

Souhegan TRC Annual Report November 2007

Presented to His Excellency, Governor John H. Lynch
NH Senate President, Sylvia Larsen
Speaker of the NH House of Representatives, Terie Norelli
Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, Thomas S. Burack
and the State Library

November 1, 2007

by the

Souhegan River Technical Review Committee

In compliance with Laws of 2002, Chapter 278, the Souhegan River Technical Review Committee is pleased to submit this annual report of the committee's findings and activities for 2006. This law defines the two committees for each river under the pilot program to advise the Instream Flow process—the Technical Review Committee (TRC) and the Water Management Area Advisory Committee (WMPAAC). According to Chapter 278, “The instream flow Technical Review Committees shall make annual reports regarding their progress and findings on or before November 1 of each year of their existence to the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, and the State Library.”

NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) maintains a website for the Souhegan TRC at www.des.nh.gov/rivers/instream/souhegan.asp?link=meetings&meet=trc. The website contains the minutes, agendas, and copies of all presentations and documents distributed at the TRC meetings. UNH's Souhegan Instream Flow Project website is at www.unh.edu/erg/souhegan/.

The Technical Review Committee of the Souhegan Instream Flow Pilot Program held a meeting on January 3, 2006 to review the final draft of the Proposed Protected Instream Flow Report. The first draft had been presented to the committee March 13, 2006. The committee voted, after some revisions being made, that this report would be presented at a public hearing.

A public hearing was held March 21, 2007 to present the results of the Souhegan Protected Instream Flow Study. The hearing was held by the Department of Environmental Services jointly with the NH Senate Energy, Environment and Economic Development Committee and the Senate Wildlife, Fish and Game Committee (replacing the Senate Environment Committee); and the NH House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee and supported by the Souhegan WMPAAC. The conceptual framework of the Instream Flow Study based on Poff's Natural Flow Paradigm is that protection of the timing, duration, frequency, magnitude, and rate of change of flows is necessary to protect aquatic habitat. Therefore, the protected instream flows were described using more than just values of flow magnitude. Protected flows were described for a six periods during the year reflecting biologically significant times. They were described within the natural variations in magnitude, frequency and duration of flows that occur during each period. The protected instream flow descriptions include allowable and catastrophic durations for three flow magnitudes. Each flow magnitude occurs at different frequencies: 1) common flows, 2) low flows expected on a frequency of once in two to three years, and 3) low flows expected once in ten years. Documentation of the study results is in the report titled **Souhegan River Protected Instream**

Flow Report and dated October 1, 2007. The report can be found at www.des.nh.gov/rivers/instream/souhegan/study.html.

This completes the Committee's primary duty described by Laws of 2002, Chapter 278, which was to direct DES in the conduct of the Protected Instream Flow Study. The committee will continue to exist to oversee implementation of the provisions of the pilot program.

Committee Changes

Alden Greenwood representing Affected Dam Owners died Saturday June 16, 2007. His son Robert Greenwood has agreed to represent dam owners on the committee. On March 22, 2007, Senator Martha Fuller Clark replaced Senator Carl Johnson on the committee as a legislative representative following the November 2006 elections. Representative Cooney has not been replaced following his retirement after the elections.

SOUHEGAN RIVER TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (TRC)

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SOUHEGAN RIVER TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

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