

Bellamy and Oyster River Protection Partnership
Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2007

Attendance: Brian Gallagher (UNH), Bob Eckert (Barrington), Eric Fiegenbaum (Madbury), Tom Fargo (Dover), Chuck Cox (Lee)

Absent: David Cedarholm (Durham), Tom Cravens (Portsmouth),

Others: Jennifer Rowden (UNH), Lorraine Morong (Madbury)

Minutes: Minutes from January and March were approved.

Community Reports:

Barrington: The Town Center Zoning District did not pass. Funding for the land steward did pass, and the position will be advertised.

UNH: Jennifer Hunter of the New Hampshire Estuaries Project has made funds available for the ORWA (and BORWPP for the Bellamy) to purchase their own water quality monitoring equipment for the VRAP program. This winter OWRA (and BORWPP for the Bellamy) has been measuring conductivity and taking chloride samples. Brian G. has also supplied DES with conductivity measurements from the UNH treatment plant.

Lee: Town meeting went well. Articles for conservation easements passed. The town voted not to spend money on mosquito control but to fund public education concerning the risks and protection strategies. NH Fish and Game have found American brook lamprey and brook trout in Chesley Brook. The ORWA provided documentation that redbin pickerel exists in Garrish Brook below Hoyt Pond.

Madbury: Several updates to Madbury's ordinances were passed; including aquifer and well head protection, and the wetlands overlay district which now includes vernal pools and a 25ft. buffer. Petitioned warrant articles concerning expanding business zoning were defeated. Work on an easement along the Bellamy River continues.

Dover: There will be an hydrogeologic study of the gravel pits on the Dover/Madbury border to resolve issues of standing water and the depth to the water table. The amount of material remaining for closing the pits is of concern. Dover's well pumping can effect the level of the water table. Eric F. will contact the building inspector in Madbury to see if there could be cross town coordination (education and enforcement) on these issues. Contacts in Dover would be: Bruce Woodruff and Tom Clark. Dover, as a larger community, is under the EPA Phase II stormwater management rules. There are discussions on how to fund improvements. The legislature is looking at allowing the establishment of stormwater utility districts as a way to shift the burden from property taxes to user based fees. (If you pave, you pay.) Also at the legislative level are discussions to give incentives for local production of biodiesel crops.

Agenda Items:

1. There was a continued discussion on the topic of increasing cross community communications with regard to water resource issues. Bob E. spoke to the ideas of getting the governing bodies (Selectmen) on board, organizing field trips of problem areas with roundtable discussions of systematic approaches, obtaining funding for the process and the possibility of hiring a coordinator. A first step might be to see if town officials are interested. He offered that his department might host a workshop.

Tom F. spoke to the issue of getting participation. Food is always a good draw. He also spoke to the idea of using the Groundwater Availability/Sustainability Study as a possible topic for a meeting. There are some concerns with its ability to be used at the local level. Brian G. spoke to the need for a coordinator and that the local water boards might be a good place to start to gauge participation and make connections. Other communities and groups could send representatives. Jennifer Hunter of the New Hampshire Estuaries Project and Peter Lamb from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Piscataqua Region were suggested as possible contacts for grant opportunities. Members will contact their respective water boards to assess interest.

- 2. Next meeting:** Thursday, May 10th, 10:00am Madbury Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted
Eric Fiegenbaum