

## Summary Document for Local River Management Advisory Committees I-93 CTAP Non-Governmental Organization Strategic Planning Group

### What are Local River Management Advisory Committees?

A distinctive characteristic of the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program is the partnership created between state government and local citizens through the formation of a Local River Management Advisory Committee (LAC) for each designated river. Each committee plays a vital role in protecting not only the river, but its shorelands as well.

The main responsibilities of the LAC are to develop and implement a local river corridor management plan and advise local, state, and federal governing bodies and agencies of activities which may affect the water quality or flow of the protected river or segment (RSA 483:a). LACs review, consider, and comment on site specific and dredge and fill permit applications that effect land use within the quarter mile corridor of any designated river. The corridor communities often adopt these plans, in whole or in part. The LAC is considered a community resource and adviser on watershed issues.

### Who represents his/her community on LACs?

Committee members are chosen from lists of nominees submitted by the local governing bodies of the municipalities through which the designated river or segment flows. The commissioner of DES shall appoint at least one person from each municipality to the LAC. Each committee shall be composed of at least seven members who represent a broad range of interests in the vicinity of the designated river or segment. These interests shall include, but not be limited to, local government, business, conservation interests, recreation, agriculture, and riparian landowners.

### Do LACs go beyond those duties stated in RSA 483:8a?

Several of LACs have extended their efforts for river protection by undertaking projects outlined in their river corridor management plans or those which the committee felt would further benefit the river and river communities. Many LACs have developed and are currently implementing river quality monitoring programs. The data generated through these programs is shared with municipalities, educational institutions, state and federal officials, and is often used in decision making processes relative to designated uses for surface waters. Another project undertaken by some LACs is the development and maintenance of websites where corridor management plans, river monitoring results and reports, meeting notices, volunteer opportunities and links to other river and watershed oriented sites can be accessed. Examples of these sites include [www.exeterriver.org](http://www.exeterriver.org) and [www.merrimackriver.org](http://www.merrimackriver.org). Other programs range from river clean-up efforts, education and outreach projects, and involvement in legislative activities that pertain to designated rivers. Other LAC members serve on local master plan and zoning ordinance revision committees as advisors on river and watershed issues.

### Which LACs and respective municipalities are represented on CTAP?

- **Contoocook River** (CNBRLAC) – Rindge, Jaffrey, Peterborough, Hancock, Greenfield, Bennington, Stoddard, Antrim, Deering, Hillsborough, Henniker, Hopkinton, Concord, and Boscawen
- **Exeter River** (ERLAC) - Chester, Sandown, Danville, Fremont, Raymond, Brentwood, and Exeter
- **Lower Merrimack River** (LMRLAC) - Merrimack, Litchfield, Nashua and Hudson.
- **Upper Merrimack River** (UMRLAC) - Franklin, Northfield, Boscawen, Canterbury, Concord, and Bow.
- **Piscataquog River** (PRLAC) - Deering, Weare, New Boston, Frankestown, Lyndeborough, Goffstown, and Manchester.
- **Souhegan River** (SRLAC) - New Ipswich, Greenville, Wilton, Milford, Amherst, Merrimack

For more information on the DES Rivers Management and Protection Program, LACs, and Designated Rivers, you can visit [www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/designriv.htm](http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/designriv.htm).

*Prepared by Stephen C. Landry, Vice-chair, UMRLAC, and representing the six LACs listed above, for the Community Technical Assistance Program - January 17, 2006*