



## WARNER RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<https://www.wrlac.com/>

**MINUTES DRAFT**

Wednesday, 24 April 2024

7:00 p.m.

Pillsbury Free Library, Warner, NH

### 2024 Meetings

February 28	August 28
April 24	October 23
June 26	December: <b>TBD</b>

**Appointed WRLAC Representatives** present in **bold** (term ends):

George Embley, Webster (07-08-2024)

**Marlene Freyler**, Bradford (08-16-2024)

**Rebecca Herman**, Bradford (10- -2026)

Mike Howley, Bradford (06-22-2024)

**Bob MacGowan**, Webster (appointment pending)

**Dan Morrissey**, Hopkinton (02-09-2025)

**Laura Russell**, Warner (11-26-2024)

**Peter Savickas**, Sutton (08-19-2025)

**Christopher Spannweitz**, Warner (11-26-2024)

**Invited Presenter:** Ray Martin, Warner Village Water District Administrator

**Members of the Public:** Barbara Marty

The meeting convened at 7:07 PM.

#### New Business

1. Meeting minutes for February were approved unanimously.
2. Welcome to new member Bob MacGowan, Webster!

3. Treasurer's report

- a. WRLAC's account with Sugar River bank stands at \$2,320.63. We have updated the names on the account to reflect our new treasurer (Pete) and chair (Dan), in addition to the secretary (Laura). We spent \$5.00 to purchase 8 checks. Statements will be sent to Pete's PO box for the time being.
- b. Pete has been working on WRLAC's taxes.
  - i. It's been determined that while we have an EIN, we are not a tax-exempt organization, as we had originally thought as shown in a [2009 letter](#) indicating that Local Advisory Committees are tax-exempt. As a result of Pete's research, it is possible that LACs are NOT tax-exempt. Pete will continue working with NH DES employees to sift through these questions to make sure that we are in accordance with tax laws. Thank you, Pete!!

The Committee moved and voted to change the order of the agenda in order to accommodate the invited guest, Ray Martin. Ray provided an update about the Water District's plans to address areas of concern about the quality of the water that is treated and returned to the river, as identified by EPA under the Water District's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Ray assured the Committee that the District's drinking water is clean and excellent. However, EPA has lowered the threshold for some water quality parameters in treated effluent discharged to rivers. The District has been working to meet the new thresholds, particularly for the concentration of copper in the treated effluent. An environmental firm has been contracted by the District, and is attempting to determine the source of the copper. It is not believed to be discharging from copper pipes connected to the public sewer. Periodic low volumes of water in the Warner River may be a contributing factor. (Also, as an aside, Ray informed the Committee that the last batch of analytical tests for PFAS did not indicate the presence of PFAS in Warner's drinking water nor in the District's effluent. The District will be testing for PFAS again soon) An earlier plan for addressing the concern about copper levels involved creating rapid infiltration basins under a NHDES permit, but NHDES determined that the effluent would be unable to meet the NHDES permitting requirements - due to the threshold for nitrate, if effluent was handled in this manner. Thus the contracted environmental firm is attempting to determine the source of copper in the effluent. The firm will also design a filtration system to remove the copper so that the effluent can meet EPA's discharge requirements for copper - and potentially for other parameters, as EPA may lower the threshold for additional parameters in the future. If the Water District was to apply for any kind of grant, Dan offered the Committee's support to help secure the necessary funding to address this problem. Ray invited Committee members to see the plant.

4. New permit applications – None

5. Other new business – Rebecca reported that the preliminary results from last year's VRAP tests showed that the Warner River's water continues to be of high quality. The few outlying data points, such as low PH were attributed to the excessive rains throughout the season. The published data will be available at a later date.

### Continuing Business

1. It was suggested that subcommittees be formed to take charge of various topics to spread out the workload. Subcommittees would report back whenever there was current information.
  - a. The Committee discussed the benefits and drawbacks of having subcommittees. There was a motion to create, at a later date, two subcommittees: one to keep up with developments such as permits on the rail trial and another to keep up with developments on the plans for the instream flow program. In the discussion of the motion, it became clear to Committee members that these two topics were a greater importance to the Committee and deserved the entire Committee's attention for the foreseeable future. The motion was withdrawn. Going forward, these two topics will be ongoing agenda items.
  - b. Other topics would be spearheaded by individuals who are already more deeply involved in/knowledgeable about these other topics. But these will not be formal subcommittees.
    - i. Permits – Dan, Chris, Pete
    - ii. VRAP – Rebecca
    - iii. Website – Laura, Mike
    - iv. Intent-to-Cut – Chris will pursue a way to have WRLAC be automatically notified of intents-to-cut in each of the five towns.
    - v. Outreach – Laura
    - vi. Warner Water District – Dan
    - vii. Communicating with town boards – All Committee members should consider engaging with relevant town committees (such as selectboard, conservation commission, planning board), perhaps on a yearly basis.
  - c. It was also discussed that as the rail trail project and the instream flow project begin to ramp up, the Committee should return to meeting monthly. No decision was made at this time.
2. Ongoing permits – No specific activities at this time.
3. Spring Into Warner – Laura will set up a WRLAC information table on Saturday, May 18 in Warner.
  - a. Spring Into Warner is an expanded Arts and Music event along Warner's Main Street, centering on The Town Hall Lawn but extending to the Warner Historical Society Barn Sale to the West and The NH Telephone Museum to the East. It's the first Farmer's Market of the season. There will also be an unveiling of the new signs for the Dalton Covered bridge at East Joppa Road (10 am) and Waterloo Covered bridge (11 am). Signs were created by Jim McLaughlin. This will be followed by a 250th "cake reveal" at Sugar River Bank, at noon.
4. Seeking volunteers – Barb Marty is looking for volunteers to help with stream monitoring through the Warner River Conservation Project with Trout Unlimited and NH F&G. See attached document to read about the project and to VOLUNTEER: [Volunteer Update 2024](#)

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Russell, Secretary

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 7:00 PM