



Pickpocket Dam Removal

River Advisory Committee Project Update #2

October 16, 2025

Paul Vlasich, PE

Exeter - Project Manager

Stephanie Hudock, PE

VHB – Project Manager



Project Funding

This project is supported by the Great Bay 2030 partnership, which is funded by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.



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Agenda



Work completed since July

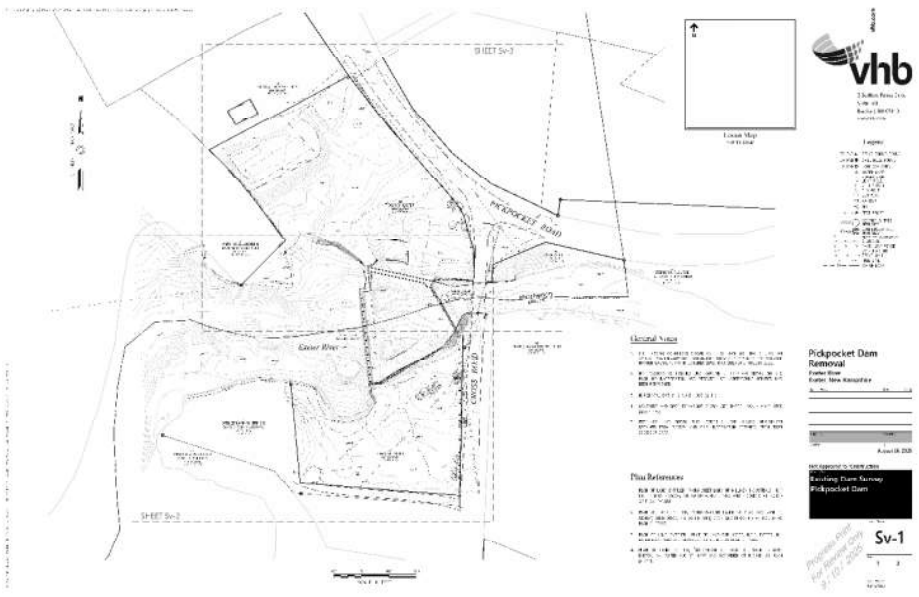


Next steps



Questions

Survey & Wetland Delineation



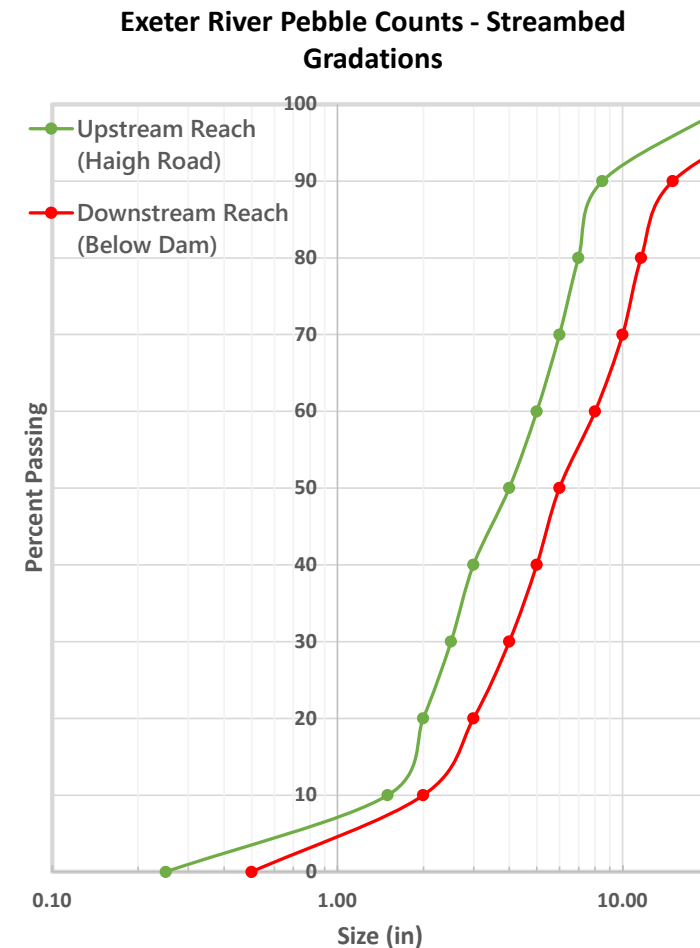
Site Visit

- Reference reach analysis @ downstream of Cross Rd & Haigh Road
 - Channel geometry
 - Pebble count
- Kayak investigation of Stoney Water Road Slope



