

Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Citizens Committee
June 7, 2014

In Attendance: Bing Judd, Jennifer Landry, Merrill Dalton, Ramon DeMaio, Hasen Burns, Richard Moquin, Gene Chandler, Ken Hastings, Ron Hughes, Harry Brown, Rick Samson, Jeff Rose, Glenn Normandeau, Matt Sampson and Dan Mattaini.

The meeting was opened by Chairman Judd with the pledge of allegiance and introductions at 10:00 am.

The minutes of the meeting May 11, 2013 were accepted.

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

FY 2013 Endowment Report: Johanna distributed a draft of the endowment report. There were no questions.

Monitoring Responsibilities: Commissioner Rose read from RSA 12-A:9-b, V(a) which states, “Providing advice to the monitoring entity for monitoring the compliance with the terms and conditions of the working forest conservation easement covering approximately 142,000 acres of the Connecticut Lakes headwaters tract” as a review on the responsibility of the committee to the agency.

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

Roy Road in Stewartstown: Bill Carpenter review an opinion that was commissioned by DRED on rights the State holds on Roy Road. Roy Road is located on the north side of Diamond Pond and it is a short segment that does not connect to the greater headwaters road system. In 1980 St. Regis Paper Company created 20 camp lots and secured rights to cross Roy Road for forest management and access to the camp lots. Subsequently, the Town of Stewartstown established camp lots adjacent to these lots, however, their access was by water only. The Stewartstown camp owners are using Roy Road to access their camps and questions about if it is a public road if the State owns it have been asked. The opinion states that the State’s rights in the St. Regis Camp road are only for forest management and to provide access to the St Regis camp owners and it is not a public way.

- Harry Brown – Corridor 5 uses Roy Road and there is a plan to have the trail cross Nugent’s property and hook into Roy Road. Nugent is also open to allowing motorized ATV use across their land.
- Bill Carpenter – The current road bed is less than 60’, however, the state owns a corridor of 100’ so there could be room to add a trail corridor.
- EH Roy – There is a plan to relocate the trail off of the road. He knows it is a hardship and is willing to donate time to move the trail.
- Bill Carpenter – The snowmobile club would make the request to relocated the trail and would be a change in the stewardship plan.
- Harry Brown – If ATVs are allowed on designated roads; but this road is additionally burdened so we have to look at it to see if ATV can be on it or if it gets relocated off the road in the 100’ right of way.

Equine Trail Update: Sandy Young reported that the pilot trail established last year received limited use. The trail used private parking areas and also co-shared with ATV use on Perry Stream. He met this spring with a volunteer group at the southern end of the property to connect to the Coleman State Park area. There is one more year to this pilot project to establish a user group to maintain the trails.

Road and Gate Update: Sandy Young reported that the roads are deteriorating quickly. There are 4,500 culverts on the property and 50-100 are being replaced each year. This year spring damage was high and the frost did not leave the roads until very late. The Annual Operating Plan agreed upon by DRED and the landowner was handed out.

OHRV Report: Johanna Lyons apologized for Chris Gamache's absence and reviewed the provided OHRV report.

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

Remote campsites on the shores of Lake Francis: Sandy Young discussed a proposal to develop 20 campsites on DES managed land on the shores of Lake Francis. As a comparison, the remote campsites the Division manages on Umbagog Lake employ an extra 4 people at the park and generate \$110,000 in revenue.

- Dick Moquin indicated he supported the development and moved that a subcommittee be established to assist in putting a comprehensive proposal together, Harry Brown seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.
- Chairman Judd asked for volunteers for the committee and the following were identified; Hasen Burns, Steve Ellis, Alan Williams, Ray DeMaio, Gene Chandler, and Bing Judd. Glenn Normandeau offered that a F&G representative could provide technical information if needed.

DES managed road update: Dan Mattaini reported that Cedar Stream Road is passable and River Road is scheduled to be worked on soon. The dock is repaired at the Lake Francis boat launch.

NHFG Forest Management update: Glenn Normandeau summarized a report provided to him on the CLNA. In 2013 42 acres of openings were created between 1/10th – 4 acres to vary age structure of the forest. The bids to cut in 2014 will be submitted in July to clean up some sites. Planned is 110,000 bf of log and 100 tons of pulp. The money from forestry operation goes into the DRED F&L forest management fund.

- Bing Judd commented that a lot more can be cut on the CLNA and Brown WMA
- Glenn Normandeau explained that his staff is reviewing the federal restrictions of a USFWS grant to pay the DRED foresters to plan and administer the contracts.

