

# New Meadows River Watershed Project

## 2002 Strategic Plan

### *Mission Statement*

The mission of the New Meadows River Watershed Project is to protect, improve and maintain the vitality of the ecological and economic resources of the New Meadows River.

### *Goals*

**1. Committee Education:**

Educate ourselves (i.e. the NMR Steering Committee) as to the interrelationships between water, sediment quality, land use, marine resource economy, law and politics

**2. Public Education:**

Involve the public in the NMR project

**3. Remediation:**

Make improvements to the ecological and economic resources of the NMR

### *Objectives*

**1. Committee Education:**

- a. understand the sources of pollution and their impact on marine resources;
- b. have an active participation of all Steering Committee members, watershed municipalities, project contractor, project coordinator and clear communication between them.

**2. Public Education:**

- a. expand local awareness
- b. recruit citizen volunteers
- c. obtain feedback from public and local landowners
- d. offer recommendations to all stakeholders

**3. Remediation:**

- a. conduct remediation efforts to improve water quality
- b. pursue open classification of all shellfish areas, where appropriate

### *Action Plans*

**Economic, Population & Land Use Data Subcommittee**

- 1: Develop standardized methodology to estimate the economic value of the marine resources of the New Meadows River and its watershed.
  - These resources include: Fisheries, Lobster Landings, Soft Shell Clams, Mussels, Marine Worms, Oysters, Quahogs, Sea Urchins, Scallops, Seaweed, Eels, Horseshoe Crabs
- 2: Develop standardized methodology to estimate the economic value of physical improvement and services related to the New Meadows River -
  - Tourism: Boats (Registration, Excise Tax, Sea Kayak Rentals, Mooring Fees), Fishing Guide Business, Private Swimming Areas
  - Other Businesses: Riverside Restaurants, B & B's, Inns, Resorts, Marina Fuel and Ice, Fishing Gear (Commercial and Recreation), Campgrounds, Grocery Stores
  - Land (Property Taxes and Population), Number of Homes (By Town), Number of House Lots (By Town), Number of Businesses (By Town)

### **Science Data Subcommittee**

- 1: Determine the GIS database requirements for the New Meadows River project.
- 2: Establish ongoing, coordinated, standardized environmental monitoring program
- 3: Determine significance of Lower Lake deep hole nutrient contribution
- 4: Determine extent of low-oxygen susceptibility in upper reaches of the NMR
- 5: Determine extent to which Kennebec River and possible groundwater flows affect the exchange and circulation of the NMR
- 6: Develop mathematical circulation model for NMR

### **Education Subcommittee**

- 1: Create a 3D tabletop model of the New Meadows River watershed and develop and accompanying educational outreach program.
- 2: Conduct a boat tour for Steering Committee and invited elected officials.
- 3: Develop a web site maintenance plan
- 4: Develop annual "community day!" celebration
- 5: Disseminate the State of the New Meadows River Report

### **Lower Watershed Survey Subcommittee**

- 1: Notify landowners and recruit volunteers
- 2: Provide information about survey to general public
- 3: Train volunteers in conduct of watershed survey

- 4: Verify accuracy of field work and completeness of documentation
- 5: Produce prioritization report
- 6: Add survey data to GIS database

#### **Remediation Subcommittee**

- 1: Assist in the development of a sanitary pump-out facility
- 2: Assist in Dingley Island causeway project
- 3: Assist with grant-funded MDOT roadside erosion control project
- 4: Work with local public works departments and volunteers on remediating non-MDOT erosion/flow obstruction issues
- 5: Pursue reclassification of closed shellfish areas, as appropriate

#### **Strategic Plan/Organization Subcommittee**

- 1: Finalize 2002 Strategic Plan and assure balanced membership on all subcommittees.
- 2: Evaluate implementation and update Strategic Plan on as-needed basis.
- 3: Develop a plan for organization, staffing and active town government participation of the NMR project
- 4: Oversee grant writing for specific projects
- 5: Lead effort to develop Watershed Management Plan
  - a. Preliminary review
    - i. Review mandatory elements of a plan
    - ii. Identify missing information
    - iii. Decisions required
    - iv. Needs for public outreach
    - v. Develop strategy and timeline for completion of plan
  - b. Develop plan, including:
    - i. Identification of BMPs to deal with pollution sources
    - ii. Review of local and state programs dealing with pollution
    - iii. Identification of ways to prevent pollution problems
    - iv. Identification of best development practices
    - v. Identification of open space protection methods
    - vi. Review of NMR flows and water levels and potential flow alterations
    - vii. Evaluation procedures
  - c. Public Information Campaign

## *Performance Measures*

1. Participation of Steering Committee members
2. Participation of citizen volunteers
3. Completion of Lower Watershed Survey
4. Adopted methodology for data gathering

Etc.

