

**Drinking Water Protection in the Ossipee Watershed**  
**Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 6-8 p.m.**  
**Madison Library**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendee List:**

Kamal Nath  
Susan Nickerson  
Edie McNair  
Ginny Currier  
Wendy Huff  
Pat Jones  
Roger ter Kuile  
Jean Hansen  
David Riss  
Hersh Sosnoff  
Susan Ticehurst  
Kelly Dobrowolski  
Jack McDonald  
Steve Gallas  
Beth Gray  
Erica Anderson  
Bob Newton  
Mia Akaogi  
Blair Folts  
Theresa Swanick  
Peter Sell  
John Shipman  
Bob Pratt  
Peter Dark  
Neal Boyle  
Kevin O'Neil  
Alix Pratt  
Tom Curtin  
Tara Schroeder  
Bob Morency  
Pierce Rigrod  
Al Levesque

Approximately 30 people attended this workshop at the Madison Library. The group included residents and representatives from town planning and select boards, public water systems, conservation commissions and businesses in the towns of Effingham, Albany, Madison, Sandwich, Ossipee, Wonalancet, Kingston, Intervale, Freedom, and Tamworth. Pierce Rigrod of the NHDES Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau also attended, as his program has been very supportive in funding our drinking water protection efforts. Speakers included Dr. Robert Newton of Smith College, Dr. Bob Morency of RCAP Solutions, Erica Anderson of the Lakes Region Planning Commission, John Shipman of the Ossipee Watershed Coalition, Mia Akaogi of the University of Vermont and Environmental Planner Steve Whitman. The importance of watershed planning, proactive approaches to potential sources of contamination, and active participation of key stakeholders in water planning and protection efforts were common themes.

## 6:00-6:15 ***Why Watershed Planning?***

Bob Morency, RCAP Solutions

Robert E. Morency, Ph.D. is a Water Resource Specialist for RCAP Solutions, Inc. Dr. Morency described the history of the Clean Water Act, the role of public water suppliers, towns, and private individuals in meeting state standards and keeping water clean, and the importance of regional planning to protecting drinking water. While public water supply owners are responsible for providing drinking water that meets or exceeds federal and state standards, there is no mandate for suppliers to take measures to prevent contamination or loss of water supply, other than to own or control the area immediately around a well or surface water source. Wellhead Protection Plans are required for new large sources (greater than 57,600 gallons per day; GPD). There are somewhat less demanding requirements for sources below the 57,600 GPD limit. All drinking water sources have been assessed with regard to potential threats, and it is up to owners of water systems to make use of this information, which is readily available from state agencies (NH Department of Environmental Services and Maine Department of Health and Human Services). Public water systems, especially small and very small systems, are at times beset with meeting regulatory requirements, and often aren't able to address non-mandated, but nonetheless, important tasks, such as developing a Source Water Protection Plan.

There is probably no better organization to approach than a watershed group when considering how to begin the Source Water Protection planning process. Organizations such as GMCG have a wider perspective on the natural resources in a region, and may have developed a Watershed Management Plan. A Source Water Protection Plan may be incorporated into the watershed planning process since many goals and methods are common to both efforts. For instance, inventorying Potential Contamination Sources (PCSs) is a shared task. A Watershed Management Plan can be facilitated by compiling a list of public water systems in the watershed, and using the assessment for each system as an inventory. Likewise, promoting Best Management Practices (BMPs) for industries and activities is a task common to both public water systems and watershed organizations. It's clear that these two groups share the interest of clean water resources, and that, while the perspective of watershed groups is broader in scope, the efforts of water suppliers can contribute to one of the principal missions of the watershed group, i.e., – protection of a resource – water – that has economic, health, recreational, and quality of life benefits that extend beyond the boundaries of individual towns.

## 6:15-6:30 ***What is an Aquifer Overlay & How Can it Benefit Our Town?***

Erica Anderson, LRPC & John Shipman, Ossipee Watershed Coalition

Erica Anderson and John Shipman announced the upcoming service GMCG and LRPC will be offering towns to help create aquifer ordinances to protect drinking water across town lines. Erica showed recently produced maps by LRPC that had the aquifer, wellhead protection areas, and locations of PCSs in the Watershed.

## 6:30-6:45 ***What are the Greatest Threats to the Ossipee Aquifer?***

Dr. Robert Newton, Smith College & Barnes Aquifer Steering Committee

Dr. Newton spoke about the greatest threats to the Ossipee Aquifer, including the reduction of aquifer filtering/storage capacity due to gravel removal, increased impervious surfaces as a result of development, and the use of hazardous materials over sensitive aquifer recharge areas. Dr. Newton also stated that road salt is one of the main threats to drinking water in the Ossipee Watershed. This summer, Dr. Newton offered his lab to assist with groundwater monitoring efforts and provide a snapshot of drinking water quality and quantity in the Ossipee Watershed.

## 6:45-7:00 ***Vulnerability Analysis of the Ossipee Aquifer***

Mia Akaogi, UVM Graduate Student

Mia Akaogi, UVM Graduate Student with the Rubenstein School of the Environment and Natural Resources and summer intern with GMCG, gave a presentation on PCSs in the Ossipee Watershed and her analysis of priority PCSs to work with in the future. She showed GIS maps of 162 PCSs, 92 of which (57%) that exist within the aquifer recharge boundary. She also showed maps of WHPAs and that 39 PCSs are located within

WHPAs. The WHPAs with the highest number of PCSs were the Village District of Eidelweiss in Madison (6 PCSs in their WHPA), and White Lake Estates in Tamworth (6 PCSs in their WHPA). Spatial modeling of groundwater flow patterns together with the location of PCSs allowed identification of areas with high potential for groundwater contamination. The most important public, private and USGS wells to monitor were then identified based on these analyses.

7:00-8:00 ***Town Planning Work Group Session***

Steve Whitman, Jeffrey H. Taylor & Associates

Participants worked with GIS maps at stations around the room to discuss priority areas and drinking water systems to protect in their town. They were asked: What are the top threats in your town? Which public water systems, residential developments, and aquifer recharge areas should be protected and from what activities? A Q&A session followed and the audience asked questions of NH DES/Pierce Rigrod regarding the lack of enforcement with PCSs and water quality violations as well as Dr. Newton on specifics of road salt contamination in the Ossipee Watershed. The group was told that anyone interested in drinking water protection efforts should attend the next **Ossipee Aquifer Steering Committee meeting on June 26th from 10-12 at the GMCG office in Effingham**. A number of new individuals at the meeting signed up to be notified about future ASC meetings.