

# New Hampshire Council on Resources and Development

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## **DRAFT Minutes November 16, 2017**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jared Chicoine, Chair, Director, NH Office of Strategic Initiatives  
Robert Beaulac, Designee, NH Department of Administrative Services  
Tracey Boisvert, Designee, NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
Richard Cook, Designee, NH Fish and Game Department  
Timothy Drew, Designee, NH Department of Environmental Services  
Steve LaBonte, Designee, NH Department of Transportation  
Lorraine Merrill, Commissioner, NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Foods  
Marta Modigliani, Designee, NH Department of Safety  
William Ray, Designee, NH Housing Finance Authority

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Commissioner Jeffrey Rose, NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
Elizabeth Muzzey, Director, Division of Historical Resources  
Brad Simpkins, Director, Division of Forests and Lands  
Will Guinn, Administrator, Forest Management Bureau (DNCR)  
Maggie Machinist, Northern Regional Forester (DNCR)  
Jim O'Brien, The Nature Conservancy  
Susan Arnold, Appalachian Mountain Club  
Matt Leahy, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests  
Tom Quarles, Chair, NH Public Waters Access Advisory Board  
Mike Metcalf, Underwood Engineers  
Jared Nylund, Real Property Asset Manager, NH Department of Administrative Services  
Susan Slack, NH Office of Strategic Initiatives  
Michael Klass, NH Office of Strategic Initiatives  
Stephen Walker, NH Office of Strategic Initiatives  
Amanda Hollenbeck, NH Office of Strategic Initiatives  
Ken Gallager, NH Office of Strategic Initiatives

## **I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was opened at 9:32 a.m. by Chairman Chicoine. CORD members and guests introduced themselves.

## **II. MINUTES**

### **A. Approval of September 14, 2017 meeting minutes**

Chairman Chicoine asked if there were additions or corrections to the minutes of the September 14, 2017 CORD meeting. Mr. Drew pointed out that a correction was needed in the first paragraph, fourth line under Section V.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Mr. Beaulac, seconded by Ms. Muzzey, the September 14, 2017 meeting minutes with Mr. Drew's proposed amendment were approved. Ms. Modigliani and Mr. LaBonte abstained.

## **III. Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) – Nash Stream Forest**

Mr. Simpkins reviewed the process followed by the Division of Forests and Lands to update and revise the 10-year Nash Stream Forest Management Plan. Handouts of his presentation were provided to CORD members before the meeting. He said the four-year revision process began with discussions with the Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee in 2013 and included updates for CORD in July 2016 and CORD's December 2016 decisions on ATV/UTV trail use in NSF, which are included in the plan's Recreation Chapter.

Mr. Simpkins said drafts of the management plan were produced, and public meetings were held, followed by the collection of public comments. After the first draft was made public, 163 comments were received, which were categorized into nine topic areas. After the second draft, 20 comments were received, including five from state agencies. In response to comments received, Mr. Simpkins said several changes were made to the plan, which he highlighted in his presentation to CORD members. They included: restoring the history of public comments from the original 1995 management plan, which appears as Appendix A in the final revision; information on several forest management policy issues, including areas suitable for timber harvesting; the addition of a Climate Change chapter near the beginning of the plan to highlight its importance; public use guidelines on bear baiting that defers to consultation with Fish & Game biologists and enforcement staff on whether it will be permitted in the future.

Mr. Simpkins said the Recreation Chapter includes the process established by CORD's December 2016 Findings for the establishment and use of ATV/UTV trails, including a proposed Southern Connector, which if approved would require a three-year provisional period similar to provisional periods for the Kelsey Notch and West Side Trails.

Mr. Simpkins said the final draft of the management plan was approved by the Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee in November.

Mr. Simpkins also referred to the two OHRV enforcement reports received from Chief Steven Sherman (DNCR, Forest Protection) and Lt. Wayne Saunders (Fish & Game) for the West Side and Kelsey Notch Trails for the past season. The reports were provided to CORD members. They highlight the limited staffing available for enforcement.

Mr. Simpkins called on Northern Regional Forester Maggie Machinist to discuss the Kelsey Notch Trail Environmental Compliance report. She said the Kelsey Notch Trail was open for seasonal use in June 2017, rather than May, because of wet spring conditions and late snow melt. She said the Trails Bureau spread 104 loads of gravel on the most eastern section of the trail as well as the hill near the kiosk heading toward Colebrook. Ms. Machinist said there was some minor erosion on the trail heads northwest toward the boundary when it was inspected in August. It was suggested that gravel be added to the steep section of the trail to prevent erosion or water diversion devices be installed. Overall, Ms. Machinist said the Kelsey Notch Trail shows some wear but appears to be holding up well. She said the October inspection showed some minor sedimentation at a bridge crossing but it was determined that it was washing into ditches rather than into the water courses. She said continued regular maintenance is the best way to prevent erosion. As a result of the inspections, several recommendations were made, including additional culverts and rubber water diversion devices. She said the trail appears to be in compliance with expectations, and that monitoring will continue next season.

The enforcement reports and the Kelsey Notch Compliance report are required by the Memoranda of Understanding with the local ATV clubs and CORD's December 2016 Findings regarding the Kelsey Notch Trail.

CORD member Timothy Drew provided Mr. Simpkins with a four-page list of comments on the NSF management plan, which were provided to other CORD members and will be attached to these minutes.

Mr. Chicoine suggested the following motion:

That the Council finds the September 2017 final draft Nash Stream Forest Management Plan, prepared by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, to be consistent with the principles of RSA 162-C and that the Council accepts the Management Plan.