Water Release from Lake Francis dam for rafting: Harry Brown led a discussion on diversifying economic development opportunities in Coos County. Rafting is very successful at Umbagog and he's looking to provide more than one adventure to guests when they stay for a week. Some suggestions that were offered is to have DES & TransCanada be part of a subcommittee recognizing that TransCanada has a contract for power generation and controls the release and

lake level; this potentially has revenue consequences. Other things to consider is the current fishing that takes place

- Jim Cochran, ELC Rafting – The mile long gorge has good potential & some preliminary hydrogeology data has indicated good flows from Murphy Dam to the covered bridge.
- Alan Williams, DES – The data supports a couple of days a week, mid-day, mid-week, however, TransCanada still needs to be consulted.
- Dick Moquin – Need to consult with Trout Unlimited to see if it would hurt or help the fish.
- Harry Brown – He’s not advocating for one or another company; he’s proposing it as a non-commercial imitative that everyone can enjoy or build a business.
- Glenn Normandeau – The Canaan Dam is a PSNH power generation dam and they should be kept in the loop.

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

Extension of the period of ATV use to October 31st: Harry Brown presented a proposal to keep the 13 mile CLHWF trail open until October 31st. The eastern side of the Ride the Wilds system is open year round, the Stratford system is open year round, Colebrook closes October 15th and has asked for it to be extended.

- Jenn Landry – The Pittsburg Club would like to remain open until Columbus Day.
- Warren Chase, Perry Stream Land and Timber – The owners are waiting to see if the CLHWF trail will remain open before they make a decision.
- Dick Moquin – He’d like to see the dates remain the same and transition to hunting season.
- Glenn Normandeau – We reached an agreement last year to the dates and now there is a push to change it. The Oct 1st date was a compromise date that got this trail rolling.
- Gene Chandler – The ATV subcommittee should meet and provide their recommendation
- Harry Brown – There are 400 miles of roads to look for birds; it is requested that 13 miles on the headwaters property be open. The subcommittee should ask business owners to be involved. He would like a decision for this riding season.
- Steve Ellis, Town of Pittsburg – Town is supportive of extra economic activity, must take in consideration of the hunting & fishing. Selectmen should be included in the subcommittee.
- Ray DeMaio – Clarksville has some concerns already along Cedar Stream – Deadwater Loops about damage caused by logging trucks and ATVs. Not many businesses in town and so far there isn’t much benefit. This proposal has come a little late to the plan.
- Glenn Normandeau – F&G enforcement will be spread thin between ATV and hunting enforcement.
- Gene Chandler – Moved that the topic be sent to the ATV subcommittee & include othe members of the community; Ron Hughes seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Lease Camps (per section RSA 12-A:9-b, V (b),(e) and (h))

Proposal of 15 new lease sites: Matt Sampson requests we refer to the camps as LICENSE sites rather than lease. John Steward presented a preliminary proposal to license 15 new camps. It is a two-step approval process, the CLHCC has approval of the sites and DRED must approve the change to the stewardship plan. He has identified areas that will appeal to a wide variety of

people including sites close to roads, ATV trails, and remote areas and has tried to distribute among all the towns.

- Edith Tucker, reporter – Do all the current licensed sites have buildings on them?
- John Steward – No
- Edith Tucker – Without buildings the towns don't get tax revenue & with camps, the people are likely to stay longer.
- John Steward – Some licensees prefer to have a more primitive experience.
- Dick Moquin – Moved to go forward with the proposal; Harry Brown seconded the motion to allow the location of 15 new sites.
- Bing Judd – He would like to see the sites once they are agreed upon and suggests including a small group as they determine the sites.

Land Owner Recreational Fees (per section RSA 12-A:9-b, V (f)): No proposal

Other Business

Gene Chandler handed out a draft motion to not allow utility generating or transmission facility on the easement area.

- Jeff Rose – Due to his membership on the Site Evaluation Committee he has to recuse himself from the vote.
- Matt Sampson – Doesn't the easement already preclude utilities?
- Gene Chandler – Yes be we should confirm that the easement should be supported.
- Glenn Normandeau - As the fee owner of the CLNA they would defend the provisions on the CLH property against this action. Glenn also recuses himself from the vote as a member of the Site Evaluation Committee.
- Harry Brown – This is not a vote for or against Northern Pass, just an affirmation that no utilities can pass.
- Matt Sampson – What about solar panels on license sites or solar systems for public safety?
- Gene Chandler amended the motion to read – “Therefore, be it resolved, that the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Citizens Committee strongly recommends to the Commissioner of the Department of Resources and Economic Development that no new commercial utility generating or transmission facilities be allowed to locate within the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters conservation easement area or the fee properties (28,364) acquired by the state in 2003.
- Rick Samson – After reading sections of the Rec Plan aloud, he stated that the intent of the conservation effort was to ensure that the reason why the land was conserved is continued.
- Gene Chandler – He will withdraw the motion to address Matt's points.
- John Steward – There is also a reserved landowner right for a 100 acre wood processing facility & it will need power.

Adjourn

Harry Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:45, Jeff Rose seconded and all agreed.

Respectfully Submitted, Johanna Lyons, State Park Planning and Development Specialist