

**Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee
Meeting of 13 January 2014, LOB 307, 10:00 AM
Minutes of Proceedings**

Members present: Rep. Ben Lefebvre (Chair), Rep. Dennis Malloy, Rep. Harry Merrow; Public Members Tom O'Brien (sitting in for Andrea LaMoreaux, NH Lakes Assoc.), Bob Reynolds (Clerk), Robert Wood (replacing Don Foudriat)

NHDES Representative: Amy Smagula

Members Absent: Rep. David Kidder (Vice Chair), Rep. Rose Marie Rogers, Sen. Bob Odell

Guests present: Joel Anderson (House Committee Research Staff)

Rep. Lefebvre called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Rep. Malloy moved to approve the minutes, as revised, from the November 18, 2013 meeting. Rep. Merrow seconded. The motion passed 5-0-1 (Mr. Wood abstained).

Rep. Lefebvre welcomed the newest public member of the Committee, Robert "Woodie" Wood, who replaces Don Foudriat. Mr. Wood also serves on the Sunapee Lake Protective Association.

Rep. Lefebvre reported on progress on SB 266, sponsored by Sen. Odell, to increase membership in the EAWSC. A hearing on the bill is scheduled on January 15 and 9:20 AM. Mr. Ryan Crawford of the Marine Trades Association is committed to an appointment, and Mr. O'Brien was requested to confirm the commitment of the NH Water Works Association. Rep. Lefebvre will discuss the bill with Sen. Odell and request that a permanent representative from DES be added, and to discuss quorum issues resulting from the large number of new members.

HB 292, amended to include a \$2.00 increase in the in-state boat registration fee dedicated to aquatic invasive species control efforts, is currently scheduled to be debated and voted on the floor of the House on January 22. Members mentioned that there has been little discussion of this bill, as Representatives are more focused on several other important pieces of legislation.

The NH Fish and Game Department's Public Advisory Board is willing to speak to the EAWSC regarding incorporating boat inspection facilities at boat launch ramps that they own and are renovating. Rep. Lefebvre will issue a formal invitation for a meeting date that has an open time slot.

Ms. Smagula submitted a written report on the NH DES Exotic Species Program, a copy of which is attached. She has evaluated over 200 bids for exotic aquatic plant control projects in 2014 and determined how much funding she will have to partially fund these projects next year. She projects that she will have approximately \$323,000 to apply to cost-sharing grants in response to \$1.1 million in requests for grant funds. Ms. Smagula also re-distributed her latest Exotic Species Program Report to the EAWSC members.

Mr. O'Brien provided further information about the opportunity for the EAWSC to host a "working group" or a "presentation track" on invasive species at the NH Lakes Association's Lakes Congress to be held on June 27th 2014 in Meredith. This could include presentations or panel discussions of, for example, a section on the status and trends of prevention and control of invasive species, another section on the economics and policies of the issue, and then a section of case studies of what various groups are doing. This is an opportunity for the EAWSC to introduce itself and explain our role in the issue. Rep Mellow, Mr. Reynolds, and Mr. O'Brien volunteered to work on developing ideas and plans for the EAWSC presentation and will report their progress to the Committee at each meeting. Mr. O'Brien will send out an email with additional information to Rep. Mellow and Mr. Reynolds.

It was determined that the NH Dept. of Education charges \$300 to facilitate a strategic planning meeting. Mr. Reynolds offered to donate \$300 to cover this fee and other EAWSC members also offered to make donations. Rep. Lefebvre will consult with House Counsel on procedures to enable receiving donations and using the funds to pay for a facilitator. Rep. Lefebvre will also contact Meredith Bank to determine if the Committee's bank account is still active and useable. Ms. Smagula will contact the Dept. of Education facilitator to determine if their services could be scheduled for two sessions, running from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM, during the next two EAWSC meetings scheduled on February 10 and March 17.

Ms. Smagula discussed her interaction with the Fish & Game Department's Environmental Review Team and their responsibility to manage the growing Asian Clam infestation threat. She will meet with the Team on February 6 and brief the EAWSC about the results of that meeting at the February 10 meeting.

Unless a strategic planning session is scheduled during the February 10 meeting, topics for the next meeting will include:

- Status update on SB 266 regarding appointment of new members to the EAWSC (Rep. Lefebvre)
- Status update on HB 292 (Rep. Merrow, Mr. Anderson)
- Scheduling a presentation on boat ramp design criteria by a representative of the NH Fish & Game Dept. (Rep. Lefebvre)
- NH DES Exotic Species Program financial and activity reports (Ms. Smagula)
- Status update on a EAWSC presentation at the NH Lakes Association's Lake Congress in June 2014 (Mr. Reynolds)
- Update on a strategic planning meeting to develop the role and objectives of the EAWSC during the next two years (Rep. Lefebvre, Ms. Smagula)
- Status update on the F&G management of Asian Clam (Ms. Smagula).

Future meeting dates:

February 10

March 17

April 21

Rep. Merrow moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 AM. Rep. Malloy seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Reynolds, Clerk