any comments at all, I think Kent you had given, I know, your email out in the announcement. Feel free to email, email your comments and even those that did speak if they want to submit something in writing, we'd be glad to get that as well. I'm sorry what..

Wendy Talbot – I was just going to say this is an experiment correct?

Jim Gallagher – Correct.

Wendy Talbot - So is there a deadline on this experiment? In other words is it an experiment for 1 year? Is it an experiment for 5 years? What is it?

Jim Gallagher – Yeah, we're going to be evaluating everybody's experience and the data and that, at the end of this year. We've already heard, we already had comments from folks who didn't want to see it extended for another year. So we'll take that into consideration, but we're going to be making a decision about continuing it, modifying it, going back to what we used to do at the end of

Man's voice – Can we put it to a vote?

Wendy Talbot – That was my next question

Mans voice – Can we put it to a vote? How about a referendum?

Jim Gallagher – Well that's a, the problem with like say a vote here today is still, very, a fraction of the interests around the lake.

Wendy Talbot – So my other

Man in audience – the proposal was a very small fraction of the

Jim Gallagher – That’s right. But you know again we’re bound by the statutes. We get a petition from 10 folks and we’ve got to initiate a lake level investigation.

Man in audience – Can we open it up to a broader (talking in the background)

Jim Gallagher – I do to, so I think,

Man in audience keeps talking but I can’t make out what he’s saying

Jim Gallagher - yeah what we may do is, what we may do is if we can reach out, that’s the challenge here, reach out to folks. You talk to your neighbors and that sort of thing. We may try to do like a survey monkey sort of thing where you can weigh in on line and see how many responses we get.

Wendy Talbot – well I think, I think (talking in the audience) so this is an experiment and you said by the end of this year meaning 2019?

Jim Gallagher – yup the end of 2019 we’ll be looking at, right, the experience of the whole year, the data that’s been collected, evaluating that.

Wendy Talbot – OK and then my other question, that is, this all got started through a petition. Correct?

Jim Gallagher – That’s correct

Wendy Talbot – OK. So is it, is it feasible to consider that a petition could come forward to

Man in audience - end the experiment?

Wendy Talbot – Whatever, you know what I mean?

Jim Gallagher – yeah

Wendy Talbot – Is that a problem?

Jim Gallagher – no there’s no need for a petition. That’s a comment, you know a comment to this existing lake level. We have an ongoing lake level investigation. You want it to stop. That’s a comment.

Wendy Talbot – A comment?

Jim Gallagher – That’s a comment that will be considered and responded to

Wendy Talbot – Oh

Jim Gallagher- in the final decision

Wendy Talbot – Ok. Alright great. The other thing is too, is what I just wanted to say, because that this is interesting to me. The green line, there’s 7 stops on that green line.

Jim Gallagher – right

Wendy Talbot- if I’m correct right?

Jim Gallagher – uh hum

Wendy Talbot – For the Dam people that go into the dam and change the water levels

Jim Gallagher – right

Wendy Talbot – On the red line, the new one, there’s only five. Am I correct on that? Five stops or five changes

Jim Gallagher - Yup

Wendy Talbot – So, is there a reason for that? Seven versus five, is easier?

Jim Gallagher – No there’s no particular reason. The, yeah most of our lakes, most of the lakes we operate, we bring them up and try to keep them flat through the summer. So that’s kind of, that red line is consistent with how we normally operate lakes. At Newfound Lake we operate it based on what was decided back in 82, the people at the end of the summer wanted to see maybe a little bit more beach back then. I don’t know. I wasn’t here then, but that was what was decided to step on down and that happens at a couple of other lakes, but those were the reasons. But the red line is sort of more typical of how we operate, particularly the smaller lakes where we don’t have a discharge requirement downstream.

Wendy Talbot – So then that brings me to another question. Has this experiment done on other lakes been successful? So you’ve done this before on other lakes perhaps? No?

Man in audience speaks – Have you studied - I couldn't make it out

Jim Gallagher – Look there's been, yeah we've had lake level investigations on other lakes, so yeah

Wendy Talbot – ok

Jim Gallagher – so, is that what you're saying?

Wendy Talbot – well I guess if it's an experiment, and I think, then what I think I heard you say was that you've done this on other lakes?

Jim Gallagher – Well yeah we, out of all the lakes we operate, there's 50 of them, that we do a little more in particular when we do drawdowns in the fall. Most of those lakes are smaller than Newfound. Most of those lakes don't have a discharge requirement that Newfound has, we have to maintain a minimum flow downstream here at Newfound like we do at Winnepesaukee. So for most of the smaller lakes, yeah it's a simple operation curve like that red one, where we bring it up it, and get it up to full on Memorial day and try to, to the extent that weather allows, try to keep it as low as we can, until the drawdown date. And that drawdown date is typically, like it has been here, Columbus Day. Typically.

Man in audience speaks

Jim Gallagher – right

Thank you for the great presentation and the open discussion. My name is Peter Silverman, I'm a resident of the lake area. On the lake since 1981, and I'm also an Environmental Engineer and Water Resources Engineer. From everything I've heard it sounds to me as though it makes sense to have a later and more gradual drawdown in the fall. The one compromise I would suggest that you consider in deference to those people that do need to do work on the lake shore is perhaps every 5 years modify that plan so that you do have an earlier drawdown so that people can do the necessary construction. Not only for their own private needs but if it serves to preserve the water quality of the lake as well. So I would suggest that you consider that variation in any plan you put together.

Jim Gallagher – Thank you for that comment. Yes sir

Just a quick question this is Steve Ellis from Bristol again. I've heard a lot of reference to we tonight. We are going to make a decision and by my watch that starts like in 2 days. Who's the we and what's

the how are you going to communicate this? We have a Association meeting next weekend and people are going to have to decide, boats in or boats out. So this isn't something we can put off until January to make the decision. Somehow we have to have a way of finding out the information we need to make decisions and we need it now.

Jim Gallagher – On the associated, immediate drawdown, we'll take back what we heard tonight and we'll be, it's me, collectively working with, you know, our experts, the others here in operations. We'll be making, we'll inform you by the end of the week, next week.

Steve Ellis – By the end of the week. Will you commit to distributing this information by means that we can all get it?

Jim Gallagher – Yeah, that's been the challenge so whatever you suggest there. We been communicating a lot through the association. We've been public noticing these meetings and that hasn't been very effective. We've got a mailing list now I think of the people that signed up. Nancy do we have their email addresses?

Nancy Baillargeon – yes

Jim Gallagher- so we can do something along those lines.

Steve Ellis – Can you make a commitment tonight to send out an email of this notification?

Jim Gallagher – yup

Steve Ellis – That's a yes. Ok thank you (audience talking)

So just to answer your question, I'm Boyd Smith from the Newfound Region Association. We can put whatever you want to share about tonight and the plan through the fall on to our website as well (cant' make out everything that's said) The websites the easiest to remember it's Newfoundlake.org. One word, so Jim when we get that stuff from you guys we'll put it up on the website, (something about a box) that is about lake levels. And we'll put a big, well whatever we can it sounds like it's being tested (can't make out what's being said)

Jim Gallagher – Any other, any other comments?

