



CONNECTICUT LAKES HEADWATERS CITIZENS COMMITTEE

September 27, 2023, 10:30am

Pittsburg Ridge Runners Clubhouse

17 Dickson Lane, Pittsburg NH

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	Clint Savage, Regional Supervisor, Bureau of Trails
Darrin Jock, Town of Pittsburg	Dwayne Covell, Bureau of Trails
Hasen Burns, Town of Stewartstown	Dianne Mattot, Park Manager, Bureau of Parks Ops
Eric Stohl, Speaker of the House	Johanna Lyons, DPR, State Park Planner
Gene Chandler, Speaker of the House	Mike Eastman, NHFGD
Charles Levesque, Senate President	Dave Degruittola, LandVest
Pierre Bedard, Northwoods Lease Holders Assn	Bennett Lohmeyer, LandVest
Raymond Gorman, Coos County Commissioners	Brian Parise, Regional Spvr, Bureau of Park Ops
Scott Mason, Executive Director, NHFGD	Dwayne Covell, Bureau of Trails
Shawn Hagan, Landowner	Pete Kenny, Bureau of Trails
Sarah Stewart, Commissioner DNCR	Jake DeBow, NHFG
Corey Clark, Designee, DES	

Absent:

Don Noyes, Senate President

Ray DeMaio, Town of Stewartstown

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Blake Stansell, President & CIO Bluesource Sustainable Forests Company
 - b. Brian Wilson, Director of Parks & Recreation
 - c. Patrick Hackley, Director of Forests & Lands
- III. Acceptance of Minutes
 - a. Charlie motioned to accept the minutes of the May 5th meeting. Seconded by Eric. All in favor.
- IV. New & Old Business
 - a. Landowner Update (Shawn/Blake)
 - i. Bluesource Sustainable Forests Company (BSFC) acquired the Forestland Group assets. They manage over 1.6 million acres from the northeast through the Appalachians and into the South and Wisconsin/UP Michigan.
 - ii. 7th largest private forestland owner in the US
 - iii. BSFC is committed to manage the CLH in the spirit of the easement.
 - iv. Working with the Town of Pittsburg on the timber tax shortfall.



- v. Maintain and enhance recreational access to the property.
 - vi. Investors are very interested in co-benefits of forest management and stewardship of the lands.
 - vii. BSFC carbon portfolio includes 18 voluntary projects and 9 compliance projects.
 - viii. Carbon offset markets provide financial incentives to reduce, avoid, remove greenhouse gas emissions. BSFC focuses on improved forest management.
 - ix. A new forest inventory is being conducted to determine where they will be managing in the future. Making sure that the volumes are there for viable operations for ecological and market goals.
 - x. Looking broader than the compartment itself... consult with NHFG to harvest to enhance wildlife habitat or protect stream corridors.
 - xi. AOP will be done in the next 2-3 weeks to cover the time period until the end of April.
 - xii. There is a sale being marked on Perry Stream and Carr Ridge Road for winter operation.
 - xiii. Question
 1. What is the length of time for carbon credits? 100 years. The Forestland Group sold credits in 2012 for 140,000 acres.
- b. DFL Update – Stewardship Plan and AOP Revision (Patrick)
- i. DFL will review the revised AOP.
 - ii. The Stewardship Plan was approved in 2023 and it will be revised to reflect new annual harvest volumes.
 - iii. The easement has broad management goals, however, no hard metrics.
- c. CLNA Administration Update (Jake)
- i. See pre-meeting briefing.
 - ii. The CLNA manager position is posted and open for applicants until 10/3.
- d. CLHWF Administration Update (Brian W.)
- i. See pre-meeting briefing.
- e. CLHWF Fiscal Overview (Brian W.)
- i. Capital Budget: A report is due on 10/1 to the Public Works Committee. DPR will share with CLHCC. There is a new process for contracting being rolled out in October which will hopefully expedite contracting for work. Will meet with Road Sub-Com to discuss the plan and start looking ahead to the next biennium budget (capital and ops).
 1. Question: Does the 108,000 cu/yds of gravel exceed the amount in the gravel pits per the easement?
 2. It costs between \$21,000-26,000/mile to resurface the roads.



