

**Ossipee Aquifer Steering Committee**  
**March 18, 2011**  
**10am-12pm**  
**GMCG Office**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Blair Folts, Tara Schroeder, Elena Piekut, Noreen Downs, Al Levesque, Kamal Nath, Bob Gillette, Anne Cunningham, Theresa Swanick, David Little

**Updates on Voting**

Tara opened the meeting by congratulating all on their work on writing Groundwater Protection Ordinances (GPOs), educating the public about the ordinances and groundwater issues, and on the passage of the GPOs in four of the six Ossipee Watershed towns. She related the positive comments made by Kimmon Koulet of the Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) and Pierce Rigrod of the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES), who said that four towns simultaneously passing ordinances to protect a shared water resource is a record accomplishment, very unique, and a good example to other communities.

*Freedom:* Anne reported that 383 of Freedom's approximately 1100 registered voters came out to vote and passed the GPO by a large margin. She noted that there was some misunderstanding in Freedom about the regulation imposed by the ordinance.

*Madison:* Noreen reported that about 600 people in Madison voted out of about 1700 registered voters and that the GPO passed easily. She noted her surprise that one resident well-versed in water resources had been under the mistaken impression that the GPO regulates residential uses.

*Effingham:* Al noted that with much of Effingham's commercial zones lying above the Ossipee Aquifer, some citizens were concerned that the GPO would hinder economic growth. Kamal reported that Effingham's voter turnout of 306 was high, likely due to a competitive race for Selectman, and the GPO passed 174-120.

*Ossipee:* Bob reported that updates to Ossipee's 1989 GPO were defeated, and that the Select Board's lack of support for the changes likely swayed voters more than the Planning Board's recommendation that they be passed.

*Tamworth:* David reported that Tamworth had a record turnout of about 1000 voters, inspired by petitioned articles to abolish both the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. Both articles failed, as did the GPO. He noted that a large and well-funded campaign against the GPO in the days leading up to voting likely swayed voters, and that the GPO was overshadowed by this year's larger issues.

*Sandwich:* Tara reported that the GPO passed in Sandwich by a vote of 332-147.

Discussion of the voting results ensued.

**Public Outreach & Education**

The group discussed how each town's citizens and officials can be educated about the regulations imposed by the GPOs, as well as how Tamworth and Ossipee voters can be encouraged to pass/update their own GPOs in the future. Members agreed to address misinformed and negative comments made about the GPOs with more education and positive information. Bob suggested that Ossipee businesses started under the established GPO in Ossipee (since 1987) be highlighted to show that the ordinances are not anti-business. David

recommended the use of campaign manuals published by the New England-based Toxics Action Center.

Noreen asked whether a forum might be the best place for all parties to come together. Blair suggested that DES, LRPC, the Greater Ossipee Area Chamber of Commerce, and town officials all participate, and Tara suggested involving people such as Candace Daigle from the Tri-Town Aquifer towns of Tilton, Belmont, and Northfield, which collaboratively passed GPOs in 2008. Discussion ensued. The group decided to move forward with organizing an educational event for all six towns. It was also decided that more businesses and other stakeholders be encouraged to attend the next meeting of the Ossipee Watershed Coalition, to be held in a central location.

## **Ongoing Projects**

### *Natural Resource Report Cards*

Tara shared copies of an updated Natural Resource Local Ordinance Matrix that had been updated recently following town voting, and asked for further updates on behalf of John Shipman who is working with the Advocacy Committee on prioritizing natural resource protection work across the watershed. The group discussed changes to the matrix and Planning Board members agreed to bring a copy to their town to be reviewed and submitted to John for correction. Some suggestions included:

- \*need to clarify Natural Resource Plan (inventory? Chapter in MP?) - some towns have this – Tamworth, for example, has a chapter in MP but says none in the report card.
- \*clarify what a Sorewater Protection Plan is, and what the Septic System ordinance covers.
- \*where items are shown as having a state plan only, change colors to denote difference.
- \*annotate each item for each town to tell the reader if the ordinance/plan is located in the MP, zoning ordinance, or site plan.
- \*Effingham: Commercial excavation should be yes – group thought this should say “state only” cited 155-B
- \*Change “\*\*But not consistent with State model” to say “\*\*But not fully consistent with State model”.
- \*Add year enacted in parentheses for each ordinance

## **Upcoming Programs**

Tara encouraged members to volunteer at GET WET! groundwater education “Research Days” at Effingham Elementary School (March 22, 1:30pm) and Ossipee Central School (March 29, 9-11am and 1-3pm). She also noted that GMCG will be a presenter at the DES Drinking Water Source Protection Workshop on May 10, 2011 in Concord.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Ossipee Watershed Location is April 29, 2011 from 10am-12pm at a location TBA.

Minutes submitted by: Elena Piekut