

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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MINUTES LRPC COMMISSION MEETING Winnepesaukee River Basin Program, Franklin May 22, 2017

PRESIDING: John Ayer, Vice-Chair
QUORUM: Present

CALL TO ORDER: 6:03 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT	LRPC STAFF
John Ayer (Gilford)	Jeff Hayes (Executive Director)
Bob Ward (Andover)	Laurel Briere (Executive Assistant)
John Cotton (Andover)	
Steve Favorite (Bristol)	PRESENTER
Mark Hildebrand (Center Harbor)	Sharon McMillin
Robert Snelling (Holderness)	
William Bayard (Meredith)	OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES
Scott Bartlett (Moultonborough)	
Douglas Read (Northfield)	
Karen Ober (Sanbornton)	

1. Welcome and Introductions

Vice-Chair John Ayer called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

A motion to approve and declare a quorum exists was unanimously approved.

A motion to accept the Minutes of April 24, 2017 was unanimously approved.

M/S/P Ober/Bartlett

2. Sharon McMillin, Winnepesaukee River Basin Program Administrator

Due to the inclement weather, it was suggested that the tour be delayed for another time.

S. McMillin spoke about the Winnepesaukee River Basin Program (WRBP), what it is, why NH needs it and what they are working on. She shared information about the 10 communities involved in the program and how the program works. Some topics covered:

- WRBP accepts both septic and holding tank waste
- They are working on public education covering “what?” and “why?”
- They are 100% user funded
- Receive over 5 million gallons of septic material per year from over 100 communities
- They treat over 2 trillion gallons of waste water per year
- Cost is 2/10 of a penny per million gallons treated and has only increased 2% in past 7 years
- Most communities also have their own treatment facilities

- Upgrades that have been made throughout the history of the facility to upgrade obsolete and failing equipment to make it more energy efficient.
- Awards and achievements
- Studies that have been done, particularly the Maintenance Operation and Management (MOM) study and initiatives that came from that (handouts provided)
 - Current debate about state owned/operated facilities vs. independently owned
 - Community consensus is to do a feasibility study
- Difficulties of separating stormwater and wastewater in communities

Questions were answered throughout the presentation. Some of the questions included:

Q: Did the 10 communities have collection systems prior to joining WRBP?

A: Some did, but many dumped into the lake.

Q: What is the design capacity?

A: Facility designed for 11.5 million, currently treating about 5-6 million. The original version was designed to go around the lake.

Q: What kind of treatments are being used?

A: Activated sludge and anaerobic digestion.

Q: What is the level of treatment?

A: Only permitted for secondary treatment, don't need to go to tertiary to meet the EPA standards.

Q: Have they evaluated stormwater infiltration?

A: Yes and groundwater evaluations.

Q: Have they looked at seasonal population and tourism in the region?

A: Yes. They can differentiate differences between that and increased rain.

Q: Where do they find "talent?"

A: Mostly word of mouth. Can be difficult because some positions need degrees.

Q: How many other similar facilities in NH

A: None. Only 7 or 8 nationally

Q: (re MOM study and debate) Is the decision of options with communities?

A: Ultimately the legislature's decision since it effects the rest of the state. Everyone has a voice.

Q: How does cost compare?

A: Difficult to compare but WRBP is on low end.

Q: Where does the end product go?

A: biosolids go on cow corn. It's hauled like manure, mostly to central NH. WRBP pays them to take it, but it's still cost effective.

Q: What if a community wanted to expand, how do they do that?

A: Would need to start with the district commission and figure out a plan to see if the system can handle it.

3. Commissioner Roundtable

J. Cotton- Proctor Academy Varsity baseball team completed their season undefeated. Also added that he remembers how bad Lake Winnisquam was when he was a kid.

S. Bartlett – Invited everyone to visit the “best looking Dollar General in the region.” Also added that the Co-op is proceeding with a solar array that they hope to have online by late fall.

M. Hildebrand – introduced himself as the new LRPC Commissioner from Center Harbor.

D. Read – Discussed the Spaulding Youth Center program that’s in the works.

S. Favorite – Bristol started their treatment plant because of pulp mills in the 1960s. They won awards for treatment, especially for aerators and processes to keep things from freezing. Their claim to fame is offering people a drink of their outflow.

R. Ward – Andover has an active group that bought the old town hall, will become some type of community center.

R. Snelling – Holderness completed their library expansion, mostly paid for by donations.

B. Bayard – Looking at the Meredith library, in particular historic issues and the ADA. They’re looking for the best thing to do, they like being downtown vs building a new building elsewhere. Also mentioned that Interlakes School has a solar facility and won awards for their programs.

J. Ayers – Mentioned how bad Lake Winnepesaukee used to smell when he was a kid. Also added that asphalt is going down in the airport plaza and they’re adding lights.

4. Other Business

J. Hayes – mentioned the upcoming Annual Meeting. The governor is not confirmed but there is a backup. No commission meeting in July or August. Next meeting is in September, opened for suggestions for future meetings. He provided an update on the Electrical Aggregation program and complimented the WRBP and the effect it’s had on the region. Several suggestions were made for future topics.

S. Bartlett asked about the Solid Waste Roundtables.

J. Hayes reviewed the schedule and commented that it had been very well supported and attendees have been receiving credit through the state for attending.

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Briere
Meeting Recorder