

## Oyster River Nomination Letters

### Letters of support (22)

Barrington      Board of Selectmen  
                      Planning Board  
                      Conservation Commission

Durham            Town of Durham  
                      Conservation Commission

Lee                Board of Selectmen  
                      Planning Board  
                      Conservation Commission

Madbury         Board of Selectmen  
                      Water Resources Board,  
                      Conservation Commission

UNH/Durham Water System

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership

Southeast Watershed Alliance - established by NH RSA 485-E

Strafford County Conservation District

Nature Conservancy

Great Bay Trout Unlimited

Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire

Strafford Rivers Conservancy

Gundalow Company

Phyllis Heilbronner, Durham resident

### Letters of non-support (1)

Malcom McNeill, Durham resident



# Town of Barrington, New Hampshire

Incorporated in 1722

RECEIVED

APR 07 2010

DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

**Office of the Selectmen**  
(603) 664-9007  
(603) 664-5715  
(603) 664-5179 fax  
selectman@metrocast.net

April 7, 2010

**Town Administrator**  
(603) 664-9007  
(603) 664-5179 fax  
townhall@metrocast.net

Ms. Laura Weit  
Rivers Coordinator  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
P.O. Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

**Building Department**  
(603) 664-5183  
(603) 664-5179 fax

RE: Oyster River's Nomination to NH Rivers  
Management Program

**Land Use Office**  
Planning, Zoning, Conservation  
(603) 664-5798  
(603) 664-5179 fax

Dear Ms. Weit:

**Office of the Tax Collector**  
(603) 664-2230

The Barrington Board of Selectmen supports the Oyster River Watershed Association in the nomination process of the Oyster River to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. With acceptance into this program it would guarantee that the Oyster River would be managed and protected for its exceptional natural and cultural resources for future generations.

**Office of the Town Clerk**  
(603) 664-5476

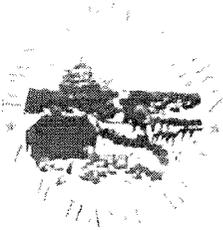
**Recreation Department**  
(603) 664-5224  
recdept@metrocast.net

Sincerely

**Public Library**  
(603) 664-9715  
(603) 664-5219 fax  
blibrary@metrocast.net

Suzanne McNeil for the Board of Selectmen

**Highway Department**  
(603) 664-5379



# Town of Barrington, New Hampshire

Incorporated in 1722

RECEIVED  
FEB 10 2010  
TOWN OF BARRINGTON  
CLERK'S OFFICE

February 9, 2010

Office of the Selectmen  
(603) 664-9007  
(603) 664-5715  
(603) 664-5179 fax  
selectman@metrocast.net

Ms. Laura Weit  
Rivers Coordinator  
6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Town Administrator  
(603) 664-9007  
(603) 664-5179 fax  
townhall@metrocast.net

Re: Oyster River Watershed Association nomination to NH Rivers Management and Protection Program

Building Department  
(603) 664-5183  
(603) 664-5179 fax

Dear Ms. Weit,  
We, the Barrington Planning Board would like to offer our support to the Oyster River Watershed Association in your nomination process of the Oyster River to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. A management plan would be developed to identify management goals and recommend actions to protect the resources and outstanding qualities of the river. At the state level, the Department of Environmental Services will assist with the development and implementation of the management plan and enforce regulations concerning the quality and quantity of flow in protected river segments. A successful nomination would result in the Oyster River being managed and protected for its exceptional natural and cultural resources for future generations.

Land Use Office  
Planning, Zoning, Conservation  
(603) 664-5798  
(603) 664-5179 fax

Office of the Tax Collector  
(603) 664-2230

Reasons to Support:

Office of the Town Clerk  
(603) 664-5476

Headwaters  
Samuel A. Tamposi Water Supply Reserve (SATWaSR)  
Atlantic white cedar plant communities  
Support past actions to protect water quality in the headwaters

Recreation Department  
(603) 664-5224  
recdept@metrocast.net

If you have any questions regarding our letter of support please contact the Planning Board at (603) 664-5798, Dawn Hatch, Land Use Office  
41 Province Lane  
Barrington, NH 03825

Public Library  
(603) 664-9715  
(603) 664-5219 fax  
blibrary@metrocast.net

Highway Department  
(603) 664-5379

Respectfully,

Dawn Hatch for Barrington Planning Board

November 4, 2009

DEC 08 2009

Ms. Laura Weit  
Rivers Coordinator  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95  
Concord, New Hampshire, 03302-0095

Dear Ms. Weit:

The Barrington Conservation Commission would like to offer strong support to the Oyster River Watershed Association for its nomination of the Oyster River to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. As the town that encompasses the headwaters of the Oyster River, we have already worked hard at protecting much of the land surrounding the upper reaches of the river, and we would love to see a more comprehensive management plan that will work to protect its entirety.

Just recently the town has supported the construction of a bridge across the upper reaches of the river, in the town-owned Samuel A. Tamposi Water Supply Reserve (SATWaSR), as an Eagle Scout project. This will help protect the river and the wildlife it supports (e.g. Brook Trout and Brook Lamprey).

