

Connecticut Lakes Headwater Citizens Committee
May 11, 2013, 10:00 am

In attendance: Bing Judd, John Steward, Ray Demaio, Hasen Burns, Rick Samson, Gene Chandler, Paul Doscher, Jeff Rose, Glenn Normandeau, Jenn Landry, Merrill Dalton, Richard Moquin, Jim Gallagher, Harry Brown and Ron Hughes.

Minutes from the Meeting June 16, 2012

- Ron Hughes motions to accept the minutes of the meeting, Ray DeMaio seconds the motion, there were no corrections and the minutes are accepted.

Nomination and Vote for Chairman

- Gene Chandler nominated Bing Judd for chairman and was seconded by Ron Hughes. There were no other nominations and Bing accepted the nomination. Majority voice votes passes the motion.

Dam Update – Jim Gallagher, DES designee

- Boundary Pond Dam work was completed last fall.
- Scotts Bog drawdown has started. There are many rare plants at the site. The plants will be monitored over the next two years. Work will take place this summer.
- Shehan Pond is next on the list. Concrete spill way was heaved up, however it is tied into the rock abutment and should not fail. The earthen embankment was overgrown. The trees have been cut and will be removed this summer. The dam is going to be monitored and is not going to be worked on any time soon.
- Rededication of Boundary Pond dam is being planned for early September.

Road Update

- Irene storm FEMA monies have been expended. We received \$500,000 in damages but only awarded \$141,000 for repairs by FEMA. Reconstructed 5 bridges on the main road system, culverts, and rebuilt Chrystal Road.
- Q: What about the wash out on Indian Stream Road? The road at that point is on private property. DRED will work with the landowner and Landvest on repairs.
- Q: What about the culvert/bridge at the end of Perry Stream? Sandy thinks that's in the Natural Area and will work with Will and Jill, he thinks they have a grant to repair it.

Equestrian Trail

- The approved plan amendment directed the Division to set up a pilot trail system and assist in the formation of a friends group.
- The friends group would contain the three W's, Wisdom, Workers and Wealth.
- Met with interested Pittsburg citizens in February to discuss how to form a friends group and to start to map out a trail system. Met again in March to look at the trail system and identify private landowners who need to be asked permission to use their land. Heard from interested people in the Colebrook area who could not make the meeting in Pittsburg. Met with interested Colebrook residents in April.

- 3 trail units have been identified; the Park Trail at Coleman State Park, several loops have been identified and a connection to Pittsburg, the Town Trail in Pittsburg that links resorts and other public parking areas in town, and the Perry Stream Land and Timber property. You can ride within each unit or connect through each unit.
- Trail riders may have to use town/state roads to get in between units.
- Trails will be shared at times with ATVs, the ATV clubs have already included on the maps where trails will be shared with horses.
- The Division will be proposing fees for this new use. The easement has two classifications of public use; uses that International Paper allowed and those rights reserved by the state for additional public use, such as equestrian use. The Division will propose fees for new uses permitted by the easement to help support the management of the property since the Division is a self-funded agency.
- Q: What is the landowner liability if fees are being charged? OHRV policy does not cover equestrian trails. The Division is seeking permission to use the trails from the landowner, there for it is our duty of care to keep the trails maintained.
A: State can charge fees for new uses and would have to accept some increased liability if that is done. Private landowners lose statutory protections if they charge for land uses.
- C: Need to sign the multi-use sections of the trails so the ATV and Equestrians know that each are there.
- Q: When will this be open? We set an internal target of June 1st, but we got a late start, if we had more helpers it would go faster. Pittsburg should be signed soon.
- C: Concerned about invasive weeds being introduced. A: That was handled in the 2007 plan and a monitoring plan will be in place.
- C: We should ask Natural Heritage to walk the trails before horses are on them.
A: Let us ask people where they are coming from and where their hay comes from.
- C: Hay is shipped around the region, not all hay for feed comes from local sources.

ATV Plan

- Subcommittee met this morning and designated 2 routes out of Pittsburg to include a link to Canaan VT. The routes were those discussed at the 2012 meeting: Indian Stream to Hall Stream toward Canaan, VT and then Cedar Stream Road to Deadwater Loop to Wagner managed lands.
- Town of Clarksville approved 1 mile of town road.
- Club has received landowner permission at Hall Stream road.
- Trail system to open 5/23 and close 9/30, sunrise to sunset operation– there will be no night riding.
- CLH roads are posted 25 mph. Town roads are what statute lists, such as 10 mph on Back Lake Rd.
- Route designation signs will be posted every ½ mile and each intersection.
- 3-4 kiosks will be erected with maps to show where the trail system ties in and will have rules/regulations on it.

- Installing magnetic trail counters to track use at 2 locations.
- Legislation Update
 - HB 383 increases the age of unaccompanied youth riders to 16 with license to address road use.
 - HB 574 updates ATV regulations to allow 62" wide vehicles on Coos County trails and 2 trails in Grafton County.
- Subcommittee will meet in the fall to review summer operations and make recommendations for 2014.
- Q: How many miles on CLH? A: 7-8 miles on CLH, connects the appx 1,000 mile Coos County network.
- C: By June 15th trail opening date the land swap with USFWS will not be complete so they will issue a SUP for the trail.
- Q: Has there been any progress on cell phone coverage for Pittsburg and what is the status of 911 addresses for the trail system. A: the snowmobile and ATV trail systems will have the same addressing.
- Chairman Judd asked the committee for their support to send a letter to key legislators to encourage the implementation of cell phone coverage in Pittsburg for safety reasons. Merrill Dalton motions to send the letter, Ron Hughes seconded the motion. Harry Brown suggested amending the letter suggesting using public lands to site the towers, Rick Samson seconded the motion and it passes.
 - C: Steve Ellis reports that he has been working on it with key individuals. The technology is there, however there is not a business opportunity and until it is a regulated service there isn't enough money to support it.
 - C: Phil Bryce suggested that the request has to be linked to the land base and the safety of the visitors in remote areas.
 - C: Edith Tucker reported that the tower in Groveton is partially being paid for by the Northern Boarder Coalition, \$200,000. Cathy Conway at NCIC played a role.
 - C: Verizon has mobile cell trucks, ask to see if they can bring it here to see what the usage is.

Other Business

- Ron Hughes read a statement about gate management and requesting they be opened earlier. He feels the most damage is done in the fall during hunting season and not in the spring. Would like to see a phased opening of the road system. Recommends opening the roads on April 15th or May 1st at the latest. Need to give the leaseholders the right of passage and option can be 1. give them the combo, 2. let them use ATVs or 3. Use the system that Water Resources does for their camps.
 - Q: Phil - When did the roads open under IP/Champion management? Ron: varied depending on when they finished their timber contracts. Sandy has done a better job opening the roads than IP/Champion.
 - C: Jason Hutter – Other landowners will be closing their gates until May 15th to prevent criminal mischief. Fire danger is also high in April/May until the leaves come out.

- C: Sandy Young – In 2003 there were 50 gates on the property, DRED & the landowner have installed 28 more so more of the roads can be open while controlling access to other areas. DRED manages 53 gates.
- C: Sandy Young – the gate subcommittee recommended all gates be open unless there is a safety reason.
- C: Sandy Young – it costs \$10,000 – 20,000/mile to fix a road
- Recognition – Phil Bryce presented a repaired commemorative plaque to Representative Chandler for his participation on the 2001 Steering Committee.

Paul Doscher motioned to adjourn the meeting, Dick Moquin seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, Johanna Lyons

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