

Warner River Local Advisory Committee

5 East Main St., PO Box 265, Warner, NH 03278

warnerriverlac@gmail.com

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Pillsbury Free Library (Lower Level)

18 E Main St, Warner, NH 03278

Appointed WRLAC Representatives present (Term Ends), those present in **bold**:

Bruce Edwards, Bradford (10-8-2021)

Scott MacLean, Bradford (10-8-2021)

Carol Meise, Bradford (10-8-2021)

Ken Milender, Warner (11-26-2021)

Laura Russell, Warner (11-26-2021)

Susan Roman, Webster (10-12-2021)

Christopher Spannweitz, Warner (11-26-2021)

Doug Giles, Hopkinton (11-26-2021)

Linden Rayton, Hopkinton (11-26-2021)

J. Michael Norris, Hopkinton (11-26-2021)

David White, Hopkinton (11-26-2021)

Guests

Tracie Sales – DES RMPP

Ted Diers – DES Watershed Mgmt. Bureau Administration

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Continuing Business

1. Meeting minutes

December 19, 2018 meeting minutes approved 8-0 with one abstention

January 31, 2019 meeting minutes approved 9-0

Discussion about how to proceed with reconstructing February 27, 2019 minutes, as the notes were taken by former Acting Chair Connors who resigned effective March 8, 2019. The Committee agreed to each review their recollection of the meeting in order to reconstruct as much as possible. It is possible that referring to Chris Connors's meeting agenda of February 27 could help with this. Ken said he would send out a draft asking for input from each representative who attended that meeting.

2. Bylaws

The Committee finished drafting the Bylaws. Ken will prepare a final draft for the Committee's review.

Reviewing the bylaws prompted other discussion topics.

→ WRLAC membership – other stakeholders can be included, such as dam owners, watershed residents, etc. Tracie reminded the Committee that it is open to nominations of anyone who is a stakeholder.

→ Finances: Some LACs request donations from Corridor towns to offset administrative costs to the Committee, such as photocopying documents when necessary.

→ Discussion also included the fact that some LACs have their own websites. Tracie estimates that about half of the LACs do. Some use Facebook. Laura noted that Chris Connors developed a very useful and extensive website during the Warner River Nomination process. Perhaps we could ask her about her thoughts on its purpose going forward?

→ Discussion about the number of Committee members needed for a quorum that this Committee has set: 2/3 (8 members based on the current make-up of the Committee) of the Committee must be present to vote. Tracie noted that this is a higher standard than some organizations. The Committee noted that this high standard would help ensure that there was appropriate town representation when votes were taken.

→ Susan noted that some committees have alternate representatives, and whether that concept might be something to consider if there is ever a problem with attendance in the future. [Sec'y's note: It occurs to me that the attendance problem may already be addressed in the by-laws.]

→ It was noted as in other meetings that it would be great to have more representatives on this LAC from Webster (in addition to Susan) and some representatives from Sutton.

3. Election of Officers

President: **Ken Milender**, Warner (11-26-2021)

Vice President: **Bruce Edwards**, Bradford (10-8-2021) (Bruce will also represent the WRLAC at CHNRPC)

Secretary: **Laura Russell**, Warner (11-26-2021)

Treasurer: **David White**, Hopkinton (11-26-2021)

4. Summary: I-89 Project

[NHDOT replied in detail](#) to the Committee's letter, which was sent by former Chair Connors in February.

5. Summary: Warner's Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Priority List

WRLAC strongly urges that WRLAC Reps contact their Town ConComs and prepare their ARM Priority Lists. The ARM Priority Lists are under the jurisdiction of the Town ConComms. The list is a list of wetlands-related restoration projects that would be undertaken by the town should funding be provided. DOT and private developers must pay into the ARM fund when proposing projects that will have wetlands impacts. When these types of projects reach the wetlands permitting stage, Town ConComms assist DES in determining the wetlands impacts. DOT and

developers then pay to mitigate their wetlands impacts. The lists must be ready to submit to DES when projects with potential wetlands impacts reach the wetlands permitting process. If the Town has an ARM Priority List ready, they will get the funds for the restoration projects on their ARM Lists. If no list is ready at that time, the funds are paid into the major river basin ARM funds, and are essentially lost to the Town. The ARM funds from the river basin ARM accounts are disbursed in a round of competitive grants every few years, and the competition for these funds is fierce. WRLAC is available to assist Town ConComms upon request.