A management plan would be developed to identify management goals and recommend actions to protect the resources and outstanding qualities of the river. A successful nomination would result in the Oyster River being managed and protected for its exceptional natural and cultural resources for future generations.

Again, the Barrington Conservation Commission strongly supports the Oyster River Watershed Association in their nomination process. If you have any questions regarding our letter of support, contact me at [john.wallace@unh.edu](mailto:john.wallace@unh.edu).

Sincerely,

John Wallace  
Vice-chair, Barrington Conservation Commission



TOWN OF DURHAM  
15 NEWMARKET ROAD  
DURHAM, NH 03824-2898  
Tel: 603/868-5571  
Fax: 603/868-5572

May 25, 2010

Ms. Cynthia Copeland  
Executive Director  
Strafford Regional Planning Commission  
2 Ridge St. Suite 4  
Dover, NH 03820

Re: **Oyster River Nomination to the NH Rivers Management  
and Protection Program**

Dear Ms. Copeland:

This letter is to convey the Town of Durham's support of the concept and intent behind nominating the Oyster River into the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program for the purpose of providing valuable protection to the Oyster River for the Town of Durham and University of New Hampshire's source water and protecting the Durham/UNH Water System's continued ability to withdraw water from the Oyster River for drinking water purposes.

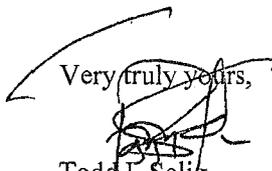
The Durham/UNH Water System has relied upon the Oyster River for source water since the Arthur Rollins Water Treatment Plant was constructed on the banks of the Oyster River in 1935, and the Oyster River is expected to continue to be an integral source of drinking water for the Town of Durham and the University of New Hampshire in the future.

We recognize that by protecting the Oyster River, we also protect a way of life for future generations of water users in addition to the flora and fauna that rely upon on the river and its riparian habitat.

It is my hope that the Town of Durham will be kept informed as the nomination process unfolds.

Should you have further questions in regard to this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

  
Todd I. Selig  
Administrator

cc: Town Council  
Durham Conservation Commission  
Durham Planning Board  
Mark Huddleston, UNH President  
Paul Chamberlin, UNH Asst. VP Energy & Campus Dev.  
Michael Lynch, Public Works Director  
Durham Legislative Delegation  
Thomas Burack, Commissioner, NHDES



TOWN OF DURHAM  
15 NEWMARKET ROAD  
DURHAM, NH 03824-2898  
Tel: 603/868-5571  
Fax: 603/868-5572

APR 0 1 2010

February 19, 2010

Ms. Laura Weit  
Rivers Coordinator  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95  
Concord, New Hampshire, 03302-0095

Dear Ms. Weit:

At its meeting on February 11, 2010 the Durham Conservation Commission voted unanimously to endorse the nomination of the fresh water portion of the Oyster River to the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. The Oyster River is an important resource for Durham. The river passes through Barrington, Lee, Madbury and terminates in Durham. Designation provides Durham with a voice in the management of this vital resource. Water resources are limited, fragile, demand planning and management and call for thoughtful consideration by all concerned parties. We can anticipate increasing problems in the future which the Rivers Management and Protection Program address. The program gives us a voice. Since the Oyster River ends in Durham it is particularly important that we have an influence on the upstream activities which impact the quality and quantity of the water. We believe that the Oyster River Watershed Association, which was founded in 2000 to protect, promote and enhance the ecological integrity and environmental quality of the Oyster River watershed through community participation and involvement will be an important partner in this process.

For the Commission

Stephen Burns





**TOWN OF LEE**  
**SELECTMEN'S OFFICE**  
7 MAST RD, LEE, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03861  
(603) 659-5414

August 31, 2010

Dear Sir,

The Lee Board of Selectmen wish to add their voice of support of the nomination of the Oyster River into the New Hampshire Designated River Program.

We do so confident that the additional protection to the river afforded by the designation status will be balanced by prudent application of the applicable laws to riparian landowners – a dynamic equilibrium of private usage and public good.

Sincerely,

John R. LaCourse

W. James Griswold

Frank J. DeRocchi

Board of Selectmen

Town of Lee Planning Board  
7 Mast Road  
Lee, NH 03861  
(603) 659-6783

REC-100  
MARCH 10 2010

March 10, 2010

Ms. Laura Weit  
Rivers Coordinator  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95  
Concord, New Hampshire, 03302-0095

Dear Ms. Weit:

On behalf of the Lee Planning Board, I would like to offer our strong support to the Oyster River Watershed Association in your nomination process of the Oyster River to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. A management plan would be developed by the Oyster River Watershed Association to identify management goals and recommend actions to protect the resources and outstanding qualities of the river. The Department of Environmental Services of the State of New Hampshire will assist with the development and implementation of the management plan and enforce regulations concerning the quality and quantity of flow in protected river segments. Once completed and accepted, this nomination would manage and protect the Oyster River for its exceptional natural and cultural resources for future generations.