Mr. Chicoine asked if there was further discussion or questions. Mr. O'Brien thanked the Division of Forests and Lands for providing responses to the public's comments and concerns. He said the result of the long management plan process was the creation of a good document and that The Nature Conservancy was supportive of it. Ms. Arnold added that the Appalachian Mountain Club agreed with Mr. O'Brien's comments and appreciated the responsiveness of the Division of Forests and Lands.

**ACTION:** On a motion by Mr. Beaulac, seconded by Mr. Cook, the Council voted unanimously for the motion as read by Mr. Chicoine.

#### **IV. DISPOSAL OF STATE-OWNED SURPLUS LAND**

It was decided to consider SLR 17-007 prior to SLR 17-006.

##### **A. HAMPTON – SLR 17-007**

Request from the Department of Administrative Services to convey to Aquarion Water Company of New Hampshire, Inc. a perpetual water line easement for the construction, installation, operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of a water supply main and any related fixtures or equipment as may be necessary to provide water service to the Hampton Circuit Court facility to be constructed along the eastern side of Timber Swamp Road in Hampton.

Mr. Nylund said the request is for a typical water utility easement and explained that the parcel was created along an Interstate 95 right-of-way from DOT property that was transferred to the Department of Administrative Services for construction of the circuit court facility. The permanent easement will be on the southern boundary of the parcel 20 feet in width, plus 5 feet on either side for access. He said Aquarion is the local water supplier.

Mr. Chicoine noted that the public comment period for this request doesn't close until November 20, 2017. Comments received to date are from: the Division of Historical Resources, which has no objection as there are no properties of known or potential archaeological, historical, architectural or engineering significance involved; the Lakes Management Advisory Committee and the Rivers Management Advisory Committee, which stated the property is not subject to their review as it is not within 250 feet of a lake or river; and the Department of Environmental Services, which supports the proposal and stated that all environmental permits must be obtained before construction begins.

**ACTION:** On a motion by Ms. Modigliani, seconded by Mr. Drew, the Council voted unanimously to recommend SLR 17-007, subject to no adverse comments received by the close of the public comment period on November 20, 2017.

Mr. Chicoine left the meeting and Mr. Beaulac agreed to serve as chair.

##### **B. STEWARTSTOWN – SLR 17-006**

Ms. Boisvert said the request is for a 10-foot wide by 1,700-linear-foot utility easement under an existing land trail in Coos County to provide water to the Coos County Complex. Mr. Metcalf, representing the engineers on the project, explained that the Department of Environmental Services had found significant deficiencies in the county facility's water supply system, which depend on a well and storage tank, and said that the best solution was to extend the town's water supply system to the county facility. He said the original plan was to extend the water main along Route 3, but DOT opposed having the line run under the highway pavement. He said the best route for the water main was on the nearby Upper Coos Recreation Trail, also known as the North Stratford-Beecher Falls Branch Railroad.

Mr. Beaulac noted that the public comment period for this SLR closed on October 23, 2017. Comments were received from: the Division of Historical Resources, which had no objection and

said there were no properties of known or potential archaeological, historical, architectural or engineering significance involved; the Lakes Management Advisory Committee, which said the property was not subject to its review; the Rivers Management Advisory Committee, which said that although the property is within 250 of a river, it had no comment; and the Department of Environmental Services, which strongly supports project, said the project has received funding through the 2017 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and that DES has approved the engineer's preliminary design report.

**ACTION:** On a motion by Ms. Modigliani, seconded by Mr. Cook, the Council voted unanimously to recommend SLR 17-006.

**V. Land Conservation Stewardship Program Update** – Steve Walker, Conservation Land Stewardship Program Director

Mr. Walker provided a brief update on the status of the Land Conservation Stewardship Program. He said he recently took over the Director position from Ms. Boisvert, who is now with the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Mr. Walker introduced Amanda Hollenbeck, who was recently hired to fill his previous position as Stewardship Specialist.

Mr. Walker said the draft annual report of the monitoring and status of land interests acquired through the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) will be presented to CORD for approval at the January 2018 meeting.

He also updated CORD on an encroachment enforcement issue involving LCIP property at Swanzey Lake as well as a possible conservation easement amendment involving farmland in Pittsburg, which may soon come before CORD for approval.

**VI. PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD** – Tom Quarles, Esq., Chairman

Mr. Quarles gave a presentation to the Council on the role of the PWAAB, established by RSA 233-A. Among its duties is to advise CORD and alert it to any potential problems that may inhibit state public water access efforts. He provided CORD with copies of PWAAB's 2017 annual report and discussed the history of the public water access program and PWAAB's efforts to map public water access sites through the GIS efforts of Ken Gallager, Principal Planner at the Office of Strategic Initiatives. Mr. Quarles said PWAAB's efforts have been concentrated on the 35 lakes of 500 acres or more. He pointed out that there are only two public boat access sites on Lake Winnepesaukee, the state's largest lake. Mr. Quarles said PWAAB has shared information with DNCR for the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). He said PWAAB is working on inventorying and analyzing public access on the state's 23 major rivers. He also briefly discussed the status of the public boat access at the Wild Goose site on Lake Sunapee and the recent establishment of a Governor's Commission to study public access on Lake Sunapee.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Meeting dates for 2018 were set. They are:

January 11  
May 10  
September 13

March 8  
July 12  
November 8

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jared Chicoine, Chair  
Director, NH Office of Strategic Initiatives

JC/ss