

PISCATAQUOG RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PRLAC)
www.PiscataquogRiver.org

Meeting #325
September 23, 2025
MINUTES

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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| • Chair Jane Beaulieu, Manchester (Term exp. 08/30/26) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent |
| • Vice Chair John Magee, Community-at-large member (Term exp. 02/22/27) | <input type="checkbox"/> present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> absent |
| • Clerk Andrew Cadorette, Goffstown (Term exp. 05/29/27) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent |
| • Keith Erf, Weare (Term exp. 01/27/26) | <input type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> absent |
| • Donna Mombourquette, New Boston (Term exp. 04/08/28) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent |
| • Gary Samuels, Deering (Term exp. 10/31/26) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent |

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Guest: None

Call to Order

Jane called the meeting to order at 5:43 pm.

August 26, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

Jane made a motion to approve the August 26, 2025, minutes. Motion was seconded by Gary. VOTE: 4-0-0. Motion Passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee received a request for comments on the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund application submitted by the NH Department of Environmental Services Dam Bureau for the removal of the Hadley Falls Dam in Goffstown.

Members in attendance again agreed **not to support the proposal**, noting that the loss of the Hadley Falls Dam and its impoundment for the community of Goffstown far outweighs the ecological benefit of the removal of the dam. The Committee again questioned why the Department of Environmental Services is prioritizing the removal of this dam, which plays a central role in community identity, over other structures that may present fewer community impacts.

Additionally, the Committee noted in their review of the NH DES Dam Bureau application the following concerns:

1. **Aquatic Connectivity Figures**

The application states that removal will restore *311 miles of aquatic connectivity* within the Piscataquog River watershed. Based on our review, the true figure appears to be closer to **35 miles**, as multiple barriers remain in the watershed, including dams at Parker Station (North Branch), in New Boston (Middle Branch), and likely in the South Branch, as well as smaller dams on Bog Brook and Whittle Brook. We request that the Applicant provide a transparent accounting of how the 311-mile figure was calculated.

2. **Upstream/Downstream Connectivity Estimates**

The proposal also claims that removal, in conjunction with other projects, will provide *250 miles of upstream connectivity and 49 miles downstream*. We question whether these estimates are achievable, as they rely heavily on downstream projects such as the Kelley Falls fish ladder and Glen Falls trap and transport facility—projects for which significant funding has not yet been secured.

3. **Ecological and Functional Benefits**

The application indicates that removal will improve water quality, sediment/nutrient flow, flood resiliency, storage capacity, shoreland stabilization, habitat connectivity, and recreation. We ask what specific studies or site-specific data support these conclusions. Without measurable, local evidence, it is difficult to determine whether this project is the best use of ARM resources.

4. **Community and Recreational Impacts**

The Hadley Falls Dam and its impoundment are central to Goffstown's recreation, scenery, and identity. The dam supports cultural and community activities, including the annual Pumpkin Regatta, which attracts thousands of visitors. Even the application acknowledges that the recreational benefits of the existing dam most likely outweigh those of restored floodplain access.

Jane made a motion to send a letter to Emily Nichole, Program Manager, Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund, NH Department of Environmental Services NH DES in opposition to the removal of the Hadley Falls Dam and to include the comments discussed. The Motion was seconded by Donna.

VOTE: 4-0-0. Motion passed.

PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEWS

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

• Piscataquog River Management Plan (PRMP).

Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission has posted the RFQ for the updating of the Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee's River Management Plan. The RFQ has also been posted to the website. The deadline to submit qualifications is October 24, 2025.

For reference see:

- o <https://www.snhpc.org/home/news/rfq-technical-services-piscataquog-river-management-plan>
- o www.piscataquogriver.org

- **Piscataquog River Dams.**
Andy informed the Committee that the Goffstown Selectboard voted to support the ARM application for the removal of the Hadley Falls Dam.
- **Goffstown Pedestrian Bridge (Goffstown Rail Trail).**
No updates
- **The Friends of the Piscataquog River Park.**
No updates
- **Bass Island, Manchester**
Jane and John met with the City of Manchester to review and provide support for the erosion issue at Bass Island on the western side of the park. The City hired a contractor to do erosion control work however, recent high water impacted these improvements and they appear to have failed. The City is working on a plan to correct the issue. The PRLAC is happy to provide any assistance we can.
- **PRLAC Website**
No updates

NEW BUSINESS

None

MEMBERSHIP

No updates

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting is to be **Tuesday, October 28, 2025**, 5:30 pm at the Weare Public Library.

ADJOURNMENT

6:37 pm Andy made a motion to adjourn. Gary seconded the motion.

VOTE: 4-0-0. Motion Passed.

Respectfully submitted, Andrew Cadorette, Clerk