

## History and Terms of Reference for the Jemseg Grand Lake Watershed Association

The Jemseg Grand Lake Watershed Association provides science-based education, monitoring and climate change adaptation services for the residents, communities, businesses and organizations in the Jemseg Grand Lake watershed. The Association is a communication network for sharing Jemseg Grand Lake watershed news and ideas, and provides a forum for discussing and potentially resolving issues affecting the watershed ecosystem. The Jemseg Grand Lake watershed includes the area encompassing all lakes, streams, rivers, water flow and water bodies whose water eventually flows into the Jemseg River, a total of 3,950 square kilometres. A map illustrating its physical area is shown in Figure 1.

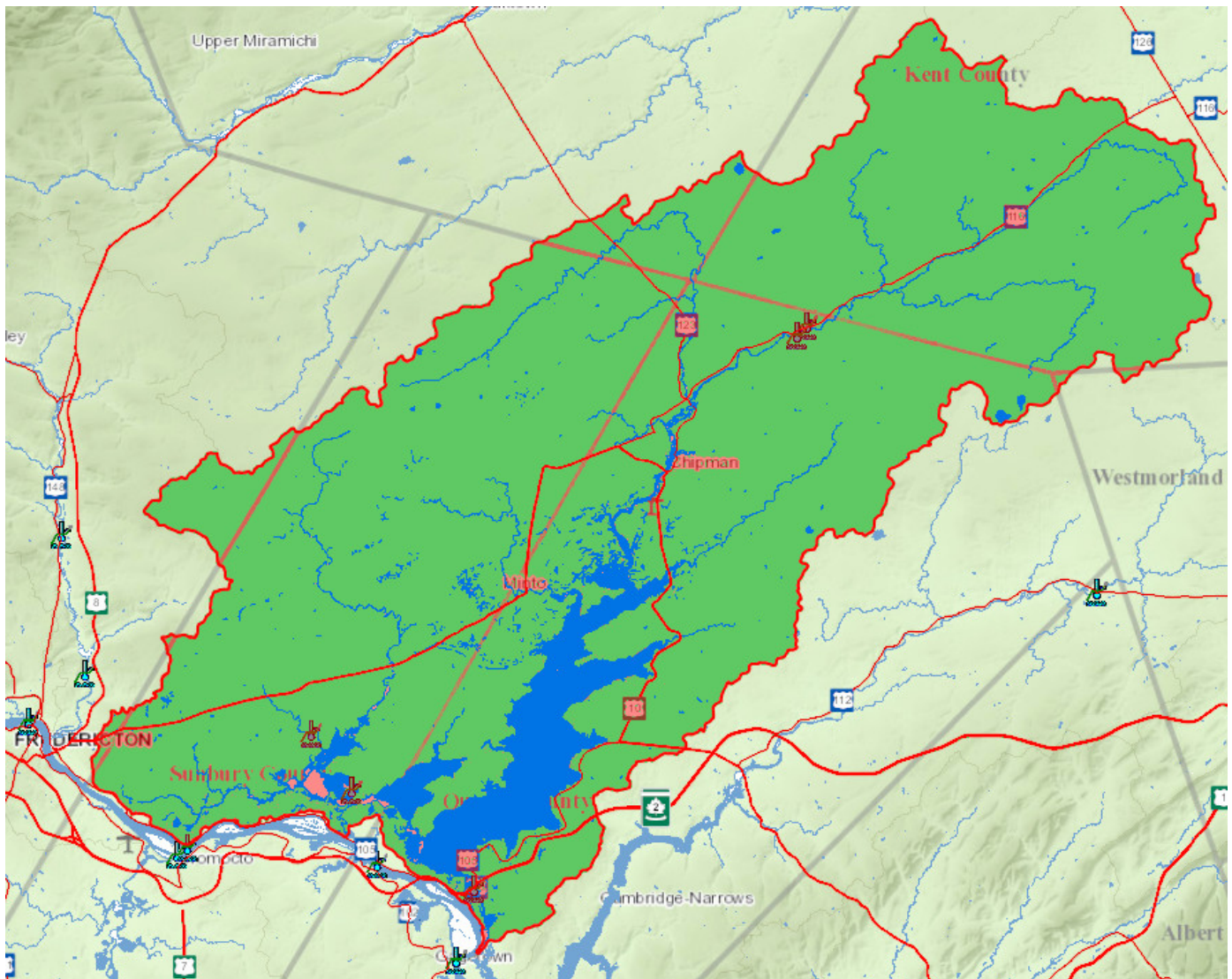


Figure 1. The Jemseg River watershed, as defined by the New Brunswick Hydrographic Network (from [1]).

