## CONNECTICUT LAKES HEADWATERS CITIZEN COMMITTEE JUNE 19, 2021

Due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 as extended pursuant to Executive Order 2020-18, this public body met electronically via Teams.

Member	Appointed/Representing	Staff	Representing
Gail Hanson	Governor & Council	Patrick Hackley	DFL
Harry Brown	Governor & Council	Maggie Machinist	DFL
Hasen Burns	Town of Stewartstown	Craig Rennie	DPR – Trails Bureau
Ray DeMaio	Town of Clarksville	Clint Savage	DPR – Trails Bureau
Darrin Jock	Town of Pittsburg	Sandy Young	DPR – Parks Bureau
Richard Judd	Town of Pittsburg	Johanna Lyons	DPR – Parks Bureau
Ken Hastings	President of the Senate	Mark Ober	NHFG
Gene Chandler	Speaker of the House	Michael Eastman	NHFG
Ray Gorman	Coos County Commissioners	David DeGuttola	LandVest
Charlie Levesque	Leaseholder Association		
Jill Kilborn	Fish & Game Department		
Jim Gallagher	DES		
Phil Bryce	DNCR		
Matt Sampson	The Forestland Group		

#### In Attendance:

#### Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Gail Hanson began the meeting by reading the Right to Know Script. Clerk Johanna Lyons read the roll and members acknowledged their attendance and location. Chairperson Hanson asked Mark Ober Jr. to lead the members and attendees in the pledge of allegiance.

### Minutes

Ken Hastings motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Charlie Levesque. There was no discussion. Johanna called the roll Ray Gorman abstained from the vote, all others accepted the minutes.

### I. <u>New Business</u>

- a. NHFG Presentation In Stream Wood Project (John Magee): Three streams are proposed to have wood added to the streams to create brook trout habitat. Similar projects have been done at Nash Stream Forest with success.
- b. Budget Update (Phil Bryce): Rather than amending the submitted budget, the agency was encouraged to go to the fiscal committee to revise the budget. The proposal increases the stewardship budget by \$38,800 for FY22 and \$114,995 for FY23. The increase in the road budget is \$75,252 for FY22 and \$91,148 for FY23. The extra funds will be used for infrastructure projects and gravel
  - i. Motion: Charlie Levesque motioned that the committee send a letter of support to the fiscal committee. Harry Brown seconded the motion.
    - 1. Discussion centered on why the monitoring budget wasn't going to be amended. Patrick Hackley responded that DFL is still evaluating how much is needed and for what purposes. No vote was taken.
    - 2. Action Item: At the next meeting of the committee come with a monitoring proposal and budget.

