

Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee (SoRLAC)

April 16, 2026

Meeting Minuets: 7:00pm – 8:56pm

Milford Police Station, 19 Garden St.

Attendees: Cory Ritz, Celeste Barr, Robert Clemens, Alan Preston, Marion Kastner, Eric Doberstein, Rich Hart, George May, Jaclyn Hodgkins, Andrew Duane. **Guests:** Joe Moore, Mark Koppelkam.

Absent: Marshall Buttrick, Marcy Stanton

Agenda

Welcomed guests, gave an overview of SoRLAC and shared introductions.

1. **Review and approve minutes** [03.19.26 March SORLAC 2026 Minutes.docx](#) Motion made by Rob, Celeste seconded, all approved, Andrew abstained.
2. **Old Business: Pilgrim Foods Held Responsible!** [District of New Hampshire | Owner of Old Dutch Mustard Co. Sentenced to 18 Months in Prison and Company Ordered to Pay \\$1.5 Million Fine for Secretly Pumping Pollutants into the Souhegan River | United States Department of Justice](#). Cory shared some more information about the hearing which Marshall had attended. We are all so happy to see Marshall's efforts were not in vain
3. **New Business:**
 - a. The Town of Amherst is proposing to replace an existing culvert at 28 Thornton Ferry Road II that conveys an Unnamed Brook. The culvert is located within the Town ROW. The 48-foot-long culvert consists of a circular corrugated metal pipe (CMP) with a diameter of 24 inches. The CMP is in poor condition, and the inlet of the pipe has deformed at the crown, restricting flow through the pipe. The inlet headwall is comprised of dry stacked stone, of which some of the stones have settled due to the CMP deformation. The proposed replacement culvert is a 36-inch high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe that will maintain the same orientation, length and grade as the existing culvert and will be embedded with 6" of simulated streambed material. The proposed inlet and outlet headwalls will be reconstructed in the same footprint as the existing headwalls.
Rob brought in a display outlining the watershed of this brook, Sherburn Mill Brook, and where the new culverts were going to be and where this brook connects with the Souhegan River. George suggested we request to have signs added on each side of the road with the brooks name. Cory will sign the document provided. Rob will follow up with the town about signage.
 - i. [Project Proposal](#)
 - ii. [Technical Review - AI](#)
For future reviews Cory will add a technical review provided through AI.
4. **Corridor Management Plan**
 - i. Town Audit Review - I combine Marcy's work with mine, thanks AI's
 - ii. [SoRLAC Town Audit Analysis and Recommendations.pdf](#)

The group discussed the provided outlines that Marcy and Cory provided which took the Corridor Management Plan and used AI to summarize. From Cory's report, SoRLAC Town Audit Analysis and Recommendations the first item suggested was to focus on the Aquatic Buffers, Marcy's report also put this as a priority. From this discussion Andrew added that Merrimack was working on their Master Plan and he would like some guidance on wetland setbacks based on our plan. Cory will create an outline and the team can review at the May meeting. Once approved by the team this guidance will be sent out to all of the town planning boards as a result of review of Management Plan. Our second step to act is to have information about aquatic buffers at our next outreach event in July. A picture of what an aquatic buffer would look like will be a beneficial flyer. Once we have created and finalized these actions to focus on the aquatic buffers we will then move on to the next suggested area, Watershed Planning. All should bring ideas.

5. Outreach:

i. Events:

1. Sustainability Fair, Saturday March 28, 2026 – Went well, not as many visitors as hoped for. Feedback about the fair was a 4.6 out of 5 satisfaction rate. SoRLAC will continue to grow our props, maybe having more interactive items like water sampling supplies, macroinvertebrate information and now aquatic buffer information.
2. Tour Waste Water Treatment Plants – Eric is working on setting these up.
3. It was noted that Milford and Amherst Clean Up days were happening on April 18th, 19th.
4. 4th July Amherst – Booth has been requested. Work on presentation to go with town theme of celebrating 250 years.
5. Greenville stream clean up (tentative). If this does not work out we will work on a time and place for the SoRLAC team to conduct a clean-up.
6. Celeste added, Milford will be hosting an event on June 27th, Summer Bash. SoRLAC will need to determine if we will attend with a booth.

6. Recruiting

- a. No updates – With the two visitors from the Sustainability Fair outreach we hope they will consider continuing to work with us.

7. Local updates:

- i. Souhegan Watershed Association – Eric has made some connections with individuals who are interested in helping with the water testing. Eric also spoke about the upcoming Merrimack Water Quality Roundtable Zoom meeting coming up on April 29th. This will include conversations about water quality testing for the rivers.
- ii. New Ipswich – n/a
- iii. Greenville – n/a
- iv. Temple – n/a
- v. Wilton – McDonalds project has started.

- vi. Milford – A section on Route 13 by Kincaid Auto has been clear cut right up to the wetlands. They will be building storage units here.
- vii. Amherst – The draft source water management plan is under way. Rob utilized some of the graphic boards at the Sustainability Fair. Rob and Eric will be having a Zoom meeting with the Amherst DPW in regards to coordinating water testing. There needs to be some determination of accessibility to some of the brooks. The town will be paying for one round of testing.
- viii. Lyndeborough – n/a
- ix. Merrimack – A warrant was passed to purchase some properties on Baboosic Brook.
- x. RMAC & NH DES
 - 1. New Hampshire River Restoration Task Force Meeting April 21
[20260421 RRTF Agenda.pdf](#)
 - 2. Public Hearing for the Proposed Priority Designated Rivers for Protected Instream Flow Study. Date: April 21, 2026 Time: 5:30pm to 7:00pm Location: Rooms 112-114, NHDES Offices, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord NH Online via Microsoft Teams:
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/27610938164607?p=mAyBoNczyvxlclgCD>
- 8. **Team SoRLAC:** [SoRLAC Members](#) ([nomination form](#))
- 9. **Next Meetings:**
 - a. May 21 - (TBC) Fields Farm walk – Meet at 5:45 pm, park at Horse Hill Preserve followed by meeting at Souhegan Woods Golf Club, 65 Thornton Ferry Rd 2, Amherst.
 - b. June 18 – possible outing at the headwaters or at Garwin Falls.
 - c. July 16
 - d. August 20

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm, minutes taken by Marion Kastner

Resources

New Hampshire Rivers Council: <https://nhrivers.org/>
 NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC): <https://www.rmac.des.nh.gov/>
 Jurisdictional Areas in New Hampshire youtube video: [Jurisdictional Areas in New Hampshire](#)
 Nashua Region Planning Commission (NRPC): <https://www.nashuarpc.org/>; [NRPC SoRLAC](#) (minutes)
 Southwest Region Planning Commission (SRPC): <https://www.swrpc.org/>
[NH DES Rivers and Lakes Management and Protection](#)

Watershed management plans

[Souhegan River Watershed Management Plan 2025](#)
[Souhegan River Watershed Management plan \(2013\)](#) – Instream Flow focus
[Souhegan River Watershed Management Plan \(2006\)](#) – More topics

RMAC [State Lands Mapping Tool](#)

New Hampshire's Designated Scenic and Protected Rivers.

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/20bcd62420ee4952b343290cbeed2e9a/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SouheganLAC/>

Build a watershed: <https://streamstats.usgs.gov/ss/>