

Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Citizens Committee

Meeting Minutes; May 5, 2018

Members Present:

Bing Judd (Senate), Ramon Demaio (Town of Clarksville), Hasen Burns (Town of Stewartstown), Richard Moquin (House), Gene Chandler (House), Rick Sampson (Coos County), Jeff Rose (DNCR), Glenn Normandeau (F&G), Jim Gallagher (DES), Steve Ellis (Town of Pittsburg), Darrin Jock, Gail Hanson (G&C), Harry Brown (G&C), Charlie Levesque (Camp owners), John Steward (Landowner), Ken Hastings (Senate)

DNCR Staff: Phil Bryce (Parks Director), Sandy Young (Park Ops), Chris Gamache (Trails), Jason Huter (F&L)

Prior to the formal meeting a short ceremony was held to recognize Bing Judd for his time as the Chairman of the Conn Lakes Headwaters Citizens Committee. He was on the original steering committee for the property and has been Chairman since the committee began in 2002. Commissioner Rose recognized Bing with a letter from Governor Chris Sununu and also a sign noting a new trail to be named 'Bing's Way' on the property.

Chairman Judd opened the meeting at 10 am, with a pledge of allegiance. Committee members introduced themselves and noted who they were representing/appointed by. Commissioner Rose noted this was his final meeting with the Committee as he is stepping down from the agency on June 1. He thanked the committee for all their work over the years and how valuable a place the property is.

Minutes from the May 6, 2017 meeting were moved and approved. No edits

Chairman Judd reminded the committee that they are advisory to the Departments about the Headwaters property, but are also advisory to the Water Resources Board about Lake Francis; as such this committee is advisory to two different entities.

Chairman Judd noted the following reappointments to the Committee: Gail Hanson (appointed by Governor & Executive Council); Gene Chandler (appointed Speaker of the House); Dick Moquin (appointed by Speaker of the House); Ken Hastings (appointed by Senate President); Rick Sampson (appointed by Coos County Commissioners); Harry Brown (appointed by Governor & Executive Council). Steve Ellis' term is expiring on June 1 and Town of Pittsburg is appointing Richard Judd to the seat.

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

Sandy Y discussed the 5-year road plan meeting with the management company on May 23, the Coos Trail and equine trail plans for the summer (both of which are noted in the Rec Plan) from Diamond Pond north onto the property. Trout Unlimited did work last summer on 2 stream crossings to improve water flow on Shoppe Brook. State replaced decking on the bridge at Comstalk Hill Road crossing of Indian Stream, reports that Magalloway Road is washed out in some areas and that it will be a late work season on the roads due to the amount of snow still in the woods at this time. The SCA did work last summer to clean up old boats around East Inlet and Shehan Pond. Still a work in progress.

Chris G noted that the GNW Riders ATV Club has submitted a special use permit to have the roads be open for Columbus Day Weekend, as noted in the Rec Plan. The club submitted the permit application as a way to get the discussion started between the landowner and the State. Ultimately, would need the Town and Perry Stream Land & Timber to agree also to make it happen. State is meeting with the Landowner on May 11 to discuss this also to address a matter regarding designated snowmobile trails and special management areas (SMA). The baseline documentation for the property has a map of

“designated snowmobile trails”; some of which legally exist but have not been as a maintained trail (currently used as a single sled trail). One of these is needed to get around winter timber plans for next year, but the area now is designated an SMA. Need to clarify that legal trail location, which was in place prior to SMA designation, is still ok.

Gene C asked if the committee could be updated on decisions after these additional meetings? Chris said the committee would be updated.

Chairman Judd asked Phil B to discuss the tractor purchase and stewardship funds at this time. Phil handed out a spreadsheet of the proposed accounting of the Stewardship funds to be used for roads and stewardship uses. Phil gave a short summary of the agency’s ability to use the stewardship funds for road work, which benefits recreational access to the property. The finance sheet was discussed and the agency confirmed it does plan to get a tractor this year; by paying ½ funds up front and financing the rest over 5 years. Also putting \$150,000 into road projects from stewardship account.

Phil noted that overall NH Parks are doing well, revenues are up about 3-4% overall. This down from a few years ago. Campgrounds are at maximum capacity, but everything is dependent of weather. Sandy noted that Lake Francis SP got hit hard by storm in October and 100+ trees down in the park and at Deer Mtn. Working on a plan to stabilize the shore/banks at the park.

Jim G discussed the Murphy Dam inspections for the penstocks. Have not been done in 20 years and needed. Predict they will have significant work to do once they inspect them. Fair amount of ‘chatter’ in the downstream Butterfly Valves also. Engineering firm has been selected but need to go to G&C with contract; likely in June. Work will be done in November. Cannot do the work in summer as the bypass waters from the surface flow would increase river temps too much for fish populations. Repairs will likely be 1-2 years from now. Questions about the overall process were asked. Great River is doing work on dam at 1st Conn Lake, but not linked to State project.

Glenn N reported that last summer F&G resurfaced 8 miles of road in the Natural Area (East Inlet/Boundary Pond). \$200,000. Agency is working on a 350 acres timber cut in South Bay area. Would be timed with Landvest projects work in the area.

John S reported nothing new from the landowner. Mtg with the State next week. Weather and markets are the major impacts on the timber cuts, with weather the biggest factor. Will be cutting all over the property this summer and likely back in Magalloway area next winter.

Chairman Judd asked for nominations for Chair of the committee, as he is stepping down from the position. Gail Hanson nominated and seconded. No other nominations and Chairman Judd asked to move the nomination to make her Chair. All in favor. Gail Hanson is new Chair of the committee.

Call to the public for input: Question from the committee about any work at Terrell Pond? Nothing planned. Other dams take priority. It is in the Capital Budget for work in 2022-2023. Landownership at the dams has been an issue. F&G is working on an easement for the dam at Back Lake. No other questions.

Gene C asked the minutes to reflect the committee’s thanks to Commissioner Rose for all his support and input over the years.

Meeting adjourned at 10:46am.