Man from audience – just totally separate one. So I've been tracking and plotting this data since early in the spring, and I find it kind of difficult. We get the data from the DES

Jim Gallagher – yup

Man from audience - and it's in terms of the absolute elevation, that the sea level elevation, but the information that you're communicating, this information, is in terms of the gage level which is not how DES communicates it. So it's kind of a pain in the butt to translate this. So I've been looking at things, 580 feet that sort of thing

Jim Gallagher – yup

Man in audience - and finding that and sourcing that, but it's a so I understand this is how you manage it?

Jim Gallagher – yeah

Man in audience - But if we want to track it ourselves the way we have to track it is, you know we track it, through the public, open source data in DES so there's a cognitive dissonance there. And the only way I can back work it is to go through like the lake association's data that says this means this and this means this.

Jim Gallagher – The conversion is on that web page too though, right. The chart has that conversion, what the gage is

Dan Mattaini – I think it's just one number. You just subtract one number

Jim Gallagher – right but the, I hear what you're saying

Conversation in audience

Man in audience – I'm not sure it's on the webpage

Conversation in the audience

Jim Gallagher – ok, I hear you. I thought that conversion was on that web site and that that chart was

Man in audience - 587.88 is 6 feet on the gage. If they talk 6 feet, drawing do to 3 feet if you could provide that used to be 587.88 feet above sea level. You said you if you drop that 3 that that's how you convert it.

Jim Gallagher – Right, but at least that conversion ought to be on the web page if it's not. And I hear what you're saying the table, if you pull the table out, the table is in NGVD, it's in elevation and not gage reading

Man in audience – right

Jim Gallagher – yeah I hear you, ok but I think it's something we can look at, yup, be consistent, yup. Yes sir

Hi Steve down in Bristol. Just a comment is that we have what appeared to be a lot of people here, but there really isn't a lot of people that are upset here and that haven't been at any of the meetings and there's got to be a better way if we really want input, to get input from everybody. We can say we're going to put it on the web site. Not everybody looks at the website. I'm sorry I still have a flip phone. I can't even get on the internet and I'm not alone. There's a lot of people, you know everything's just so, yeah see he does too. A lot of people say, oh social media, that's going to take care of everything. Well I'm sorry there's nothing better than an envelope, and a mail, a vote, some kind of a referendum. Some way to get everybody's opinion other than social media, advertising on web sites, that here's going to be a meeting.

Audience talking

Jim Gallagher – yup, great, yup that's a suggestion. Thank for that comment. Yeah I agree. Well, any others? We can start our weekend? (Audience clapping)

Man in audience – Just one question. I'm really confused now. So what is the plan Tuesday? Are you waiting till the end of next week to make a decision?

Jim Gallagher – No

Audience conversation

Man in audience – or is he going to pull the plug on Tuesday and start draining the lake? Which is it?

Audience conversation

Jim Gallagher – The, well as you can see, as you can see even if we were to pull the plug, we're still going to be above what we were, what our guide is and what we are on average. Even if we were to pull the plug on Tuesday. We're still going to be

Man in audience – You're talking one week sir where you're pointing to.

Jim Gallagher – right, so what I'm saying

Audience conversation

Man in audience – I wouldn't do it till here

Jim Gallagher – yeah

Man in audience – or wait until this

Man in audience – but hold on, the question sir, the question was, you just said about five minutes ago, you were going to take what was a lot of feedback here

Jim Gallagher – yeah right

Man in audience – I heard feedback on both sides

Jim Gallagher – yeah, right

Man in audience - because I'm being completely honest I heard more negatives than positives, but that said, you said you were going to take the feedback back

Jim Gallagher – yeah right

Man in audience – make a decision, communicate your decision basis and your result to everybody. That can not happen by Tuesday, I'm sure

Jim Gallagher – no, no, no. All I was pointing out, no, what I can do, what I can do

Man in audience – so again, and the question is, what is the plan? Are you pulling the plug on Tuesday or are you going to take all this feedback into consideration and are communicate a plan to us?

Jim Gallagher – Yeah on Friday, about what we’re going to do about the drawdown. Yup, nope the timing of the drawdown, what we’re going to be doing about that. That’s all I just wanted to point out is...

(audience conversation)

Man in audience – Friday? Today is Friday right? (audience conversation)

Jim Gallagher – next week

Man in audience - one week you’re going to give us a communicated plan about whether we’re going to go forward with this or not.

Jim Gallagher – yeah, but not, only about the timing of the drawdown, or how we may stage the drawdown. And then we may keep it the way it is. You know you got to be prepared for that too. We may keep the schedule and see how it does affect everybody. All right. But all I’m saying to you is

Man in audience – I still don’t know what the plan is, I’m sorry I

Audience conversation

Jim Gallagher - Yeah, yeah you do. Friday. You’ll know Friday what we’re going to do.

Man in audience – ok , but the plan was to pull it Tuesday

Jim Gallagher – if we pull the plug

Man in audience – you’re not going to run the plan. You’re going to keep the feedback, you’re going to get to us on Friday and let us know what the new plan is.

Jim Gallagher – Yup, but if we were to pull the plug you’d be higher. Your elevation would be higher for a couple of weeks than it was last year, and on average, if we were to pull the plug today. The fact of the matter is for the next week, two weeks, maybe even three weeks it’d been higher, the level will be higher than it is on average for the last 35, 36, 37 years.

Man in audience – would you commit to at least communicating to us

Jim Gallagher – yeah

Man in audience – when we get to

Jim Gallagher – that’s what I said

Man in audience – before Columbus day then?

Jim Gallagher – No, I’m going to be telling you what we’re going to be doing Friday, a week from today, what we’re going to be doing.

Man in audience – I hope there’s still water in there

Audience conversation

Another man in audience – Just a quick point that a year ago there were 120 people at the hearing. There were as many people as tonight. That counted. There were 34 people who spoke for lower levels. There was one person who spoke for higher. That doesn’t make what’s true true. But it does mean that all the input has to be talked about and I do think there’s a compromise out there folks. We’ve got to keep talking.

Man in audience – I just want to make a counterpoint to that. The meeting last year was organized by the people, the thirty people that signed the petition. (audience talking) The people on the negative side of this had no idea any of this was coming down, this time last year. (audience talking) so there’s your 34 people to one (audience conversation)

My name is Martha Marshall. I was here at the meeting last year. I don’t believe I spoke one way or the other, but I am against the drawdown. So that would be two people that are against the drawdown. Maybe three cause (audience conversation) I want the drawdown?

Woman in audience- we didn’t know about it (audience conversation)

Martha Marshall – So my thing last year, and I go back to this again. This is a dam level meeting and we bring in environmentalist. So I will ask you what DES does about the cutting of the trees all around the lake front. What impact does that have on the purity of the water? What do pulling out stumps when people make their houses bigger, what does that do to the quality of the water? (Audience conversation) There are a bunch of different places in DES that should be handling the quality of the water, not this meeting. But I am against this drastic drawdown because it’s too much too soon.

