

# Great Dam Removal Project

Section 106 Consultation

Public Information Meeting



February 24, 2015  
Exeter Historical Society



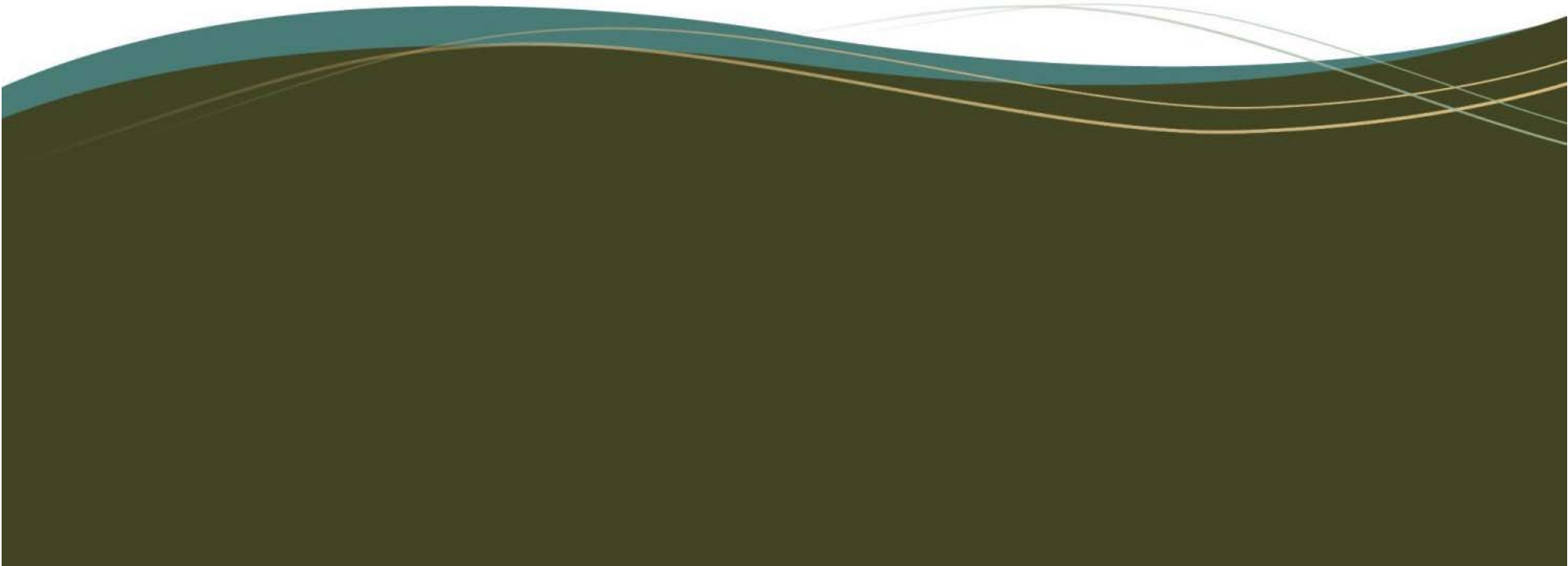


# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Brief Review of Project and Project History
- Review Section 106 Consultation Process
- Results of Cultural Resources Investigations
- Next Steps
- Great Dam Remembrance Committee
- Question & Answers Session

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# PROJECT BACKGROUND





## Dam Safety

- Dam is classified as a “Class A Dam”
- Class A Dams shall pass a 50-year flood or shall be stable enough so that it is safe under the specified flood conditions
- Great Dam ***does not pass the 50-year flow*** with 1 ft freeboard and ***does not meet stability criteria***



## Project History – Previous Activities

- 1981 • Town Takes Ownership of the Dam
- 2000-2009 • NHDES Dam Bureau Issues Letter of Deficiency and Amendment
- 2007 • Phase 1 (Dam Modification) Final Report for the Town of Exeter (Wright-Pierce)
- 2008 • Riverbank Scour/Design Impacts to Water Quality (Wright-Pierce)
- 2009 • Geomorphic Assessment (Bear Creek Environmental/Fitzgerald)
- 2010 • Water Supply Alternatives Study – Final Report (Weston & Sampson)
- 2013 • Great Dam Removal Feasibility and Impact Study (VHB)
- 2014 • Town Warrant Article 8 - Great Dam Removal - Passes



