

**Bellamy & Oyster River Watershed Protection Partnership
Meeting Notes - January 20, 2004
Durham Town Offices**

**NEXT MEETING:
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2004, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
AT THE PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

TO DO FOR NEXT MEETING:

1. Review master plans, copy water-related sections and bring to next meeting. (all)
2. Invite Steve Couture from the DES Rivers Management & Protection Program to our next meeting (Tom Fargo)

PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

1. Introduce the Durham stormwater ordinance to BORWPP (Bob)
2. Plan the SATWSR (Barrington Reserve) dedication event.
3. Elect BORWPP officers

Present on Jan 20: Tom Fargo (Dover), Eric Fiegenbaum (Madbury), Tom Cravens (Portsmouth), Chuck Cox (Lee & ORWA), Dick Weyrick (Lee & ORWA), Jay Grumbling (Lee), Brian Gallagher (Durham/UNH Water Dept.) Wallace Dunham (Madbury), Bob Levesque (Durham), Bob Eckert (Barrington, SATWSR & UNH), Frank Mitchell (SATWSR & UNH)

MEETING NOTES:

Paul Susca and Jessica Brock of the DES Drinking Water Source Assessment Program met with the BORWPP group to review and discuss DES programs that BORWPP may be interested in. They include education, technical assistance and funding programs. Included are:

- Watershed Protection Grants – up to \$15,000 per project. Some has gone to BORWPP communities. Can be used for data collection, planning, implementation and education. Projects must occur in a public water supply watershed. The local water supplier must approve the proposal. No match is required.
- Waters Supply Land Conservation Grants. Projects need to be within 5 miles upstream of a public water supply intake.
- The “Model Rule” for protecting drinking water supplies. The group discussed this item in some detail. DES is assisting communities in establishing buffer zones around water supply reservoirs, including those on the Bellamy & Oyster Rivers. DES recommends a two-tiered buffer, with the areas adjacent to the water body being a “no-build” zone. Municipalities may assume enforcement responsibility for the requirements in the rule. Other discussion involved the difficulty of enforcing wooded shoreland buffers because no permit is needed to trigger a

response, the usefulness of a diagram to show the buffer requirements (Paul will send an example). Bob L. felt it would be very helpful for BORWPP members to communicate with their planning boards about the water supply protection rule.

OTHER DISCUSSION:

Bob E: What can the BORWPP do that individual town's can't, such as promoting public policies that protect water supplies?

Paul: BORWPP can make sure planning boards and other officials are aware of the rule, offer to be the community's designee to DES to review proposed changes to the rule and provide education to help people better understand their connection to the watershed.

Bob E. reiterated the task and purpose (determine current status) of reviewing municipal master plans and zoning ordinances.

Chuck mentioned that the Oyster River Watershed Association did a management plan for the river that includes some review of land use regulations.

Bob E. will copy sections for the next BORWPP meeting.

Tom reported that the Portsmouth Water Dept. has a new master plan.

Tom Fargo reported that he and Rep. Judith Spang looked into RSA 4-C:23 (allows municipal coalitions to protect water) and state water programs. He also spoke with Ann Schulz about the nomination of the Isinglass into the NH Rivers Management & Protection Program. The Isinglass Local Advisory Committee is developing a management plan for the river.

Bob L. reported that Durham is implementing a stormwater ordinance. He invited BORWPP members to review it & offer comments.

Recorded by Frank Mitchell