- IX. Lease Camps (per section RSA 12-A:9-b, V (b), (e) and (h)) (Shawn/Dave)
 - a. One camp will be demolished on Hall Stream. Not sure if it will be leased.
 - b. Camp owners have been making unauthorized improvements. Need to raise awareness that there is an approval process.
 - c. Other issues include a camp owner mowing in a SMA and another has been maintaining food plots.

- X. Landowner Recreational Fees (per section RSA 12-A:9-b, V (f)) (Shawn/Dave)
 - a. Evaluating lease fees for next year.

- XI. Public Comment – None

Harry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:50. Eric seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Johanna Lyons

DRAFT



Connecticut Lakes Headwater Citizen Committee Update ~ September 27, 2023

New and Old Business

1. CLNA Administration Update (Jake)
 - a. CLNA position is currently vacant. Jill left in July. Barring any administrative hurdles this position should be filled this fall.
 - b. Endowment: NHFG does use endowment funds to manage the CLNA but not to support staff salaries. Staff salaries are covered by existing federal grants matched by hunting license revenue. Endowment funds are used to support specific property management projects such as the CLNA forest resource inventory (currently underway), the resurfacing of East Inlet Rd a few years ago, and regular maintenance such as road grading, mowing, and ditching. The majority of project costs are also mostly covered by existing federal grants with the endowment funds used to cover nonfederal match requirements.
2. CLHWF Administration (Brian W)
 - a. Time codes have been implemented.
 - b. GRH Agreement – DNCR and GRH have been exchanging documents and maps.
 - c. Endowments – July statement attached
3. CLHWF Fiscal Overview (Brian W)
 - a. Capital Budget
 - i. The Division has decided to take a phased approach to the project.
 - ii. Phase I will include crushing 62,700 yard of gravel from the Smith Brook and South Bay pits and resurfacing sections of Perry Stream, Cedar Stream, Deadwater Loop, Smith Brook and Magalloway Roads. Estimated cost to crush, \$470,250.00.
 - iii. Phase II will include crushing 45,468 yards of gravel from the Smith Brook, and Indian Stream pits for resurfacing sections of Garfield Falls, Tower Road, Hall Stream, East Inlet and Boundary Pond Roads. Estimated cost to crush, \$341,010.
 - iv. Considering hiring a forestry road consultant to document existing conditions and make recommendations for the Road Management Plan.
 - v. Letter of Permission to use gravel submitted to landowner.
 - b. Operating Budget
 - i. FY 2023 budget (waiting for information)
4. DNCR Operations Update
 - a. CLHWF – Operations (Brian P)
 - i. Rules Signs – Print order submitted; installation planned for end of September with the volunteer help of the Leaseholders Assn.
 - ii. Assistant Regional Supervisor – The position description has been revised and is in the queue to be posted. This position will be headquartered at Coleman State Park.
 - iii. Eclipse Planning (waiting for information)



b. CLHWF – Road Management (Clint)

- i. Roads damaged from this summer's heavy rains where: West Indian Stream Road, Indian Stream, Road, Perry Stream Road, Terrell Pond Road, Dead Water Loop Road. All these roads have been repaired. Still have 1 culvert on Big Brook Road and 1 culvert on Falkingham Road to repair.
- ii. Currently we have spent approximately \$34,000.00 to repair damages from the rain storms this summer. This does also include the repairs to Indian Stream Road on Perry Stream Land and Timbers property which was between \$7,000.00 and \$8,000.00.
- iii. Currently we have and excavator rented for staff to operate for 3 months and are working up on East Inlet Road and when that is completed will be moving to Snag Pond Road.
- iv. We have just finished the resurfacing 7.5 miles of Perry Stream Road.
- v. Pete had been busy mowing of the scheduled roads (will have a map of roads that have been mowed at the meeting).
- vi. We have also had the roads graded this summer and did ditching of culvert replacements on some of the roads.
- vii. Culverts will be purchased and stockpiled for future use with endowment or landowner base payment.