The Town of Lee Master Plan has a goal to protect 25% of the land in Lee from development. With significant efforts to protect the Durham Water Supply -- surface waters along Oyster River and around wells in the Oyster River Watershed.

The Lee Planning Board voted unanimously to support the efforts of the Oyster River Watershed Association in their nomination process of the Oyster River to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. If you have any questions regarding our letter of support, contact myself at 603-868-5139 or Caren Rossi, Planning Board Secretary at 603-659-6783.

Sincerely,



Robert Smith, Chairman,  
Lee Planning Board

**LEE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Town Hall, 7 Mast Road  
Lee, NH 03861

December 18, 2009

Ms. Laura Weit  
Rivers Coordinator  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
P.O. Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

**DEC 17 2009**

Dear Ms. Weit:

This letter is in whole-hearted support of the nomination of the Oyster River to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program.

The Oyster River is a vital natural resource for the Town of Lee as well as other communities in the watershed. It serves essential human uses as a municipal water source for Durham and the University of New Hampshire. It also functions as a remarkably valuable habitat for wildlife and aquatic species, such as the American brook lamprey and the eastern brook trout. Over the years, voters in our town have recognized the importance of protecting riparian lands along the Oyster as well as stratified drift aquifers that feed and are fed by it. Still, threats to the integrity of the river remain, many of which can be dealt with effectively only through a coordinated system of planning and management.

To sustain the Oyster River's hydrologic, biologic, and socioeconomic values, the communities in the watershed need a regional perspective on the watershed. Such a perspective will give added legitimacy to considering impacts on neighboring communities. In our hearts, we all know that water quality, flood flows, wildlife, and other riverine features do not recognize municipal boundaries, but being a part of the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program will help us put that knowledge into action.

We urge DES to support the nomination of the Oyster River for designation to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program to ensure that future generations of New Hampshire citizens will continue to use and enjoy this resource.

Sincerely,

William R. Humm, Chair

# TOWN OF MADBURY

13 Town Hall Road  
Madbury, New Hampshire 03823  
Telephone: (603) 742-5131 • Fax: (603) 742-2505

May 21, 2010

Ms. Laura Weit-Marcum  
Acting Rivers Coordinator  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Dear Ms. Weit-Marcum:

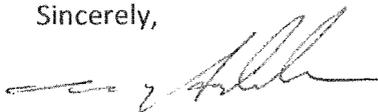
The Madbury Board of Selectmen would like to offer its strong support to the Oyster River Watershed Association in its nomination of the Oyster River to the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. Our support is based upon the recommendation of the Madbury Planning Board, the Madbury Water Resources Board, and the Madbury Conservation Commission.

The Town of Madbury has long been aware of its role in water protection and water conservation in our region, and was the first community to offer support to the Town of Barrington in its successful effort to protect the Tamposi Reserve, which contains the headwaters of the Oyster River. Our ordinances reflect our awareness of our role in protecting regional water resources.

It is our belief that Madbury's ordinances contain land use restrictions that are equal to or exceed those that come with a successful river designation. The establishment of the local river advisory committee will expand the scope of protection that Madbury enforces through its ordinances, and provide a structure for regional discussions and approaches which do not now exist. The development of a watershed management plan to identify management goals and recommend actions to protect the resources of the river will help to promote consistent land use across the watershed communities.

Again, the Madbury Board of Selectmen strongly supports the Oyster River Watershed Association in its nomination of the Oyster River to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. If you have any questions regarding our letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact us at 603-742-5131 or [adminmadbury@comcast.net](mailto:adminmadbury@comcast.net).

Sincerely,



Bruce E. Hodsdon, Chair



## MADBURY WATER RESOURCES BOARD

13 TOWN HALL ROAD  
MADBURY, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03823

March 30, 2010

Ms. Laura Weit  
Acting Rivers Coordinator  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-009

Dear Ms. Weit:

The Madbury Water Resources Board would like to offer our strong support to the Oyster River Watershed Association in their nomination of the Oyster River to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. The Bellamy Reservoir (supplying 60% of Portsmouth's water) is located in Madbury, so we have long realized the need for regional or watershed based approaches to be effective water resource management. Current nitrogen issues in the Great Bay also highlight the need for regional based solutions to water resource issues.

The highest policy goal in the Madbury Master Plan is to: *Protect water resources in Madbury from contamination, depletion and disfigurement using watershed management principles. Act as stewards for municipal and regional water supplies located within the Oyster River, Bellamy River, and Little Bay watersheds.* The Plan goes on to encourage land use policies, such as ordinances, best management practices, and protection districts to protect water resources. There is also the recommendation to "support the efforts of watershed associations, regional planning commission, and municipalities to coordinate water protection and management within the Bellamy and Oyster River watersheds" and "incorporate actions, regulations, and policies from watershed management plans" through the Town's boards and commissions.

