

**Lake Water Quality Study Group Meeting  
February 1, 2023**

**APPROVED:** 3/1/23

**AGENDA:** MINUTE TAKER - ASSIGNMENT  
LAKE WATER QUALITY STUDY GROUP (LWQSG) – WEB PAGE & MATERIALS REVIEW  
NEXT MEETING ASSIGNMENTS

**ATTENDING:** Carroll Brown, Jr. (Conservation Commission Chair), Richard Batchelder (Conservation Commission Vice-Chair), , Elizabeth Miller (Conservation Commission), Rebecca Hanson (Newfound Lake Region Association - NLRA), Mary Gebhart, Kane Lorah, Ken Milender, Christina Goodwin (Town Administrator), Donna Sullivan (Land Use Administrative Assistant) and Joanne Bailey (Land Use Manager)

**ABSENT:** Janet Cote (Conservation Commission) and Jeff Chartier, (Water & Sewer Superintendent)

Mr. Brown chaired the meeting calling it to order with quorum present at 5:04 pm.

**MINUTE TAKER ASSIGNMENT:** Ms. Goodwin stated that Janet Cote has been assigned to do the LWQSG meeting minutes. She explained that Ms. Cote has been doing all the other Land Use Committee meeting minutes so she agreed to add these to her workload.

**MINUTES:** The November meeting minutes were not available for the meeting so these will be added to next meeting agenda for approval.

**LWQSG WEB PAGE AND MATERIALS LINKS REVIEW:** Ms. Goodwin opened the LWQSG web page and proceeded to explain where this can be found on the Town Web Site and how to access the links to all the documents and reports added for review by committee members.

Mr. Brown asked if the Environmental Assessment for the Sewer to the Lake project was listed on the page. Ms. Goodwin brought this up on the screen and will follow up with Superintendent Chartier for any other sewer study documents.

Mr. Brown introduced a spreadsheet he developed to help the group with the review process and documentation of items important to a final report. He asked others if they saw anything that should be added to the document.

The documents provided by Rebecca Hanson of the Newfound Lake Region Association (NLRA) were reviewed and Ms. Goodwin was asked to separate the links within this document to separate listings on the main LWQSG page.

The main page links were each opened for reference and some discussion of importance for individual committee member review. Mr. Brown asked members if there were any particular documents that members felt were more important to review than others. Through discussion it was determined that the phosphorus load information concerned impacts outside of Bristol's jurisdiction and that it may not be that critical impact to Lake water quality in Bristol. There was some discussion of run off and drainage

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**LWQSG WEB PAGE AND MATERIALS LINKS REVIEW continued:**

issues referenced in some of the documents. Mr. Batchelder stated that concentration should be on what impacts the Lake in Bristol and that which comes downstream to Bristol.

Mr. Lorah stated that he felt that for information that dealt with phosphorus impacts from the Fowler and Cockermouth rivers and tributaries outside of Bristol the recommendation of the group could only be to support other towns and the NLRA in their efforts to tackle and manage these impacts. He stressed that the group should focus on what impacts Bristol and can be addressed by Bristol.

Mr. Brown said the task of the committee was to have more information available to address the questions and concerns for the Bristol residents and voters regarding lake quality impacts and any solutions proposed like the Sewer to the Lake project.

Mr. Lorah asked if there was continued updates to all the reports and information provided such as turbidity and other water quality information.

Ms. Hanson stated that NLRA continues its water quality testing and other investigations to update data. She stated that lots of great ideas came forward from the studies done and she asked if any of the suggestions have been implemented in Bristol as a result. She spoke of their funding for working with Planning Boards, the Organization's commitment to continuing these efforts and asked if the Bristol Master Plan made reference to any implementation of solutions to lake impacts.

Ms. Gebhart stated that with her background in engineering, the premise was to always attack the biggest contributor to the problem. She thought it would be better to help with solving contributing issues rather than waiting for the impacts to come downstream to Bristol. Mr. Brown replied that in a perfect world that would be an answer, but consideration of whether the Bristol taxpayers would support that approach would be another consideration. Ms. Hanson added that the NLRA funding to work with local planning boards is helpful and she shared information that Hebron is working on culverts. She shared that what might be done by Bristol Planning Board could be considered.

Ms. Goodwin stated the Study Group was not to enact legislation, it is to determine where the issues are, if there are any, and what options Bristol might have for the future. Mr. Brown added that the report produced by the Committee can be shared with enacting Boards and others to help determine any actions that may be necessary.

Mr. Brown proceeded with a review of documents and asked for suggestions from the group about what it would like to talk more specifically about. He referenced Page 3 of Every Acre Counts and the statement in last paragraph about "no net increase in phosphorus" implying attention to run off and phosphorus impacts with solutions like pervious pavement. He suggested that cost impacts of solutions like this could be an issue. Continuing on to Planning Board actions, Mr. Lorah stated that there are many drainage impacts by state, local towns and individual homeowners that impact the lake. It was determined that these would not be addressed by a sewer project but should be considered as impact to be reviewed for report. Mr. Brown suggested a wet-water tour could be arranged for the group in the Spring.

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**LWQSG WEB PAGE AND MATERIALS LINKS REVIEW continued:**

Mr. Batchelder felt the group could move forward to review and address the materials individually to identify impacts and determine if any actions are necessary and in place to address these.

Several documents will be added to the list links on the web page. These will include a new item: The NLRA State of the Lake Report 2020. Ms. Hanson stated that there will be a presentation of this on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Minot-Sleeper Library. Some members indicated interest in attending.

**NEXT MEETING: March 1, 2023**

Ms. Hanson will conduct a presentation/training as part of the meeting.

Ms. Hanson will email the group a list of implemented items to protect the Watershed.

Members were encouraged to review the following materials for next meeting:

- Newfound Lake 2019 Sampling Highlights – From NLRA
- Sewer Service to the Lake - USDA Environmental Assessment– March 2019

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Cote  
Land Use Associate