

Ossipee Aquifer Steering Committee Meeting
April 9, 2010
Huntress House, Effingham, NH
10am-12pm

In attendance:

Bob Morency, RCAP Solutions
Noreen Downs, GMCG Board President
Stephanie Dulac, Assistant Planner LRPC
Dave Jeffers, Regional Planner LRPC
Roger ter Kuile, Ossipee Planning Board
Blair Folts, GMCG Executive Director
Tara Schroeder, GMCG Program Director
Erin Rodgers, Antioch University Graduate Student
Jeff Marcoux, Watershed Assistance Specialist NH DES
Al Levesque, Effingham Conservation Commission
Mark McConkey, Freedom & State Rep.
David Little, Tamworth Planning Board

The meeting began at 10:05am. Introductions were made followed by a quick review of the agenda for the meeting and recap of the March meeting minutes.

Planning Board Presentations: There are two planning board presentations about the aquifer protection ordinance left: Effingham is May 14th at 6:30pm with Jay Buckley and Tamworth was on April 14th at 7pm with Roger ter Kuile, Dave Jeffers and Blair Folts. Other workshops related to drinking water protection are on April 29th (Road Salt BMPs and Aquifer Protection) and another in October (Winter Maintenance Training). The October training is for credit with T2 as part of the Road Scholar program. Tara and Erin are working out logistics still; we could be partnering with DES, UNH T2 and NH DOT. A partnership would be good for both local and DOT workers to get on the same page with road maintenance practices and BMPs. There is also a May 13th road salt workshop for the seacoast that will be held in Greenland. A notice was sent out to town officials about these workshops in early April.

New Model Ordinance Update: Dave Jeffers and Stephanie Dulac of LRPC went over the new groundwater protection model ordinance. It should be done for April 30th for the DES Drinking Water Conference. Draft comments are currently being incorporated. All indications are that it is in its final format, however Dave and Stephanie stressed that this is a model ordinance, not an absolute. The new draft should be out by the end of the month to be available for towns. If there are questions or concerns by towns, email is a good way to contact Dave djeffers@lakesrpc.org and Stephanie sdulac@lakesrpc.org.

A comparison was done on the differences of the old and new ordinances. There are three categories of change: the first section highlighted a change that was made due to lack of practicability and/or enforceability, as monitoring the site would be difficult; the second section highlighted changes made due to legality and/or enforceability; the third section highlighted changes made in an effort to connect the ordinance with other complementary DES rules and guidelines, as in the Handbook for Sustainable Land Use Development and the state's Best Management Practices for Groundwater Protection. Roger asked if the handbooks that the ordinance references must be adopted by towns, and Stephanie clarified that these are guidelines and serve more as a rationale for the particular components of the ordinance. Guidelines do not have to be accepted to create an ordinance, but reference is still created, much like use of referencing an RSA. Mark asked if the delivery of household petroleum is covered under the added Section K.

Stephanie believed it is exempt because all residential properties are exempt. This topic has come up before because there are a number of cottage industries in the area. Tara asked for clarification as to whether or not regulations on cottage industries and private residences can be applied by towns that would like them as it looks like this can be added to the ordinance and there is language in the model ordinance for this if the towns opt to have it.

The model is not a one-size-fits all solution and if communities could be better served by modifying existing land use regulations or health regulations, then LRPC staff can assist with that. Bob commented that the point is trying to have commonality between communities. Dave touched on the Tri-Town Aquifer program of Belmont, Tilton, and Northfield that led to the creation of aquifer overlays for each community, which recently passed at March 2010 meeting and in some cases, by a large majority. Communities were similar and they started with a model ordinance. Copies of those towns' ordinances were brought for anyone who would like to review them. The ordinances were based on the earlier state model ordinance and do not include the most recent model changes, as they were submitted for town meeting in November 2009. Copies of the Tri-town ordinances are not currently on the LRPC website, but more copies can be made available to OASC members as needed.