# Exeter River Study Committee

Member	Representing
Lionel Ingram, Chair	Exeter Resident
<u>Pete Richardson</u> , Vice Chair	Exeter Resident
Frank Patterson	Exeter Resident
<u>Rob Bourdon</u>	Exeter Resident
<u>Richard Huber</u>	Exeter Resident
<u>Dr. Mimi Larsen Becker</u>	Exeter Resident
<u>Roger Wakeman</u>	Phillips Exeter Academy
Kristen Murphy	Exeter Natural Resource Planner
<u>Paul Vlasich</u>	Exeter Public Works
Ginny Raub	Exeter Conservation Commission
Don Clement	Board of Selectmen
Additional Members of the Working Group	
Deborah Loiselle, Co-Chair	NHDES Dam Bureau
Phyllis Duffy	Town of Exeter Engineering Dept.
Eric Hutchins	NOAA Restoration Center
Sally Soule	NHDES Watershed Assistance



# Great Dam Site, Looking Southwest





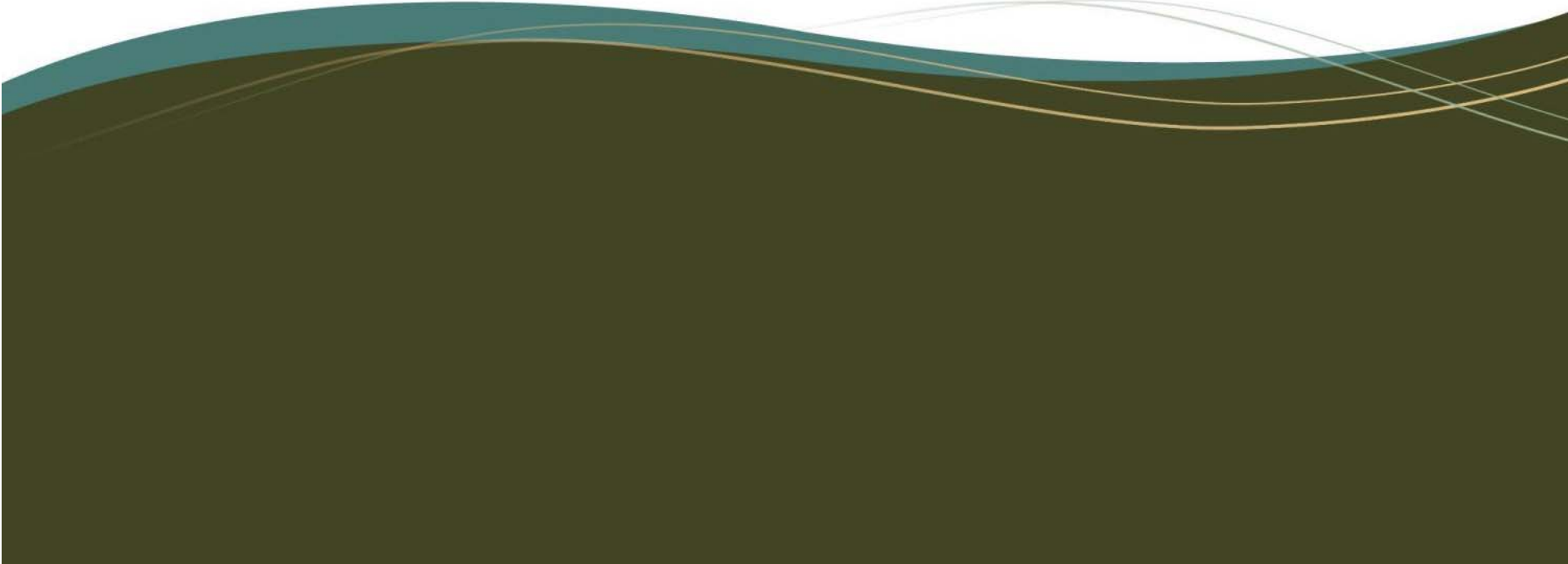
# Visual Simulation at Dam Site





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# SECTION 106 PROCESS





## Section 106 Process

- Project must follow **Section 106** of the National Historic Preservation Act as there is federal involvement in the project
- Section 106 requires **federal agencies** to take in to account the effects of their project on historic properties, including historic buildings and districts and archaeological resources
- The **Corps of Engineers** is the “Lead Federal Agency” (LFA); NOAA was LFA for the Feasibility Study Phase
- The **NH Division of Historical Resources** (NHDHR) is the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) which is an advisor to the LFA and an official consulting party
- Seven other **Consulting Parties** (individuals and groups) have been officially determined to be consulting parties by NOAA during the Feasibility Study



