

ADOPTED MINUTES
Henniker Conservation Commission
Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting
August 18, 2008
7:00 PM Henniker

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

1) Review and approve minutes for the 7/21 meeting:

Motion to approve minutes by Holly Green; seconded by Mark Mitch. Passed unanimously.

2) Updates to Water Resources Management Plan:

WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE TASKS LIST

Confirm accuracy of the following:

- Watershed info on pages 3 - 8 and 18. (Mark) – Will bring info to next meeting.
- Surface water quality classification on pages 8 and 10. (Newly assigned this evening to Mark.)
- Flood plain info on page 9. (Chris) Will see Denise for hard copy.
- Wetlands and soils info on pages 8 - 9 and 21 - 22. (Mark & Chris) Chris will be able to supply this information once he has the flood plain data.
- Aquifer and Bedrock info on pages 10 - 14. (Newly assigned to Chris & Rick.) Chris can get the bedrock info; Rick will interpret it once he has the print outs from Chris.

Update the following:

- Surface water discharge, use, and withdrawal on pages 8 - 11 and 13. (Holly) Since DES has been permitting groundwater withdrawal, there have not been any permits issued in Henniker. Holly will dig deeper into use previous to permitting dates. She will separate the groundwater from the surface water, searching information for each.
- Groundwater discharge, use, and withdrawal on pages 11 and 13. (Holly) (See previous bullet.)
- Well data on pages 10 - 11. (Holly, plus newly added Rick & Chris.) Holly grabbed the water well data from DES One Stop and handed it over to Rick. The report includes private/residential wells going back to 1984 (when they began collecting the data). Rick will go over the list and see if he can find obvious wells missing from the sheet. Rick also believes some wells have not been reported since the 1984 data gathering began; he will try to determine such wells. Chris believes he may be able to help provide

some data of mapped wells, which may add to the list Holly obtained from One Stop.

- Potential contamination sources on pages 14 - 16. (Holly) Holly printed out hazardous waste generators—those companies in town that have reported that they are generating hazardous waste, even small quantities such as paint thinner. Holly will make copies and distribute to everyone so that each committee member can scan the list, since instantly Spencer noticed one business on the list that is no longer open. If a business is storing in Well Head Protection Area or in a Watershed for Drinking Water Supply, there are special storage requirements for more than five gallons.
- Land Use and Zoning info on pages 17 - 18. (Reassigned to Dana, with help from Holly & Chris.) Chris will look and see if there is a land use map; if so, he will print it. Dana will contact the person who knows the current zoning ordinances (contact info to be supplied by Holly). Regional Planning Commission may know about land use and/or parcel maps, too; Dana will look into this. Holly will also check to see if there is more than an aerial map with current land use.
- Water use info on pages 12 - 13 and 18 - 20. (Newly assigned to Holly.)
- Septic systems on pages 21 - 22. (Soil newly assigned to Chris; Septic concerns assigned to Dana.) Information on sewer and soil. Dana will contact the local health officer Jill Fournier.
- Waste disposal on page 22. (Newly assigned to Ron.)
- 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:

The plotter was down, so Chris will bring printed maps to next month's meeting.

- 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). Will bring to next month's meeting.

3) *Outreach Ideas:*

- Shoreland Protection Act just went into effect July 1st. Mark will contact the president of the French Pond Neighborhood Association as Holly contacts the Shoreland Outreach Coordinator from DES to try to set up an informational workshop.
- Dana will speak with Denise about setting up a blog. We discussed posting info about septic system maintenance, water conservation techniques, etc.
- We also discussed the idea of a mailing, to let residents know where to look for information on water conservation, septic maintenance, invasive species, and more. This will be further explored in the future.
- Invasive Species Workshop – we would like to look into scheduling one next spring in preparation for next summer’s water sport season.
- Invasive aquatic species signage – Spencer posted one at Pleasant Pond, Mark determined there are signs at Long Pond’s residential water access point, at Keyser Pond, and at French Pond. Dana took a sign and will attempt to post it at Long Pond’s seldom used and overgrown public boat ramp.

4) *Other Business*

- Cyanobacteria Advisory for French Pond: DES has issued an advisory for the beach and boat launch. The August 14, 2008 advisory will remain in effect until additional samples reveal cyanobacteria levels have diminished. DES advises pond users to avoid contact with the water in areas experiencing cyanobacteria bloom conditions. DES also advises pet owners to keep their pets out of any waters that have a surface scum.

Pond users should be on the lookout for cyanobacteria blooms in areas of the pond other than at the beach and boat launch. Wind shifts may easily move a cyanobacteria bloom to other parts of the pond. Often they form dense surface scums that are bright green or blue-green in color; or blooms may cause entire lakes to take on a blue-green hue. Sometimes they resemble paint chips or bright green balls floating in the water.

DES routinely monitors public beaches and lakes for cyanobacteria. Cyanobacteria are natural components of many water bodies in New Hampshire. Cyanobacteria may bloom and form surface scums when excess phosphorus and ample sunlight are available. Some cyanobacteria produce toxins that are stored within the cells but released upon cell death. Toxins can cause both acute and chronic health effects ranging in severity from skin and mucous membrane irritations, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea to liver and central nervous system damage.

Visit the DES Beach Program website at www.des.nh.gov/Beaches/cyanobacteria.html for photos and more information about cyanobacteria. To report a cyanobacteria bloom, call DES at (603)419-9229.

- Rain Barrels – Dana brought bulleted 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. She will check with the company to see what the current prices are and to learn the program details.
- Rain Scaping – Dana also brought some info about creating environmentally-friendly gardens that use rain water, thus reducing runoff. She will contact Denise to see if the two of them can develop a native plant list for homeowners and developers to refer to when planting their own rain gardens.

The subcommittee will meet again September 15 at 7 pm. Holly moved to adjourn, Mark seconded. It was unanimous as we adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Myskowski
August 19, 2008