



88 Hedding Road
Epping, NH 03042

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Between

Town of Raymond, New Hampshire

and

Lamprey River Advisory Committee Wild and Scenic Subcommittee

I. Background and Purpose:

Development pressure in Raymond and the resultant threats to wetlands are increasing. Identifying and protecting high functioning wetlands is vital if Raymond is to meet the goal of ensuring that the Lamprey River segments in Raymond meet or exceed standards for fish-able and swim-able water for health and enjoyment of all species. (Sixty-four-point eight percent of the Town of Raymond, with associated wetlands and flood plain, lie in the Lamprey River watershed with the rest lying in the Exeter River Watershed, also a tributary to Great Bay.)

RSA 36-A:2 directs New Hampshire conservation commissions to “keep an index of all marshlands, swamps and all other wetlands in a like manner, and may recommend to the city council or selectmen or to the department of natural and cultural resources a program for the protection, development or better utilization of all such areas.” Building a wetlands inventory is a key step and enables a town to develop measures to protect its highest value wetlands. Specifically, Raymond intends to use the wetlands inventory to meet the following goals:

1. Document wetlands over 5 acres using established scientific procedures and develop a wetlands map for use by staff, citizens and watershed organizations as a tool to protect natural resources.
2. Utilize the expertise of a certified wetland scientist to rank wetlands according to their function and values.
3. Gain a basis for developing appropriate regulations to integrate the mapped wetlands into Raymond’s existing land use regulations.
4. Foster an appropriate balance between sustaining the town’s rural identity (water resources and natural habitat) and maintaining property owners’ future land use.
5. Foster community support for increasing the wetland setback, based on the designated value of wetlands, with regulatory standards that are easy for the community to understand.

6. Integrate the revised town-wide wetland map into the permitting process and simplify administration of Raymond's wetland regulations.
7. Utilize enhanced wetland mapping to identify properties that will require more detailed wetland boundary assessments early in the permitting process for time and cost savings to staff and to developers.
8. Develop a public engagement program that informs and educates the community about the importance of conserving Raymond's natural resources and explains the permitting process.

The model for this project can be shared with other towns, thus this project will also fulfill LRAC's project review goal of continuing to improve the communication process among the towns.

II. Project Tasks and Timeline:

Task 1: Conduct wetland inventory:

- 1A: Host kickoff meeting July 11, 2019.
- 1B: Prepare a wetlands map August 1, 2019.
- 1C: Interpret aerial photography August 30, 2019.
- 1D: Prepare wetland composite map August 30, 2019.
- 1E: Share wetland inventory report August 30, 2019.

Task 2: Evaluate wetlands:

- 2A: Identify wetland priorities October 30, 2019.
- 2B: Research existing natural resources studies October 30, 2019.
- 2C: Perform field assessments 2/3 by September 30, 2019.
- 2D: Identify wetland tiers November 30, 2019.
- 2E: Prepare wetland evaluation report December 30, 2019.

Task 3: Revise Wetland Ordinance:

- 3A: Prepare digital wetland boundary map January 30, 2020.
- 3B: Prepare Wetland overlay and tax maps February 28, 2020.
- 3C: Host public presentation March 30, 2020.
- 3D: Draft zoning amendments April 30, 2020.
- 4D: Complete final field assessments June 1, 2020.

Task 4: Meet with planning board and conservation commission by June 30, 2020.

Task 5: Finalize and deliver maps and reports to LRAC by August 1, 2020.

Payment and Deliverables:

The LRAC has awarded the Town of Raymond a Community Grant of up to \$6000 which will be used toward full payment to Dubois and King in the amount of \$30,378. An up-front payment of \$3000 will be made upon execution of this agreement and the remaining \$3000 will be paid upon receipt of final products to LRAC. If other sources of Wetland Inventory Community Grant Agreement between Town of Raymond and Lamprey River Wild and Scenic Subcommittee

funding cannot be secured and the wetlands inventory does not progress as planned before August 1, 2020, the Town of Raymond will refund \$3000 to LRAC. If fundraising efforts exceed \$30,378, the Town of Raymond will refund to LRAC any excess funds paid to Raymond up to \$6000.

Final products to LRAC will include digital and hardcopy (if available) files of the following:

- wetlands inventory
- evaluation and proposed wetland ordinances
- refined geospatial data of wetlands with associated wetland attributes
(Data will be prepared in format that is compatible with the Town of Raymond GIS system: descriptive information and documentation on methods used during data development will be included.)
- descriptive final report that will incorporate methodology and findings from the wetlands mapping exercise
- guidelines (including appropriate reference to existing documentation) to aid town representatives in identifying potential wetland areas and vernal pools during a site visit

III. Miscellaneous:

A. The Town of Raymond grants to LRAC the non-exclusive right to reproduce and publish all deliverables that are produced under this grant, including placement on the LRAC website, www.lampreyriver.org. Final products may be used to publicize and supplement LRAC activities, giving credit to the Town of Raymond when appropriate.

B. The following language must be placed in all final products: *“Funding was provided by the National Park Service under CFDA 15.962 – National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government.”*

By signing below, both parties agree to the terms above.

Joe Foley, Chair, LRAC

Joseph S. Ilsley, Manager, Town of Raymond,
NH

date: _____

date: _____