- Helpful links: [ARM Fund Program Overview](#), [Aquatic Resource Mitigation Information](#),

Update: The I-89 project has and will have an impact on the Warner River's adjacent wetlands in Warner, as determined by DOT and DES. Because the Warner River did not have an ARM Priority List, the funds that will be paid by DOT to mitigate the impacts to local wetlands will likely be paid directly into the Contoocook River Basin ARM Fund (bypassing any projects that Warner might be considering). However, it's possible that the river could qualify at a later date: the Contoocook River Basin ARM funds will next be available for grant selection during 2020, and we might be able to receive preferential treatment in the qualifying selection process because Warner was not ready at the time the DOT project was announced. Note that these funds would be available through a competitive grant process, whereby all the qualifying projects within the Contoocook basin will be vying for the available funds. There are no guarantees that Warner will receive any funding for any projects during the 2020 grant round. Warner ConComm now has their ARM Priority List ready, has submitted it to DES, and will be ready for the next DOT project! That List was prepared courtesy of WRLAC.

6. Summary: LAC Workshop (23 March 2019)

Ken attended this workshop as the WRLAC representative. We were educated in the finer details of the ARM process, the wetlands rules revisions, instream flow rules and projects, and the interactive designated rivers website. Bruce also attended an earlier ARM workshop, and he said it was very informative.

7. Summary: [Wetlands Rules revision](#) – proposed rules to JLCAR 03/20. Rules expected for adoption later this year. Tabled to next meeting.

No discussion

8. [Warner River VRAP](#) (Volunteer River Assessment Program) – 4 May 2019 workshop announcement; call for volunteers.

Several representatives on the Committee will be participating. Tabled to next meeting

9. Warner River Corridor Management Plan – The basis for our management plan will be the [Warner River Nomination](#) (with appendices and maps), the [DES Guide to River Management Plans](#), [North Branch and Contoocook Management Plan](#). CNHRPC time frame? Volunteer to lead WRLAC efforts, primary contact with CNHRPC (Mike Tardiff)?

Discussion: Tracie reminded us that, when completed, the Corridor Plan would set the WRLAC up for developing an [A-I Watershed Plan](#), which would be a more detailed, watershed-scale management plan in the future. The A-I Plan is much longer, expensive, and more detailed in order to meet strict EPA guidelines. For now, Ted suggested that we focus on the more traditional river corridor management plan to begin with. Tracie suggested that the Committee can consider a watershed plan later (as opposed to the smaller scope river corridor plan), and she mentioned that Mike Tardiff could help the Committee with that. She will contact Mike about this. We would base our corridor management plan on the Contoocook Plan.

Representatives were urged to acquire the [Warner River Nomination](#) (a full set, with appendices and maps), the [DES Guide to River Management Plans](#) (even though this is currently being updated), and the [North Branch and Contoocook River Corridor Management Plan](#) (prepared by CNHRPC) as these documents will be the basis for our corridor management plan. We expect to begin discussing our management plan with CNHRPC during the April 24th committee meeting, and the corridor plan will consume much of our attention during the next few months.

Long-Term Monitoring (no news this meeting)

[Instream Flow Study](#)

[FEMA Risk MAP Contoocook Basin](#)

Route 127 Bridge work

Hopkinton complaint

[Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail](#)

Permit application reviews

[Permit review guidelines \(UMRLAC\)](#)

Sutton WRLAC representatives

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Russell