

Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee (SoRLAC)

July 23, 2026

7:00pm SoRLAC meeting

Milford Police Station

Attendees: Cory Ritz, Robert Clemens, Alan Preston, Marion Kastner, Eric Doberstein, Marshall Buttrick, Marcy Stanton, Andrew Duane, George May, Rich Hart. Guest: Christopher Pank

Absent: Celest Barr, Jaclyn Hodgkins

Agenda

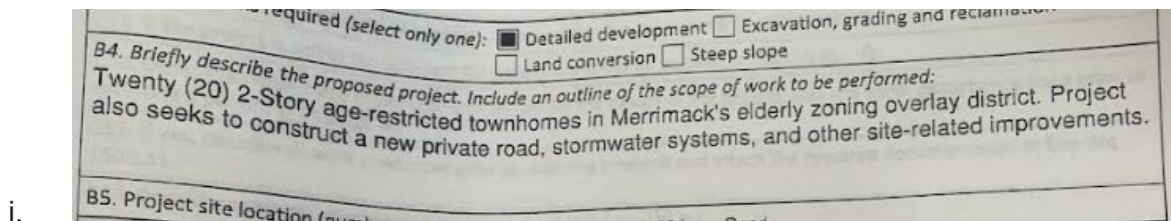
1. Old Business: Review and approve June minutes. Rob made a motion to approve the June minutes, Marshall 2nd, all in favor. Marion to post June minutes to google drive and sent to NRPC. Group welcomed Christopher Pank.

2. New Business:

- a. Special Permit Application #26-393 NHDOT Bridges: The Division of Pesticide Control has received a special permit application from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) requesting easement for pesticide applications within rights-of-ways in order to control vegetation for bridge maintenance purposes. The application has proposed spot treatment using foliar (spray) applications of Rodeo, Roundup Pro Concentrate and/or Aquamaster (all containing glyphosate) and Milestone (containing aminopyralid). The cover letter, pesticide labels and application can be found at [this Dropbox link](#). To find the maps within the application for your designated river, please use the table below. Please note that we have removed maps from the original application not within LAC/LRS jurisdiction. Souhegan on maps 13,59

It was decided that no comment was needed to be submitted for this application.

- b. Village Landing



Andrew noted that the Village Landing plan has gone before the Merrimack town board back in March. The plan will have town sewer and water. This proposal falls along Baboosic Brook and is very near both the Souhegan River and the Merrimack River.

Discussion was had as we reviewed the plans.

Cory will send preliminary comments outlining our concerns with:

- *Parking*
- *Understanding snow removal and storage*
- *Maintaining a riparian buffer, adding native plants*
- *Suggesting to add a trail along the edge of Baboosic Brook for general public use*

3. 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](#)

Cory will send the final draft to all SoRLAC members who will then forward to their respective local town Conservation Commission and Planning boards. Andrew has already brought this to Merrimack.

- Section 604(b) Water Quality Planning Grant and Section 319 Watershed Assistance Grant Announcement
 - The New Hampshire Nonpoint Source Management Program is pleased to announce that the Section 604(b) Water Quality Planning Grants 2027 Request for Pre-proposals and Section 319 Watershed Assistance Grants 2026 Request for Pre-proposals are now available. Additional information can be found on the Watershed Assistance Grants webpage. Pre-proposals for both grant opportunities are due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 11, 2026.
 - [Discussion MEMO - do we go again?](#)

Discussion was had about our previous submissions and what we want to accomplish using grant funds. It was decided that applying for the desktop GIS-based Critical Source Area characterization of the Beaver Brook sub watershed, with potential expansion to the Boston Post Road canoe portage reach and reaches in Milford and Wilton could serve a better purpose at this time.

- ***Cory will reach out to Tracy at NRPC to review and get feedback.***
- *The subcommittee for this project will include Eric, Rob, and George.*

4. Outreach:

- a. 4th July Amherst – *This year was not as actively engaging as the previous year. Overall attendance seemed to be less. We did receive two interested volunteers, they have been contacted by a welcome email.*
- b. Stream clean up in Greenville in August or September. Marshall will schedule with GCC and SoRLAC will co-sponsor. *This will be moving into September.*
- c. Summer Camp “Under the Sea” July 20 - 24 Boys and Girls [Club.](#) *No update*

5. Recruiting

No updates

6. Local updates:

- i. Souhegan Watershed Association – *An Eagle Scout candidate wants to rebuild/replace the Boston Post Road canoe launch on the Souhegan River. He went before the Amherst Conservation Commission and will be moving forward with making repairs only. George suggested having him also add a memorial nearby about the river. At the ACC meeting it was also discussed having him add a Kiosk. When Eric meets with the scout and the ACC this weekend he will provide the support of SoRLAC for the project and to see about including a Kiosk. Eric also has a person who wants to donate money to SWA. George provided further explanation about the set up of SWA and where it stands now. Further discussion was had about making some changes so that SoRLAC could possibly accept donations and SWA would continue under SoRLAC as a subgroup. **Cory will talk with Tracy at NRPC about SoRLAC status and accepting money.***
- ii. New Ipswich – n/a
- iii. Greenville – *There has been no further movement on the drug rehab application. Marshall continues to follow Pilgrim Foods, connecting with the EPA on the civil part of the consent decree. He is also suggesting to them that they should have the 3-way pipe permanently removed.*
- iv. Temple – n/a
- v. Wilton – n/a
- vi. Milford – n/a
- vii. Amherst – *Input about the Eagle Scout project noted above under SWA.*
- viii. Lyndeborough – *Marcy is looking for information on long term drought policies or suggestions for planning. Cory suggested reaching out to the NH Council on drought. Rob noted that Amherst has been developing a water source plan that he can share with her.*
- ix. Merrimack – n/a
- x. RMAC & NH DES

Dam decisions! Understanding dam maintenance and repair with NH LAKES

Join NH LAKES on Wednesday, July 29 from 7-8pm for a webinar on the complex process of dam maintenance. Cory Clark, Chief Engineer of the NHDES Dam Bureau will be providing an in-depth look at how dam maintenance and repair projects come to life, from early assessments and regulatory considerations to construction and post-project evaluation. Registration is required and space is limited. [Register on the NH LAKES website](#) and check out the other webinars they will be hosting this year!

A community conversation about the state of eelgrass in Great Bay

On Tuesday, July 28 from 5:30-7pm at Bird Dog Farm and Cidery in Greenland, NH, join in for an important community discussion about the future of the Great Bay estuary. Learn why eelgrass is so important, what its decline tells us about the health of Great Bay, the progress that's been made to improve water quality, ongoing eelgrass and oyster restoration efforts and the actions we can all take to help protect our shared waters. Registration is required and space is limited. [Please register here.](#) Curious about the state of eelgrass in Great Bay? [Check out this Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership article to get started.](#)

Still seeking anecdotes from LAC/LRS members!

As we continue to build our recruitment toolkit for LACs/LRSs, we are still looking for anecdotes from existing LAC/LRS members. Let us know how joining your committee has benefitted you or share a story from when you felt your work on the committee had a positive impact on your community. All comments are welcome!

7. **Team SoRLAC:** [SoRLAC Members](#) ([nomination form](#))
 8. **Next Meetings:**
 - a. August 20 It was noted that Andrew and Marion will not be in town.
 - b. September 17
 - c. October 15
 - d.
 9. **The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm, minutes taken by Marion Kastner**
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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/>