

MINUTES
Henniker Conservation Commission
Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting
July 21, 2008
7:00 PM Henniker

PRESENT: Holly Green, Mark Mitch, Ron Taylor, Spencer Bennett,
Chris Fox, Rick Patenaude, Dana Myskowski

1) *Review and approve minutes for the 5/19 and 6/23 meetings:*

- Motion to accept the May 19 minutes by Mark Mitch, seconded by Holly Green, unanimous acceptance.
- Motion to accept the June 23 minutes by Holly Green, seconded by Mark Mitch, unanimously accepted.

2) *Updates to Water Resources Management Plan:*

We referenced the slightly revised 1989 “Water Resource Management and Protection Plan” (that contains Holly’s changes: “Office of State Planning” to “Office of Energy and Planning” and changing references of obsolete divisions in the NH Dept of Environmental Services to “NH Dept of Environmental Services”).

We examined maps (both ones that are stored at the Grange Hall and maps prepared, plotted, and brought by Chris) as we discussed our objective as a committee—to identify the water resources then identify ways to protect them. We then divvied up the Water Management Plan Update Tasks list that Holly had e-mailed to all subcommittee members prior to the meeting. (Note: page numbers are from the slightly revised version of the 1989 report.)

WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE TASKS LIST

Confirm accuracy of the following:

- Watershed info on pages 3 - 8 and 18. (Mark)
- Surface water quality classification on pages 8 and 10. (Unassigned)
- Flood plain info on page 9. (Chris)
- Wetlands and soils info on pages 8 - 9 and 21 - 22. (Mark & Chris)
- Aquifer and Bedrock info on pages 10 - 14. (Unassigned)

Update the following:

- Surface water discharge, use, and withdrawal on pages 8 - 11 and 13. (Holly)
- Groundwater discharge, use, and withdrawal on pages 11 and 13. (Holly)
- Well data on pages 10 - 11. (Holly)

- Potential contamination sources on pages 14 - 16. (Holly)
- Land Use and Zoning info on pages 17 - 18. (Rick)
- Water use info on pages 12 - 13 and 18 - 20. (Unassigned)
- Septic systems on pages 21 - 22. (Unassigned)
- Waste disposal on page 22. (Unassigned)
- Public Water Systems on pages 23 - 24. (Ron - COMPLETED)
- Wastewater Treatment on page 24. (Ron - COMPLETED)
- Existing regulations and policies on pages 24 - 26 (Ron; also: subdivision regulation)
- Storage Tanks Appendix II (Ron - COMPLETED)

Possible Maps to Add:

- Aquifers (Chris)
- Watersheds (Chris)
- Soils (Chris)
- Wetlands (Chris)
- Potential Contamination Sources (Chris)
- Floodplains (Chris)
- Well locations (Chris)
- Land Use (Chris)

Other:

- Contact Fire Department to obtain the Emergency Planning Community Right to Know information (Spencer)

Also, Holly is going to check to see if the state has updated the wells information since the mid-80's so that we may add that to the maps.

The question was raised: what can we do as opposed to the state? Discussion yielded that we can identify potential contamination sources that the state doesn't currently have listed, including storage places of hazardous wastes, and educate people who store such materials as to proper and safe containment measures. Ron noted that Cogswell Springs currently sends an annual letter educating people in an area upstream from the underwater flow of town wells about potential spills; the committee discussed a desire to see the letter sent to a broader area upstream from town wells, which Ron will look into.

We decided that once we have completed the items on the Task List, our subcommittee will provide a plan that provides recommendations to the town and to the Conservation Committee.

3) *Outreach:*

As a result of Spencer's presentation on invasive aquatic species at last month's meeting, Mark was able to procure three weather-proof signs to post at boat ramps in town, which educate boaters as to what to look for and how to clean off any debris from their boats and propellers before launching in our water bodies.

Spencer took two signs to post—one at Pleasant Pond and one at Long Pond. Mark took the other to post at Keyser. It was determined that the boat landing at French's Pond already has a sign. Mark will obtain two more signs to post at a second Long Pond location and at the Contoocook River boat ramp on River Road.

Mark reported that DES has an invasive species presentation, which they invited French's Pond Association members to a couple years ago. Only seven people attended the free presentation at the boat ramp.

We discussed early ideas of potential outreach, publicity, and public education, which we decided to discuss at the next meeting, once Mark has investigated what authority we might have to inspect boats before they launch in our town's public waterways. (Early outreach ideas include an information booth at town functions, asking pond neighborhoods to host an educational meeting in a home that would be open to all neighbors, and possibly producing print and web-based materials generated by the subcommittee.)

4) *Other Business*

- a. Dunkin Donuts – Ron relayed that apparently the pervious asphalt recommended by the Conservation Committee does not work for the type and amount of traffic anticipated at the site.
- b. Rain Barrels – Dana brought information about rain collection barrels and a New England company that sells them at a lower cost to municipalities in a program whereby town residents can order a barrel, similar to the Recycling Committee's sale of composting barrels. Due to the late hour, Dana will wait till next month's meeting to provide a bullet sheet of information both about this program and about "rainscaping" – or creating environmentally-friendly gardens that use rain water, thus reducing runoff.

The subcommittee will meet again August 18 at 7 pm. It was decided to adjourn at 8:46—a unanimous decision.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Myskowski
July 23, 2008