

Plymouth Public Library, 1 Russell St., Highland St., Plymouth, NH 03264

**Members Present:**

**Ashland:** Kathleen De Wolfe

**Bridgewater:** Judy Faran

**Bristol:**

**Campton:** Sherrill Howard, Janet Lucas

**Holderness:** Will Abbott

**Lincoln:** Timmie Maine Miller

**New Hampton:** Lewis Mundy Shaw, Russ Brummer, Barry Draper

**Plymouth:** Lisa Doner, Neil McIver

**Thornton:** Myrtle Lewis

**Woodstock:** Jim Chesebrough

**At Large:**

**LRPC:**

**Guest:** Joe Schmidl – NHDES – Instream Flow Program

1. Quorum established and meeting called to order at 6:31 PM.
2. **Review of minutes:** The minutes of the May 2025 meeting were reviewed. No changes. Janet made a motion to approve; Lewis seconded. Minutes approved.
3. Joe Schmidl from NHDES made a presentation of the **NHDES Instream Flow Program**. Here is a summary of the program:

The purpose of the Instream Flow Program is to ensure that rivers continue to flow in spite of the uses and stresses that people put on them. The Instream Flow Program develops two products. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) first calculates the flow conditions in a stream that will protect aquatic life. Second, management plans are drafted that describe how water users will operate to satisfy their water use needs while also maintaining protected flow conditions, and how dam owners will manage their dams to maintain flow downstream.

The Pemigewasset River is in the middle of the process of being accessed. The contractors started June of 2024. They study flow measures, riparian ecosystems, and recreational use. DES is looking to complete the entire process by 2027 and bring the study to a public information meeting for comment. Then there is a formal comment period for the public. NHDES then responds to comments and then the final product becomes enforceable.
4. The **New Hampshire Rivers Council** held its 2025 Annual Meeting on June 17, 2025, which featured a presentation on "Everything you always wanted to know about New

Hampshire's dams but were afraid to ask" by Corey Clark, Chief Engineer of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Dam Bureau. Sherrill attended. She said it was interesting, but did not really apply to our committee.

5. NHDES releases the **New Hampshire River Trend Report** highlighting water quality trends in rivers and streams across the state. New Hampshire rivers are improving in pH levels and total nitrogen concentration, though there are concerns over specific conductance, an indicator of impacts from road salt, and overall increasing water temperatures. A link to the report can be found in the NHDES website.  
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6. PRLAC was notified that Plymouth is re-doing their **lead lined water service lines**. This is FYI.
7. Sherrill sent out to all PRLAC members a copy of the **LAC newsletter** as well as the **Legislative Tracking Update**.
8. There is a new (2<sup>nd</sup>) proposal for a **Waste-to-Energy plant to be built in Ashland**. There are some concerns regarding the location of this plant as it appears to lie in a flood zone. It also would be leased from the town in 5-year increments. There might be an issue if the lease does not get renewed. They are also looking to use the local rail line to haul trash in and out, which is currently leased by Vermont Rail. They would have to create an agreement with them. There is no revenue expected for the town. This proposal will still have to go through the selectmen and town for approval.
9. Lisa Doner shared with the PRLAC committee the results of recent water testing that her group did on the adjacent **Baker River**. This showed a number of parameters including E. coli. All looked pretty good.
10. Lisa motioned that the meeting be adjourned, Lewis seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:53PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judith L. Faran*

Judith L. Faran  
Secretary  
Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee

For meeting minutes, agenda, and information visit the PRLAC website at  
<http://www.lakesrpc.nh.gov/>