

Bellamy and Oyster River Watershed Protection Partnership
Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2005

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

Absent: Tom Cravens (Portsmouth)

Others: Lorraine Morong (Madbury), Jennifer Rowden (UNH), Joan Schreiber (Madbury), David Funk (Dover, NH Estuaries Project)

Minutes: Minutes were approved with the addition of Watershed to the group name.

Agenda Items:

1. Check of the By-Laws indicated that we are fine with the current officers until May. Eric F. will continue documenting the appointments of the voting members.
2. Barrington Development – Bob E. gave an update on the proposed housing development off Tibbets Road which abuts SATWaSR and the Oyster River. The current proposal calls for private wells since there was a denial to hook up to the local water supply district. However, the EPA wants to do some test wells, so the proposal will be delayed and is continued with the Planning Board (PB). Bob E. has previously written to the PB indicating that the project is of regional impact. He is still considering approaching the developer concerning responsibilities to protect the local water resources; perhaps a donation to ORWA to monitor the area and/or increase public education of water protection. Through Brian G., the Oyster River Watershed Association will provide Bob. E. with concerns that they might have regarding the development and what kind of assistance they might need to monitor the area.
3. RSA 4-C:23 Regional Water Resources Management and Protection Plans – There was a discussion of the RSA which says in part that, “Municipalities are hereby authorized and encouraged to enter into agreements with other municipalities for the purpose of developing and implementing regional water plans and ordinances to enhance the effectiveness of their local water plans where water protection needs to extend beyond municipal boundaries. *It was moved (Bob E.) and seconded (Brian G.) and passed to: Investigate how we might move toward a regional water plan.* Tom F. will see if anyone in the State has successfully used RSA 4-C:23 and whether we might use that experience as a model. Tom will summarize options and provide ways for members to learn more about the process.
4. Bellamy River Watershed Maps – Tom F. brought a set of Bellamy River watershed maps produced by the Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC). While looking over the maps the discussion focused on:
 - a) the need for towns to provide GRANIT with updated conservation land information
 - b) the NH DOT's current planning around the Route 125 corridor.
 - c) The idea of SRPC hosting a meeting of towns in the watersheds regarding conservation priorities and possible collaboration
5. Next meeting – January, Tom F. will check on whether someone from DOT could come and talk about the Route 125 planning. He will try for a mid-month Wednesday morning time. February meeting was proposed to be a joint meeting with the ORWA. The topic would be a report by Ted Walsh of NH Volunteer River Assessment Program on the monitoring of the Oyster and Bellamy Rivers in 2005. Chuck C. will check with the ORWA. Eric F. will alert Ted Walsh.