## **Mission**

The *Mission* of the Association is to engage the attention, enthusiasm and support of the people, communities, businesses and organizations in the Jemseg Grand Lake Watershed to provide a healthy watershed for all.

## **Objectives**

Our *objectives* include:

- (a) Establishing a communication network for sharing Jemseg Grand Lake watershed volunteer opportunities, news, ideas, results and outcomes.
- (b) Delivering science-based education on watershed best practices, water quality improvement and climate change adaptation.
- (c) Monitoring and publishing water quality data and classification, as well as observed populations of fish, aquatic insects and aquatic plants in the watershed.
- (d) Providing climate change adaptation services such as flood mitigation planning, watercourse protection and improvement, and riparian zone planting for erosion protection.
- (e) Working with others to protect and improve native plant, fish, and wildlife populations within the watershed.
- (f) Promoting sustainable utilization of the watershed.

These objectives can change and are expected to change as new opportunities arise to achieve our mission.

## **History**

The Voices for Sustainable Environments and Communities (VOICES) group held a "Flooding and our Future" workshop at the Jemseg Lions Club on Feb. 23, 2019. Many Jemseg and Grand Lake residents were introduced to the VOICES team of Marilyn Merritt-Gray (co-chair), Bonnie Hamilton Bogart (secretary) and John Yauss (co-chair). A subsequent "flood feedback workshop" was organized by the Province of New Brunswick in the same location on March 25, 2019. On July 29, 2019, John Yauss (co-chair of the VOICES group) asked Brad Nickerson if he would be interested in forming a Watershed organization that included Grand Lake; Brad accepted this invitation. The VOICES group (with input from Brad) organized and sponsored a two-hour evening workshop on Oct. 17, 2019 at the Waterborough Women's Institute Hall. The workshop was entitled "Grand Lake's Future Needs You", with 29 people attending. Presentations were made by Ben Whalen (Project Manager for the Kennebecasis Watershed Restoration Committee), Peter Toner (President of the Nashwaak Valley Watershed Association), and Hal Mersereau (Vice-Chair of the N.B. Alliance of Lake Associations). From this workshop, a group of nine attendees agreed to serve as an initial Board of Directors of the Jemseg Grand Lake Watershed Association.

A group of six of the initial Board members met on Nov. 9, 2019 at the Mill Cove Nursing Home to elect an initial executive team. Minutes of this initial meeting were recorded. From this meeting, a subcommittee consisting of Lisa Joudrey, Brad Longard, Jennifer McPhail, Brad Nickerson and John Yauss was struck to write a proposal for funding from the N.B. Environmental Trust Fund (ETF). With a series of meetings and hard work, our proposal entitled "Providing Environmental Education, Tackling Water Quality and Restoring Riparian Zones for the Jemseg Grand Lake Watershed" was completed and submitted by the deadline of Nov. 30, 2019.

Our second meeting as an Association was held on Dec. 9, 2019 at the Mill Cove Nursing Home (minutes were recorded). A membership form was established before the meeting, and seven members completed the form and paid a \$10 annual membership fee to join our Association. John Yauss advised at this meeting that the VOICES group had funds available in their project budget to support education projects by our Association before March 1, 2020. Our Jan. 13, 2020 meeting was advertised in the Jemseg Lions Club Community Newsletter and was again held at the Mill Cove Nursing Home (minutes were recorded). Following this meeting, our Association had a total of 20 paid annual memberships. A main focus of the Jan. 13, 2020 meeting was obtaining advice from Wendy Keats (Executive Director of the Cooperative Enterprise Council of New Brunswick) on how best to formally organize our Association, and on the workshops that were planned for February 2020.

## Reference

[1] Conners, Bernie, "QGIS Project for GeoNB Map Services", including the New Brunswick Hydrographic Network (NBHN) data, May 3, 2017, available at <http://geobern.blogspot.com/search?q=QGIS>