Jim Gallagher – Thank you (audience conversation) Well thank you very much for coming and this was all very valuable input. Thank you again. (audience conversation and clapping)

LAKE LEVEL HEARING NEWFOUND LAKE

AUGUST 30, 2019



Statutory Authority

◆ RSA 482:79-83

- Authorizes Department of Environmental Services to conduct investigations of “conditions affecting the use and enjoyment of any public water” in response to complaint of not less than 10 owners of property on any inland public water in the state
- If “changes in the manner of the exercise of the right and management of control would be of benefit to others without undue injury to the owner of the outlet, (DES) shall direct such changes as in its opinion would be of benefit to the public and private interests concerned.”



HISTORY AND WATER RIGHTS



1848 – dam constructed by Bristol Water Co.

1934 – owned by Newfound Power Co.

1938 – owned by PSNH

1973 – PSNH sells dam to State of New Hampshire for \$1 plus \$50k for needed repairs

State acquired all land and water rights from previous owners:

- 2.24' NMHWL
- Fee Ownership or Flowage Rights to 7.24'

Height = 12 feet
Length = 120 feet
Three 6' x 6' gates
11 stoplog bays



11/22/2016

WATER MANAGEMENT HISTORY

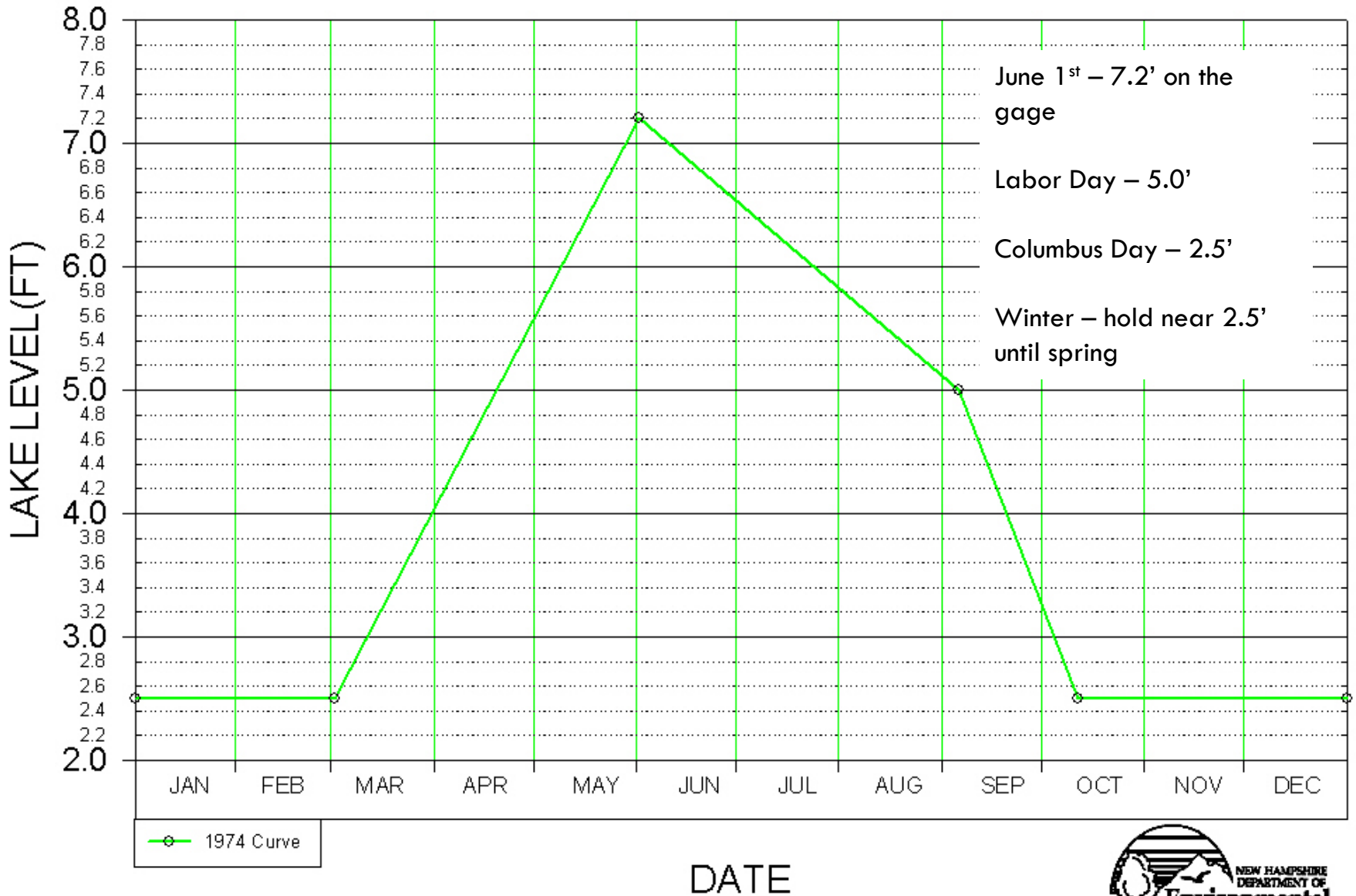
In 1971 the State received a petition requesting a review of PSNH's water management practices. The petition indicated that water withdrawals from April through August caused the lake to drop up to 6 feet in some years.

The petition sought to change management to conserve spring flows to allow for higher levels from April through September.

The State conducted a public hearing in 1974.

