

 **OASC Meeting**
January 8, 2009
10am-12pm
Ossipee Main Street Office
Ossipee, NH

Minutes

Present:

Katie Davis, Effingham, Farm & Brewery Co-Owner
Kamal Nath, Effingham Conservation Commission
Roger ter Kuile, Ossipee Planning Board
Al Levesque, Effingham Conservation Commission, Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer
Mark McKonkey, Freedom, State Rep.
Erica Anderson, LRPC
Steve Gallas, Bartlett Lower Water Precinct
Bob Morency, RCAP Solutions
Beth Gray, Bartlett Lower Water Precinct
John Shipman, Freedom, Ossipee Watershed Coalition
Willie Farnum, Tamworth Board of Selectmen
David Little, Tamworth Planning Board
Tim Miner, Sandwich Planning Board
Tara Schroeder, GMCG

Recap of November Meeting & Updates: Tara began the meeting by recapping the November 13th meeting and updated the group on projects related to drinking water protection for the Ossipee Watershed. She handed out road salt workshop summary sheets, which were sent to town officials, along with road salt surveys, DVDs and CDs of the presentations. At this point, Madison and Freedom town officials/road agents have filled out the road salt surveys. These surveys are an important precursor to the next road salt BMP workshop to be held in 2010 with the UNH T2 program staff. Other towns were encouraged to complete and return the surveys.

John and Erica added to the recap of the November meeting's re: guest speaker, Candace Daigle of the Belmont Planning Board. John was struck by the amount of public outreach involved in getting Belmont's aquifer protection ordinance passed. Erica stated that she thinks this group's approach to the ordinances by paralleling education with ordinance development is a good one, whereas in Belmont, initially it was a group of citizens who were interested in passing the ordinance. Kamal stated that he thinks in Effingham there is very little citizen interest in the ordinance, and that the education piece needs to be a big effort. John stated that he feels GMCG is on top of the education piece, and it will be important to get across the win-win nature of the ordinance for citizens.

2010 Ordinance Work Update: Erica thanked the group for their help in writing letters of support to continue ordinance work in 2010 and 2011. At this point, the group is approved for Phase I funding from NH DES, which runs out in December, 2011, giving the group time to work on implementation of ordinances and make changes if necessary. She stated that DES asked lots of questions, mostly to determine if it is worthwhile to take a regional approach to aquifer protection. She said this group has shown enough progress for them to continue to support this project. Tim added that the regional approach is what is needed here; we need to emphasize that what we have is really unique to generate an appreciation of the aquifer and its vulnerability. People need to get a sense of the size and importance of this resource and that it is both a privilege and responsibility when you are located over recharge area.

Planning Board Support & Presentations: Erica then asked if the planning boards needed more education to get the ordinance enough support so that it is passed at town meeting. Kamal responded that in his view, the Effingham PB moves very slowly and usually has a backlog of ordinances that they are dealing with; they need a state mandate to push any through, otherwise it may take 3-5 years. That said, the Effingham PB is currently more active than it has been in past years. John stated that in Freedom, it depends on the make-up of the PB, and he also thinks his relationship with individuals makes them want to act on the ordinance now. He thinks that it is important for this group to focus on economic vitality vs. coming across as tree-huggers. Willie stated that there is an overall resistance to any regulations in Tamworth, especially within the current economic crisis. Steve thinks this may be the vocal minority, and stated that Bartlett has the same issues. Kate mentioned that as a small business owner, she would rather be following BMPs than have enforced regulation. Steve added that the public needs to understand that we are sitting on the Saudi Arabia of water, and that if people look at the projections and the reality of having a warmer, wetter climate in the northeast in light of climate change predictions, we need to pay serious attention to what is going into our water and seeping through filter material into our vulnerable aquifer.

Planning Board presentations were then discussed, and Erica went over the schedule for February when she, John, and Tara would present to town planning boards. People on the committee need to be checking in January with their town's PB in order to get these presentations on the agenda. Members of the Committee should also attend these PB presentations to speak on behalf of the Committee's work and the ordinance, and to ascertain the comfort level and any concerns of their town's PB.

The presentations will be 15 minutes long, and the purpose will be to introduce the PBs to components of the ordinance, present the potential overlay district map/display for towns to post, get feedback about PB's comfort levels, and answer any questions they might have about ordinance criteria. Tim mentioned that the presentations need to be concise, and without a lot of discussion. Sandwich PB is dealing with a cell tower application that night. The idea is to present to the PBs now to get the ordinance on their radar, then go back in 3 months with a solid draft after town meeting/town official turnover, with the ultimate plan to have the ordinance draft in place by November.

The schedule for the first round of PB presentations is as follows:

- Effingham: February 4th 6:30pm John, Tara (confirmed by Al)
- Freedom: February 18th 7:00pm John, Erica
- Madison: February 3rd 7:00pm Tara, John (Jay, too maybe?)
- Ossipee: TBA (February 2nd or 16th) 7:00pm John, Erica (Roger, or Jay too maybe?)
- Sandwich: February 4th 7:00pm Erica, (Peter Pohl possibly)
- Tamworth: February 24th 7:00pm John, (& Roger? Tara and Erica unavailable)

John mentioned that the PBs should have copies of the updated criteria sheets prior to the February presentations so that they could look over it and ask questions if any came up. Erica said she would re-work the sheets to make them more user-friendly, to be one page, and summarize the key points of the ordinance (prohibited uses & other key items). She will then give these to the town secretaries along with the aquifer Q&A and fact sheets. Other suggestions for the presentations were made to help direct the presenters. Steve stated that there is a reason why Nestle is looking at this resource – and the emphasis should be on its uniqueness. John thought maybe in outreach materials/the display we could be listing the top 10 aquifers in New England, so that people start to put it in perspective and realize how significant this aquifer is. Kamal added that there needs to be an emphasis at these presentations on what the ordinance is and what it is not; that the BMPs are not a prevention of business. Erica added that she can clarify who the ordinance impacts and the prohibited uses - the top 8 PCSs that the state recommends for inclusion, but that the ordinance can be flexible with these. Willie suggested that the presentation include a sense of what this ordinance is going to mean for the PB's workload, and Steve added that the PB would want to know if the time and effort would be

worthwhile – will the ordinance be effective? John stated that it's the code enforcement officer's responsibility to carry out the ordinance.