## Consulting Parties

- Town of Exeter
- Don Robie, (former) owner of buildings on Kimball's Island
- Exeter Heritage Commission
- Exeter Historical Society
- Exeter Historic District Commission
- Brian Griset, resident of Exeter
- Exeter River Study Committee

**Initiate Section 106 Process**

Establish undertaking  
Identify appropriate SHPO/THPO \*  
Plan to involve the public  
Identify other consulting parties

▶ *No undertaking/no potential to cause effects*

▼  
*Undertaking is type that might affect historic properties*

**Identify Historic Properties**

Determine scope of efforts  
Identify historic properties  
Evaluate historic significance

▶ *No historic properties affected*

▼  
*Historic properties are affected*

**Assess Adverse Effects**

Apply criteria of adverse effect

▶ *No historic properties adversely affected*

▼  
*Historic properties are adversely affected*

**Resolve Adverse Effects**

Continue consultation

▶ *Memorandum of Agreement*

▼  
**FAILURE TO AGREE**

▶ **COUNCIL COMMENT**

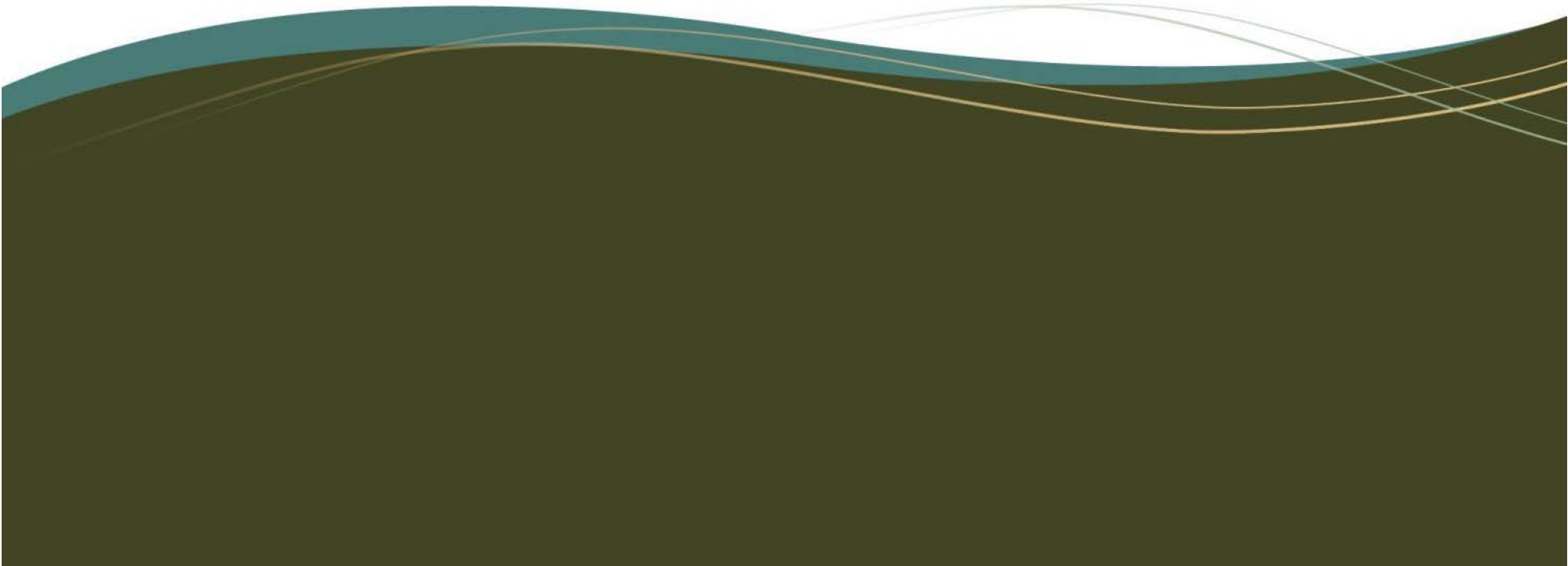


# Historic Properties – Studies to Date

- **Project Area Form**
  - Documents the cultural resources that may be affected by the project
  - Discusses previous survey and designation efforts
  - Provides recommendations for additional investigations, if needed
- **Great Dam Individual Inventory Form**
  - Description of the dam
  - Historic development context and individual history of the dam
  - Comparative evaluation
- **Phase IA Archaeological Survey**
  - Literature search (e.g., known sites)
  - Field review (to look for sensitive landforms)
  - Results in recommendations for further surveys if needed
- **Phase IB Archaeological Survey**
  - Systematic test pit testing at direct impact (medium or high sensitivity)

