



Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee

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www.PiscataquogRiver.org

PISCATAQUOG RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

2025 members and municipality represented:

- John Magee, At-Large, Chair - term expires 02/22/27.
- Jane Beaulieu, Manchester, Vice Chair - term expired 08/30/26.
- Andy Cadorette, Goffstown, Clerk - term expires 05/29/27.
- Keith Erf, Weare - term expires 01/27/29.
- Donna Mombourquette, New Boston - term expires 04/08/28.
- Gary Samuels, Deering- term expires 10/31/26.

PRLAC UPDATES

The Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee (PRLAC) continues to meet monthly, on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm at the Weare Public Library (Emma Sawyer Room).

During the 2025 calendar year, the PRLAC met a total of nine (9) times. The January, March and July meetings were not held due to lack of permit reviews. The scheduled December 23, 2025 meeting was the Committee's 328th scheduled meeting since September 1, 1994.

PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEWED

The Committee **reviewed 11 permit applications during calendar year 2025**. In support of the Piscataquog River Management Plan and water quality within the Piscataquog River watershed, the Committee continues to prioritize the following:

- The use of wildlife friendly erosion control fabric and materials.
- Reclamation seeding and plantings should use only native species, and any reclamation should avoid bio-solid based products.
- Within the area of native vegetation, vegetation shall be allowed to grow without cutting, limbing, trimming, pruning, mowing, or similar activities and only allow those as needed for renewal or to maintain/improve plant health.
- Given proximity to the river, the Committee recommends that if property owners choose to fertilize, that they only use low- or no-phosphorous slow-release organic fertilizer.

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF SUPPORT

During the 2025 calendar year, the Committee provided the following request for support:

- **Round 3 Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal - NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES)**. NHDES requested a letter of support for their application for the Round 3 Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grant for the construction of fish passage on the Kelley's Falls Dam in Manchester. **Motion to support. VOTE: 4-0-0. Motion Passed.**
- **2025 Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF) Source Water Protection Grant - Goffstown Village Water Precinct**. The Goffstown Village Water Precinct requested a letter of support for their grant application to the 2025 Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF) Source Water Protection Grant. The purpose of the grant

is to purchase land in Goffstown along the Piscataquog River that sits atop a high-quality aquifer. **Motion to support. VOTE: 4-0-0. Motion passed.**

- **Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund application for the proposed removal of the Hadley Falls Dam and associated river restoration submitted by the NH Department of Environmental Services Dam Bureau.** The Committee received a request for a letter of support from NH DES for their application to the ARM Fund for the removal of the Hadley Falls dam. Members agreed not to support the proposal, noting that removal offers limited ecological benefit, with many unknowns, while the loss of the dam and its impoundment would significantly harm recreation and community life in Goffstown. **Motion to not support the ARM Fund application. 5-0-1. Motion passed.**
- **Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund application submitted by NHDES Dam Bureau for the removal of the Hadley Falls Dam in Goffstown.** The Committee received a request from the NHDES Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) program for comments on the ARM Fund application submitted by the NHDES Dam Bureau for the removal of the Hadley Falls Dam in Goffstown. **Motion in opposition to the removal of the Hadley Falls Dam. VOTE: 4-0-0. Motion passed.**

VOLUNTEER HOURS

It is estimated that the Committee **volunteered a total of 82 hours during the 2025 calendar year.** Volunteer hours are based on the number of meetings held; attendances; hours per meeting; and other activities members participated in on behalf of the PRLAC.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

No community events were held in the 2025 calendar year.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

[Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee Website Launch \(www.PiscataquogRiver.org\)](http://www.PiscataquogRiver.org)

In April of 2025 the PRLAC launched a Committee website. The website provides the public with Committee information and serves as a repository for permit reviews. It also provides the public with information about the Piscataquog River and the role of Local Advisory Committees. Funding for the website is provided by Committee members.

Since launching the website there have been **426 visitors** to the site. Additionally, the Committee was contacted by two members of the public through the Contact Us page.

See: www.PiscataquogRiver.org

PRIORITIES FOR 2026

During the 2026 calendar year the PRLAC has identified the following priorities:

- In 2025, Southern New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (SNHRPC) was awarded a 604(b) grant by NHDES. The PRLAC worked with SNHRPC and NHDES on the grant application, RFP to select a contractor to work on the plan update, and with the selection of the contractor, which is in process at the end of 2025. In 2026, the plan update process will begin and will focus on meeting with and learning from the watershed's communities what elements of the plan will help them.

- Membership – The Committee recognizes membership as a key issue for its long-term success and will take affirmative steps to increase membership within the designated communities.

THANK YOU TO OUR PISCATAQUOG RIVER COMMUNITY

The PRLAC extends its gratitude to all Town staff for their efforts in keeping us informed about proposed developments within the Piscataquog River corridor. This collaboration has significantly enhanced our ability to advocate for the river’s quality and protection as a shared resource. We also thank the communities that have implemented additional processes and ordinances to safeguard water quality, particularly within the Piscataquog River watershed. In particular, many of the communities supported the application for 604(b) grant funds to update the Management Plan.

ABOUT THE PISCATAQUOG RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Piscataquog River and its three branches, the South, Middle, and North, were designated in 1993. The branches, which begin at the outlets of Pleasant Pond in Francestown, Scobie Pond in Francestown, and Deering Lake in Deering, respectively, and the river’s mainstem flow a total of 63 miles to the Merrimack River in Manchester.

For more information see: <https://www.lac.des.nh.gov/rivers-and-lacs/piscataquog-river>

- [Piscataquog River Fact Sheet](#) 
- [Piscataquog River Map](#) 
- [Piscataquog River Management Plan](#) 

ABOUT DESIGNATED RIVERS

A designated river is managed and protected for its outstanding natural and cultural resources in accordance with [RSA 483](#), the Rivers Management and Protection Act. At the request of the local communities through which they run, 19 of New Hampshire’s rivers have been recognized by the state legislature and the governor for their important natural resources, historical significance and their contribution to our quality of life. Each designated river has a local river management advisory committee to facilitate communication among the municipalities along the river in the management of their shared resource, develop a [river corridor management plan](#)  to guide river protection efforts, and provide local input into state management of their river.

Respectfully submitted,

John Magee

John Magee, Chair

2/17/2026

Date