



# Brainstorm Notes



Brainstorm Notes from October 4<sup>th</sup>  
Mainstem Nashua River Subbasins Public Meeting

## Open Space

Ayer State Game Farm should be preserved. Status?

Need to give more protection to the upper reaches of the watershed. Need more enforcement and money to support local enforcement of Wetland Protection Act.

Need to include North Post/Devens into open space conservation land.

Open space protection in Pepperell center upriver through Dunstable to Hollis town line.

## Recreation

Need trail connection between Oxbow and Harry Rich SF to make this a "real corridor" for wildlife and recreation. In fact, should complete the greenway on both sides of river and its tributaries.

Concern with jet skis by Groton Greenway Committee: 10 horsepower limit in US ACOE areas in MA – NH has similar limits in certain areas. River vs pond differences? May need town bylaw to make this happen. [Issues of speed have been addressed.] Lake Shirley Shady Point Campground concerns with motorized recreational use.

## Water Quality

Pepperell at 119 in the floodplain (2 gas stations and used car lots expanding) what to do? Move blacktop, grandfathered?

Weed problems in Ayer- chemical treatment (not desirable) Would prefer to drawdown.

Has landfill been capped along Bowers Brook downstream of Bare Hill Pond? Concern is that leachate may be entering the Millpond and general effect on aquatic life.

Untreated stormwater concerns at Lake Shirley and Catacoonamaug Brook. PJ Keatings is growing.

Shepleys Hill Landfill near Grove Pond drinking water sources has very high arsenic in groundwater (4000 ppb vs 50 ppb); plume appears to have traveled from Devens to downtown Ayer. Major concern (though most likely no one uses private wells). Tannery may have caused arsenic problem more than landfill: need to evaluate, Army to remediate if necessary.

Ayer looking for 3rd drinking water source and updating WWTF plan (may join with Devens)

Cold Spring Brook area contamination issues (former tannery and gas station, apple orchards)

James Brook: what is impact of upstream golf course and apple orchard spraying?

Moore Army Airfield (AOC 50): deep PCE contamination and fuel spill issues which Army is addressing

Provide incentives for farmers to keep riverside areas in vegetated buffer strips as well as reduce chemicals and fertilizers.

Concern with Broad Meadow (Groton) being drained.

So. Nashua subbasin WWTF: continue monitoring and improving WWTF quality (success or lack thereof). WWTF are outdated: remove phosphates.

Threat to river by housing complex on West Groton within 50 feet of Squannacook River with package treatment plant in floodplain – Restoration of old mill site, project subsidized by Mass Development. Aesthetic vs ecological values.

In Dunstable mandates on pervious driveways; increased housing leading to increased imperviousness.

### **Water Quantity**

Is all the water that's supposed to be passing over Wachusetts Dam getting through to South Nashua River?

### **Habitat**

Drawdown at Bare Hill Pond: concern for pond and downstream wildlife. Proper way to remove weeds ("frost heave-buckling method")

### **Quality of Life**

Concern about background and support for volunteer planning boards, BOS, citizen environmental groups, and, of course, Cons Comms. Need more info to make better decisions. Too much BVD approved.

Need for more/better public outreach to those presently not concerned (ie: lawn fertilizer next to lake, need more info). Need to do outreach on town by town basis. Find enticements. Need more emphasis on public awareness - get local officials on the river.

Most public input is only from abutters concerned with particular nearby interests; must increase broader view.

Bring "subject of the month" to schools (because kids educate their parents). "Adopt a Watershed" model.