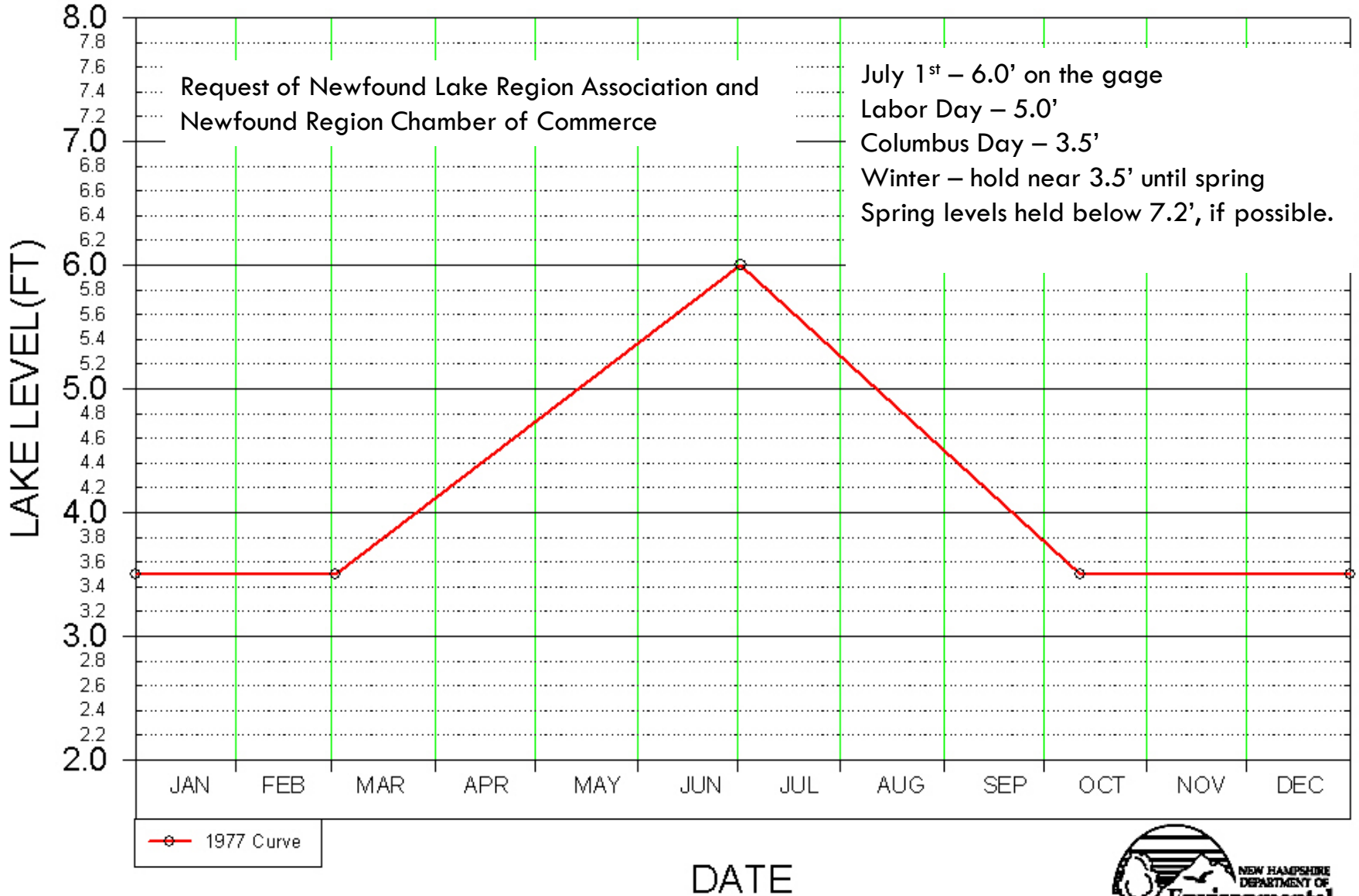
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NEWFOUND LAKE



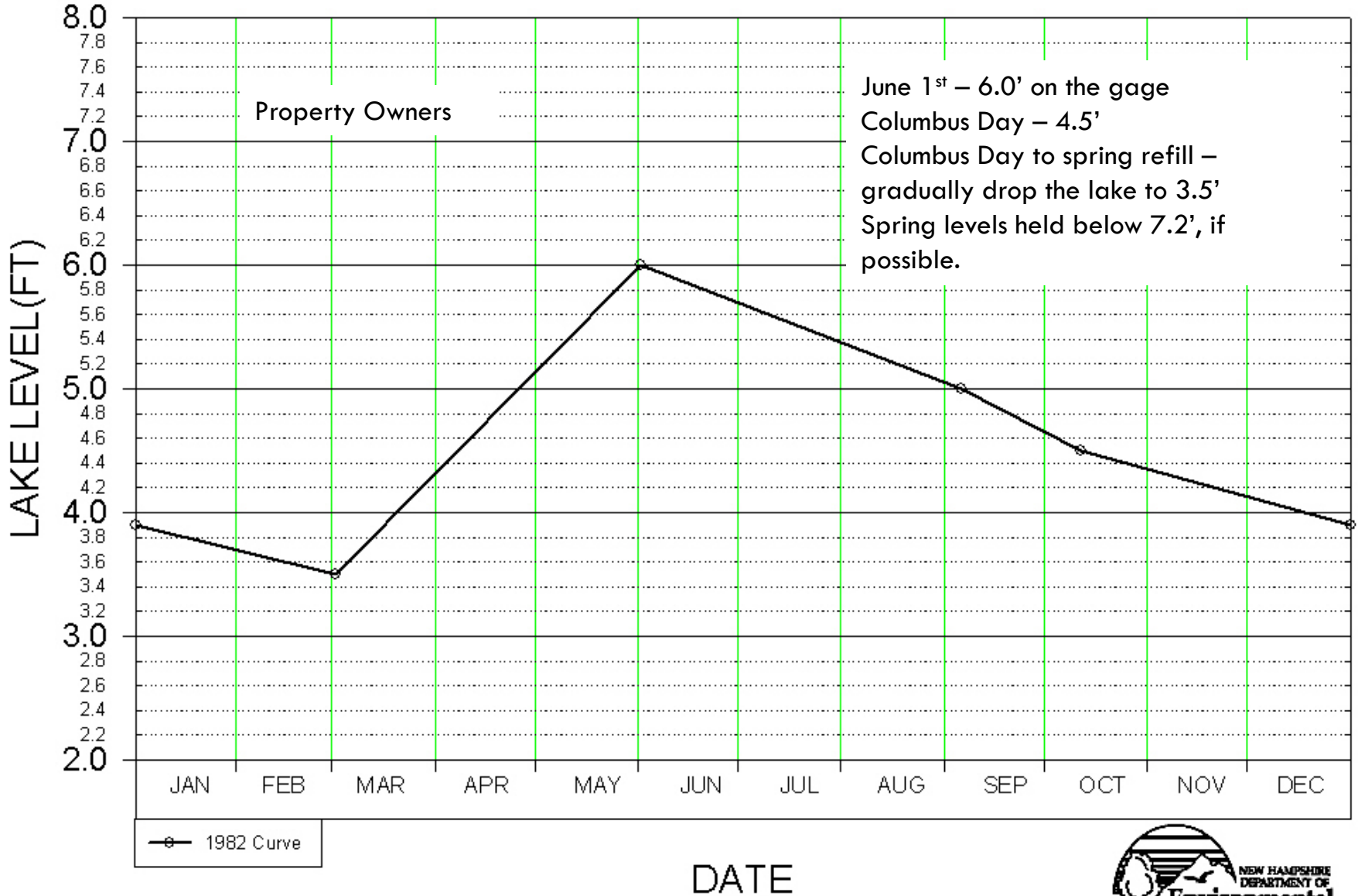
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NEWFOUND LAKE