We believe that most of Madbury's land use restrictions equal or exceed those that come with a successful river designation. The determination of the river's instream flow values is critical to the equitable protection of all the significant resources and users of the Oyster. The establishment of the local river advisory committee will provide the structure for regional discussions and approaches which do not now exist. The development of a watershed management plan to identify management goals and recommend actions to protect the resources and outstanding qualities of the river will go far to promote consistent land use across the watershed communities. The Commission also believes that increased focus on the River will promote a better public understanding of the resources, and that additional and coordinated attention from the State is a needed step forward.

We strongly support the designation which will aid in the Oyster River being managed and protected for its exceptional natural and cultural resources for future generations. If you have any questions regarding our letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

Garret Ahlstrom  
Chair, Madbury Water Resources Board



## MADBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

13 TOWN HALL ROAD  
MADBURY, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03823

March 29, 2010

Ms. Laura Weit  
Acting Rivers Coordinator  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-009

Dear Ms. Weit:

The Madbury Conservation Commission would like to offer our strong support to the Oyster River Watershed Association in their nomination of the Oyster River to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. While only a small portion of the proposed protected corridor occurs in Madbury, twenty-two percent of the watershed occurs in Madbury and the abutting city of Dover. The town of Madbury has long recognized the need for regional or watershed based approaches if there is to be effective management of the valuable water resources in our area.

The highest policy goal in the Madbury Master Plan is to: *Protect water resources in Madbury from contamination, depletion and disfigurement using watershed management principles. Act as stewards for municipal and regional water supplies located within the Oyster River, Bellamy River, and Little Bay watersheds.* The Plan goes on to encourage land use policies, such as ordinances, best management practices, and protection districts to protect water resources. There is also the recommendation to "support the efforts of watershed associations, regional planning commission, and municipalities to coordinate water protection and management within the Bellamy and Oyster River watersheds" and "incorporate actions, regulations, and policies from watershed management plans" through the Town's boards and commissions.

We believe that most of Madbury's land use restrictions equal or exceed those that come with a successful river designation. The determination of the river's instream flow values is critical to the equitable protection of all the significant resources and users of the Oyster. The establishment of the local river advisory committee will provide the structure for regional discussions and approaches which do not now exist. The development of a watershed management plan to identify management goals and recommend actions to protect the resources and outstanding qualities of the river will go far to promote consistent land use across the watershed communities. The Commission also believes that increased focus on the River will promote a better public understanding of the resources, and that additional and coordinated attention from the State is a needed step forward.

Again, we strongly support the designation of the Oyster River. If you have any questions regarding our letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

Eric Fiengenbaum  
Chair, Madbury Conservation Commission

UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE



UNH – Water Utilities  
Tel: (603) 862-1390  
Fax: (603) 862-0143

**UNH/DURHAM WATER SYSTEM**  
100 STONE QUARRY DRIVE  
DURHAM, NH 03824



Town of Durham Public Works  
Tel: (603) 868-5578  
Fax: (603) 868-8063

May 24, 2010

Kyle Pimental  
GIS/Communications Technician  
Strafford Regional Planning Commission  
2 Ridge St. Suite 4  
Dover, NH 03820

RE: Oyster River Nomination to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program

Dear Mr. Pimental:

The managers of the UNH/Durham Water System (UDWS) support the concept and intent behind nominating the Oyster River into the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program for the purpose of providing valuable protection of the Oyster River for the UDWS's source water and protecting the UDWS's continued ability to withdraw water from the Oyster River for drinking water purposes. The UDWS has relied upon the Oyster River for source water since the Arthur Rollins Water Treatment Plant was constructed on the banks of the Oyster River in 1935, and the Oyster River is expected to continue to be a key source of drinking water for the Town of Durham and the University of New Hampshire in the future. We recognize that by protecting the Oyster River, we also protect a way of life for future generations of water users in addition to the flora and fauna that rely upon on the river and its riparian habitat.

Please continue to keep us informed as the nomination progresses.

Sincerely,

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN OF DURHAM

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paul D. Chamberlin, P.E.  
Assistant Vice President  
Energy & Campus Development

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Cedarholm, P.E.  
Town Engineer

cc: Todd Selig, Town Administrator  
Michael Lynch, Director of Public Works

December 10, 2009

DEC 16 2009

Ms. Laura Weit  
Rivers Coordinator  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95  
Concord, New Hampshire, 03302-0095

Dear Ms. Weit:

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is in full support of the Oyster River Watershed Association for its nomination of the Oyster River to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. The Oyster River became a primary focus area for the department during the development of New Hampshire's Wildlife Action Plan. Seven fish species of conservation concern, more than any other river in the state, are known to exist in the Oyster River. One of which, the now state endangered American brook lamprey, exists nowhere else in New Hampshire.

The Oyster River is also important to migratory fish, including blueback herring and American eel, which have shown signs of population declines throughout their range. The headwaters of the Oyster River are home to populations of brook trout supported by spring fed streams, which are unusually abundant for the region. This source of groundwater is critical, not only for use by the towns in the watershed, but also for maintaining a steady supply of clean water for the species that inhabit the river.