The Tri-town process took a total of nine years to complete, with the initial work beginning in 2001-2003. In the case of the Ossipee Watershed, the regional approach is important. Tara asked if getting something passed at town meeting was better than nothing being passed, or how do we strike a balance and add things in later years rather than have the ordinance fail for being too stringent. The ability to listen to communities, incorporate feedback, and discuss stumbling blocks will be key to success as forcing something on them is not the best solution. Planning board and public input and response are going to be crucial, so getting the word out and maintaining transparency all along will be important. One of the reasons NH DES provided the Ossipee Watershed towns with this grant opportunity to work with LRPC and GMCG is because of our regional approach, so we need to keep mentioning this in presentations. Consistency of protection is important in the region.

In review of the timeline, Al says that Sandy Crystal of NH DES Wetlands Bureau is not going to be around much, and thus cannot present at a workshop this summer. He was not sure when she might come back to give a presentation. Tara said that is okay since Steve Whitman has indicated that he would be willing to do a similar presentation about ordinance adoption, including the town report card concept for natural resource protection in the Ossipee Watershed.

BMP Demo Projects: Jeff Marcoux reported that he and Tara did some site visits for the BMP demo projects in March and April, which continued after the meeting. Projects are supposed to be small in scale and demonstrate that water quality improvements can be simple. Jeff wanted to make sure that GMCG decides which projects to fund, not the DES. Several of the sites were not necessarily applicable to the grant funding or not of appropriate scale, but others were a good fit. The first project completed as part of the EPA 319 funded grant was finished in November 2009 on Province Lake in Effingham with the Effingham Conservation Commission and Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance. These recent project proposals were from several different towns. If other towns have not submitted anything, GMCG intends to write for more funding in future years and applications can be submitted to Tara anytime. One proposed project was on Duncan Lake, two more on private properties on Leavitt Bay and Ossipee Lake, two at summer camps on Ossipee Lake, and finally the Pine River Boat Launch. Summary sheets were handed out to give an overview of how projects were scored. Wetland permits and other DES permits were taken into consideration, which take time and money. Duncan Lake

and Camp Cody were the two projects chosen that will have significant water quality improvements with simple BMPs implemented that can be completed within the scope of GMCG's grant. Tara asked if anyone is willing to help with these BMP projects this summer to get some experience and to get involved. Al has helped in the past. It is a great opportunity. Mark, Jeff, and Stephanie volunteered.

Tara mentioned that having more BMP demo projects lined up would be helpful, not only to apply for future funding now, but also to add to the BMP Strategic Plan. These do not have to be erosion problems; projects can also include salt pile projects, hazardous waste containment, etc. GMCG is looking to create a watershed plan as suggested by the DES at some point in the near future. Jeff Marcoux explained that the 319 grants have become more stringent on what they can fund. EPA wants to see a fully developed watershed plan in order to provide a grant. GMCG has been somewhat of an exception. The next step is to develop a plan and lay out what needs to be done, specific action items that need to happen and can be given to property owners to reach water quality goals. Newfound Lake (complete) and Winnepesaukee (ongoing) have examples of watershed management plans. Tara mentioned current concerns on Ossipee Lake with water levels, water quality, as an example of how the plan can help address needs of watershed residents.

April 29th BMP Workshop: Erin gave a brief overview of the presentation topics for the upcoming Road Salt BMPs and Aquifer Protection workshop on April 29th including Jay Buckley, Steve Whitman, and Pat Santuso. She continued with a run-through of her presentation on the data collected by GMCG and why creating and following BMPs are important to the Ossipee Watershed. The presentation was open for comment and suggestions. Time ran out before forum questions for the workshop could be discussed, but those questions were emailed out for comment instead.

The meeting concluded at 12:10pm.

The next meeting is Friday May 14th from 10am-12pm at the GMCG office located at 196 Huntress Bridge Road.