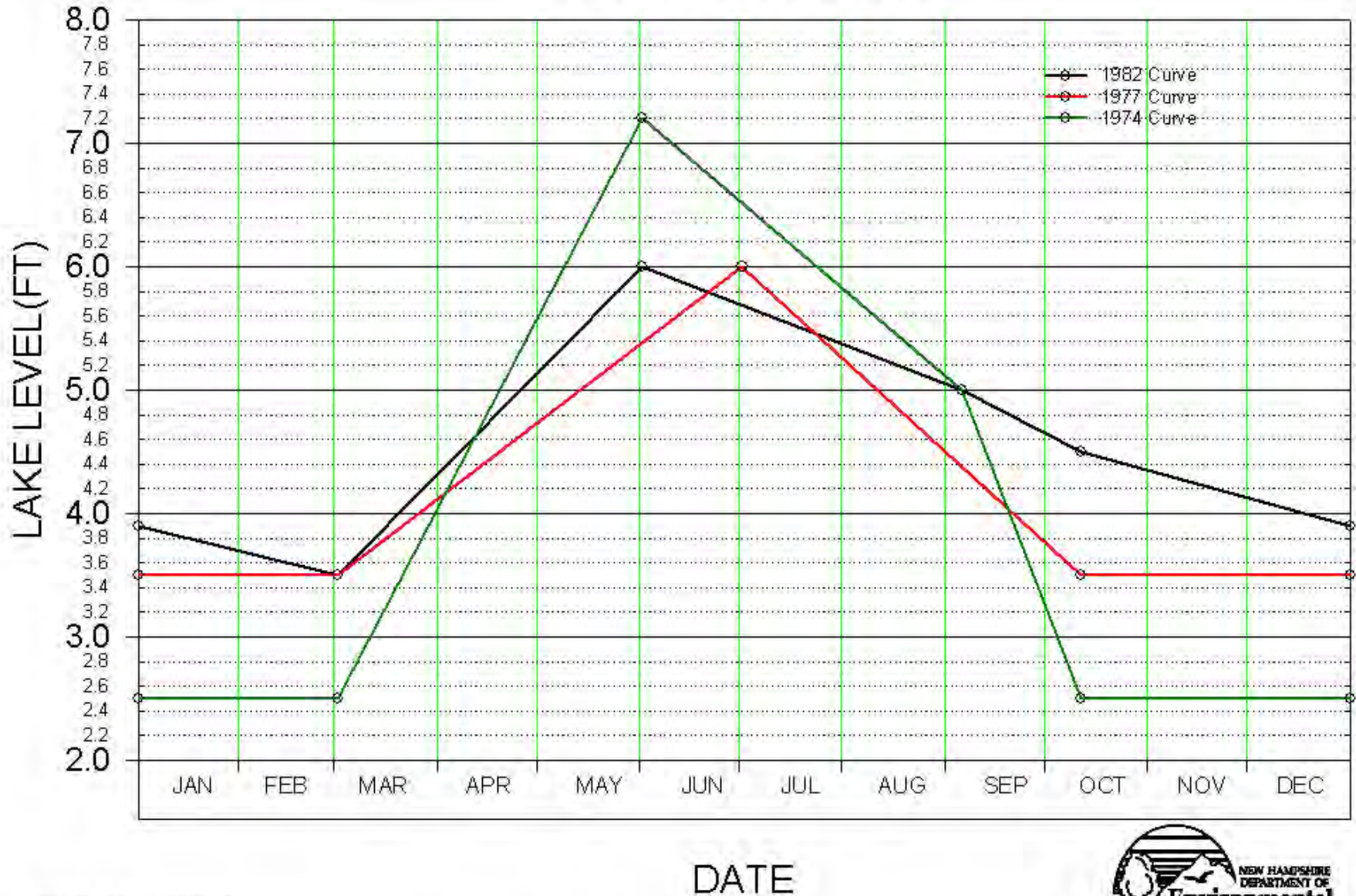
ELEV. 0.0' ON GAGE = 581.88' NGVD ELEV.

NEWFOUND LAKE



ELEV. 0.0' ON GAGE = 581.88' NGVD ELEV.

NEWFOUND LAKE



Current Lake Level Investigation

◆ Petition received on May 1, 2018

- 30 signatories
- Newfound Lake Region Association
- Bridgewater Selectmen
- Town of Bristol
- Town of Hebron
- NH Audubon



Current Lake Level Investigation

◆ Recommended Lake Level Elevations

- June 1st - 5.5 feet
- Labor Day - 5.5 feet
- Columbus Day to March 30 – 3.0 feet



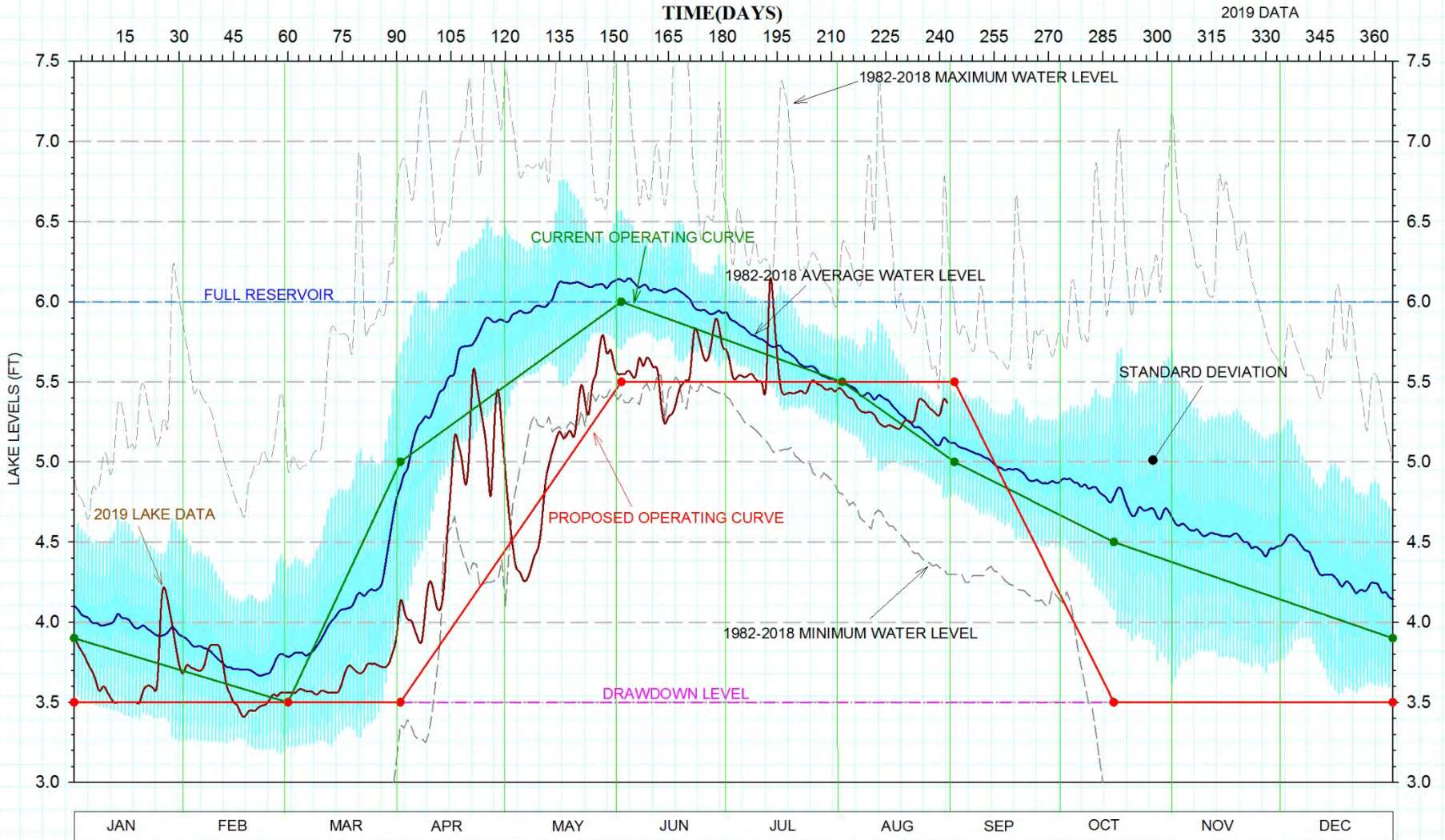
Current Lake Level Investigation

◆ Lake Level Hearings

- August 28, 2018 - Bridgewater Town Hall
- February 26, 2019 - Bristol Library
- August 30, 2019 – Bridgewater Town Hall