5. FAM Tour (Johanna)

- a. Recommend planning a Spring 2024 tour for the Coos County Delegation to include Executive Councilor Kenney, Senator Gendreau, Representatives Davis and Ouellet, Coos County Commissioners, and Selectboards for Pittsburg, Clarksville and Stewartstown.

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

- a. Public Use and Recreation Management Plan
 - i. Met with Rec Sub-Com 7/31
 - ii. Survey released (13 received)
 - iii. Public Outreach Sessions held in Concord 9/6 and Pittsburg 9/26.
- b. Road Management Plan
 - iv. No progress

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

- a. Division of Forests and Lands (Maggie)
 - i. Since the last Citizen's Committee meeting in the Spring, Forests and Lands North region staff has spent 32 hours of on the ground monitoring. Several camp issues have been reviewed including placement of new camps and expansions on existing camps. There has been little harvesting on the property and there were no active harvests to review during our summer monitoring tour.
 - ii. Approximately 20-25 hours have been spent in meetings and review regarding the easement. Forests and Lands has had several discussions regarding the direction of management since the new ownership of the property.
 - iii. Forests and Lands has assisted Fish and Game in the field on the CLNA for approximately 8 hours.



b. Fish and Game Department (Jake)

- i. Since the change of ownership NHFG has been readily involved in conversations regarding the future of forest management and in turn wildlife habitat management on the property. NHFG is committed to provide technical assistance to the land managers of Pittsburg to ensure that wildlife and wildlife habitat is considered in future management decisions.

Public Recreational Use (per section RSA 12-A:9-b, V (b)) (Brian P.)

- a. Park staff from Deer Mtn, Lake Francis and regional maintenance have been regularly servicing pit toilets across the property on a weekly basis and a program is in place to keep track.
- b. Boundary Pond outhouse has been renovated with new interior wall board and siding and Magalloway Bridge toilet is next for renovation.

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

a. Connecticut Lakes Natural Area (Jake)

- a. The Department has contracted with LandVest to update the forest resource inventory. Timber cruising is under way and to be completed by June 30, 24. Total cost is \$209,000 or \$8.36/ acre. CLNA endowment funds will cover 25% of the project costs with the remaining 75% covered by USFWS Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration funds.
- b. Emergency road maintenance associated with damage from July rain events has been postponed until the CLNA manager's position has been filled. Most notably effected is Perry Ponds Road which was already foot access only to the general public.

b. Lake Francis & Coleman State Parks, Deer Mountain Campground (Brian P.)

- a. Coleman –New dish washing station at campground installed Working on renovating cabins to rent. Graveled and graded roads and driveways.
- b. Lake Francis – Replaced and repaired water lines in the campground, added a new water spigot. Replacing door trim and door casings on the visitor services building. Graveled and graded roads and driveways.
- c. Deer Mtn – New screen for the Corn Popper cabin porch was installed. DNCR is evaluating the condition of the Moose Falls Dam and collecting data that will inform the type and feasibility of a repair which would reopen temporarily closed sites.

c. Lake Francis Impoundment (Corey)

- a. Cedar Stream Road Repairs – NHDES is working with a contractor to perform emergency repairs as a result of the storm events earlier this summer. NHDES will be discussing ways to implement more permanent repairs with this contractor and other stakeholders.
- b. River Road Repairs – Same discussion as Cedar Stream Road.



c. Murphy Dam

- i. gate house electrical repairs – repairs by a private contractor is ongoing to replace all the electrical systems in the Murphy Dam Control Building at the base of the dam.
- ii. spillway gate repair – The base of the operating mechanism of one of the three spillway gates cracked during a gate operation earlier this summer. Repairs are being evaluated.
- iii. Dow Valve replacement - NHDES has been presented with several options for replacing the 84inch Dow Valves at the base of the Control Building. A final replacement for the valves has not yet been selected.
- iv. geotechnical explorations – Starting in October, geotechnical explorations will be taking place on Murphy Dam and spillway. This program will likely take place over several weeks.

DRAFT