

Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee (SoRLAC)

May 21, 2026

5:45pm Fields Farm Walk – Park at Horse Hill

Preserve followed by:

7:00pm SoRLAC meeting Souhegan Woods Golf Club, 65 Thornton

Ferry Rd 2, Amherst

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Cory Ritz, Celeste Barr, Robert Clemens, Alan Preston, Marion Kastner, Eric Doberstein, Marshall Buttrick, Marcy Stanton, George May, Jaclyn Hodgkins, Andrew Duane.

Absent: Rich Hart, George May

Agenda

1. **Reviewed and approved minutes - April Meeting Notes** – Corey made a motion to approve the April minutes, all in favor. Marion to post April minutes to google drive.
2. Marion quickly talked to group about UNH Extension current enrollment for their Natural Resource Stewards Program starting in September in Keene. People can apply at nhstewards.org
3. **Old Business:**
 - o [Eversource Permit update request for information Here](#)
 - i. I believe we previously agreed on only minimal impact to the river, but wondering if we should review again? The team discussed what was previously presented, which was that SoRLAC did not see an impact at the time of initial review and still does not. No further action to be taken.
4. **New Business:**
 - o Permit Review Guidelines for LAC's has been issued - <https://www.lac.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt761/files/documents/permit-review-guidance-2026.pdf>
Andrew attended the presentation and thought it was very well presented and the guidelines has multiple links and examples. SoRLAC was reference in the guide for standard responses. They also have a new member handbook. We will print this and use for promotion. <https://www.lac.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt761/files/documents/lac-new-member-handbook.pdf>
5. **Corridor Management Plan**
 - i. Town Audit Review - I combine Marcy's work with mine, thanks Al's
 - ii. [SoRLAC Town Audit Analysis and Recommendations.pdf](#)
 - iii. Merrimack- working on their Master Plan and he would like some guidance on wetland setbacks

- a. AI initial draft for discussion and edit

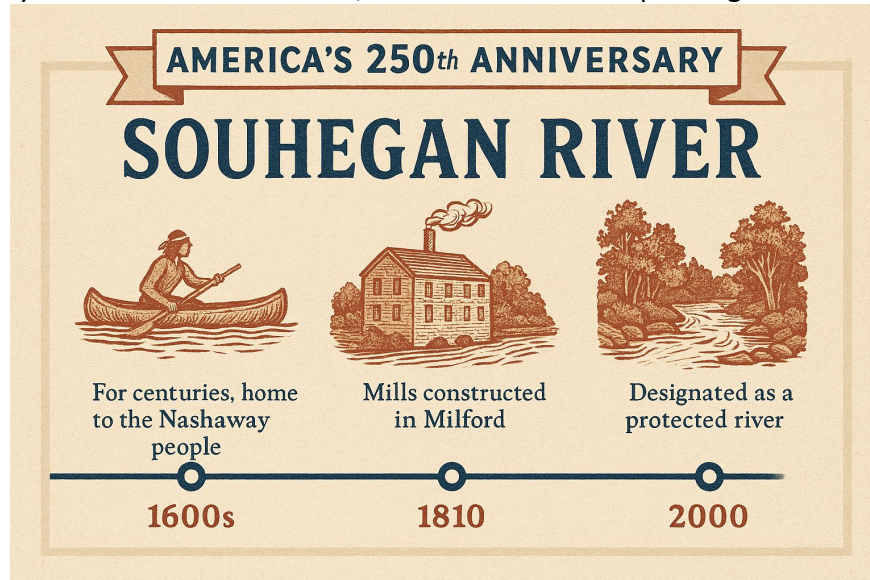
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Mf9hcO7HG3JW3bWGoLDK3sRfybUTvkbP/edit?usp=sharing&oid=116063050519300167776&rtpof=true&sd=true>

We reviewed the initial draft for wetland setbacks and all members were in general agreement that the draft looks good. To be added is some verbiage on enforcement of these regulations. Please submit any additional items you would like to see to Corey and we will then review a final draft with a cover letter in June. Once all have approved then this can be issued to the towns as one document with the cover letter, guidance, and an appendix of the town's current standards.