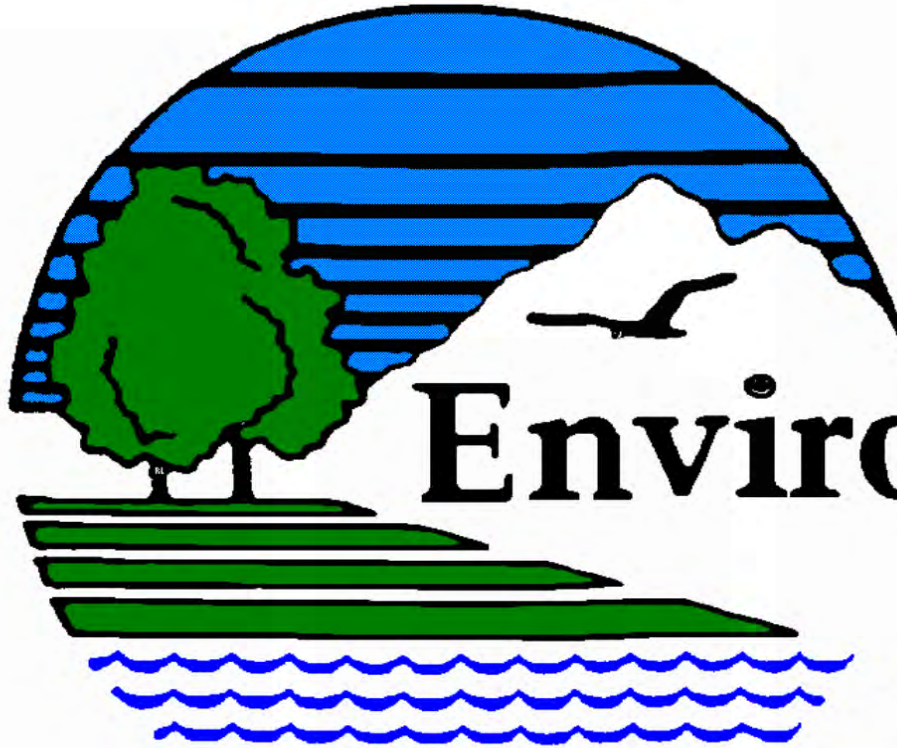
NEWFOUND LAKE LEVEL DATA



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT-JR
WINPRESENTATION.JNB

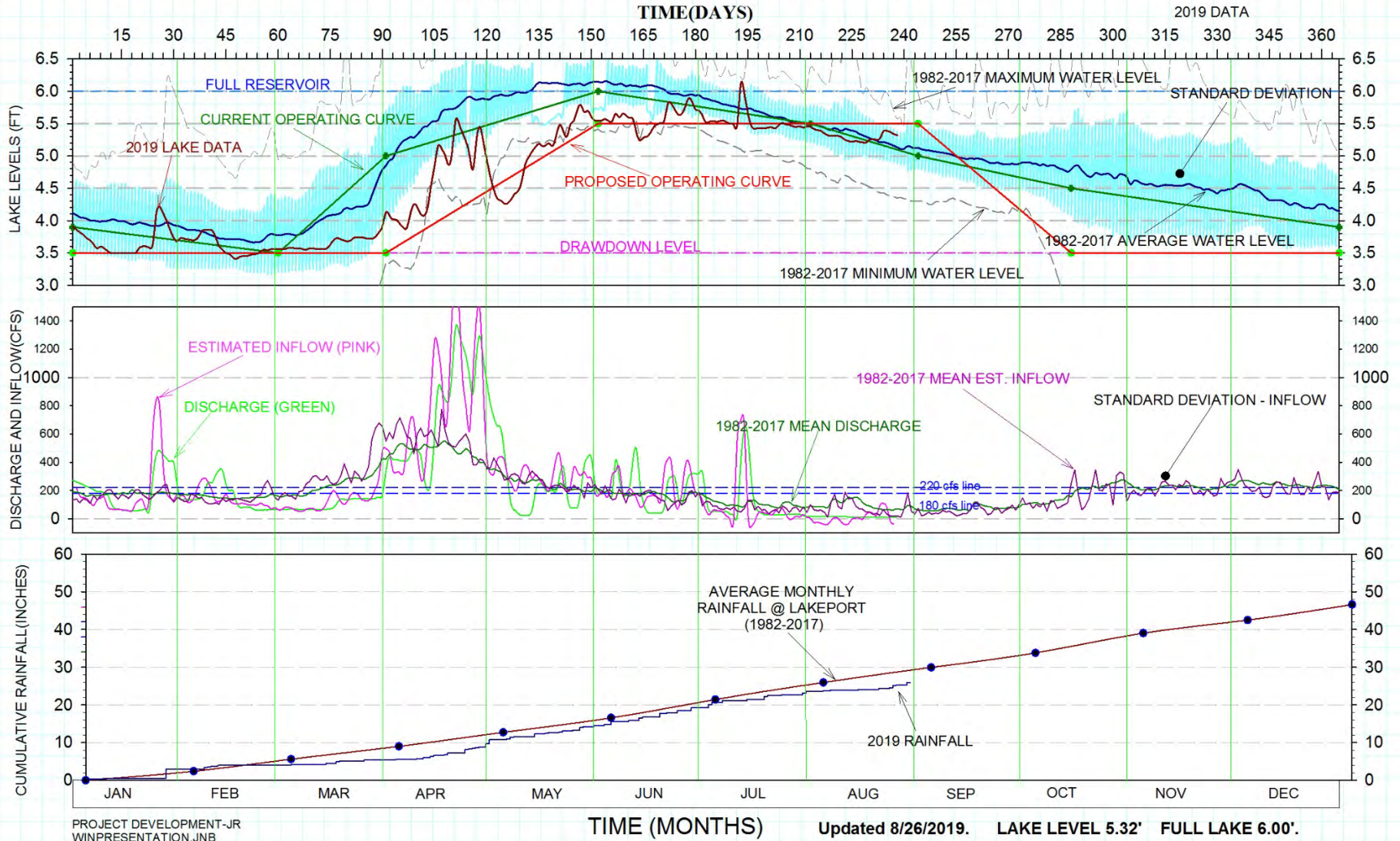
Updated 8/30/2019. LAKE LEVEL 5.37' FULL LAKE 6.00'.

TIME (MONTHS)



NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF
**Environmental
Services**
Water Division
Dam Bureau

NEWFOUND LAKE LEVEL DATA



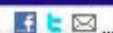
Displaying July 12, 2019 1-Day Observed Precipitation
Valid on: July 12, 2019 12:00 UTC



Print this map

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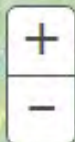
BOOKMARK



What is UTC time?

