

## **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 supports municipal boards and is developing a Watershed Management Plan that will assist towns in managing water resources. The committee also reviews river corridor projects needing state and federal permits and investigates related issues of local or statewide significance.

### **CRLAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2005:**

#### **1. Municipal Conservation, Planning & Health Assistance**

- Continued work on a voluntary watershed management plan for the Cold River.
- Secured an additional year of watershed assistance from the National Parks' Rivers and Trails Program.
- Advised our Lake Associations (Warren and Crescent) on wetland and water quality degradation issues.
- Assisted Alstead with subdivision and stormwater permitting, as well as the development of their master plan survey and evaluation of possible well contamination issues.
- Provided Acworth with guidance on fuel storage tank design and possible impacts to water resources.
- Co-coordinated brainstorming sessions regarding the management and future of the Vilas Pool area.

#### **2. Workshops, Events & Education**

- Held the well-attended *Workshop on Protecting Water Quality in the Cold River Watershed* at the Vilas School in March. This event provided an overview of watershed features, threats, uses and management approaches.
- Organized a nature walk ("*Trib Trek*") along Alstead's Camp Brook in February, hosted by David Moody.
- Mentored and assisted Antioch student Dee Caldwell with her hydrology study on Camp Brook.
- Assisted Keene High student Kristen Harkay with her class project involving the Cold River.

#### **3. Water Quality & Quantity Monitoring**

- Revised and streamlined our comprehensive surface water characterization program, now in its fourth year, to more closely adhere to NH's Consolidated Assessment Listing Methodology (CALM).
- Initiated an in-stream pilot study of volunteer flow monitoring at Drewsville Gorge with the State of NH.
- Purchased additional sampling supplies and developed field equipment improvements.
- Expanded volunteer participation and trained volunteers in the use and care of monitoring equipment.
- Completed three "routine" water quality and stream stage monitoring events on the Cold River and its major tributaries as part of NH's Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP).
- Solicited and received DES funding for additional bacteria, nutrient and metal analyses.

#### **4. Drinking Water Protection Plan**

- With the professional assistance of Granite State Rural Water Association, initiated and led a comprehensive evaluation of drinking water protection for public drinking water systems at all schools within the watershed.
- Published a Drinking Water Protection Plan with detailed recommendations for further actions.

#### **5. Post-Flood Response Efforts**

- Procured additional water sampling funding and assistance from NH DES, and completed several post-flood monitoring events on the Cold River and Warren Brook.
- Supported efforts to fund floodplain-floodway mapping, erosion/stream bank restoration and Millot Green revitalization projects through the U.S. Geological Survey, NH DES and National Park Service.
- Provided practical recommendations to municipal boards on environmental issues.
- Communicated local landowner information requests to NH DES' Watershed Bureau.
- Assisted private well owners with bacteria/nitrogen contamination and well disinfection concerns.
- Summarized local flood precipitation data for the Town of Alstead.

The flooding that occurred in October 2005 provoked a level of devastation to people's lives and property, as well as to Warren Brook and the Cold River as we know it, and it is impossible to adequately write about it. The Advisory Committee sends our grateful admiration to all those who have worked and continue to work so tirelessly and courageously to find solutions.

The Advisory Committee welcomes your participation on any of our projects. 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. We thank everyone who has worked with us during the past year, and we are particularly grateful to Ted Walsh of NH DES, Lelia Mellen of NPS and Jen Palmiotto of GSRWA for their many hours of assistance.

Sincerely,

Deborah Hinman, Chair (835-2309)

Jennifer Polcari, Vice Chair (835-2376)

**Acworth:** Debby Hinman and Laura Malinoski-Adams

**Alstead:** Howard Weeks, Mike Heidorn and Sam Sutcliffe

**Langdon:** Jen Polcari and Cathy MacDonald

**Lempster:** Vacant

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