

Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee (SoRLAC)

June 17, 2026

7:30pm SoRLAC meeting Wilton Town Hall

42 Main Street Wilton, NH 03086

Agenda

1.. Meeting opened 7:25 pm. Rob Clemens, Cory Ritz, Marshall Buttrick, Alan Preston and Celeste Barr in attendance.

2. **Voted to approve [May Meeting Notes](#)**

1. New Business:

○ W157 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project — AoT Permit Review

- i. Eversource Energy, through AECOM, submitted an Alteration of Terrain permit application (NHDES File No. 260615-112) for the replacement of 11 existing overhead transmission structures along the W-157 right-of-way spanning Amherst, Milford, and Merrimack.
- ii. The project involves no new transmission line; existing structures are being replaced in place with new steel poles and hardware. However, the work requires approximately 92,854 square feet of temporary earth disturbance within the Souhegan River corridor, driven by gravel work pads and temporary access roads needed to move heavy equipment to each structure location.
- iii. Members voted unanimously to send the draft comment letterwritten by Cory to NHDES requesting that several best management practices already identified in the project plans be elevated to enforceable permit conditions, and that additional protective measures be applied where the work area is closest to the river and associated wetlands. [Draft Comment Letter](#)

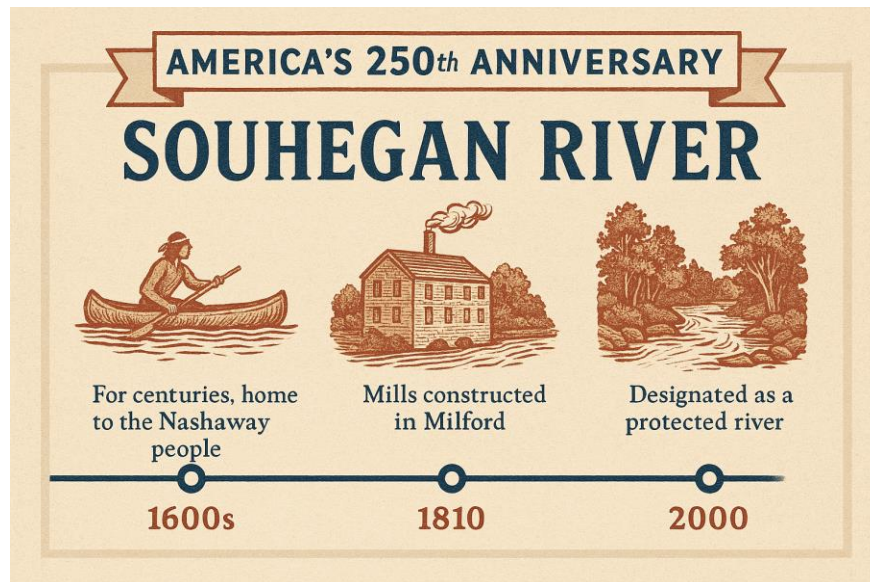
2. Corridor Management Plan

The Committee decided to email the [Updated Draft](#) to the Planning Boards and Conservation Commission chairs of each watershed towns. At the July meeting we will discuss further promotion such as having SoRLAC representatives personally connect with these committees to discuss the recommendations.

[SoRLAC Town Audit Analysis and Recommendations.pdf](#)

3. Outreach:

I. 4th July Amherst - We will hear from Marion about what time to show up at the Amherst Green on 4th of July and what to bring.



1. We hope to schedule a stream clean up in Greenville in August or September. Marshall will schedule with GCC and SoRLAC will co-sponsor.
2. Fishing Derby - Rob reported well attended and fish easy to catch.
3. Summer Camp "Under the Sea" July 20 - 24 Boys and Girls [Club.At](#) previous meeting, Marcy offered to assist Jackie with some invertebrate sampling.

4. **Recruiting**

○ **NHDES - Tell us about your experience serving on an LAC:**

The Rivers Program is currently developing a recruitment toolkit, intended to be used by LACs to educate their communities and increase membership. We would like to share anecdotes from real LACs members on some of these recruitment materials. If you are willing, please send me a short email about your experience serving on a LAC and why others in your community may benefit from participating. If you have any recommendations for recruitment materials you would find helpful, please feel free to email Sydney.E.Gendreau@des.nh.gov

We discussed engaging more people with stream cleanups and partnering with town organizations to gain more visibility in towns where we need representation.

5. **Local updates:**

- i. Souhegan Watershed Association - Eric sent out 6/16 Souhegan river sampling results this evening.-
- ii. New Ipswich—Water Loom pond was drained. Wayne Ives concerned about low water conditions that remain. Cory believes it is due to dam repairs.
- iii. Greenville— Marshall inquired with landowners of Chamberlain Mill Building about access and staging areas for stream cleanup downtown Greenville. Probably will be scheduled on a Saturday morning in August.
No news on proposed treatment facility for Greenville.
- iv. Temple
- v. Wilton—ZBA reviewed the Kennedy Building on Island Street on the river to increase from 2 to 3 residential units.

- vi. Milford—some potential projects on buildings along the river may be taking place this summer in the Urban exemption district of the Milford Oval
- vii. Amherst –Rob, though Amherst Conservation Commission, is pursuing stream crossing signs for tributaries in Amherst. They will be installed by DPW.
The alum treatment of Baboosic Lake was completed during the first 2 weeks of June. Great video by Keller Nunley of the project on Facebook. Watch here:
https://youtu.be/imhIT7ts_IQ?si=z7pOrsBXu0QVWdXy
- viii. Lyndeborough
- ix. Merrimack
- x. NH River Council - had a meeting on the topic of 'Is the drought over? ' Check if Eric was able to attend and summarize for us.
- xi. RMAC & NH DES
 1. The Rivers Program recently hosted a webinar to review the new [Permit Application Review Guidance for LACs and LRSs](#). During this webinar, we reviewed the contents and structure of the guidance, as well as answered questions from attendees. We are happy to share with you [a recording of the webinar, now available on YouTube](#). For future reference, you can find the link to this recording on the LAC website on the [Permit Review page](#) or the [Resources page](#) under the LAC Administration and Guidance tab. We appreciate the time taken by those who attended the webinar and the questions and comments they provided. If you or your committee have further questions and comments, please feel free to reach out to me and/or Tracie Sales at tracie.j.sales@des.nh.gov, and we will be happy to help you!
 2. **Making Waves Webinar Series – Flood Preparedness and Risk.** The NHDES Coastal Program will be holding a webinar on **June 25, 2026 from 10 to 11am** as part of the Making Waves webinar series. This webinar will focus on preparing for flooding and reducing flood risk. Attendees will learn about the [PREPARE project](#), how to use data and mapping to reduce flood risk, flooding insurance and flood mitigation resources. You can learn more about this event and register [using this link](#).

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

7. **Next Meetings:**

- a. July 23 Cory and Rob will be away on 7/16. If a project comes in We will meet 7/23 Milford PD. Otherwise, we will cancel.
 - b. August 20
 - c. September 17
 - d. October 15
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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/>