

**Lake Water Quality Study Group Meeting
March 1, 2023**

APPROVED: April 5, 2023

AGENDA: LAKE WATER QUALITY MATERIALS REVIEW

- Every Acre Counts
- Newfound Lake Region Association (NLRA) Lake Sampling Results
- Sewer Service to Newfound Lake – USDA Environmental Assessment - March 2019

NEXT MEETING ASSIGNMENTS

ATTENDING: Carroll Brown, Jr. (Conservation Commission Chair), Richard Batchelder (Conservation Commission Vice-Chair), Elizabeth Miller (Conservation Commission), Janet Cote (Conservation Commission), Rebecca Hanson (Newfound Lake Region Association - NLRA), Kane Lorah (via Zoom), Ken Milender, Jeff Chartier, (Water & Sewer Superintendent), Christina Goodwin (Town Administrator) and Richard Metcalf.

ABSENT: Mary Gebhart

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order by roll call and with a quorum present at 4:58 pm.

Ms. Goodwin explained that file folders were created for the committee and meeting materials like the agenda and other documents would be placed in them at each meeting for use by committee members. Study documents will not be copied unless requested. These folders were to be collected at the end of each meeting, but meeting materials could be kept.

LAKE WATER QUALITY MATERIALS REVIEW:

Mr. Brown stated that copies of the spreadsheet discussed at the last meeting were provided in the folders and that he began use of this tool for his review of the NLRA documents Every Acre Counts and the Newfound Lake 2019 Sampling Highlights. His goal in using these tonight was to use them for discussion and get feedback on the form.

Mr. Lorah indicated it allowed members to follow along with the document online or if printed out.

The group discussed the findings Mr. Brown cited on the spreadsheets. The full documents were displayed and referenced during the discussion. He referenced the Every Acre Counts report, page 13 and determined that the report indicated levels of changes but does not characterize the severity of the changes or why. Point sources like the rivers and streams and storm water issues were discussed and it was determined that all the issues would not be corrected by Sewer. Because phosphorus issues cited as entering through major tributaries, Mr. Milender stated the Committee needed to be a focus on the point sources and measurements that were in Bristol.

Ms. Hanson and Ms. Cote agreed that the spreadsheet would be helpful to pull out information from the reports. Ms. Hanson stated that there was no way to know exactly where the sources for readings would be coming from.

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LAKE WATER QUALITY MATERIALS REVIEW: - continued

Ms. Hanson had an issue with the column “correct by a Sewer.” She stated that most issues would not be corrected by a Sewer project, so she wanted to be sure that that was not the only solution or non-solution goal of the committee.

Mr. Milender stated that as the committee reviewed individual brooks and rivers, the issues could be improved with sewers. He referenced Black Brook as an example.

Ms. Hanson added that generally, samples are taken at every road crossing.

Mr. Milender stated that most of the focus was on phosphorus, but he thought there are other pollutants to consider. The group agreed that with water quality as the focus, other pollutants should be reviewed.

Discussion moved to the Newfound Lake 2019 Sampling Highlights. Mr. Brown’s spreadsheet noted the Newfound Lake issues with descriptions of the issues, the locations, severity, and trends. The spreadsheet also referenced cause and source as either unknown or described on page 13. Mr. Lorah referred to the page 14 pie charts for more information. The issues that were noted depended on sampling location and covered phosphorus readings, alkalinity, oxygen levels, increased plant life, and clarity.

Mr. Brown asked if it was known what the turbidity recordings might have been prior to any development around the lake. Ms. Hanson explained the sampling reports are from UNH, she added information about the models used to and locations of sampling sites, and some of the report’s analysis information.

Mr. Brown moved the discussion to Hemlock Brook and stated that no issues were identified. He and the group were surprised by this based on known history of runoff issues from this brook into Gramp’s Cove. Ms. Cote indicated she had some photos of issues caused by storm runoff and work done by some homeowners on their property on Hemlock Brook Road. She offered to bring these to the next meeting. It was determined that runoff and other stormwater issues would not be corrected by the Sewer project. Ms. Hanson shared that there was a goal to do more sampling during storms.

Based on a question from Mr. Metcalf about development and his experience seeming that often Towns are behind the curve catching development sometimes after the fact, there was a brief discussion of the report’s build-out analysis, data used to estimate it. Ms. Hanson indicated that factors impacting this included zoning, land conservation, population changes to estimate the impacts to the watershed and water quality should all buildable areas be developed. Mr. Milender suggested that Towns also have some responsibility to develop best practices and permitting to help with issues like land clearing, development, forestry etc.

More discussion followed about the monitoring and sampling in the watershed. Mr. Batchelder asked if salt was monitored. Ms. Hanson shared information about salt impacts and suggested that it too could be a threat to water quality to lakes and tributaries.

With time being an issue, the group decided to continue the materials review beginning with Black Brook at the next meeting.

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MINUTES:

The meeting minutes for November 2, 2022, and February 1, 2023, were reviewed. With no comments or changes the consensus was these would be posted as presented.

LWQSG WEB PAGE AND MATERIALS LINKS REVIEW: Ms. Goodwin opened the LQQSG web page and explained the updates made at the request of the Select Board to the Committee's guidelines and clarification of the role of the Committee. She demonstrated the links to other organization reports. Mr. Chartier helped with navigation of the NHDES chemical monitoring information for Bristol wells.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Ms. Hanson stated that her recent presentation done at the library will be available on their website soon and she will share it with the Committee for materials posting.

Mr. Brown asked if Ms. Goodwin recalled what he was supposed to be asking NHDES about in relation to failed septic systems. Ms. Goodwin stated it was failed systems on Newfound Lake and inferior treatment systems and generally if they had any information how long a system takes to cycle through and impacts.

NEXT MEETING: April 5, 2023 – 5 pm

ADJOURNMENT: With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Cote
Land Use Associate