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY





## Phase IA Archaeological Survey - VHB

- Literature search and field visit
- Recommended Phase IB testing throughout the Area of Potential Effect if dam removal is selected.
- Also recommended consideration of post-removal monitoring of archaeologically sensitive areas along upstream river banks.
- NHDHR concurred with VHB recommendations



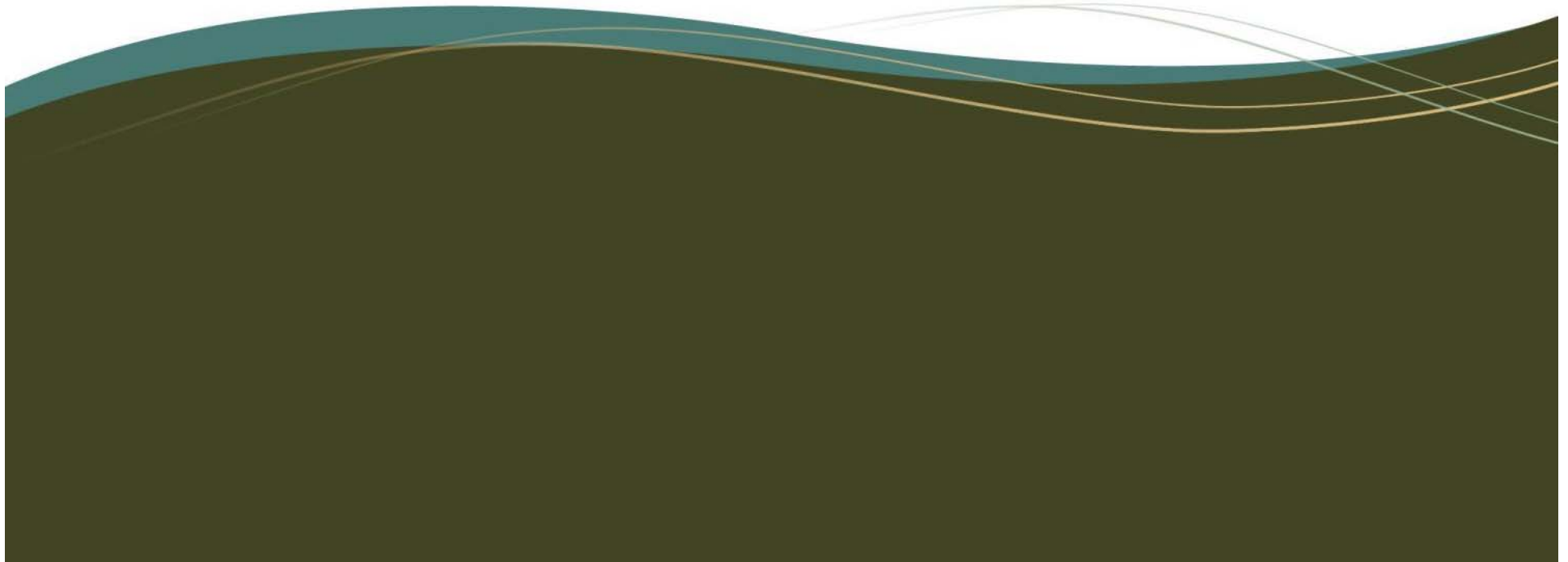
## Phase IB Archaeological Survey - IAC

- Testing on both sides of the river
- The land on both sides of the river have been subject to disturbance and extensive fill
- No further archaeological investigation is recommended
- Report submitted to NHDHR, which agreed no further investigation was needed



