

**Bellamy & Oyster River Watershed Protection Partnership
Meeting Notes, December 14, 2003
Lee Town Hall**

**NEXT MEETING:
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
AT THE DURHAM TOWN HALL**

TO DO FOR NEXT MEETING:

- 1. Identify questions and discussion topics for Paul Susca of NHDES**
- 2. If possible, investigate the NHDES web site in preparation for Paul Susca's visit. The address is <http://www.des.state.nh.us>**

Present on Dec. 14: Tom Fargo (Dover), Eric Fiegenbaum (Madbury), Joan Schreiber (Madbury) Tom Cravens (Portsmouth), Chuck Cox (Lee & ORWA), Dick Weyrick (Lee & ORWA), Judi Matthews (Durham resident), Wallace Dunham (Madbury), Bob Levesque (Durham), Greg Jordan (Barrington & SATWSR,) Bob Eckert (Barrington, SATWSR & UNH), Frank Mitchell (SATWSR & UNH)

The groups discussed aspects of the work plan pertaining to education and outreach as well as land use regulation:

Bob E: asked for responses to the task from the last meeting of identifying educational materials.

Bob L: Durham wants to get "outside" groups involved in helping with education related to storm water control & regulation.

Judi: Local volunteers may be seen as less threatening to landowners than officials in this role.

Joan: Researching ordinances can help us learn how towns relate to each other.

Tom F: There's a need for a Bellamy watershed group. SRPC has tried to establish one, with no luck to date. BORWPP has "protection" in its name and appears to be focused on regulatory protection. This relates to, 1. water quality and, 2. water quantity concerns. Tom noted that the Oyster River Watershed Association focuses more on inventory, assessment, monitoring and outreach.

Joan: said we have an opportunity to expand awareness in both watersheds.

Chuck said, in reference to a question from Frank, that ORWA hasn't considered pursuing a nomination to the state Rivers Program for the Oyster River.

Joan cautioned the group to not just focus on the rivers, but the whole watersheds. She

emphasized that we need to educate people in a watershed context.

Joan brought & showed a brochure, "Your Well and Your Watershed", produced by the Madbury Water Resources Board.

Tom F noted that some river advisory committees (set up for rivers in the state Rivers Program) review development proposals and proposed regulations. He also noted that watersheds are typically in different jurisdictions and that water suppliers have little regulatory authority.

The discussion continued to indicate that members felt the Bellamy watershed was most important in terms of information gathering.

Tom indicated again that water quantity is critical for the Bellamy.

JoAnn S. suggested an approach like the mutual aid approach used by towns for emergency services might be applied for water supply.

JoAnn and Tom discussed that a state RSA may authorize regulatory power for a group like BORWPP. Both will investigate this for the January meeting.

Tom indicated that the state pushes quality issues to the local level but keeps quantity issues for itself, both in regard to regulation.

Bob Levesque (Durham) suggested several things:

1. Check Maine for a watershed area outside of Portland where a watershed approach to managing water is underway.
2. An important role for BORWPP could be to review existing proposals from towns regarding water regulations, from the regional perspective. He felt this would be valuable for towns.
3. We should check EPA programs for aid for the Phase II Stormwater Program efforts
4. A place to start with the Bellamy would be to inventory and identify areas of extreme concern.

The discussion continued, focused on education with the following suggestions:

Educate that BORWPP exists

- Inventory of the Oyster and Bellamy River watersheds for BORWPP's own education and that of others.

- A Bellamy watershed trip is needed for BORWPP and maybe town officials

Summarize what each town is doing to protect water and to its removal from the watershed

Discussion ensued about the next few meetings with an educational theme. It was decided that BORWPP should take action to educate itself about town ordinances.

January—Invite Paul Susca, Environmental Program Manager: Drinking Water Source Assessment Program--DES to the meeting to discuss with us the kinds of programs that DES has and get his view of where BORWPP might be most useful. Action—Bob Eckert will contact Paul Susca.

February—A summary of Master Plan Goals will be made. Each town representative will present an overview of the goals from their town, and other related things their towns are working on. This will set the stage for the March meeting. Actions—Each town representative gathers the information for their town. Handouts are probably the best way to go rather than a slide/overhead presentation, since they can be taken away from the meeting.

March-- A comparison of town ordinances related to water will be made. Judi Matthews volunteered to summarize the ordinances since she has done this kind of summary for some NH towns already. She will construct a master table so that comparisons can easily be made. Action—Contact Judi Matthews at jam27@comcast.net

Recorded by Frank Mitchell and Bob Eckert