The high quality aquatic habitat in the Oyster River watershed is under considerable threat from the rapid expansion of suburban development in southeastern New Hampshire. There are signs of impacts from stormwater runoff, undersized stream crossings, and pollution from fertilizers and road salt throughout the watershed. Designation under the Rivers Management and Protection Program would be a critical step toward curbing some of these threats and expanding the awareness of this valuable aquatic resource.

Sincerely,

Matthew Carpenter  
Fish Conservation Program Biologist  
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department



PISCATAQUA REGION  
**Estuaries  
Partnership**

Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership  
University of New Hampshire  
Nesmith Hall, 131 Main Street  
Durham, NH 03824

December 14, 2009

Laura Weit  
Rivers Coordinator  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95  
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

DEC 14 2009

Dear Laura:

On behalf of the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP), I express my strong support for the Oyster River Watershed Association's nomination of the Oyster River as a designated river in the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. PREP is a collaborative watershed program established to protect, restore, and monitor the environmental quality of the Great Bay Estuary and Hampton-Seabrook Estuary.

PREP has a history of collaboration with and support for the Oyster River Watershed Association and watershed communities to implement projects and activities to improve water quality and protect the natural resources in the Oyster River watershed. Most recently PREP completed a comprehensive inventory of culverts in the freshwater portion of the watershed to assess risk of failure during storm events. In 2010, PREP plans to support oyster restoration projects in the Oyster River.

The Oyster River is a unique and important resource for our region that should be designated to ensure protection of the river's natural resources, water quality, and wildlife habitats. The water quality of the Oyster River influences the health of the Great Bay Estuary system. Protection of the river benefits the watershed communities adjacent to the river, as well as the larger seacoast region that is dependent on high quality waters and healthy fisheries habitats.

The Oyster River watershed, like other coastal watershed areas, is seeing tremendous growth and development pressures that have the potential to affect water quality, aquatic habitat, and other wildlife habitats. Proactive solutions to protect and manage the Oyster River system require multi-community, multi-party coordination. Designation of the river and the establishment of a local advisory committee are key steps in developing a successful and integrated strategy to protect the river. PREP supports the development and implementation of subwatershed plans within the larger coastal watershed area.

If I can provide any additional information to assist the NH Department of Environmental Services and the NH Legislature in reviewing the nomination to designate the Oyster River, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hunter  
Director

cc: Kyle Pimental, Strafford Regional Planning Commission (electronic copy)  
Dick Weyrick and Chuck Cox, Oyster River Watershed Association (electronic copy)

## Southeast Watershed Alliance

---

222 International Drive

Suite 175

Portsmouth, NH 03801

☎ (603)559-0028 [info@southeastwatershedalliance.org](mailto:info@southeastwatershedalliance.org)

Commissioner Thomas Burack  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03301

August 23, 2010

Dear Commissioner Burack:

As we move forward in the protection of our state's natural and surface waters, it is evident that we must treat each part of the complete watershed as a unified whole and not selectively isolate its parts while ignoring others. Only by protecting the whole, can we actually protect any.

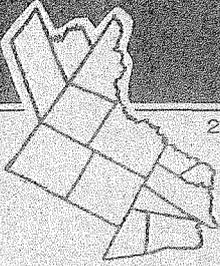
With this in mind the Southeast Watershed Alliance board of directors voted at its meeting on August 19, 2010 to endorse placing three rivers, namely the Oyster River, and the remaining portions of the Lamprey and Exeter Rivers, into the New Hampshire Rivers Management and protection Program, under RSA 483.

This triple nomination will be a step forward in assisting Southeast Watershed Alliance and others in their efforts to protect coastal water resources, including the Great Bay Estuary. The Alliance encompasses 42 municipalities in the southeastern New Hampshire, and is home to about 22% of the state's population.

Thank you for considering these three nominations as a protected "watershed", and we ask that you accept these rivers into the NH Rivers Management program.

Sincerely,

Michael Adam Perfit  
Secretary  
Southeast Watershed Alliance



## ***Strafford County Conservation District***



259 County Farm Road, Unit #3 - Dover, New Hampshire 03820-6015 - (603) 749-3037 - Fax (603) 743-3667

Ms. Laura Weit  
Rivers Coordinator  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95  
Concord, New Hampshire, 03302-0095

DEC 10 2009

Dear Ms. Weit:

We, the Strafford County Conservation District (SCCD), would like to offer our strong support to the Oyster River Watershed Association in your nomination process of the Oyster River to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. We understand that one end result of this process would be the development of a management plan to identify management goals and recommend actions to protect the resources and outstanding qualities of the river. At the state level, the Department of Environmental Services will assist with the development and implementation of the management plan and enforce regulations concerning the quality and quantity of flow in protected river segments. A successful nomination would result in the Oyster River being managed and protected for its exceptional natural and cultural resources for future generations.

The SCCD recognizes the importance of protecting the Oyster River and its natural resources as evidenced by our assisting in the creation of the Oyster River Watershed Association and on going support of their efforts and programs. The District lists the Oyster River as one of the priority watersheds in Strafford County. The District lists water quality and quantity as a priority resource concerns in Strafford County. The Oyster River is an import drinking water source for Durham. Lee and Durham have invested in several easement and other river protection efforts to insure sufficient water supplies exist for all residents, as well as native wildlife and plant communities. The Oyster River Watershed contains critical wetland habitat and important water sources for the residents and the ecosystem. There continues to be development stresses for the near future in the watershed.