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# IDENTIFICATION OF ABOVE-GROUND HISTORIC PROPERTIES





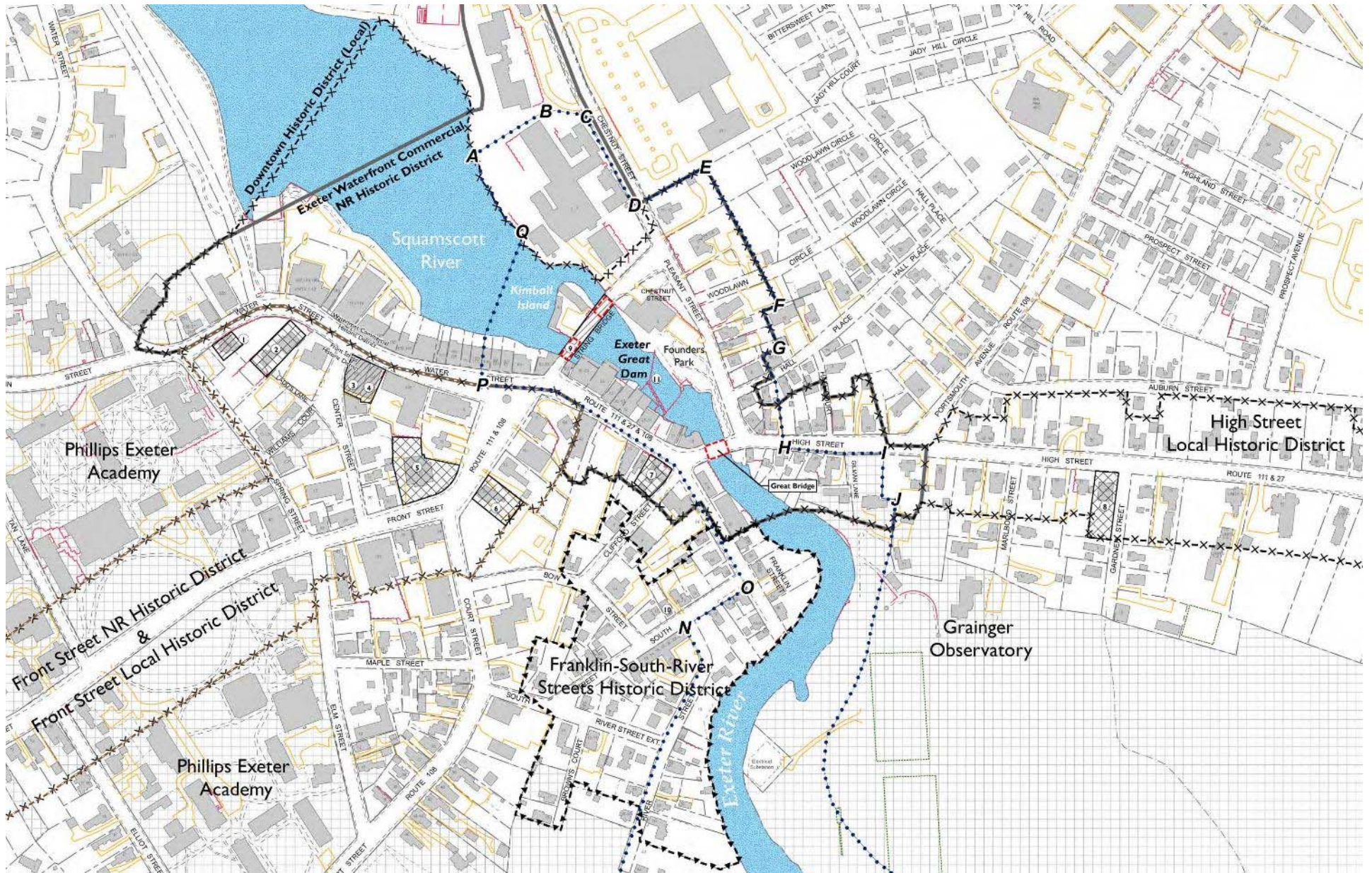
## Great Dam Individual Inventory Form

- Form included both the dam and its components and the fish passage structure
- Dam recommended eligible as a contributing resource to the existing historic district, but not individually eligible; fish passage structure recommended not contributing or individually eligible
- NHDHR agreed with the eligibility recommendations



