

Year End Report 2009

Cold River Local Advisory Committee

New Hampshire

The Cold River Local Advisory Committee (CRLAC) consists of citizens nominated by the Selectboards from the Cold River Watershed communities of **Acworth, Alstead, Langdon, Lempster,** and **Walpole** and appointed by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES).

These representatives volunteer their time to help municipal boards and residents monitor the natural, cultural, scenic and scientific resources of the Watershed. The CRLAC also reviews river corridor projects needing state and federal permits and evaluates water-related issues of local and statewide significance.

CRLAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

Municipal Conservation, Planning & Post-Flood Issues

- Assisted residents/boards/business owners with the resolution of a variety of potential water quality degradation issues.
- Supported local and state efforts to fund stream restoration projects in flood-damaged areas and to develop partnerships with federal wildlife officials for habitat improvements.
- Completed the Watershed Management Plan created on behalf of local boards and residents, and submitted it to the Department of Environmental Service (DES) in accordance with DES guidelines.
- Assisted the Lake Warren Association in evaluating the feasibility of developing a sub-watershed management plan.
- Worked with a town consultant who will assess the stabilization work done on Warren Brook.
- Participated with the Alstead Community Conservation Task force.

Workshops, Events & Education

- Presented copies of the newly completed Watershed Management Plan to each of the communities and the two lake associations, generally through the Conservation or Planning Board committees of those communities.
- Presented seminars on ground water/wells/and local geology at the Shedd-Porter and Vilas School libraries in Alstead.
- Co-led with the Nature Museum of Grafton Vermont a presentation at the mouth of the Cold River on the biology/dynamics, plants, fish and habitat of small rivers.
- Provided to each town on the Cold River copies of our CRLAC approved minutes.
- Participated in a conference on cyanotoxins in New Hampshire waters and a DES meeting reporting development of the state-wide water resource plan.
- Provided a display at the Alstead July Festival and Lempster Old Home Day in August.
- Worked on getting “Designated River Signs” for the River.
- Participated with New Hampshire Fish and Game in stocking the Cold River with 100,000 salmon fry.

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Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring

- Completed the seventh year of our voluntary sampling program, including three routine and twelve additional water quality monitoring events on the Cold River and its tributaries. In 2009 monitoring teams spent approximately 170 field hours collecting 1273 samples at over 75 sites.
- Analyzed for pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, turbidity, temperature, river height, bacteria, and nitrogen and phosphorus compounds.
- Applied for and received DES funding for additional analyses.
- Assisted state/federal officials and particularly the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) with the site selection for a new flow gauging station (on High Street in Alstead between the library and the new bridge over the Cold River) and saw it through to working status. It monitors (in real time) air and water temperature, water elevation and flow and may be reached live on line at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nh/nwis/uv/?site_no=01154950.
- Participated in the design of a kiosk to house the gauging station and to provide three panels for public information on water resources. USGS will be using one of the panels and we will be sharing two with DES and the Town of Alstead. New information will be placed in the kiosk as it becomes available.
- Met with local water quality sampling teams comprised of residents on Crescent Lake and Lake Warren

Membership

- Received two new members to our Committee: Fred Ernst (Walpole) and Richard Morrison (Langdon).

The CRLAC welcomes your participation in any of our projects and is actively seeking additional members from the towns of Acworth and Lempster. We generally meet the fourth Thursday of each month, 7-9 PM, usually in the Alstead Town Offices. Please contact any CRLAC member for additional information.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Montgomery MD and Jennifer Polcari
Co-Chairs

Acworth: Deborah Hinman (Immediate Past Chair and Scribe).

Alstead: Carol Drummond, Michael Heidorn, and Samuel Sutcliffe.

Langdon: Catherine MacDonald (Membership, 603-835-6386), Richard Morrison, and Jennifer Polcari (Co-Chair, 603-835-2326).

Lempster: Susan Lichty.

Walpole: Fred Ernst, Austin Hunter, and Charles Montgomery (Co-Chair, 603-756-3965)