

**Connecticut Lakes Headwater Citizen Committee Meeting – May 14, 2022**

**In Attendance:**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Appointed/Representing</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Gail Hanson	Governor & Council	Phil Bryce, Director	DPR
Harry Brown	Governor & Council	Scott Mason, Ex-Dir	NHFG
Hasen Burns	Town of Stewartstown	Sandy Young	DPR – Parks Bureau
Darrin Jock	Town of Pittsburg	Johanna Lyons	DPR – Parks Bureau
Richard Judd	Town of Pittsburg	David DeGuttola	LandVest
Ken Hastings	President of the Senate	Maggie Machinist	DFL
Eric Stohl	Speaker of the House	Mark Ober	NHFG
Charlie Levesque	Leaseholder Association		
Patrick Hackley	DNCR – DFL (Designee)		
Jill Kilborn	NHFG Department (Designee)		
Matt Sampson	Forestland Group		
Ray Gorman	Coos County Commissioner		
Ray DeMaio	Town of Clarksville		
Jim Gallagher	Dept of Environmental Services		

**Absent**

Gene Chandler                      Speaker of the House

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Gail Hanson opened the meeting a few minutes after 10:00am. She advised the committee that Hasen Burns has been reappointed to the committee and are waiting for the reappointment paperwork for Richard Judd. A letter has been sent to the Senate President requesting an appointment for a member with expertise in Forest Ecology. She then asked the members, staff and guests to introduce themselves.

**Minutes**

Eric Stohl motioned to accept the minutes of the September 18, 2021, seconded by Ken Hastings. Charlie Levesque reviewed his recommended edits and clarifications. All approved as corrected. Johanna will update the minutes.

**New Business**

1. FY 2021 Endowment Report: there were no questions about the report
2. Operating Budget: The operating budget for FY2024-2026 will be submitted this summer and presented by the Governor in Jan-Feb 2023 with the new fiscal year beginning July 2023. Sandy has been working on creating a budget based on the 8 units of the property. We will be reviewing a pilot project for East Inlet Road. There is a new logging operations evaluation form to improve communication between LandVest, DPR and the contractors.
3. Capital Budget: The department has requested \$1,150,000 in capital funding for maintenance of the road system for FY2024-2026. The list is being evaluated by Department of Administrative Services and will be presented by the Governor on the same schedule as the Operating Budget.
4. *East Inlet Pilot Project*: Phil, Sandy and Johanna have prepared some financial documents to discuss.
  - a. East Inlet Results and Designated Roads Map: This is a pilot project to evaluate and assign costs to road maintenance and repair per mile. Some sections of the roads need

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major work other, need maintenance. The next step will be to identify section of the road that are eligible for stewardship endowment funds (sections of road that are important for public access versus providing commercial forestry access). The road classifications (1,2 or 3) are being determined for each section.

- i. Discussion: For clarity, rename the “total road rehab” category and provide description on what that entails, it appears that the other categories can be included in this category and are double-booked.
  - b. *Road System Overview*: 55 of the 259 miles of road that are upgraded and ready for gravel for a total cost of \$1,500,000. This work can be spread over three years. There are 33 miles of Class I road in addition to the 55 miles that need rehab (ditching, culverts, spot gravel, reshaping) for approximately \$1,000,000. This work will take approximately 3 years to complete. The Landowner accounts (base plus cordage) would be used for Class II & III roads.
    - i. Discussion: Most of the Class 1 road provide access to recreational features so stewardship funds can be used at least in part. There are Class II roads that also provide access to recreational features. Funding from the Road Endowment and Landowner would be used for Class II and III roads would
  - c. *Endowment Summary*: These handouts show a projection of what the endowments are expected to return with and with out the reserve at 4% and 7%. The chart shows that at 7% of the current balance the total of both endowments will generate \$209,879/year. The combined endowments for on the minimum endowment balance would be \$126,875. There is also \$75,000 from the landowner payments. Budgeting an additional withdrawal of the reserves of \$125,000 and \$150,000 will spend down the current surplus over the minimum balance in four years.
    - i. Discussion: Can the NHFG CLNA road endowment be used on the CLHWF roads? Not sure it would depend on the agency agreement. NHFG uses the endowment funds as match to other federal grants that support the management of the CLNA.
    - ii. Motion: Charlie Levesque motioned and was seconded by Harry Brown, “This committee supports DNCR multi-year draw down plan of the excess funds in the Road and Stewardship Endowments for road improvements to the road system.” Unanimously approved by voice vote.
  - d. *Recreational Features Map and Recreational Features Table*: This handout was prepared to illustrate the recreational features on the property and where stewardship funds are used to support.

