

EXETER RIVER STUDY COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 19, 2011

1. Convene Meeting:

Chairman Lionel Ingram, Paul Vlasich-Town Engineer, Don Clement-Selectmen's Rep, Pete Richardson, Kristen Murphy-Planning Department, Ginny Raub, Roger Wakeman-PEA Representative and Deb Loiselle-NH DES were all in attendance. Absent: Mimi Becker. Guest: Sally Soule – NH DES and Phyllis Duffy-Public Works Department. Lionel convened the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

2. Approve minutes of 10/27/11:

A motion was made to accept the minutes of October 27, 2011 by Ginny Raub and seconded by Don Clement. Vote was unanimous.

3. Status of the Feasibility Study – Paul Vlasich:

Paul Vlasich gave an update from the sub committee meeting January 18, 2011. He highlighted the following:

- A survey of the dam area was completed and plans draw up
- A geomorphic study of the river
- Hydraulic study
- Study contract Budget
- Public Information Meeting

Paul stated the survey of the dam area was completed and plans draw up.

A geomorphic study of the river is a quick wash of the geomorphic processes in the river. Where through the investigations of sediment, wildlife and ice river regimes they look at geomorphic in the river. Much of the river won't change. There were however, a couple of areas of concern. These were noted in the geomorphic study two years ago. The first round of sediment samplings has been done. There are some results that we may have to do additional analysis. We will know in about a month if this is necessary. During our budget process we had the first sample covered. If we have to go through the additional analysis there will be an additional cost of approximately \$10,000 (toxicity \$3,500 and community assessment \$6,500).

Don asked where were the samples taken? Paul stated six samples were taken above and six samples below the dam.

The wildlife assessment is ongoing with the geomorphic studies and the ice regime study. The bridge infrastructure and foundations were inspected. Also the river ice dynamics looked at by field investigations.

Hydrology was a big discussion at the meeting. It starts with the climate change data. Now that we have newer numbers on what a 50 year storm would be, we need to talk to the dam bureau folks, if we modify the dam. What is the standard the town will be held to? The consultants got additional data from some previous reports used by PEA. Also, they used lidar information. Which gives you the ability to get better topography of the area around the river. With this they were able to get greater flow simulations and incorporated this information in the study. They had some examples, which need modifications but now they have a working model.

The contract we currently have with the consultant is \$156,690. We are 42% complete with our contract when you look at costing. We have been reimbursed through EPA and Gulf of Maine Grant \$14,500 and have two requests in now that equate to \$34,850. As far as the budget we still have the question of additional analysis. We still have the visual assessment outstanding. That's renditions of what its like in the dam area if the dam was removed. That is not financed at this point. The figure for that is \$6,290. We do have a lead with the help of Sally

through the EPA. We most likely could get some additional funding to cover these issues. We also have to do a grant extension request both for EPA and Gulf of Maine because of current deadlines.

The next public meeting/update is February 15 2012. The consultant is gathering information to the questions and comments from the previous meeting so they are not left uncovered.

Next public update meeting will be April 18, 2012

Lionel stated we need to figure out how to give the public all the information regarding dam removal, repairs, the impact on PEA, and alternative water supply. We need to be prepared to answer questions the public is interested in. He continued I have contacted the town of Kensington for a point of contact. They have not replied yet. What is the impact on them if we remove the dam? Everyone, mark your calendar for April 18; to attend the meeting, I would appreciate it.

Mark Bellevo asked Paul to define “alternatives of Fall/Winter 2012” that was on the project schedule at the September meeting.

Paul stated it deals with the hydraulic model. Which item are we going to look at as far as dam modifications go?

Mark also asked Paul the standing of the preliminary analysis.

Paul said, they have a working model but refinements are necessary.

Mark asked to have working meetings posted.

Lionel assured him that all meetings would be posted for the public.

Mark asked to see all information from the working meeting February 18th.

Paul said he would provide the information to Mark.

4. Non Source Pollution – Kristen Murphy:

Kristen gave an update on the Non Source Pollution meeting. After our last meeting we came up with a plan. They are looking at how to approach the public using many forms simultaneously. They talked about what the future EPA requirements will be. That also has a public outreach component and has some strict requirements reporting and measuring success. They are looking at multiply venues over a tight time frame. This way your message is more likely to be heard and acted upon by the public. They talked about a pilot program started in San Diego and used in Maine. Its called Think Blue Maine campaign. It's a simple message that can be tweaked to fit Exeter. We talked about having a local Exeter release using our local educational channel, our local newspaper, and the town's website. Our next steps are a voice over for the existing commercial and rewrite the script. Most important a public survey must be done. With the survey we will be able to get a base line of where the public is today. Then when we repeat the survey we can gauge the effectiveness of this outreach campaign

Lionel asked if the schools could carry the message through there.

Ginny stated the group was concentrating on the developing the survey and the website at this time.

Kristen commended Jill's efforts in other communities.

Ginny added she was thankful Jill Farrell is involved and is willing to provide her resources to us.

Ginny encouraged everyone to go to thinkbluemaine.org and watch the rubber ducky.

4. **Other Business**

Don stated he attended the DES Great Bay Dialogue Meeting. He said they had many people attend and spent 3 hours meeting. Many questions were discussed and a wide range of topics was covered.

5. **Public Comment:**

None

6. **Adjourn the Meeting:**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m. The next meeting was set for Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Nowak Room of the Town Office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancie Griswold