

**Town of Wolfeboro
Wolfeboro Waters
Minutes of the
Assessment Subcommittee Meeting
Monday June 28, 2021**

Attendees: Linda Murray, Abigail Adams, Warren Muir, Beth Marcoux, Andra Dekkers, Emilie Clark

Warren called the meeting to order at 1:04pm

Abby moved and Emilie seconded that the minutes of 6/7/21 be approved as written. All approved.

As noted in previous minutes, there are two water quality observational surveys to be conducted this year. A one-page qualitative observational survey to be filled out in July and/or August and a longer version to report trends seen and measured over the summer. The decision at the previous meeting was to use both. Andra provided edits to the short version to seek consistency in how observations are reported and to ease compiling the results and Warren made edits to its description online and to be used to advertise the survey at the communications subcommittee's tables to be located at different locations around Wolfeboro in July. The 1-page survey will be posted on the Wolfeboro Waters website and will mention the longer survey for those interested in participating.

Julie Brown from Wentworth Watershed Association asked Emilie if when Wolfeboro Waters was formed there was any media about why it was formed? Linda reported it was formed as an ad hoc cyanobacteria task force. The Board of Selectmen changed the task force into an ongoing Wolfeboro Waters (WW) town committee. Emilie suggested there be some educational information about WW and its goal. Emilie met with Julie and feels she now has a clearer understanding of the relationship between WW and the watershed organizations. Linda Murray provided a history of the watershed committees. The goal of WW is to treat all the lakes the same. Emilie suggested a tag line to explain the mission of WW with a list of lake associations it works with.

The discussion turned to waterbodies in Wolfeboro including Rust Pond, Mirror Lake, Crescent Lake, Sargents Pond, and Lake Winnepesaukee. Emilie will sample Sargents pond this year. Upper and Lower Beach Ponds have not been included in WW assessment activities to date. These are the source of town's water supply –. Warren recommends that at a minimum we should know what testing has done on the ponds (not the post-treatment drinking water quality which is reported to all houses on town water) and what the results have been. Linda recommended talking to Scott Pike (569-5360), head of Wolfeboro water supply, and Dave Ford, head of the Dept of Public Works, who should be able to provide details.

All members received a second draft of the Assessment 2020 Summary Report for comments by the subcommittee members all of whom will be listed as authors. Under acknowledgements, Abby asked about water samplers for Lake Wentworth. It was suggested to list the association with the volunteer's name in acknowledgements. Linda suggested circulating the final summary to all associations for comment/approval. Warren will send drafts to all associations. Emilie will also send a draft of assessment report to Julie Brown.

Warren asked all members to focus on the executive summary when reviewing the document. He will include photos of the "cotton candy" and suspicious floating masses (possibly cyanobacteria) in the report. The report must be sent to WW before it goes to selectmen, therefore the subcommittee must have a face-to-face meeting to approve before it goes to WW. The next meeting of our committee will be July 26 at 1pm at Town Hall Annex Conference room. Warren will present report to Selectmen on Sept. 1. All members indicated support of the report and will review it again for edits/additions. Warren will also circulate the draft report to Drs. Countway and Lomas at the Bigelow Lab, Bob Craycraft at UNH, and Dr. McQuaid of NHDES for review and comment.

This is lake appreciation month and there will be posters and tables providing information about the lake associations around the town. Brochures and information about how to get to the online survey will be provided. Emilie suggested a simplified map of all the waterbodies in Wolfeboro be included on the poster as part of the lake appreciation month.

Thermocycler Update: two trainings were completed; Warren has received all supplies and equipment with exception of supplies from USA Scientific which includes the pipettors and pipette tips. We also need the cyanobacteria specific DNA probes and primers from Bigelow Lab.

We are developing a step-by-step manual on the collection, storage, extraction, processing, Thermocycler analysis, data interpretation, and data archival. Photos taken by Andra will be incorporated into the draft document. We are currently planning two types of analyses – PCR (of 5 or 6 preselected cyanobacteria) (500ml filtered sample needed) and e-DNA (metagenomic) analysis (500 ml filtered sample needed). For the e-DNA analyses, we will collect samples (collected and processed in the same manner as those for the local PCR analyses) and give them to Bigelow who will process them and send them to a lab in Nova Scotia for a metagenetic analysis. Most of the samples will be drawn from Winter Harbor with a couple of PCR and a couple of e-DNA analyses done in elsewhere in Wolfeboro Waters for comparison. Emilie will cover Wentworth, Crescent and Sargents pond. The filters are finer for the PCR and e-DNA analyses and are located at Warren's porch. He recommends bringing samples to the porch and filtering them there with the electric pump instead of trying to do so with a UNH-LLMP hand pump. Beth volunteered to get samples for Rust Pond from Keith Simpson for analyses. Those lakes already have phosphorous concentration collected.

Core sampling: As a pilot project, Core sediment samples were collected in Winter Harbor last year and will continue this year. This site was chosen because there is a great deal of data

available from this site. Currently, it is not clear how to interpret the results of the core sampling. For this reason, Warren recommends that we discuss with Mike Loma, Peter Countway, and Amanda McQuaid what sediment and water chemistry to collect in parallel with our biological ones before having people collect sediment samples in the other lakes.

As part of our assessment of treatment approaches before runoff water gets to our lakes; different treatments take out different types of phosphorous. We will be trying to figure out what are most important forms of phosphorous to monitor and try to remove along with treatment options. Rich Masse (head of mitigation subcommittee), Warren and Lake Winnepesaukee Association staff will work on this.

Abby indicated that the Boat Wake study will begin this week.

Warren read a mission statement for the subcommittee. All agreed with the scope of the statement. Based upon the suggested edits, he will refine it and send it to Beverly Woods to be posted on the WW website.

Warren was contacted by someone who expressed concern about the increased number of boats that are mooring for long periods of time near his home at Carry Beach. The concern was about the boats stirring up the bottom of the lake potentially causing phosphorous problems, as well as people putting human wastes into the water. Warren recommended that the fellow collect samples of the water to be analyzed. Andra will work with him.

Andra and Warren are sampling four sites in Winter Harbor including at Carry beach.

Linda announced there will be a public forum July 27 at 6pm Foss field – bring your own chair – to get public input on beach access. The State has control of the water.

Emilie asked when people talk about disrupting the sediment is it enough to just move the surface or do you have to dig into it. Warren indicated it is the top 10 cm (4 inches) that is of concern.

No New Business

Andra moved and Beth seconded a motion to adjourn that was unanimously adopted at 3:08pm.