### Old Business

- 1. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: The legislation to acquire the property was passed in 2001 and the property closing was in 2003. Charlie is recommending waiting until 2023 to plan the event since the pandemic interrupted didn’t make it feasible to hold an event in 2021 or 2022.
  - a. Discussion: Matt Sampson suggested a 25<sup>th</sup> celebration. Phil Bryce remarked it might be better to hold a 20<sup>th</sup> because we need to raise funding for the roads and a celebration would be a good way to showcase what has been accomplished and the benefits to the economy (truckers, mills, recreation groups). Harry Brown suggests involving the community and the Chamber of Commerce. Richard Judd will speak to the selectboard, Gail Hanson will speak to the Chamber.

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- i. Motion: Harry Brown motioned to hold the 20<sup>th</sup> celebration in July 2023 in Pittsburg and include the towns of Clarksville and Stewartstown and the Chamber of Commerce.
  - ii. Charlie Levesque volunteered to be the liaison for the event and asked if funding is available from the agencies... both agencies will have to check with their business office to be sure it is a permitted expense. Matt Sampson committed \$5,000 to the event. Harry Brown and Jill Kilborn offered to help.
2. NH Horse Council Letter: the letter was received prior to the September 2021 meeting. They are asking that horse use be included in future planning. Johanna explained that horses are permitted already in the 2007 plan. She will reply on the committee's behalf to Ms. Briscoe.
  - a. Discussion: Suggest a recreational use study for the next plan to determine who is doing what on the property. Harry Brown said that there is potential for mountain bikers to access the property from Coleman State Park but would use the same trail as the horses and there may be conflict. Richard Judd remarked there should be a club to work with and help maintain the trails for the horses.

### Monitoring and Compliance

Maggie Machinist Division of Forests and Lands gave a brief overview of tasks accomplished. Jill Kilborn provided the same. Written reports will be sent to committee members.

### Public Recreation Use

1. DNCR: Sandy Young reported that DES & DNCR are working together to gravel the Deadwater/Cedar Stream roads and Carr Pond. DES is purchasing material and DNCR lays it down. The leaseholder association is volunteering to paint gates and staining kiosks. The Coos Trail Assn is still working on the new trail and is helping to post signs prohibiting fires and camping along the trail. Permits are almost complete for the Deadwater Bridge and hoping that construction will begin in August.
2. NHFG: Jill Kilborn reported that NHFG are ditching, mowing and working on the roads and crushing gravel in the Scotts Bog pit. NH Audubon has received a grant to promote birding in Coos County and Jill will reach out to them about their thoughts for the CLHWF/CLNA. Jill has been monitoring public use on the property.

### State Park, Natural Area and Lake Francis Impoundment Management

1. DNCR – Sandy Young: Renovating the main lodge at Coleman State Park. Occupancy at the Lodges is growing. Need to work with DFL on suitable soils for mountain bike trails. Lake Francis State Park had heavy tree damage this winter. At Deer Mountain Campground there are maintenance concerns about the dam and to lower it's hazard risk they are decommissioning some campsites. Hope to replace the decommissioned sites and expand the number of sites in the 100 acres adjacent to the campground.
2. NHFG – Jill Kilborn: Working on the next wildlife habitat survey. Carr Ridge road forestry project. Planning on a Forest Inventory to update the data, this will be paid by the stewardship endowment and expect to release the RFP in June.
3. DES – Jim Gallagher: Conditions assessment of the Murphy Dam is almost complete, then next will be the analysis of the data. The control valves need to be replaced and the electrical network needs to be upgraded. The Governor has supported using ARPA funds for state owned dams, approximately \$7,000,000 has been appropriated to the Murphy Dam. ARPA needs to be obligated by 2024 and spent by 2026.

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### Plan Revisions and Easement Amendments

1. DNCR – Phil Bryce: The easement requirements and a draft public access/recreation management plan were provided. The draft plan incorporates the amendments to the 2007 plan. Need to know if there are any policy changes for how we are managing today before we go to the public for new proposals.
  - a. Motion: Harry Brown motioned to adopt the 2007 plan, including the amendments for one more year with the goal to have a final plan ready to be adopted by December 2023. The motioned was seconded by Eric Stohl.
    - i. Discussion: Is more time needed by the agency? The committee would like to receive updates. There was an issues list generated by the subcommittee, need to work through those. The recreation subcommittee should meet. Richard Judd and Gail Hanson will work together to bring the subcommittee back together.
2. Forestland Group – Matt Sampson: The Stewardship Plan was submitted and approved by DNCR.

### Lease Camps

Matt Sampson announced that 5 new camp lease sites will be advertised for lease on 6/1 and packets will be available 6/15. The bids are due on 8/2. They will retain 2 sites for future. If interested, call Katie Collins at the LandVest office.

### Landowner Recreation Fees

No increase in license fees for camps this year.

### Public Comment

None

**Next Meeting** to be held Friday September 23, 2022, 10:00am in Pittsburg.

Ken Hastings motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Eric Stohl; meeting adjourned at 12:50pm.

Respectfully submitted, Johanna Lyons, Administrative Clerk