

BAKER RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN

Lawrence Cushman
1275 Old Route 25
Rumney, NH 03266
Tel. 786-9797

VICE CHAIR

Richard Flanders
320 Fairgrounds Road
Plymouth, NH 03264
Tel. 536-1376

Annual BRWA Meeting
Community Room
Pease Public Library, Plymouth
April 28, 2011 at 7:00 PM

All members and the public are cordially invited to attend the Baker River Watershed Association's 12th Annual Meeting. A brief business meeting will precede a presentation by invited speaker Douglas Cygan, Invasives Species Coordinator for the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture. Doug will be discussing invasive species issues in New Hampshire, and in particular the North Country. His talk will focus on the biology and distribution of the invasive Japanese knotweed and options for its control. The talk will also provide some background on other problematic plants, including purple loosestrife. In addition, Molly Fuller, District Ranger with the White Mountain National Forest, will briefly discuss their plans for eradicating Japanese knotweed as part of the Oliverian Project Stewardship Program.

Please join us for refreshments and a conversation about the Baker River Watershed Association's activities, and issues regarding invasive plant species in our region.

The agenda follows:

1. Introductions followed by a brief business meeting:
 - a. Minutes of the last annual meeting on April 29, 2010
 - b. Treasurers report
2. Brief summary of activities of the BRWA during 2010 by Chair Larry Cushman.
3. Presentation by Douglas Cygan on invasive plant concerns.
4. Discussion of plans for Japanese knotweed control in the Oliverian Brook watershed and environs by Molly Fuller.
5. Refreshments and adjournment!

Note: Membership dues for the BRWA are payable now and may be sent to the Treasurer (see attached form). We really appreciate your continued support!

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Your BRWA Steering Committee

CHAIRMAN, *Lawrence Cushman*

VICE CHAIR & Plymouth Rep., *Dick Flanders*

SECRETARY/TREASURER & Wentworth Rep., *Ellie Murray*

RUMNEY Rep., *John Williams*

WARREN Rep., *Kevin Hopkins*

WMNF Rep., *Molly Fuller*

2011 Membership Drive

Dear Members and Supporters of the BRWA:

The Steering Committee of the BRWA would, once again, like to again express our sincere appreciation for your continuing support of the Baker River Watershed Association. The focus of the Association historically has been to monitor and protect the water quality of the Baker River. However our By-Laws were drafted to recognize broader watershed goals including:

1. Promotion of educational and scientific aspects of watershed planning such as:

- *Native flora, fauna, forests, wetlands, soil, fish and game.*
- *Water quality of surface and ground waters.*
- *Soil conservation.*

2. Preservation, conservation and improvement of the ecology of the Baker River watershed for the benefit of its residents and the general public.

3. Advocacy for protection of the natural assets of the watershed for the enjoyment of future generations.

4. Cooperation with other associations, organizations, towns, conservation commissions, and state and federal agencies to improve and conserve the watershed and promote the general welfare of its citizens and the public.

The Steering Committee remains the active 'core' of the Association and is responsible for coordinating all Association activities and meetings. The 'E. coli sampling team' is a subgroup of the Steering Committee and performs four-times-a-summer sampling of the Baker River at 13 locations. The most recent summary of water quality testing for 2010 is attached. The results indicate the Baker met its Class B legislative goals (fishable and swimmable) based on individual samples. However, based on a calculated 'geometric mean', the Department of Environmental Services notified the BRWA that two stations exceeded state standards in 2010 (noted in bold on the summary sheet). Elevated bacteria suggest the potential of pollution sources including marginal or failing septic systems or farm runoff. The Association is also continuing to track ongoing water quality monitoring by the USFS following the Ore Hill Mine Reclamation Project to assess its success in reducing the impact of heavy metals on Ore Hill Brook and other local streams.

As we have noted in the past -your continued support for the monitoring and watershed protection efforts of the BRWA are critical! We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so all contributions are tax-deductible. Check out your website at www.bakerriverwatershed.org which is routinely updated and managed by member David Saad. This provides a means to reach out to members and the general public to inform them of activities of the Association and provide useful information on water quality protection measures available to them. The Association also continues to receive support from four towns (\$200 each) for E. coli testing. For 2011 the Steering Committee is planning on tracking the Northern Pass power line project and other potential regional impacts. The Baker River is a unique resource that we believe in protecting for future generations to enjoy! If you would like to assist the BRWA in any capacity, please feel free to call or email us and attend our Annual and special meetings. The following is our dues structure.

Please mail your dues/contribution to the Treasurer at the following address: BRWA, c/o Ellie Murray, 343 East Side Drive, Wentworth, NH 03282

Individual \$ _____ Family \$ _____ Organization \$ _____ Other \$ _____
 \$10 \$15 \$100

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____@_____

Town: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

THANK YOU!