

Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Citizens Committee
May 5, 2023, 10:00am
Pittsburg Fire Station

In Attendance:

CLHCC Members	Staff
Gail Hanson, Chair, Governor and Council	Maggie Machinist, Regional Forester, DFL
Harry Brown, Governor and Council	Craig Rennie, Chief, DPR Bureau of Trails
Toby Owen, Town of Pittsburg	Patrick Hackley, Director Div Forest and Lands
Darrin Jock, Town of Pittsburg	Clint Savage, Regional Supervisor, Bureau of Trails
Hasen Burns, Town of Stewartstown	Dwayne Covell, Bureau of Trails
Eric Stohl, Speaker of the House	Dianne Mattot, Park Manager, Bureau of Parks Ops
Gene Chandler, Speaker of the House	Johanna Lyons, DPR State Park Planner
Charles Levesque, Senate President	Lieutenant Mark W. Ober, Jr., NHFGD
Pierre Bedard, Northwoods Lease Holders Assn	Dave Degruttola, LandVest
Raymond Gorman, Coos County Commissioners	Bennett Lohmeyer, LandVest
Jill Kilborn, Designee, NHFGD	Brian Parise, Regional Spvr, Bureau of Park Ops
Shawn Hagan, Landowner	Dwayne Covell, Bureau of Trails
Sarah Stewart, Commissioner DNCR	Pete Kenny, Bureau of Trails
Corey Clark, Designee, DES	

Absent:

Don Noyes, Senate President
Ray DeMaio, Town of Stewartstown

Welcome & Announcements:

- Executive Councilor Kenney
- Shawn Hagan, Landowner
- Toby Owen, Town of Pittsburg
- Don Noyes, appointed by the Senate President
- Corey Clark, DES Commissioner designee
- John White, sitting in for Town of Stewartstown
- Brian Wilson, Director of Parks & Recreation
- Brian Parise, Great Northwoods Regional Supervisor

Minutes

- Eric Stohl moved to accept the minutes from the October 28, 2022, meeting, Harry Brown seconded the motion, all in favor to approve the minutes.

New & Old Business

- Capital Budget – Commissioner Stewart thanked Gene Chandler for participating in the capital budget hearings. It was a joint effort by everyone to make the case and reinforce the need. \$1.5 million requested for the maintenance and repair of the 250+ miles of roads on the headwaters property. The capital budget was voted unanimously out of committee.
 - Harry Brown asked what the implementation plan is... Brian responded that we are looking for guidance from the committee, however, the plan at this point is to crush and

gravel 35 miles of roads with the capital funds. Clint responded that work has been done over the last few years to replace culvert, ditching and crowning to prepare for the installation of gravel.

- Councilor Kenney suggested bringing in DES and NHDOT for consultation
- Gene Chandler will hold a Roads Sub-Committee meeting to discuss the capital and operational budget and assist with the development of the Road Management Plan.
- Councilor Kenney asked if the ROW issues with Great River Hydro have been resolved? Tim Purrington said no yet.
- Corey Clark DES has operating funds to do work on Cedar Stream Road and bridges & would like to coordinate with DPR.
- Operating Budget: Stewardship & Road Maintenance Endowments
 - Brian Wilson reported that the operating budget is pretty far into the process. Approximately \$600,000 in the Stewardship and Road endowments.
 - Working on accounting codes to get a better handle on how much support the headwaters receive from Trails Bureau and Parks Bureau staff. Funds will then be transferred from the CLH budget to the bureaus.
 - DPR welcomes ideas on how to generate funds for the support of the headwaters. Park Operations and Trails Bureau are self-funded and the endowments are insufficient.
 - Harry Brown asked when the endowment memos with Treasury are going to be updated? Brian Wilson said it is in the works.
 - Harry Brown is very concerned that OHRV registration funds are supporting the headwaters paying for staff.
 - Harry Brown asked why is the regional office moving to Gorham? Brian Wilson replied that it is a very large region and there is synergy with Mt Washington SP and the parks in the Berlin/Gorham area. The assistant regional supervisor position will be posted shortly and that position is planned to be based in Pittsburg.
- Operating Budget – Monitoring Endowment
 - No change in the usual budget.
- Anniversary Celebration
 - Gail Hanson and Johanna Lyons spoke and proposed to celebrate the 25th anniversary. Discussion about using the 20th to educate people about the headwaters and bring awareness of the work that has been done. There was a suggestion to participate in the Old Home Day with a booth to give out information.