Map Help

Find address or location

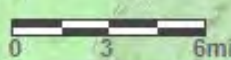
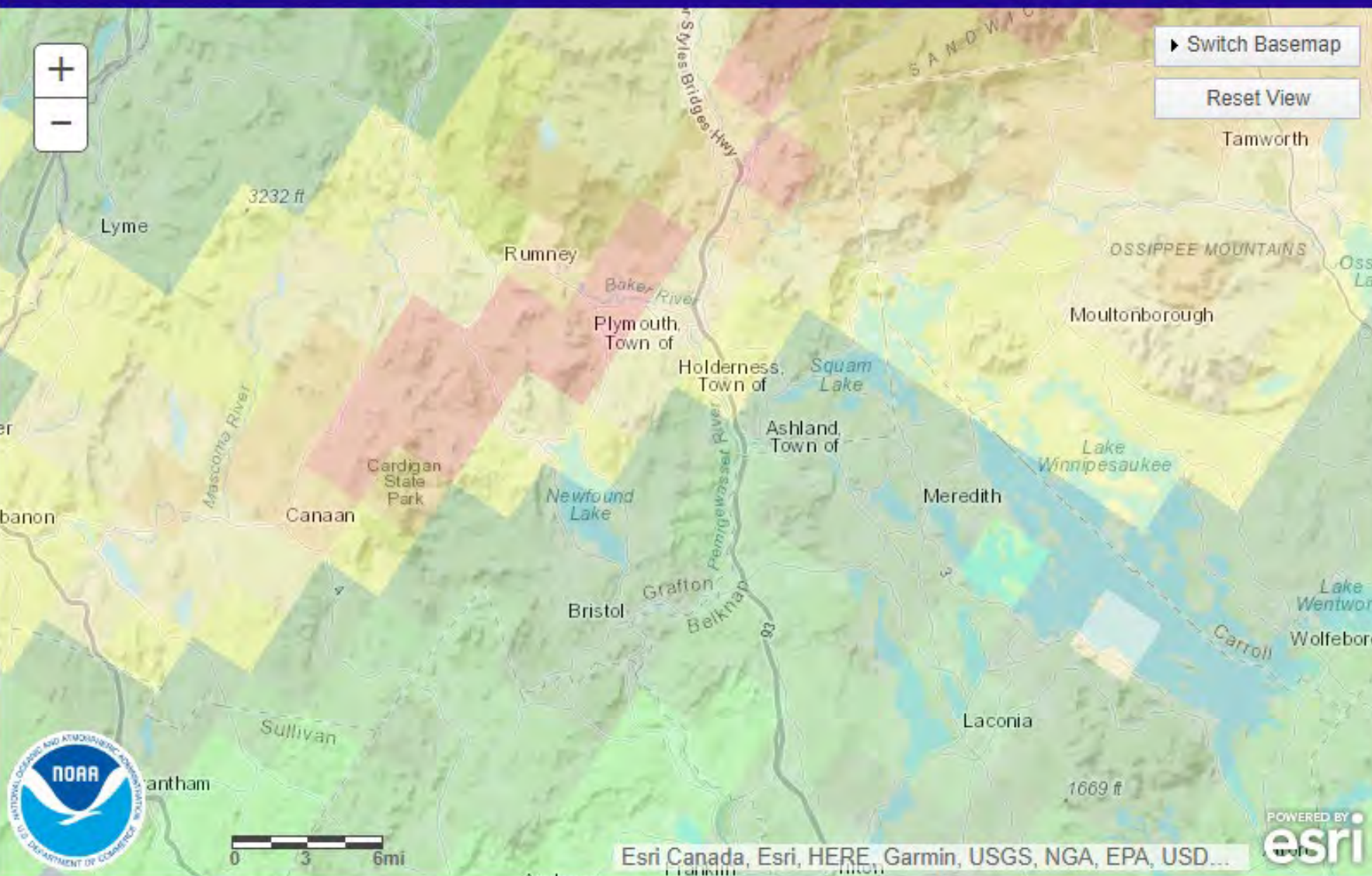


Switch Basemap

Reset View



Inches



Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA, EPA, USD...

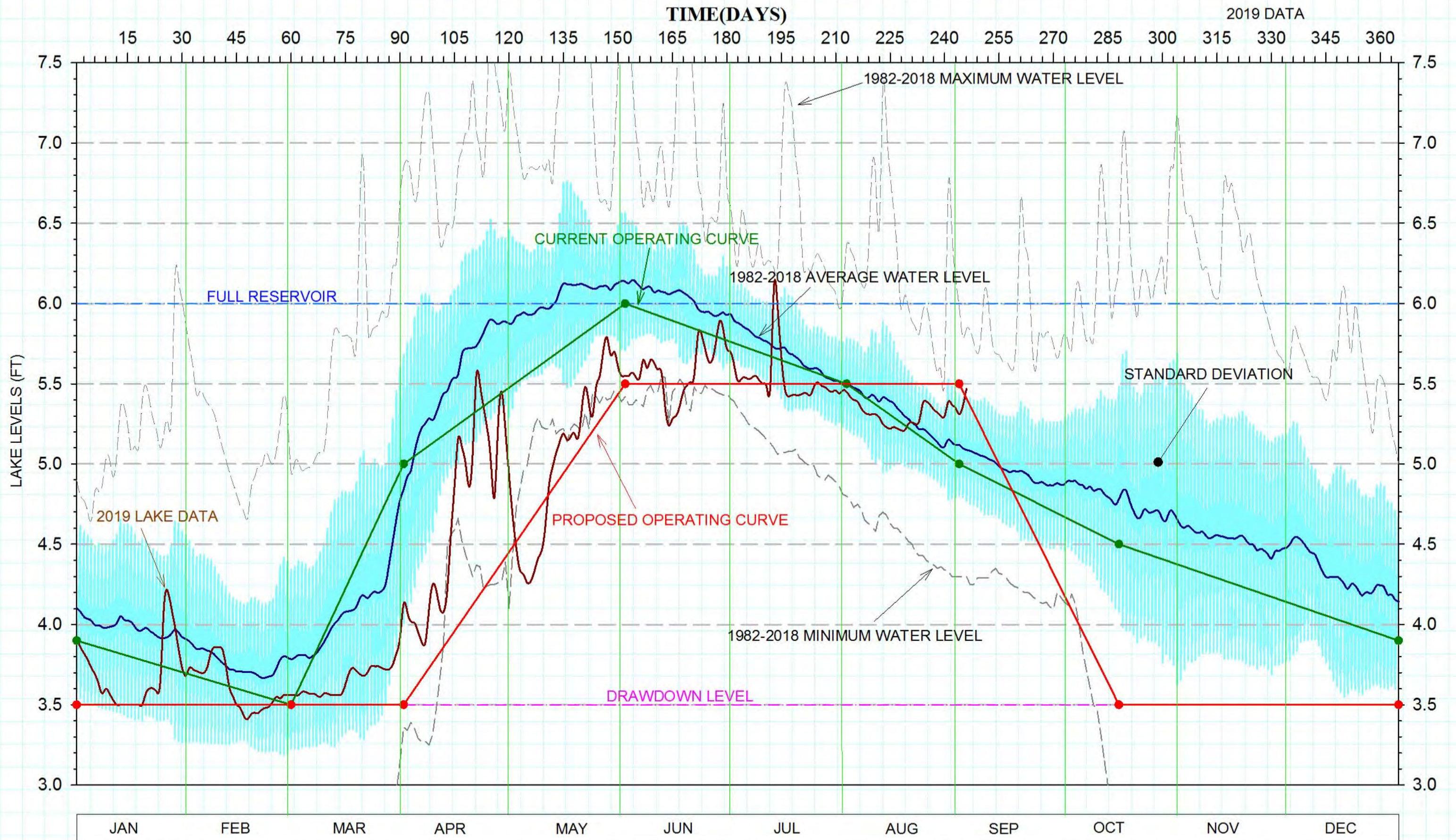


Download the full resolution version of the current map for

(4000x2250 pixels)