Again, Strafford County Conservation District strongly support the Oyster River Watershed Association in their nomination process. If you have any questions regarding our letter of support, contact me at bambimillersccd@aol.com or 749-3037.

Sincerely,

Bambi Miller, District Manager, Strafford County Conservation District  
wh/bm



Great Bay Office  
112 Bay Road  
Newmarket, NH 03857

tel [603] 659.2678  
fax [603] 659.2729

New Hampshire Chapter  
22 Bridge Street, 4th Floor  
Concord, NH 03301-4987

tel [603] 224.5853  
fax [603] 228.2459

Worldwide Office  
Arlington, Virginia

tel [703] 841.5300  
nature.org

December 9, 2009

DEC 11 2009

Ms. Laura Weit  
Rivers Coordinator  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95  
Concord, New Hampshire, 03302-0095

Dear Ms. Weit:

The Nature Conservancy's New Hampshire Chapter strong supports the efforts of the Oyster River Watershed Association to nominate the Oyster River for the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is deeply vested in the future health of the Great Bay Estuary, and the Oyster River tributary is one of seacoast's most important focus areas.

In particular, the Oyster River may be the key to long term recovery of oyster populations in the entire system. Oysters are the linchpin to a healthy ecosystem since they filter out nutrients and sediments, and provide excellent habitat for estuarine fish. In Great Bay Estuary, many hundreds of acres of oyster reefs have been lost due to disease, harvest, and pollution. Still, a highly-resilient reef remains in the Oyster River. Nature Conservancy staff, along with partners including the University of New Hampshire, are working to protect this local population and to restore oysters back to their natural abundances. TNC has reestablished about 30,000 young oysters in the river in the past two years and future expansion is planned. We believe that enhanced oyster populations in the Oyster River will become a seed source for the entire estuary and improve filtering capacity for healthier eelgrass beds and other fish habitat areas throughout Great Bay.

A management plan for the Oyster River would be invaluable to reduce land-based impacts that degrade water quality and harm fragile estuarine habitats, like oysters and eelgrass. The Nature Conservancy enthusiastically supports the OR Watershed Association to move this agenda forward and to secure an Oyster River designation.

Sincerely,

  
Ray Konisky, Ph.D.



Great Bay Trout Unlimited (613)  
P.O. Box 1121  
Dover, NH 03821  
Website: www.greatbaytu.org  
Email: greatb3@greatbaytu.org

DEC 01 2009

Chapter Board  
of Directors

Mitch Kalter  
President

Mark Seymour  
V. President

Wendy Nixon  
Secretary &  
Women's Activities

Rich Seaward  
Treasurer

Steve Huebner  
Conservation  
Director

Robert Devore  
Strategic Planning

Geoffrey Wilson  
Conservation/  
Restoration

Jeffrey Barnum

Jonathan  
Mitchell

November 30, 2009

Ms. Laura Weit  
Rivers Coordinator  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95  
Concord, New Hampshire, 03302-0095

Re: Oyster River Designated River Nomination

Dear Ms. Weit:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this letter of support for the nomination of the Oyster River as a designated river under the NH Rivers Management Protection Program. Great Bay Trout Unlimited (GBTU) is a local chapter of Trout Unlimited, a national organization of 150,000 members divided among 400 chapters in 35 states and dedicated to the conservation, protection and restoration of North America's cold water fisheries. GBTU draws its membership of over 300 from southeast NH, and includes numerous members from the Barrington, Durham, Lee, Nottingham, Madbury and Dover communities comprising the Oyster River watershed.

Segments of the river under consideration for designation are defined as "rural" to "community" and clearly the Oyster River has much to conserve, protect and restore. Although a small sub-watershed of the Great Bay watershed, the Oyster River is significant in the development, recreational use and ecological status of the local area and the Great Bay estuary. Several of its lower order tributaries still support wild populations of brook trout, yet the river is a significant contributor to the sedimentation and nitrogen loading of the estuary at its head-of-tide dam marking the lower reach of the section seeking nomination. Clearly the pan-community watershed approach to management that designation under the NH Rivers Management Protection Program would foster is crucial to the success in preserving the headwater resources and addressing negative impacts of the highly populated lower sections with ultimate success. Given the positive effects that designation of the Oyster River under the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program would provide, Great Bay Trout Unlimited unequivocally supports the nomination for designation. Designation will further the efforts that are taking place within the watershed to protect and enhance its natural resources. This is an important step in the continuation and enhancement of conservation efforts for the Oyster River watershed that Trout Unlimited wholeheartedly supports.

