

Ossipee Aquifer Steering Committee
February 11, 2011
10am-12pm
GMCG Office
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Blair Folts, Tara Schroeder, Elena Piekut, Noreen Downs, Al Levesque, Kamal Nath, Eric Senecal, Bob Gillette, Anne Cunningham, Roger ter Kuile, Theresa Swanick, David Little

Updates on Public Hearings

Freedom: Anne reported that Freedom held one public hearing and voted to put the GPO on the ballot.

Effingham: Al reported that Effingham held two public hearings, which Theresa said resulted in only clerical changes, and the GPO will be on the ballot. Kamal noted that in Effingham, warrant articles tend to pass.

Sandwich: One public hearing was held in Sandwich and the board voted in favor of putting the GPO on the ballot.

Ossipee: Bob reported that Ossipee held two public hearings, resulting in updates to the current article in the zoning ordinance, removal of performance standards, and the board voted to put the article on the ballot.

Tamworth: Three public hearings were held and some minor changes were made to references in the GPO. The board voted to put the GPO on the ballot.

Public Outreach

The committee discussed the effort to encourage a “Yes” vote on each town’s proposed Groundwater Protection Ordinance. Bob suggested that the *Carroll County Independent/Granite State News* Editor be approached about writing an editorial. Anne and David noted that both the Freedom and Tamworth Planning Boards had received unsigned letters from the Greater Ossipee Area Chamber of Commerce speaking against the proposed ordinances. The committee then discussed which towns might be best served by a postcard mailing to active voters, which by posters displayed in public places, and which by a combination of both. It was decided that postcards would be mailed in Tamworth and possibly Freedom, with the postcards serving as handouts in public places in all towns, and that posters would be displayed in all six towns.

The committee also discussed the writing of press releases and letters-to-the-editor. Tara asked whether a press release should focus on the regional effort that has inspired these ordinances. The committee agreed that it should, with Blair commenting that it should be a positive message about the cooperation between six towns, and Kamal noting that it should highlight the resources provided by the Lakes Region Planning Commission. Tara then suggested that an appropriate response to the Chamber of Commerce’s letters would be to encourage local business owners to write letters-to-the-editor in support of the ordinances. The committee agreed to do so.

Anne reported that she and John Shipman had given a presentation to the Freedom Community Club. Tara said she would email this PowerPoint to the group so that others could give a similar presentation to groups in their town. The LRPC website was also discussed, and the site now has all of the towns’ GPOs on it for each town to link to:

http://www.lakesrpc.org/services_resources.asp

Ongoing Projects

Natural Resource Report Cards & Ossipee Watershed Coalition Work: Tara then distributed each town’s updated Natural Resources Report Card and asked what each Planning Board would be working on in the coming months. Noreen commented that Madison had begun to look at an ordinance to protect its watershed but had found opposition even to the state’s model ordinance. Blair suggested that Madison enlist the help of UNH Cooperative Extension facilitator Amanda

Stone. Anne added that the same idea has been proposed to the Freedom Planning Board but that they too are not eager to take it on yet. She brought up Freedom's issue of having many old camps with outdated septic systems very close to the shore on Ossipee Lake, as well as the potential for those septic systems to contribute to nutrient loads and thus the proliferation of milfoil. Blair suggested finding a homeowner willing to do a dye test. The group discussed incentivizing septic system pumping/BMPs/new systems through things like tax breaks or discounts.

Tara then asked where each town stood in relation to regulating groundwater extraction. The group established that while the state has control over groundwater extraction, towns may address it indirectly through ordinances. Blair noted that these ordinances would be a natural progression from the work done on Groundwater Protection Ordinances.

The discussion turned back to septic system issues. Bob said that Ossipee could definitely pursue dye tests and gain support from the selectmen based on the relationship of excess nutrients to the milfoil problem. Kamal noted that Effingham has similar problems, with old camps on very small lots along the shoreline of Province Lake. In fact, recently Province Lake has been listed as "impaired" by the state due to high phosphorus levels (added post-meeting). Tara noted that the current Watershed Management Plan effort that GMCG is beginning (funded by the EPA and administered by NH DES) will look in more depth at nutrient levels in Ossipee Lake and loading contributed by subwatersheds.

BMP Strategic Plan: Tara tied this discussion into the Nutrients Chapter of the Best Management Practices Strategic Plan, saying that it contained a voluntary and anonymous septic survey template that may be of use. The plan will have charts which prioritize how communities can proactively address some of the greatest nonpoint source pollution threats to water resources. Tara is looking for feedback in the next few months before the Plan is presented to town boards.

Youth Coalition for Clean Water: Elena described the newly launched Youth Coalition for Clean Water and its goals and possible projects, which included: rain gardens, rain barrels, watershed signage, storm drain stenciling, public service announcements, a watershed video, and many other ideas. The committee was asked to complete a short survey indicating the projects and public outreach efforts that may be of interest to their towns.

Noreen presented a PowerPoint intended to be combined with a voiceover, recorded as a DVD, and broadcast on local access television channels. Her presentation described the Ossipee Watershed and Aquifer, the importance of groundwater resources, the basics of the Groundwater Protection Ordinances, and urged a "Yes" vote in March.

Upcoming Programs

***Voting: March 8, 2011**

*Dates of town meetings – Tamworth March 9, 2011 Brett School 7pm; Madison: Saturday, March 12 9am Madison Elementary; Effingham: Saturday March 12th; Ossipee: Wednesday, March 9th; Sandwich: Wednesday, March 10 7pm Sandwich Central School; Freedom March 8th, Town Hall.

***National Groundwater Awareness Week event:** March 6-12 – w/ AGT, Sustainability Network, GALA, Carroll County Collaborative, National Groundwater Association. Showing of "Bag It" Film – March 4, 2011 @ Runnells Hall & Kids presentation for Youth Coalition for Clean Water.

Homework (from 11/12/2010):

*February 16th Drive Time at WMWV *March 2nd Drive Time at WMWV

Next Meeting: March 18, 2011 10am-12pm GMCG office