Streambed Gradation

- Pebble Counts were performed below Pickpocket Dam and upstream of the Haigh Road bridge
- Large boulders and bedrock outcrops were noted downstream of the dam
- Smaller boulders and a smaller gradation overall was observed in the Haigh Road reach
- Median pebble size was 6" below the dam and 4" at Haigh Road



Subsurface Exploration

- Single 81' geotechnical boring from ground surface to ~35' below typical impoundment elevation
- Groundwater found 5' above impoundment
- 77' of Deltaic Sand Deposits (Medium dense clean sands)
- Overlying Presumpscot Formation Sands (very dense clean sands)
- Bedrock not encountered



Cultural Resources

- Submitted Request for Project Review (RPR)
- Dam determined eligible for listing
- Dam removal would result in an *Adverse Effect* (October 13, 2025)
- NHDHR Requires Phase IB Archaeological Investigation
 - Will complete this year (weather dependent)
- Development of Memorandum of Agreement to stipulate historic mitigation (next phase)

Continuation Sheets
Restoration of the Exeter River Herring Run through Removal of the Pickpocket Dam

Continuation Sheets Request for Project Review by the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources

Restoration of the Exeter River Herring Run through Removal of the Pickpocket Dam,
Exeter, NH

September 2025

A. Project Boundaries and Description

Project Description

On behalf of the Town of Exeter, VHB is providing project information in support of a Request for Project Review (RPR) for the removal of the Pickpocket Dam and restoration of the Exeter River Herring Run ("Project"). The Pickpocket Dam (NHDES Dam No. NH00294) is located within the Exeter River along the municipal boundary between the towns of Exeter and Brentwood, NH. (the "Site"). After extensive evaluation, the Town has decided that removing the dam is the best solution to address deficiencies, improve fish habitat, and resolve water quality, flooding, and safety issues. The project involves removing the entire dam structure, including the fish ladder and training weir, and reshaping approximately 500 linear feet of the river channel to ensure a stable streambed for better fish passage.

The Site is identified as Brentwood Parcel 6 on Tax Map 220 (on the north side of the Exeter River) and Exeter Parcel 35 on Tax Map 99 (on the south side of the river) and is wholly owned by the Town of Exeter. In total, the Site encompasses approximately 0.2 acres.

Refer to **Figure 1 USGS Site Location Map** and **Figure 2, Aerial/Photo Location Map**.

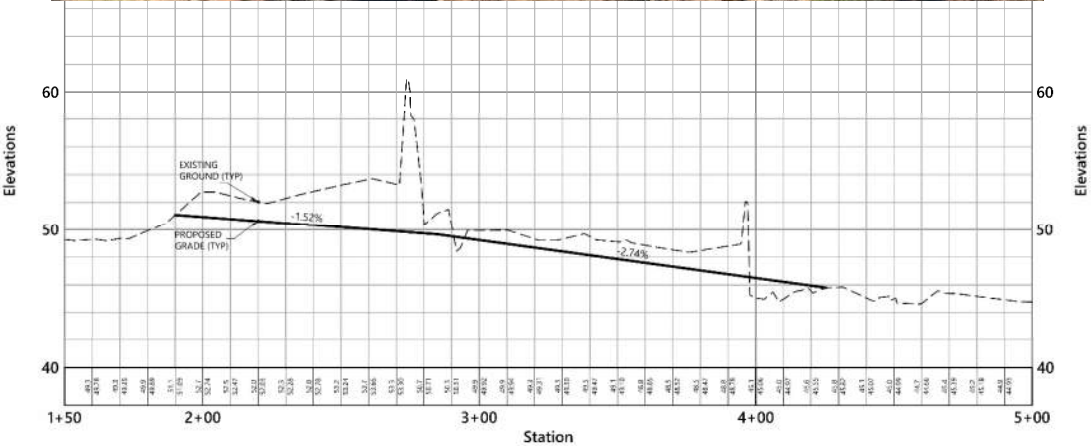
Existing Conditions

The Project area is located within the Exeter River, along the municipal boundary between the towns of Exeter and Brentwood, NH. Pickpocket Road runs along the northern boundary of the parcel. Residential properties are north and south of the Project area. The Cross Road Bridge is just downstream of the dam and forms the eastern boundary of the Project area. Presently, the area is maintained by the Towns of Exeter and Brentwood for public recreational use.