Sincerely,

Mitchell E. Kalter, MD  
President, Great Bay Trout Unlimited

Cc: Oyster River Watershed Association  
Strafford Regional Planning Commission



## Coastal Conservation Association Of New Hampshire

Post Office Box 4372 • Portsmouth, NH 03802  
phone: (603) 731-2669 • E-mail - [ccanh@worldpath.net](mailto:ccanh@worldpath.net)  
Web Address - [ccanh.org](http://ccanh.org)

DEC 14 2009

Dec. 12, 2009

Ms. Laura Weit  
Rivers Coordinator  
NH DES  
6 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95  
Concord, NH, 03302-0095

Re: Oyster River Nomination

Ms. Weit,

The Coastal Conservation Association of NH is dedicated to assuring healthy marine resources for the benefit of all users. We all know that Great Bay has not been so great of late. The litany of negatives is long and depressing. Any improvement in the water quality entering the estuary would be welcomed.

The CCA NH board of directors unanimously endorses the nomination of the Oyster River to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program by the Oyster River Watershed Association. Once the management goals are in place, we hope that the resulting, recommended actions will have some teeth in them to bring about immediate and lasting improvements in the watershed and the estuary. The bay cannot afford to wait too long.

Please let me know how the nomination process progresses. Contact me if you feel that we can be of further assistance.

Thank you,

Jeff Barnum  
Pres. CCA NH  
603 770 3201

### State Board of Directors

J. Jeffrey Barnum  
President

[jjbarnum@comcast.net](mailto:jjbarnum@comcast.net)

Donald L. Swanson  
Vice President

Michael Reeve  
Treasurer

Gordon Thompson  
Secretary

Dr. Larry Albright  
Peter Amarosa

Michael J. Bartlett  
Capt. Dave Beattie  
Bryant Bickford  
Bob Bode

B. David Bryan  
Phil Desfosses  
Chris Fenerty  
Robert Ferri

Dr. Mitch Kalter  
Capt. Dave Gittens  
Silas Gordon  
John F. Habig

Donald Lovett, Jr.  
Christian Stallkamp  
Mike Watosky

Capt. Peter Whelan  
G. Ritchie White  
Matt McCarthy  
Ellen Goethel

### DEDICATED TO CONSERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S MARINE RESOURCES

*The Coastal Conservation Association of NH ("CCA NH") is an unincorporated state chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association ("CCA"), which currently has over 96,000 members in seventeen states. CCA is a nonprofit, public charity corporation that is qualified under IRC §501(c)(3). Donations to CCA NH are tax deductible under IRC §170.*



DEC 30 2009

Laura Weit, Rivers Coordinator  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
RE: Oyster River Nomination

December 29, 2009

Dear Ms. Weit,

I am writing in support of the nomination of the Oyster River as a designated river under the NH Rivers Management Protection Program. The Oyster River, while relatively small, is an important tributary to Great Bay. The impairment of the river and its tributaries negatively impacts the water quality of Great Bay and better management of the river and its watershed could significantly improve this important estuarine system.

**Board of Directors:**

Nancy Carner - Rollinsford  
Steve Dibble - Rochester  
Kevin McEneaney - Dover  
Nancy Lambert - Durham  
Linda McGivern - Rollinsford  
Carl Paulsen - Dover  
Sam Reid - Dover

The Great Bay Protection Partnership, the municipalities in the watershed and other organizations and agencies have demonstrated the importance of the Oyster River watershed and their commitment to it by investing significant resources into the conservation of its watershed. They have invested millions of dollars to acquire land and conservation easements. Of particular note is the Samuel A. Tamposi Water Supply Reserve in Barrington that protects almost 1300 acres, much of which is in the headwaters of the Oyster River.

**Executive Director**

Anna Boudreau

While there have been many conservation successes in protecting the river, there is still work to be done. The watershed still includes significant pieces of unfragmented land that remain threatened by development in this normally rapidly developing part of the state. The river also benefits from significant lengths of undeveloped shoreline, and its watershed includes large portions of high value wildlife habitat, according to NH Fish and Game. Most critically, the Oyster River serves as a public water supply for the University of New Hampshire and surrounding community.

**Land Agent**

John Wallace

The Oyster River Watershed Association, a grass-roots organization, has been diligent in monitoring the water quality and providing educational opportunities for citizens to become more familiar with the river and the important role it plays in their communities. The towns of Durham, Lee and Madbury have even embraced the river as the symbol of their collective communities by naming their school district and middle and high schools after the river. In addition, the proximity of the river to the large student population on the UNH campus enriches its educational and recreational values. The river hosts not only the UNH crew teams but also the many other recreationalists such as the Great Bay Rowing club.

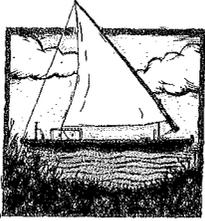
*The Strafford Rivers Conservancy is a non-profit land trust dedicated to the protection of the natural resources, beauty, and character of land throughout Strafford County.*

The Strafford Rivers Conservancy is a non-profit land trust established in 1989 with the primary goal of protecting the rivers of Strafford County by conserving lands located on the shorelines of our rivers. Since then our mission has expanded to conserve not only the critical riparian zones but the associated uplands throughout the watershed that contribute to a healthy river ecosystem throughout the region. We believe that the inclusion of the Oyster River in the NH Rivers Management Protection Program would be a significant step in achieving our mission of protecting Strafford County's rivers.

