

Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee (Ammo LAC)
Annual Report 2008
Chairman, Charlie Ryan

The first meeting of the Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee took place in January 2008. The importance of offering protection to the entire river was recognized early on and given top priority by Ammo LAC. The members worked diligently to compile information for the nomination of the Upper Reach portion of the Ammonoosuc River into the Rivers Management Protection Program (RMPP). The river designation of 2007 offered protection for the river, from the White Mountain National Forest boundary near Lower Falls in Carroll to Haverhill. It was deemed critical to the future management and protection of the river to oversee it from its source to its confluence with the Connecticut River, also a N.H. Department of Environmental Services (DES) Designated River. We met with representatives of the Mt. Washington Resort to address any concerns they might have. A tour of the site was provided to the Rivers Management Advisory Committee and other interested parties and a location for the required public hearing was made available. There was considerable interest shown in the nomination as evidenced by the attendance of 30 people from the regional area; everyone who provided testimony supported the nomination. Federal, state, regional, municipal, community, and non-profit conservation organization representatives spoke on behalf of the designation at the hearing. By year end the nomination had reached the General Court for approval of the designation of the Upper Reach into the RMPP. Final decision is expected in early 2009.

North Country Council (NCC), Connecticut River Joint Commission (CRJC), and the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust have been assisting the Ammo LAC in applying for grant funding to complete a River Management Plan, which under the auspices of technical assistance and funding provided by DES would include completion of a fluvial geomorphic study of the river. Tara Bamford, NCC Planning Director, has been serving as a planning coach to help Ammo LAC in its endeavour to draft a corridor management plan.

Ammo LAC reviewed the DES Wetland Bureau permit applications for five of the seven representative towns, made field inspections at each of the permit sites, and commented in one case.

Jen Drociak, Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP) Coordinator, provided a water quality-training workshop for us. Six members and three volunteers subsequently conducted all of the monthly testing of the river under the VRAP Program. No water quality issues were found. Rainbow trout introduced into the river did not fare well, seemingly due to a hatchery tank problem; the dead fish were removed from the river. There were no further incidences of fish kill observed. Members kept a watchful eye for invasive algae *Didymo*. Noteworthy intrusions of Japanese knotweed and purple loosestrife were observed along the shoreline in Littleton, Lisbon, and Bath.

Ray Lobdell, Certified Wetlands Scientist, provided Ammo LAC members with a wetlands workshop, including a field trip to wetland drainage areas in Littleton's meadow by the river. Stormwater treatment standards were discussed.

The results of the Benthic Macroinvertebrate Index Study, by Teacher Aaron Townshend's Littleton High School Biology/Environmental Science Class, were shared with the CRJC. The study assessed water quality in three areas of the Ammonoosuc River, including the Lake of the Clouds, Ammonoosuc Ravine, and downtown Littleton.

Members attended the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act presentation, regarding changes effective July 1, 2008.

Ammo LAC expressed its support of the Brownfield Program to reduce impacts of development on the Ammonoosuc River Watershed.

The Ammo LAC received awards at presentations that honored the state's Local River Advisory Committees for serving their nation and communities in 2008. On Earth Day, EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson honored volunteers at Faneuil Hall in Boston with the President's Volunteer Service Award and Senator-Elect Jeanne Shaheen presented the Volunteer NH Service Awards to the LACs at a ceremony held in Concord on November 13. LAC Chairman Charlie Ryan was present to receive both awards.

2008 Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee

Charlie Ryan, Chairman (Littleton)
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Connie McDade, Secretary (Littleton)
Michael King, Treasurer (Haverhill)
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Leslie Bergum, Member (Carroll)

Compiled by Connie McDade, Secretary

Submitted by Charlie Ryan, Chairman