

**Coventry Inland Wetland Agency (IWA)
Low Impact Development (LID) Work Group**

December 9, 2025, 10 am to Noon
Coventry Town Hall, Conference Room B

1. Call to Order/Roll Call (10:00-10:05)
2. Review for acceptance – (10:05-10:10)
 - a. Draft 11/20/25 Columbia Meeting Notes
 - b. Draft 11/17/25 New Hampshire Lakes Zoom Meeting Notes
3. New Business - (10:10-11:10)
 - a. Draft LID Policy and Resolution
 - b. Draft documents from Bob's 10/16/25 email
 - c. Draft Article - One Pager – Town quarterly newsletter
 - d. Lake Smart Program Discussion
 - i. New Hampshire Lakes program and meeting
 - ii. Draft one-page educational handout LID landscape measures
 - e. Columbia Meeting debrief and action items
 - f. Other New Business
4. Old Business – (11:10-11:45)
 - a. Lake Protection Survey –
 - i. CT Federation of Lakes, Maine, New Hampshire
 - ii. Survey Assessment
 - b. Education –
 - i. Spring/Summer '26 LID Sustainable Landscape Workshop – May 16, 2025 Lodge
 1. Meeting with Parks & Recreation Director
 2. Save the Date Flyer mailing, Workshop Handout
 3. presentations & demonstration
 4. Business sponsorships
 5. Audience and Invites
 6. Draft Agenda items
 - c. Academics -
 - i. Social Scientist outreach
 - ii. Water Quality/Economic Impact Research – Dr. Kortmann's information
 - iii. UConn Intern Work Plan Concepts
 - d. Membership – Conservation Commission
 - e. Communications –
 - i. November communication email
 - ii. Town Council – potential presentation
 - iii. Possible Additions - IWA LID webpages
5. Set Work Assignments and Schedule (11:45-11:55)
 - a. Matrix Review
6. Future Meetings – (11:55-Noon)
 - a. Booked dates Town Hall Conf Rm B - 12/9, 1/13/26, 2/20/26
 - b. Draft Meeting Dates - Annex – 3/10, 4/7, 5/5, 6/9, 7/14, 8/18, 9/15
7. Adjourn (Noon)

Coventry IWA Low Impact Work Group

Meeting with New Hampshire Lakes – NH Lake Smart Program

Meeting Notes, November 17, 2025

Zoom Call between Lori Mathieu, Coventry LID Work Group, and Brea Arvidson, Director of Programs, New Hampshire Lakes to discuss NH Lakes Lake Smart Program

General notes:

Reviewed and discussed NH Lake Smart program development -

NH Lakes, a non-profit organization, teamed with NH DES to create program; created and sent survey to lake communities; program is community driven and developed and operated by NH Lakes; created a digital resource library for residents including sharing summaries of long term data sets; developed Lake Smart partnerships with businesses including landscaping, real estate, septic system, home inspectors; developed an online profile system for lake watershed property owners; offers site visit by trained volunteers; Lake Smart program is outlined in the NH LAKES LakeSmart Book, 2025 (attached) by highlighting these 4 steps:

1. Create your FREE Online LakeSmart Profile: Answer questions about your home, property, and lifestyle to help identify areas of your life where you can adopt lake-friendly practices. Your answers are confidential. Profile can be used to track progress toward a LakeSmart award.
2. Request a Site Visit: After you submit your answers, choose between a free, in person site visit or online property tour. A NH LAKES LakeSmart Guide will provide feedback on how you can make your property more lake-friendly.
3. Make Lake-Friendly Updates: Use the tips from your feedback to make changes that help reduce polluted runoff water and other harmful impacts to your lake.
4. Show Off Your LakeSmart Award: When you're living in a lake-friendly way, you'll receive your LakeSmart Award! Show it off to inspire others in your community to help protect the lake

Resources shared by Brea:

- New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) [Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management](#). DES working to update document to be more relevant to 2025/2026.