Sincerely,

Anna Boudreau, Executive Director

Cc: Kevin McEneaney, President



# Gundalow COMPANY

Protecting the Piscataqua Maritime Region  
through Education and Action

JAN 4 2010

## Board of Directors

December 31, 2009

Phil Cavanaugh  
John Crandall  
Joseph C. Donnelly, Jr.  
Nate Hazen  
Angela Hiley  
Julie Kath  
Jenny B. Marshall  
Sharon Meeker  
Chris Parker  
Bill Purinton  
Cynthia H. Raymond  
Rodney Rowland  
Roger Stephenson  
Cyrus B. Sweet III  
Jeffrey H. Taylor

Laura Weit  
NH DES Rivers Coordinator  
P.O. Box 95  
Concord NH 03302-0095

Dear Laura,

We, the nonprofit Gundalow Company, would like to offer our strong support to the Oyster River Watershed Association in your nomination process of the Oyster River to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. Our mission is to "protect the Piscataqua Maritime Region through education and action." We understand that one end result of this process would be the development of a management plan to identify management goals and recommend actions to protect the resources and outstanding qualities of the river. At the state level, the Department of Environmental Services will assist with the development and implementation of the management plan and enforce regulations concerning the quality and quantity of flow in protected river segments. A successful nomination would result in the Oyster River being managed and protected for its exceptional natural and cultural resources for future generations.

## Staff

Carol Walker Aten  
*Development Director*

Molly Bolster  
*Executive Director*

Barbara Maurer  
*Education Director*

Nancy Mulqueen  
*Office Manager*

Nate Piper  
*Vessel Manager*

The Town of Madbury recognizes the importance of protecting the Oyster River and its natural resources as evidenced by the Town's existing water resource and natural resource chapters. Both of these sections are directly set up to protect all water resources from incompatible land uses, thus protecting the health and general welfare of the community. Madbury has also made significant advances in insuring sufficient water supplies exist for all residents, as well as native wildlife and plant communities. The portion of the Oyster River Watershed located in Madbury contains critical wetland habitat and important water sources for the residents of the town and in surrounding communities.

Again, the Gundalow Company strongly supports the Oyster River Watershed Association in their nomination process. If you have any questions regarding our letter of support, contact me at 603-433-9505 or [info@gundalow.org](mailto:info@gundalow.org)

Sincerely,

Molly Bolster  
Executive Director

[WWW.GUNDALOW.ORG](http://WWW.GUNDALOW.ORG)

[info@gundalow.org](mailto:info@gundalow.org)

TEL (603) 433-9505

FAX (603) 433-6403

P.O. BOX 425

PORTSMOUTH

NEW HAMPSHIRE 03802

BARRINGTON  
BROOKFIELD  
DOVER  
DURHAM  
FARMINGTON  
LEE  
MADBURY  
MIDDLETON  
MILTON



NEW DURHAM  
NEWMARKET  
NORTHWOOD  
NOTTINGHAM  
ROCHESTER  
ROLLINSFORD  
SOMERSWORTH  
STRAFFORD  
WAKEFIELD

RECEIVED

May 20, 2010

MAY 24 2010

Ms. Laura Weit  
Rivers Coordinator  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95  
Concord, New Hampshire, 03302-0095

DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Dear Ms. Weit:

I, Phyllis Heelbronner would like to offer my strong support to the Oyster River Watershed Association in your nomination process of the Oyster River to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. A management plan would be developed to identify management goals and recommend actions to protect the resources and outstanding qualities of the river. At the state level, the Department of Environmental Services will assist with the development and implementation of the management plan and enforce regulations concerning the quality and quantity of flow in protected river segments. A successful nomination would result in the Oyster River being managed and protected for its exceptional natural and cultural resources for future generations.

Again, I Phyllis Heelbronner strongly support the Oyster River Watershed Association in their nomination process. If you have any questions regarding my letter of support, contact <sup>me</sup> myself at 51 Mill Pond Rd., or Durham, N.H. 03824

Sincerely,

Phyllis Heelbronner

P.S. My big concern, which I realize isn't on your purview, is enforcement. I see numerous instances along the Oyster River and Colley Brook which break existing regulations and nothing is done about them. Protecting the river, to me, means insuring its maintenance.

**Malcolm R. McNeill, Jr.**  
**44 Colony Cove Road**  
**Durham, NH 03824**

**RECEIVED**

**JUN 14 2010**

**NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

June 11, 2010

Ms. Laura Weit  
Rivers Coordinator  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
6 Hazen Drive  
PO Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Dear Ms. Weit:

Please be advised that I am opposed to the nomination of the Oyster River Watershed Association to the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. I believe that the Oyster River is adequately protected under local state and federal regulations, and that additional oversight is unnecessarily redundant and will adversely affect the ability of private property owners to reasonably use their property.

Very truly yours,



Malcolm R. McNeill, Jr.  
Email: [McNeill@McNeill-law.com](mailto:McNeill@McNeill-law.com)

MRM/jhf