

**"Planning for Protection - Using Your Natural Resources Inventory", with Amanda Stone of UNH Cooperative Extension
March 31, 2021 with GMCG & UNHCE
Supported by The Tamworth Foundation**

****Notes taken by Trent Millum, GMCG's AmeriCorps Water Quality Resources Assistant**

1. [Tara Schroeder](#) presents an introductory slideshow
 - a. Natural Resource Protection in the Ossipee Watershed has been a focus in the past including [NR mapping with UNHCE & SPNHF](#), [NR planning guide](#), municipal ordinance book (hard copy at GMCG), and [aquifer protection ordinances](#)
2. Amanda Stone from UNH cooperative extension presents a slideshow
 - a. Planning for Protection: Using Your NRI
 - b. Focus on NRI in the community context - bird's eye view of community, not extremely detailed at the parcel level
 - c. Natural resources don't stop at the town boundaries
 - d. Natural resources inventory is the basis for conservation planning. It is the document where info about all natural resources in your town is located.
 - e. Natural resources chapter in the Master Plan is the basis for zoning and regulation.
 - i. NRI should be a part of the Master Plan. NRI on its own is a bit more detailed
 - f. NRI is an essential planning tool for Conservation Commissions and other boards. It helps build community awareness of the local resources
 - g. Basic NRI components:
 - i. Based on what is available through existing free datasets ([NH GRANIT](#)) GIS data
 - ii. Conservation/public lands, water resources & wetlands, farmland soils, forest resources, wildlife and habitats, unfragmented blocks, zoning and tax map parcels, regional conservation plans, other maps, and **climate change**
 - iii. Detailed inventory components: wildlife and habitats, water resources evaluation, wetland evaluation, active farmlands, undeveloped shorelands, scenic resource inventory, historic/archaeological resources, unique geology.
 - iv. A NRI is a **living document**, it should never actually be done/completed
 - v. Money is saved by checking in on NRI each year and keeping it up to date. Creating a new NRI from scratch can take weeks or months.
 - vi. Wildlife Action Plan maps are updated every 5 years, most recently updated in 2020.
 - vii. Large unfragmented blocks are really important to protect and are key natural resources
 - viii. Town boards should use their NRI on a regular basis; Amanda suggests putting maps up around Town Hall, at the library, bringing out at town

meeting and Old Home Week for education and outreach to the community.

- h. Balancing the needs of development and natural resource protection is the key. Not protecting everything, and not developing on everything. There has been “scattershot” development in NH; how can we be more thoughtful about our land use planning? What are the key natural resources that need to be protected?
 - i. Amanda presents several maps to show examples of natural resource layers such as conservation lands, aquifer resources, habitat land cover, etc... These can all go in an NRI and be updated
 - j. Wildlife habitat and water resources are two top priorities for towns in New Hampshire.
 - i. Land protected along streams and waterways are also protecting wildlife habitat areas and corridors. There are co-benefits
 - k. Regulatory tools include zoning, subdivision regulations, and site design requirements
 - l. Public outreach and education is extremely important in this process. Why should people care? What is the value to them?
3. Polls
- a. Most participants (75%) are concerned about the pace of development in this region of the state.
 - b. Most participants (85%) are unaware of whether their town has a NRI or not or know it doesn't have one
 - c. Participants are most concerned about groundwater (38%) and wildlife habitat (19%) and lakes and streams (19%) followed by wetlands (12%) in terms of which natural resources are most threatened.
4. Questions and Answers
- a. Richard Fahy asks about signs identifying the aquifer. Bob Newton says they have them in MA for the Barnes Aquifer and that they are effective. Brian Taylor says that his wife contacted the state about that about 10 years ago and there was pushback. Amanda suggested contacting to see if it could be a possibility.
 - b. Mark Longley asks about whether CC is best functional group to carry out protections. Amanda says yes, that is the duty of these groups. There is lots of collaboration between towns and land trusts. CC's are the leads for creating the NRI.
 - c. Mark Longley also asks about whether well water quality is being monitored elsewhere. Amanda is not sure about that in other parts of the state. No one else was aware of private well water quality mapping or monitoring programs going on in the state, besides what GMCG is doing.
 - d. Nora asks about communicating in a non-threatening way to the community.
 - i. Amanda says that those poster-sized maps are really helpful at drawing people in, those people that are out in the natural world all the time (fishers, hunters, etc..). It shows people what exists in town, people are drawn in by the colors and other features on the map.

- ii. Public events and informal events are great times for people to take a look at the maps and receive information about the CC.
 - iii. Having info and resources available through libraries and town halls
 - iv. Being open about work being done in newspaper, newsletter, etc..
 - e. Matt Howe asks about why towns are struggling with weaving climate change into NRI? What are good ways to do so?
 - i. Amanda says that many communities are in the beginning stages of this. NRI's haven't been updated as frequently so this has not been implemented
 - ii. Amanda says it can be incorporated into all the different sections of the NRI. How does climate change impact water resources? How does it impact wetlands? Floodplains? It can then be incorporated into recommendations
 - f. Rich Fahy asks about after a budget has already gone through for example for paving dirt roads which will impact stormwater runoff, wildlife habitat, etc., how to communicate with municipality?
 - i. Amanda says that the first step is that when NRIs are being developed, resources need to be shared with town so they are aware. Some decisions about development that will be harmful are simply made in ignorance. They need to be aware of where resources are.
- 5. At the end, Amanda suggests that towns look at other NRIs to get examples. Look at tables of contents and see what is located in the town's NRI. Use the handouts that Amanda has passed out as well.