- UNH [Landscaping at the Water's Edge](#) published 2007. This is the most up to date version. UNH Extension hosts an annual workshop called "[Landscaping for Water Quality](#)," might be a good option to consider attending as we explore training opportunities. Past presentations are posted on their webpage. Their workshop is usually held in March each year.
- NH LAKES [LakeSmart Book](#), (attached) also free for download from NH Lakes online store. This looks very helpful for printed educational materials for homeowners. NH Lakes orders a few thousand books each year, and many lake rentals will leave this book as guidance for their renters to review.
- NHDES [Municipal Ordinance Fact Sheet](#) . The Antrim ordinances look interesting to review on this fact sheet.
- [Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association](#) is an active group and LakeSmart Community. Kirk Meloney is the LKWA President and is very knowledgeable about their lake improvement and protection projects, not just LakeSmart. NH Lakes refers to Lake Kanasatka in presentations as a cautionary tale and also an a good example of community action. Email: kirk.meloney@gmail.com
- [Lake George Association](#), Lake Protector Program/Profiles. Contact: Chris Navitsky, the Lake George Waterkeeper. Might wish to chat with Chris concerning their Lake Protector Program, maybe meet with Monika LaPlante, the Managing Program Director. Email address: cnavitsky@lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org. Created GIS mapped scorecard of properties

Other notes: Lake Smart scores are not shared, education is LID based; Lake Smart Ambassadors assist with education and outreach; Ambassadors hold tours to view Lake Smart techniques; Lake Smart is completely non-regulatory; all techniques are outlined in positive format; need to create a structured survey and LakeSmart system; highlight educational efforts; Lake Smart developed as recommended within the Lake Management Plan.

Contact information: NHLakes.org, Brea - barvidson@nhlakes.org

**TOWN OF COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY**

Resolution No. ____-2025

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING A POLICY ON LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT
FOR THE TOWN OF COVENTRY INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY**

WHEREAS

1. The Town of Coventry Inland Wetlands Agency (“Agency”) was established in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act, Connecticut General Statutes §§22a-36 through 22a-45, and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Coventry; and
2. The Agency is charged to protect, preserve, and regulate activities affecting wetlands and watercourses within the Town of Coventry in order to balance environmental protection and economic growth; and
3. The Agency recognizes the need to adopt consistent policies to guide decision-making, improve administrative efficiency, ensure regulatory fairness, and promote transparency in implementing its duties; and
4. The Agency finds that clear written policy resolutions assist in the interpretation and application of existing regulations, provide guidance to applicants, staff, and the public, and promote consistent enforcement; and
5. The Agency has reviewed applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, considered the recommendations of professional staff and consultants, and received public comment in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and municipal notice procedures,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

6. **Policy Adoption:** The Inland Wetlands Agency hereby adopts the attached document entitled “Policy on Coventry Lake Watershed and Water Quality Protection” as official Agency policy, intended to help guide the administration and enforcement of the Town’s Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations.
7. **Purpose and Intent:** The purpose of this policy is to promote broad public/community understanding of and support for effective Low Impact Development strategies, and encourage and support implementation of related best practices by property owners in the Coventry Lake Watershed.
8. **Authority:** This resolution and the attached policy statement are adopted pursuant to the authority granted under CGS §§22a-36–45, the Coventry Code of Ordinances, and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Coventry.
9. **Implementation:** The Agency’s designated Wetlands Agent shall support implementation of this policy and may develop forms, checklists, and administrative procedures consistent with its provisions.

- 10. **Review and Amendment:** The Agency shall review this policy not less than once every three years and may amend it by resolution at a regular or special meeting.
- 11. **Supersession:** This resolution supersedes any prior policy statements or administrative memoranda inconsistent herewith.
- 12. **Effective Date.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the Inland Wetlands Agency.

ADOPTED by the Inland Wetlands Agency of the Town of Coventry, Connecticut this ___ day of _____, 2025.