Generate Image

NEWFOUND LAKE LEVEL DATA





The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

**In re: Newfound Lake
Bristol, Alexandria,
Bridgewater and Hebron
New Hampshire**

**NOTICE OF DECISION
MODIFICATION OF INTERIM
OPERATING CURVE**

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is currently conducting a Lake Level Investigation into the control of the outlet of Newfound Lake. The Lake Level Investigation is being conducted under the authority of RSA 482:79 and in accordance with Administrative Rule Env-Wr 700 Lake Level Determinations, and was initiated in response to a petition of 38 shorefront property owners including the Newfound Lake Region Association; the Towns of Hebron, Bridgewater and Bristol; and the Audubon Society. The purpose of the requested Lake Level Investigation is to determine the effect of high lake levels on erosion around the lake shore.

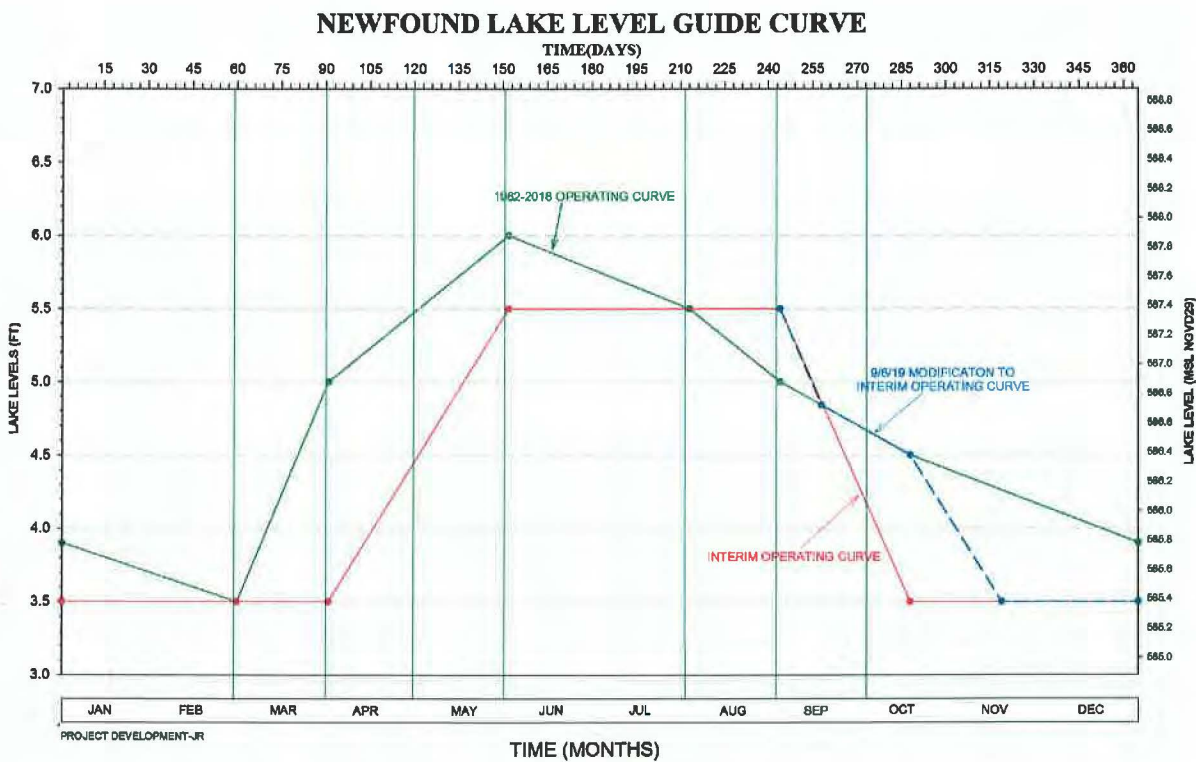
To determine if lake levels are having an effect on lakeshore erosion, NHDES agreed to operate the dam at the outlet of the lake in accordance with an Interim Operating Curve requested by the petitioners for the Lake Level Investigation, to maintain, to the extent possible, a lower level than that maintained for the past 36 years under an operating curve established as a result of a previous Lake Level Investigation in 1982. Under the Interim Operating Curve, refill of the lake is delayed a month from March 1st to April 1st; the lake is filled to a gauge elevation of 5.5 feet by June 1st, which is 6 inches below the normal summer level; the level of the lake is maintained at a gauge elevation of 5.5 feet until Labor Day, instead of being gradually drawn down during the summer; and the lake is drawn down starting Labor Day to reach gauge elevation 3.5 feet by Columbus Day, instead of starting on Columbus Day as has been done since 1982.

NHDES began implementing the Interim Operating Curve at the beginning of 2019, and held three public meetings to receive public comment from the community on its experiences with the Interim Operating Curve over the year, and how the operation affected the use and enjoyment of the lake. The dates of the meetings were August 28, 2018, February 26, 2019 and August 30, 2019. Based on comments received during those public meetings, particularly during the most recent public meeting, as well as written comments received before and since, NHDES has

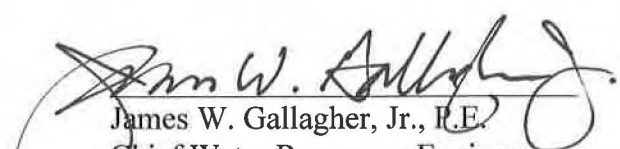
www.des.nh.gov

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determined that the earlier drawdown called for under the Interim Operating Curve has a negative impact on the use and enjoyment of the lake for a significant number of lake users. As a result, NHDES has decided to modify the Interim Operating Curve so that the lake is no lower on Columbus Day than it would be in accordance with the 1982 Operating Curve, under which the lake level has been managed from 1982 through 2018. Under the Modified Interim Operating Curve, the lake will be drawn down to its full drawdown depth of 3.5 feet by mid-November to reduce the risk of lakeshore flooding during the months of November and December when inflows to the lake increase. The 1982 Operating Curve, the 2019 Interim Operating Curve and the 2019 Modified Interim Operating Curve, under which the lake level will be managed for at least the remainder of the year, are shown in the figure below.



Date: 9/6/19


 James W. Gallagher, Jr., P.E.
 Chief Water Resources Engineer
 Department of Environmental Services