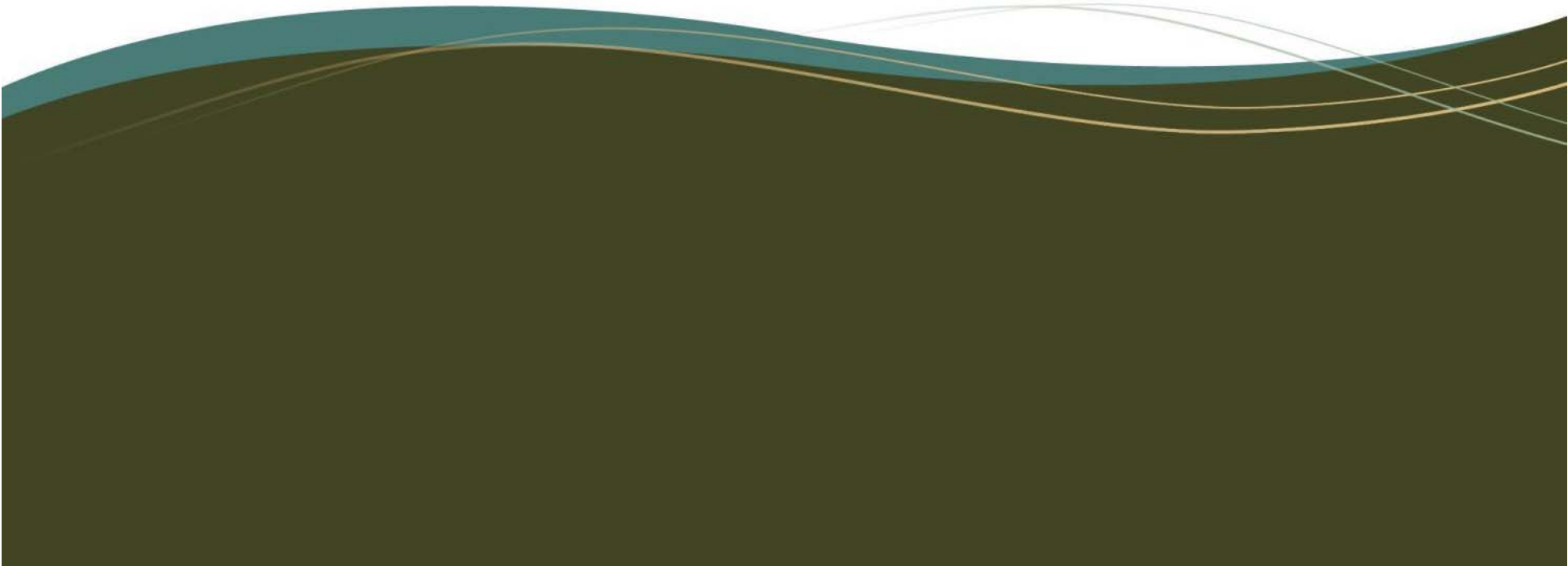
## Project Area Form

- Discussed previous survey and designation efforts
- Presented physical development history and description of existing area
- Recommended no additional investigation of any newly-identified resources that may be impacted; NHDHR concurs



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# UPCOMING STEPS IN THE SECTION 106 REVIEW PROCESS





## Overall Project Schedule

Task	Timeline
Final Design Surveys	September – October 2014
Engineering Design	October 2014 – July 2015
Environmental Permitting	February – August 2015
<b>Section 106 Consultation</b>	<b>October 2014 – June 2015</b>
Bid Phase	July – September 2015
Construction Phase	September 2015 – Spring 2016



## Section 106 – Anticipated Schedule

Task	Agenda	Timeline
Coordination Meeting 1	Process; ID of Affected Historic properties	November 18, 2014
<b>Public Information Meeting 1</b>	<b>Process; ID of Affected Historic properties</b>	<b>February 24, 2015</b>
Coordination Meeting 2	Effects; Mitigation	March 2015
Coordination Meeting 3	Mitigation/Draft MOA	April/May 2015
Public Information Meeting 2	MOA	May/June 2015
Memorandum of Agreement		June 2015



## Next Steps

- **Effects Determination:** The Corps will review the project application to determine the project permit area. The Corps currently agrees with the NHDHR that the project has an adverse effect.
- **MOA:** After concurrence on effects, the Corps, NHDHR, and consulting parties decide on mitigation measures that are included in a Memorandum of Agreement.





# Great Dam Remembrance Committee

Committee is seeking public input on how to memorialize the Great Dam after it is removed.

- Committee members and Section 106 consulting parties:
  - Bill Jordan, Chair
  - Pam Gjettum, Exeter Historic District Commission
  - Dick Huber, Exeter River Study Committee
  - John Merckle, Exeter Heritage Commission
  - Barbara Rimkunas, Exeter Historical Society
  - Donald Robie, Exeter Investment Co.
  - Brian Griset, Private Citizen
- Email your suggestions to: **exeterdam106@gmail.com**
- Next Meeting: **March 24 6:30 at the Historical Society**

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# DISCUSSION