_____ Chairperson, Inland Wetlands Agency	_____ Secretary
_____	_____
_____ Attested by: Town Clerk	_____
_____	_____

ATTACHMENT A
Policy on Coventry Lake Watershed and Water Quality Protection

Town of Coventry Policy

Coventry Lake Watershed and Water Quality Protection

Preamble

The residents and municipal government of Coventry (CT) aim to protect Coventry Lake's water quality and ensure its continued value for wildlife, ecological health, recreation, and community enjoyment.

Findings

Coventry Lake and its Watershed:

- Covering 378 acres (0.59 square miles), Coventry Lake provides habitat for wildlife and opportunities for recreation, and its watershed drainage area spans 2.96 square miles.
- About 12% of the land cover in the Coventry Lake Watershed consists of impervious surfaces.
- The Lake contains ## lakefront residential properties, ## property owners within the watershed, two municipal beaches in Coventry, and a State of Connecticut boat launch.

Planning and Oversight:

- For three decades, the municipality has relied on both experts and volunteers to monitor and report the lake's water quality.
- In 2016, the Town, acting through a volunteer committee, developed the Coventry Lake Management Plan.
- The Town is expected to endorse the development of a revised, forward-looking Coventry Lake Management Plan for adoption in the 2026 calendar year.

Water Quality:

- Lake water quality is impacted by recent climate change, such as longer warm seasons, stronger winds, and loss of woodland from local development, all leading to more stormwater runoff.
- Annual professional analyses over the past two decades indicate that, although the Lake's water quality remains fairly healthy, rising levels of nutrient loads pose a growing threat.
- The recent rise in stormwater runoff with increased levels of nutrients has disrupted the Lake's water column and mixing, leading to higher nutrient levels in the Lake that pose a risk to its long-term health.
- In July 2022, Coventry Lake experienced a cyanobacteria event, leading the Eastern Highlands Health District to issue a Health Advisory that restricted recreational use of the lake for a period of three weeks.
- Residential development near Coventry Lake's shoreline has increased due to municipal sewers, even with stricter local zoning meant to limit site density.

Low Impact Development (LID):

- Town of Coventry and its land use Boards and Commissions acknowledge the importance of improving stormwater runoff management on Coventry Lake Watershed properties to reduce the overall negative effects on water quality both in the watershed and the Lake itself.
- Low Impact Development (LID) uses proven methods and policies to reduce nutrient pollution from stormwater runoff and protect water quality.
- Properly designed, installed, and maintained LID stormwater green infrastructure can help safeguard Coventry Lake water quality.
- Implementing a comprehensive Low Impact Development (LID) strategy to enhance stormwater management and promote responsible land use practices within the Coventry Lake Watershed will mitigate nutrient runoff into the lake, thereby safeguarding water quality both locally and across the entire watershed.

IWA LID Work Group:

- IWA seeks to improve the protection of lake water quality by establishing LID design criteria and corresponding best management practices for implementation by property owners, engineering consultants, landscape professionals, town staff, and other stakeholders involved in the IWA permitting process.
- The IWA plans to create educational resources and incentive programs focused on Low Impact Development (LID) for property owners within the Coventry Lake Watershed, aiming to support the implementation of LID retrofits on watershed properties.
- In December 2024, IWA formed an informal volunteer LID Work Group to develop an LID strategy for the permitting process, aimed at enhancing water quality protection in the Lake and watershed.
- The LID Work Group, including Town of Coventry volunteers and experts in limnology, planning, development, environment, and engineering, was formed in April 2025.

Policy Resolution:

- IWA will protect Coventry Lake's water quality by integrating a practical LID strategy, developed with input from the IWA LID Work Group, into its wetlands permitting process.
- The IWA's LID strategy for water quality will cover: advanced protection criteria, green infrastructure standards, an LID tracking system, public recognition, implementation incentives, educational resources, stricter regulations, demonstration projects, and other measures as needed.