

## **Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee 2008 Annual Report**

The Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee (LMRLAC) is comprised of representatives from the business, recreation, and conservation community as well as local government. The committee serves as stewards and watchdogs over any activities in the Lower Merrimack River corridor. LMRLAC activities vary from reviewing and commenting on DES environmental permits and local site plans for development, to assisting with trail projects and commenting on conservation activities within the corridor. Communities in the Lower Merrimack River corridor include Nashua, Hudson, Litchfield and Merrimack.

This year LMRLAC, along with other NH Local Advisory Committees, was honored with the President's Volunteer Award in April, and the Spirit of NH Volunteer Service Award in the State and Local Government category in November for our efforts to advise the NH Department of Environmental Services and our communities on actions and issues to protect and manage the Lower Merrimack River.

In 2008 we performed site visits and submitted comments on 11 projects occurring in Hudson, Nashua and Merrimack. Presentations were provided to LMRLAC on the status of the Nashua combined sewer overflow (CSO) sewer project and residential development on the river in Hudson that included trail easements. Letters of support were submitted for a city of Nashua landscaping project at Rotary Commons Park adjacent to Salmon Brook and for a Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) proposal to develop a low-impact design guidebook. LMRLAC submitted comments to Boot Hydro, operator of the dam in Lowell regarding scheduled drawdowns and the impact to boaters.

LMRLAC was especially enthused about the completion of the Lower Merrimack River Corridor Management Plan. LMRLAC gave slideshow presentations on the Corridor Plan to the planning boards and conservation commissions in Hudson, Nashua, Litchfield and Merrimack. Copies of the plan were provided to each of these groups and feedback was requested. The plan is available on the LMRLAC web page hosted by NRPC.

LMRLAC members attended the DES Watershed Conference in November; a presentation held at NRPC on updates to the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act and a presentation by Aries Engineering on a hydrologic study proposed for Thorough's Landing in Nashua. LMRLAC was updated on the status of the river clean up at the Beazer site in Nashua and requested DES to keep us informed of all future actions.

LMRLAC invites interested parties to join us at our monthly meetings held in Nashua on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathryn Nelson, Vice Chair

2008 Membership:  
Bob Robbins (Chair) – Hudson  
Kathryn Nelson (Vice Chair) – Nashua  
Karen Archambault (Secretary) – Nashua  
Jim Barnes (Treasurer) – Hudson  
Glenn McKibben – Litchfield  
George May – Merrimack  
Associate Members:  
Millie Mugica – Nashua  
Paul Wiggins- Hudson