6. Outreach:

i. Events:

1. Tour Waste Water Treatment Plant – This tour was very well received and very informative. Cory, Eric, Marshall, Rob, Marcy, and Rich were all able to attend.
2. Will SoRLAC have a booth at June 27 Milford Summer Bash (Keyes Field)? No.
3. 4th July Amherst - Need Work on presentation to go with the town theme of celebrating 250 years. Booth is confirmed, Marion will work on printing the information below.



- a.
4. Greenville stream clean up (tentative). This is still to come, looking at late August, early September.
 5. Saturday May 23rd is the Milford Fishing Derby at the Rye Field Farm if anyone is interested.
 6. Jaclyn talked with the group about a possible interaction with SoRLAC and the Boys and Girls club this summer to conduct a talk and maybe some activity (sometime the week of 7/20 – 7/24). It was suggested to use the Enviroscape or water testing. Marcy is interested.

7. Recruiting

- o Mark Kippelkam has reached out and advised he is not interested in joining at this time. Christopher Pank is still interested, just has not been able to make it to a meeting.

8. Local updates:

- i. Souhegan Watershed Association – final details for the water testing are being done, testing to start 6/2.
- ii. New Ipswich- n/a
- iii. Greenville- Marshall shared about the court proceedings for the Pilgrim Foods case, the victim impact letter written for the river was appreciated and Marshall's impact letter was also read. Pilgrim Foods civil cases are still active. Marshall will continue following to see if Pilgrim Foods is complying with decrees.
- iv. Temple – n/a
- v. Wilton – n/a
- vi. Milford – Celeste reported that there is a new group in Milford, "Clean streets Milford", sponsoring clean ups around town.
- vii. Amherst – Rob reported that the ACC/DPW has agreed and will be purchasing and placing signs at river crossings. At Baboosic Lake the Alum Treatment project will begin in June.
- viii. Lyndeborough – Marcy reported Purgatory lower falls maps have been updated at NRPC.
- ix. Merrimack – Andrew reported they are working with NRPC to update maps. He also stated that in Merrimack they have removed town trash barrels from conservation areas as these became a dumping place. Currently there is an individual who has places and manages a couple of trash barrels on trails.
- x. RMAC & NH DES
 1. [New Hampshire Rivers Council](#) Annual Meeting this year, on **Tuesday, June 16th from 6pm to 8pm in Concord**
 2. The Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP) is excited to share with you the [2026 Spring LAC Newsletter](#)! This newsletter provides updates on RMPP and Instream Flow Program activities, administrative reminders and updates for LACs/LRSs and information on exciting educational events for LACs/LRSs to participate in. Don't forget to try your hand at the river-themed word scramble at the end! Answers are posted on the [Resources page of the LAC website](#).
 3. **New [Aquatic Invasive Species Report Form](#)** NHDES has created a new report form for aquatic invasive species in freshwater. Use this form to notify NHDES of a potential invasive aquatic plant or animal and the location of this sighting in the river, stream or lake. This form is not intended to report algal blooms of any type. If you have any questions about this form or aquatic invasive species, please contact Georgia Bunnel at Georgia.E.Bunnel@des.nh.gov.
 4. **Low Head Dam Public Safety Awareness.** Low head dams are small structures that are designed to allow water to continuously flow over their crest, creating a powerful, washing machine like hydraulic at the base of the dam. This can pose a serious threat to swimmers, paddlers and even rescuers, resulting in ~50 deaths per year. [American Rivers](#) is working with partners to address low head dams by establishing the [Low Head](#)

[Dam Inventory](#) managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. You will find attached a fact sheet on low head dams.

9. **Team SoRLAC:** [SoRLAC Members](#) ([nomination form](#))

10. **Next Meetings:**

- a. June 18 – 6:00 meet at The Kettle in Wilton (food) then 7:30 meeting at the Wilton Town Hall.
- b. July 16
- c. August 20
- d. September 17
- e. October 15

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 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/>