Plan Revisions and Easement Amendment (per section RSA 12-A:9-b,V(d))

- Johanna Lyons reported that the Public Access and Recreation Management Plan recommended for adoption has not been signed yet due to the transition of the new director and landowner.
 - Commissioner Stewart committed to having a signed document within the next 30 days.
- Recreational Sub-Committee – Charlie Levesque
 - Reached out to DPR in January but was asked to postpone due to staff commitments.
 - Will schedule a meeting in the next few weeks to take up the ATV proposal and new issues.
- Johanna Lyons reported that no work has been done on the Road Management Plan.

Monitoring Compliance (RSA 12-A:9-b,V(a))

- Maggie Machinist shared her report pre-meeting, there were no questions. Currently reviewing the AOP and will schedule the annual meeting shortly.
- Jill Kilborn reported that NHFGD Jake DeBow monitored 5 forestry operations encompassing 500 acres. Reviewing the AOP.

Public Recreational Use (RSA 12-A:9-b,V(b))

- NHFGD – Mike Eastman
 - Winter details came to Pittsburg from every district. Mostly speed and off-trail use. New conservation officer in the region. In summer extra details on weekends. Majority of accidents are on weekends.
 - Chief Dube commented that they manage the on-road ATV use.
 - NHFGD grants Coos County funding to do enforcement & they keep the fines they issue. The Sherriff department coordinates with NHFG and staffs where needed & they did a lot of work on Cedar Stream and Creampoke. 2 years ago the Sherriff department received \$88,000 in fines, last year it was \$55,000 which is good news because summons are going down.

State Park, Natural Area and Lake Francis Impoundment Management Update (RSA 12-A:9-b,V(c), (g) and (h))

- CLNA
 - Timber Sale in South Bay Bog completed & will be closed out by July
 - Contract with LandVest to update the Forest inventory.
- DPR – Lake Francis/Deer Mountain/Coleman
 - Dianne Mattot thanked Dwayne & Pete for their help in cleaning up storm debris at Lake Francis.
 - Coleman – new camper cabins at the park. The Lodges are growing each year and opens on 5/12. New lawnmower & UTV.
 - Discussion about relocating the snowmobile trail through the park to go past the Lodges. Clint/Maggie and park staff with discuss.
 - Deer Mountain Campground – Removed risk trees last fall. Still snow at the campground. Open Memorial Day weekend and will be staffed 7 days a week. The campsites along the river are still closed.
- DES – Lake Francis Impoundment
 - River Road leaseholders received a letter not to dispose of trash in the Lake Francis dumpster.
 - Murphy Dam – 80 years old!
 - Full penstock inspection, minor deterioration. 3 new spillway gates installed last winter.
 - Hiring a consultant to come up with alternatives for Dal valve repair/replacement.
 - Lake levels will be lowered to accomplish some of the work and will be coordinated with Great River Hydro.
 - Need to do an embankment and spill way analysis and examine rock & soil analysis. Surveyors will be in the area.
 - Addressing electrical issues for controls, power is being supplied by a generator.

Lease Camps and Land Owner Recreational Fees (RSA 12-A:9-b,V(b), (e), (f) and (h)

- Nothing new to report

Public Comment

- On April 8, 2024 there is a total eclipse happening and it is estimated that 30,000-50,000 people expected to come to Coos County. Making sure that emergency services/public safety is prepared. Commissioner Stewart is working with Commissioner Caswell & Tourism to come up with a BMP for these types of events. She will add the county commissioners to the contact list. Need to come up with a plan to keep people off the CLH roads as they seek areas to view the eclipse.
- Toby Owen has noticed camping occurring on the property last year. Clint Savage had new signs and will be installing them.
- Councilor Kenney suggested a canned presentation and schedule a FAM tour for the area.
- Terry Swain commented that as a resident he has observed that the area is not lacking for tourism.
- Road Sub-Committee volunteers include; Harry Brown, Hasen Burns, Toby Owen, Jill Kilborn, Eric Stohl, Darrin Jock, Corey Clark, Dave DeGruttola and John White.

Hasen Burns motion to adjourn, Harry Brown seconded it, all in favor, meeting ended at 12:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Johanna Lyons, DNCR Administrative Clerk

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