Further Discussion: Tim added that the education and enforcement need to go hand-in-hand, and Steve reiterated that this is a big, complicated ordinance that will take time for people to get comfortable with and that the actions of people living on the aquifer or visiting the area will protect the aquifer, not the ordinance itself. Kate mentioned that there are RSA's already in place that apply in the absence of the ordinance, and that it's not something new; it's the difference between enforcement on the local vs. the state level. Erica added that Candace's PB's main focus when presenting to their town was that it is nothing new; these are state laws. Willie has concerns about whether or not the state will help with the enforcement... people will ask who is going to pay for enforcement, and why their tax money is being spent on this work if it's a state law... he believes the ordinance needs to have teeth in it. Bob added that the ordinance gives the PB a spine to say "no" to certain types of development that could negatively impact drinking water; it essentially helps guide future development to protect this resource. John stated that the ordinance applies to existing and new development to ensure BMPs are followed. The concern in Freedom is that there's already too much regulation on small businesses.

Tim suggested continuing to emphasize the regional approach so there won't be disparities and similar protection/consistency across the 6 towns. He also added that there should be a special meeting or public meeting in the fall with LRPC and GMCG as a sort of pre-public hearing. He mentioned that Sandwich has a business group that meets every month and is always looking for speakers. Roger suggested getting a table at the Ossipee Economic Fair, Tara added about the Carroll County Collaborative's monthly meetings with the Action Team devoted to balancing economic development and environmental stewardship. The next meeting is February 11th at the Tri-CAP building in Tamworth and GMCG plans to have a presence. Tara also stated that March 7-13th is the 2010 National Groundwater Awareness Week and that this group could piggy back its efforts with this public education event.

Town Display Discussion: Kate mentioned that it is important for these presentations to include maps and boundaries – what is the overlay/tax map and how does it impact individuals on the ground? Erica stated that the maps will be part of the displays that GMCG/LRPC are working on for these meetings, and drafts of the displays were passed around to everyone. LRPC can't show higher resolution on the maps than 1:24,000 b/c of the WHPAs (wellhead protection areas) and security requirements since 9/11. She asked the group about whether or not to show the aquifer and WHPAs as one layer (color) or distinguish between the two layers with two different colors. David and Kamal agreed that one layer/color would be best and to get rid of different transmissivity categories in the legend and colors in the map to keep the language simple.

Erica said that their GIS person Anne can do the tax map overlay on these displays by the February presentations. David will email Erica the Tamworth tax map overlay and John will follow up with Freedom's. Steve mentioned that this committee should use GoogleEarth as a tool to show people their properties as it relates to the aquifer boundaries. Kate also offered to volunteer to do some maps.

Suggestions for Changes to Draft Display: Willie suggested that the term "Economics" be displayed on the left side, and John suggested putting "Wildlife" last. Kamal suggested personalizing the display more for each town... such as the parcel data, and maybe show PCSs (potential contamination sources) on the maps. John suggested putting the name of the town more clearly on the inset. Steve brought up the idea of showing more clearly the cost of contamination w/ pictures or text. Willie and John thought risk factors should be listed on the right side of the display. David thought that the group should keep the message positive. Mark suggested drawing the focus more to the map/center vs. the pictures on the outside; these needed to be downplayed. Kamal agreed and suggested putting the town map on top and making it larger, the Watershed map on the bottom and reducing it in size. He also suggested making the aquifer blue so people would associate it more easily with water.

The locations for displays was discussed, John thought stores would be a good place and Steve thought that presentations at stores would be a good idea. Kate thought handout sized copies of the displays for farmers, lake residents, etc. would be helpful. Erica added that she will be creating a webpage with meeting minutes, agendas, fact sheets, presentations, and the displays to help with this outreach. Mark suggested having a link to all of this information on a business card that could easily be passed out at meetings, etc. The group agreed that this was an excellent idea.

BMP Project Update: Tara passed around a list of 7 proposed projects that GMCG could assist with in 2010, and that this group would help prioritize. She also passed around the first two pages of the BMP Strategic Plan and the example of the action plan that GMCG will be working on with this group to help direct water protection efforts now and into the future in the Ossipee Watershed, funded currently through the EPA's 319 program with NH DES. Kamal spoke about the Province Lake BMP project completed in November 2009 with GMCG, and added that the permitting process is what drives up the costs of these projects. Mark suggested that he could help with possibly waiving the fee/speaking with the Commissioner in the future on such projects.

Bob Morency ended the meeting with a presentation of the EPA's 'Watersense' program at www.epa.gov/watersens. Similar to the 'Energy Star' program for businesses, this program encourages water conservation, has a logo for businesses that comply with its standards, and GMCG could be a partner. As a partner, GMCG could use the EPA toolkit, sample PSAs, promote water conservation, etc.

Next Meeting: Friday February 12th 2010 10-12 at Ossipee Main Street Office.