

The Cold River Local Advisory Committee

Towns in the watershed: Acworth, Alstead, Charlestown, Langdon, Lempster, Marlow, Unity, and Walpole

The Cold River Local Advisory Committee (CRLAC) consists of citizen representatives appointed by selectboards from Acworth, Alstead, Langdon, Lempster, and Walpole. The CRLAC is developing a Watershed Management Plan that will assist local communities in managing water resources. The committee also reviews all projects needing state and federal permits that could impact the river and works with other conservation groups on related issues of local or statewide significance.

CRLAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2004:

1. Organizational development

- Continued work on a voluntary watershed management plan for the Cold River.
- Completed eight water quality and flow monitoring events on the Cold River as part of NH's Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP).
- Trained volunteers in the use and care of monitoring equipment.
- Initiated an in-stream pilot study of monitoring equipment protocols & accuracies with the State of NH.
- Participated in the first-ever comprehensive water quality sampling program on the VT and NH sections of the Connecticut River.
- Displayed our work at NH's annual Watershed Conference in Concord.
- Created a Cold River logo and a website (www.coldriver.org).
- Worked with ten other advisory committees in NH to keep protected river corridors free from the stockpiling, landspreading, or topdressing of sludge and septage.
- Received grant funding for professional assistance from the Northeast Rural Water Association and National Parks' Rivers and Trails Program for our work in 2005.

2. Annual Workshop Series

- Held the fourth annual Winter Workshops series. Topics this year were butterflies, wetlands, amphibians, winter wildlife tracking, and birds. Many thanks to Alstead's Shedd-Porter Library for providing space for this series.
- Held a wildlife tracking session on snowshoes in the Acworth Wetlands, led by David Anderson of the Society for the Protection of NH Forests.
- Hosted a spring migratory bird walk along Dodge Brook, led by Wendy Ward and Andy Greene of NH Audubon's Mondnock Chapter.

3. Collaboration across the watershed

- Demonstrated our new monitoring equipment at the Acworth Conservation Commission's "conservation technology" workshop and wildlife hike at the Acworth Wetlands.
- Worked with Fall Mountain High School teachers Joe Beer (his English classes created a magazine about the Cold River) and Susan Smith (her Earth Science classes studied macro-invertebrates and GPS mapping).
- Worked to improve excavation permitting procedures in the watershed.
- Worked with the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) in local schools.
- Provided information and support for grant applications written by town boards and schools.
- Supported the Town of Alstead's efforts to complete a maintenance plan for the Vilas Dam, evaluate recreation area improvement options and find funding for dam repairs.
- Supported the water quality monitoring teams of Lake Warren and Crescent Lake.
- Conducted a survey of Crescent Lake residents about water and land use issues.

The Advisory Committee welcomes your participation on any or all of our projects. If you are interested in joining our committee, please speak with your selectboard. If there is an opening, they may make a nomination to the board. However, with or without official membership status, we welcome all volunteers!

We meet on the third Thursday of each month, 7- 9PM, usually in the Alstead Town Offices. To be on our email notices for workshops or monitoring events, call any member to let us know. We thank everyone who has worked with us during the past year, and we are extremely grateful to Vicky Boundy of Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission and Beth Krumrine of NH DES for their hours of work with us on the river management plan.

Thank you for your interest and enthusiasm!

Sincerely,

Deborah Hinman, Chair (835-2309)
Jennifer Polcari, Vice Chair (835-2376)

Acworth: Debby Hinman, Laura Malinoski-Adams, Joanna Dennett (Associate member)

Alstead: Howard Weeks, Mike Heidorn, and Sam Sutcliffe

Langdon: Jen Polcari and Cathy MacDonald

Lempster: Erik Walker

Walpole: Pam O'Hara, Austin Hunter, and Charles Montgomery