

# Lost Lake Watershed Advisory Committee (LLWAC)

Town of Groton, Groton, MA 01450 978-448-1111

## Meeting Minutes - March 12, 2015

At Town Hall

**Present:** Mark Deuger, Susan Horowitz (BOH), Tom Orcutt (Groton Water Dept.), John Petropoulos (BOS), Arthur Prest (Finance Comm.), Michael Rosa

**Visitors:** Ed Himlan - Executive Director, Massachusetts Watershed Coalition (MWC), Alex Woodle, James Luening, Bill Strickland

**Recorder:** Stephen Legge

**Call to Order:** Chairman Prest called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Members of the committee introduced themselves to special guest Ed Himlan, who was invited to come and address the committee this evening.

Himlan proceeded to give a **slide presentation focused on storm water management issues**, with particular emphasis on recent projects carried out by the DPW in the city of Leominster. There were many informative slides. Himlan offered to provide a copy of his slides at a later time.

The following is a **summary of major points** made:

1. There are good remedies for storm water runoff and erosion challenges
2. Discussion of projects on and around Lake Samoset, where Himlan lives
3. Uncontrolled stormwater runoff can kill lakes and streams
4. Flow damages stream "structure"
5. Accumulating sediments decrease depth – stream life pays the price
6. Excess input of bacteria and nutrients leads to overgrowth of weeds
7. There is a general lack of knowledge about runoff and its effects
8. Paved streets are collectors of runoff
9. One solution is to *disconnect* streets from storm water origins and streams
10. Statistics presented on the generated quantity of suspended solids and phosphorus per acre-year
11. Dependence of above stats on the density of housing in a given area

12. A ¼-acre house lot generates about 200,000 gallons of runoff/year
13. Solutions can include planted trees, rain gardens, narrower streets and porous pavement

Himlan offered committee members copies of the “Rain Garden Pocket Guide” (19 pages), published by the Massachusetts Watershed Coalition.

14. Himlan suggested everyone should walk their own property when it is raining, and look at where water flows
15. Re-direct downspouts onto ground, not pavement
16. Build porous driveways (made by removing fines in paving mix, leaving voids)
17. Use concrete and plastic “grid” pavers
18. Build rock-filled “infiltration trenches”, 12-18 inches deep, promoting soaking
19. Use ground covering plants – they are cheap and easy, acting like rain gardens
  
20. Build simple sediment basins alongside roads, next to lakeshores or streams – cheap
21. State of NH publishes “ New Hampshire Shoreland Homeowner’s Guide” – google
22. Acton Wakefield, NH has an interesting site: [awwatersheds.org](http://awwatersheds.org)
23. MWC has coined a new term, “Billion Gallons/Year” (BGY) projects and campaigns; quantifies benefits of a given project design; the goal is cleaner water for less cost; pick sites and opportunities to capture runoff
  
24. Mass DEP publishes Storm Water Regulations handbook – it is free, not much fun to read
25. One pound of phosphorus in runoff can result in 500 pounds of weeds and algae
26. Disconnect streets from streams; How? Look at possible solutions, assess costs; rate on the basis of cost/ton of sediment or cost/pound of phosphorus removed

**Special Guest Himlan left the meeting at 8:20 PM.**

Prest passed out a guideline on **alum (aluminum sulfate) treatment of lakes and ponds**, titled “Lake and Pond Treatment by Nutrient Inactivation”, authored by Christopher Lind of General Chemical Corporation (2 pages); the subject had been discussed at a previous meeting. Included were cost estimates from Marc Bellaud, President of Aquatic Control Technology (1 page) for treatment of Lost Lake.

#### **RFI Status:**

Prest announced that 20 respondents had expressed interest in the published Request for Information sent out a month ago. Of those, four submitted written responses. They are:

- Cadmus Group, Inc., Waltham , MA (33 pages)

- ESS Group, Waltham, MA (9 pages + resumes)
- Lombard Associates, Newton, MA (many pages, bound)
- Nitsch Engineering, Boston, MA (12 pages)

Preliminary discussion ensued about how and when to give the four organizations an audience with the committee. No decisions reached as of this time.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

The January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were discussed. Petropoulos' expressed a concern about the accuracy of one comment attributed to special guest Jane Peirce of Mass DEP. Prest offered to talk to Peirce before the next meeting to get clarification before an approval vote.

**Adjournment:**

Rosa moved and Petropoulos seconded for adjournment. Unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

**\*\* Next meeting, will be on Thursday, March 26th; committee only**