The Site is identified as Brentwood Parcel 6 on Tax Map 220 (on the north side of the Exeter River) and Exeter Parcel 35 on Tax Map 99 (on the south side of the river). The property is zoned as "Residential, Single-Family" and is owned by the Town of Exeter. In total, the Project Site encompasses approximately 0.2 acres and is bordered by Pickpocket Road and residential properties to the north, a private residential property to the south and the Cross Road Bridge to the east. Refer to **Figure 1 USGS Site Location Map**.

The Pickpocket Dam is a run-of-river, earth embankment dam with a concrete spillway with end walls on the Exeter River where it flows through the towns of Exeter and Brentwood, New Hampshire, prior to its

Draft River Grading



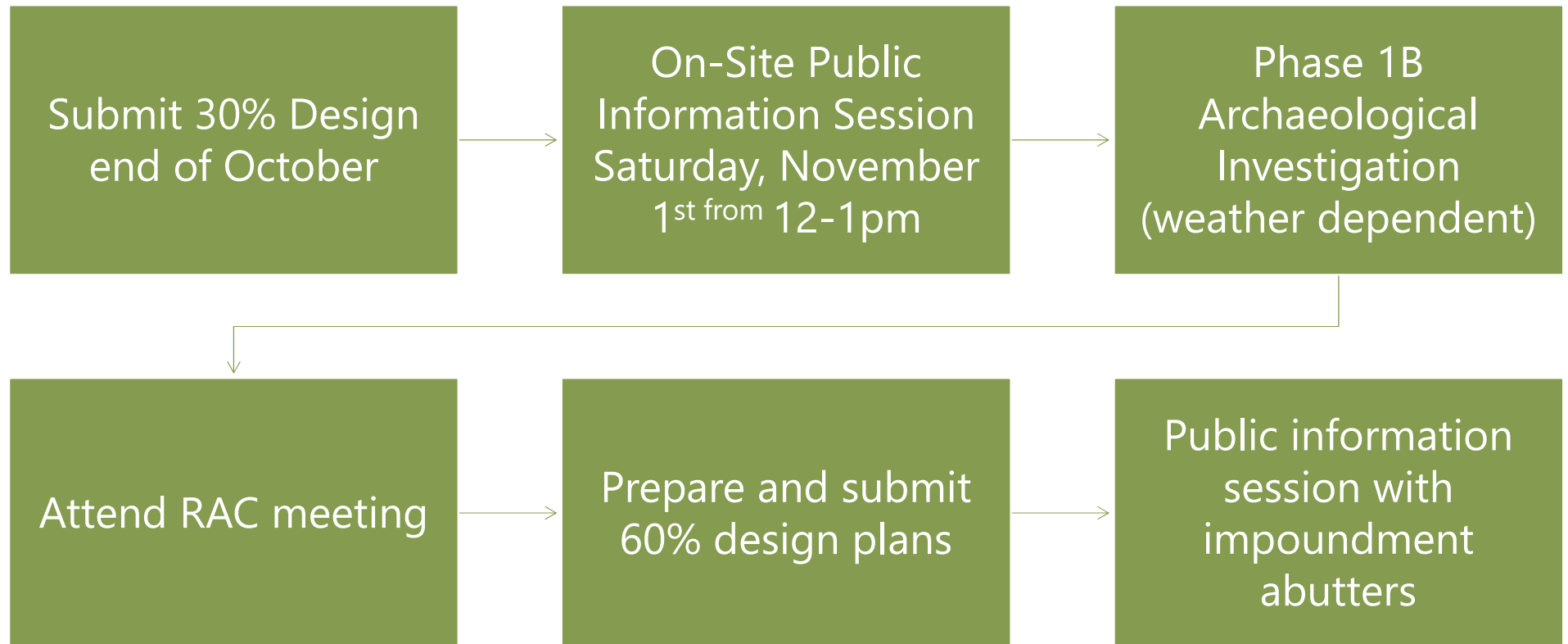


Probing Investigation

- Conducted sediment probing in October
- Completed probes along proposed horizontal alignment to verify that the design vertical depth could be achieved
- Low flow conditions allowed probing in close proximity to the dam
- Results confirmed that the depth is achievable



Next Steps



Questions?