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- c. Finance Sub-Committee Presentation (Harry Brown): Harry summarized the findings of the sub-committee including the way Treasury disperses the endowment earnings allowing a reserve of funds above the endowment principal to accumulate. In addition the committee recognized that the investment strategy does not return enough annual funding for stewardship and road responsibilities per the easement. Recommend seeking funding to fill that gap including additional state funds, RTP/GIA and other grant funds. Also recommend revising the Custodial Agreement with the Treasury Department to disperse funds at a higher rate if the market remains strong.
  - i. Discussion: Charlie Levesque stated that in Harry's report were many personal feelings and not the conclusion of the committee. We really don't know what the endowments will sustain. Gene Chandler urges caution before big changes are done. Let's see how the new budget proposal works. Harry added that many roads have gone beyond the maintenance category and are slipping into capital expense. Matt Sampson added that this summer TFG/LandVest are evaluating and documenting the roads for repair needs to identify areas for capital investment and long-term maintenance. Phil Bryce said his first step is to reinvest the funds and see what we need. The management role of the Trail Bureau on the property is under review; probably need a person assigned to the property paid by the endowment. Many committee members encouraged quick action towards the roads and a sub-committee was proposed to advise the department on road management and the structure to support the property.
    - 1. Sub-Committee Members: Gene Chandler, Matt Sampson, Darrin Jock, Harry Brown, Hasen Burns, Richard Judd and Dave DeGuttola.
  - ii. Action Item: Send Harry's PowerPoint and the sub-committee notes to the CLHCC committee.
- d. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Charlie Levesque will put together a sub-committee to recommend an anniversary date to recognize (2022 or 2023) and celebration type.
- e. Endowment Report (Johanna Lyons): The fiscal year 2020 endowment report was distributed this spring. There were no questions.
- II. <u>Monitoring Compliance</u> (per section RSA 12-A:9-b,V(a))
  - a. DFL Monitoring (Maggie Machinist): There were no questions about the report.
  - b. NHFG Monitoring (Jill Kilborn): There were no questions about the report.
- III. <u>Public Recreational Use</u> (per section RSA 12-A:9-b,V(b))
  - a. DPR Roads (Sandy Young): More damage to the roads in the fall, need gravel on all the roads. Met with TFG/LandVest for AOP. Permitting for the Deadwater Bridge is moving ahead slowly. There are contracts for Magalloway and Cedar Stream Roads. Mowing is going well. Partnering with DES/DNCR/NHFG/Landowner to replace the Cedar Stream bridge abutment. The rock crushing pilot went well.
  - b. DPR Public Use (Sandy Young): Coos Trail reroute is moving ahead. View shed maintenance being done. Working with Landowner on a Memorial Program.
  - c. NHFG Law Enforcement (Mark Ober/Michael Eastman): Have increased patrols year round and now have patrols every weekend. The towns are responsible for management of ATVs on roads if they open town roads to use. NHFG only enforces trail use.

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- i. Discussion: Ray Gorman reported they received a grant from NHFG for equipment and the county sheriffs are deputized and will work with NHFG on trail enforcement.
- d. NHFG CLNA (Jill Kilborn): Last year saw a large influx of public use. Some illegal camping happened.
- IV. <u>State Park, Natural Area and Lake Francis Impoundment Management Update</u> (per section RSA 12-A:9-b,V(c),(g), and (h))
  - a. State Parks (Sandy Young): Coleman and Deer Mountain campgrounds have reopened after being closed last year due to covid. Seeing a 50% increase in occupancy from previous years in the region. The chamber of commerce is exploring a proposal to add mountain biking trails at Coleman SP.
  - b. CLNA (Jill Kilborn): Nothing to add.
  - c. DES (Jim Gallagher): Due to the drought, Lake Francis never got to full and is about 9' below full. Need to keep the minimum flow downstream.
- V. <u>Plan Revisions and Easement Amendment</u> (per section RSA 12-A:9-b,V(d))
  - a. Easement Amendment: None planned
  - b. Plan Revision (Phil Bryce/Johanna Lyons): Public Use and Recreation Management and Road Management Plan due for adoption in 2022. The 2007 plans have been amended two times (2012 & 2017). It may be time to do a full plan revision to document accomplishments and to identify needs. Typically DPR would be gathering data and holding public meetings but due to the pandemic and the appropriation of federal stimulus funds staff time has been reassigned.
    - i. Discussion: Richard Judd remarked that he thought the next plan would address more ATV trails to provide relief from town roads.
    - ii. Action Item: Phil Bryce encourages all committee members to read the plan and its amendments. Johanna will provide the links to the documents.
- VI. <u>Lease Camps</u> (per section RSA 12-A:9-b,V(b),(e), and (h))
  - a. Matt Sampson provided a handout of the locations of existing and proposed lease camps. There are 7 more camps sites to lease.
- VII. <u>Land Owner Recreational Fees</u> (per section RSA 12-A:9-b,V(f))
  a. Matt Sampson reported that the camp license fees were raised 6%

### Other Business

Hasen Burns motioned that the fall meeting and other future committee meetings be held in Pittsburg. Harry Brown seconded the motion, all in favor.

### <u>Adjournment</u>

Ken Hastings motioned to adjourn the meeting, Harry Brown seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Johanna Lyons, clerk