

Ossipee Aquifer Steering Committee Meeting
February 12, 2010
10 am – 12 pm
Ossipee Main Street Building, Ossipee NH

Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Al Levesque, Effingham Conservation Commission
Kamal Nath, Effingham Conservation Commission
John Shipman, Ossipee Watershed Coalition
Mia Akaogi, Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator GMCG
Erin Rodgers, Antioch Graduate Student
Cimbria Bradenhausen,
Bob Morency, RCAP Solutions
Jay Buckley, Madison Planning Board
David Little, Tamworth Planning Board
Tara Schroeder, GMCG

10:00 start. Tara introduces Erin and reintroduces Mia, now working full time on educational programs. Jay is introduced as a good learning resource. Erica could not be here today. She will be finished with LRPC in March. Following discussion on staff changes and scope of work Tara and Erica are working out for this project. Erica has also put up a website with meeting minutes, maps and documents. Web address was distributed. www.lakerpc.org/services_resources.asp

10:05 New display map passed around for discussion. John suggests zoning districts be added for Freedom's since the tax map overlay is unavailable at this point. Tara will talk to Anne at LRPC to see if this is possible. Bob suggests to move legend to smaller map for clearer representation. Kamal suggests to label primary recharge area (as well as possibly secondary and tertiary recharge areas if needed in the future). This can be added after the aquifer label in parentheses. This idea is seconded by John. Primary recharge area may be more intuitive than "stratified drift aquifer". John suggests that legend should also be larger to be more easily seen, or font size increased. Additional feedback should be emailed by this afternoon.

Nominations for potential erosion mitigation and BMP projects. There are seven right now, but need more information on those projects. Upcoming will be a criteria sheet for this committee to rate projects in order to decide which ones are addressed and when, pending future funding. Tara is working on this sheet and is also extending the deadline for project nominations through March in order to gather more community feedback.

Salt Management workshop, aiming for May. Will be done with T2, UNH and Steve Whitman. John mentions that this should be for credit for the Road Scholar program. Tara asks if towns would help pay as T2 normally charges a fee for the workshop? Jay says that this has been the way in previous years.

Kamal asks if Effingham has responded to questionnaire about salt use and practices. It has not been received yet by GMCG. Sandwich, Madison, and Freedom have returned their forms. Other towns will be approached to complete surveys in March and April with Erin.

BMP Strategic Plan. Erin will talk more about that towards the end of the meeting. Also working with

T2 and Steve Whitman to make it comprehensive and convey accurate management tools. John wonders how to bring every road worker (including District 3 DOT), especially locals. Erin will be working with towns to determine how many DOT workers will need to be reached.

Major points of groundwater meeting were distributed as well as PB presentation summaries for Effingham (45min) and Sandwich (15min). Good questions and discussions were brought up during these presentations. Ossipee and Freedom are next week and Madison next month. Concern about non-conforming land use after ordinances are passed. Kamal points out that this is true if owners are unwilling to update. Especially important for PCSs above aquifer, for instance, in Tamworth, which has many existing PCSs in proposed Aquifer Overlay District. Jay mentions that expanding use is difficult, while transferring use is not. Prohibited uses can then go through the planning board for regulation. Zoning board can give a variance. Ordinance will allow regulations to be overseen by the local level as opposed to DES, which would generally take longer. Important to work with lenders and insurers to keep business up to standard; they do not want to be liable for contamination.

John would like to add a point as to who should be at these presentations. Without a rapport with members of these boards, people can be hard to read. Ossipee people can also give background. Usually have someone from the planning board at these presentations. David says he will be at Tamworth presentation. Should be between 15-30 minutes, usually for background and education on the subject. Kamal says that it really depends on the towns. David says Ossipee won't know the details, but the general material. Jay says to use the planning board to plant the suggestion of a subcommittee. Tara asks Kamal and Al what they're impression is. Effingham has no meeting place and there is often no way to disseminate information, and in general, their sense is that there is much apathy. Board is overburdened and chance of subcommittee is not likely. Having something small, like a bookmark, that could be distributed to school kids and they could show to their parents, could help to inform the public about drinking water protection/aquifer overlay. Also circulated at post office and library. Tara mentions upcoming free well-testing program starting through the school GET WET! program as part of the Watershed Workbook project that Mia is working on. Kamal suggests adding a short article to the school newsletter that is sent home to parents as well. Tara asks that the group email her names of people and places that display boards and handouts could be for each town. Suggestion to use Washington State's drinking water images in posters and personalizing those for this watershed. Public service announcements from EPA were also mentioned re: septic systems and drinking water protection.

10:50 Tara introduces Jay who comes from Madison, which passed an ordinance ten years ago and updated it two or three years ago. Began with problems from gravel extraction operators wanting to spread sludge to reclaim land. Incident provoked people to react, learn, and vote. Discussion about how to get ordinances passed in towns. Kamal points out that Effingham a lot of work behind the scenes. Jay responds that wheeling and dealing is fine, but having guidelines to wheel and deal with is important. He also did town-wide educational mailings in order to gain support (single double-sided sheet). Money has to come from own pocket- cannot use public money to support one side of the argument. Can use examples from Madison or other towns in NH dealing with contamination of water sources to use during presentations. Also pricing and inconvenience from changing water sources for towns (Tamworth used as example).

-Having a good map of town and aquifer will be important to give boards ability to properly make boundary decisions to go along with District Boundaries description in ordinance.

-Ordinance does not include BMP enforcement. BMP enforcement by code enforcement officer.

John suggests comparing Madison permitted/conditional/prohibited uses to those suggested in the state template ordinance.

Tara asks about regular enforcement and inspections in Madison. Fee for inspection could be implemented; Jay says that Madison charges around \$100 for this.

11:40 Cimbria talks about model ordinances for communities concerned about drinking water. "Rights of Nature". Lawsuits brought after ordinances were implemented, mostly about water withdrawal. Hosting the movie TAPPED in March on World Water Day, trying to get a large event together. Looking for support/co-sponsors. Looking to bring it to schools, scout troops, etc. GMCG strongly considering cohosting/cosponsoring because of all the work they do with water. Film produced by Atlas films and released a few years ago. They approached Cimbria about screening.

12:00 Erin talks about the upcoming Salt Workshop. Asks if anyone has confirmed being able to offer the training for credit – UNH T2 program has agreed to do this for attendees in the future according to Tara and her discussion with Pat following the first road salt workshop last November. Discusses email from Pat that may suggest otherwise. Potential dates for training include May 4-6th or 11-13th.

Generally in the evening. Discussion of topics to be included and if anyone would like to add anything else to the possible agenda and what would be important for the salt chapter of the BMP Strategic Plan: Coordinated between DOT and town practices - Kamal.

Whole watershed approach. Policies affecting policies. - Bob

Caleb from NH DOT will be critical to get involved to bring local DOT folks in. Which towns have salting policies and who does not. - John

Talking with emergency services about road use. Can roads become low salt/no salt. -Al

Freedom's road agent being cooperative and John can help set up a meeting with him soon- John

Kamal- three things: cost/effectiveness, risk, data (visible data).

David- cost over time graph/analysis. salt cost per town, especially since Tamworth has reduced their salt use in recent years.

Next meeting will be **March 12th from 10-12 at the Ossipee Main Street Office**. Town representatives are asked to contact Erin with times when their road agents/selectmen can go over road salt winter maintenance plan surveys on March 12th following this meeting for a half hour to forty five minute meeting. Please email Erin at: erodgers@antioch.edu once you have discussed a meeting time and location with your town's road agent.