

PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2009

9:00 a.m. – NH Fish and Game Headquarters

Members Present: Thomas Quarles, Esq., Chairman; David Barrett, DOS; Ken Gallager, OEP; Brian Giles; Joseph Goodnough, NHLA; Rep. John Henson; Cathy Goodman for Michael Pillsbury, DOT; Bob Spoerl, DRED

Members Absent: Glenn Normandeau, F&G; B. David Bryan; Paul Blizzard; Jacquie Colburn, DES; Michael Lassonde, GCD; Joseph Norton; Mel Pfeifle; Ronald Poirier; R. Andrew Robertson; Senator Deborah Reynolds

Audience Members: Richard Fink, NHFG; Alan Moody, NHFG

MEETING CONVENED

Chairman Tom Quarles called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS – [Note: Text in bold denotes action items.]

1. Approval of the June 1, 2009 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by David Barrett to accept the meeting minutes as written, seconded by Brian Giles. The Board unanimously approved.

2. Departure of Michael Racine – Rick Fink, NHFG

Rick reported that Michael had left the Department to attend law school in pursuit of a career as an environmental lawyer. Rick noted that a replacement would not be hired until the state employee contract issue had been resolved. Rick further reported that overall staffing of the Facilities and Lands Division includes: himself; 2 land agents; a construction crew of 2 full time employees and a seasonal employee; 1 full time site maintenance supervisor who oversees several seasonal crew members; and 2 building maintenance staff. Rick would like to see an in-house environmental permit specialist hired as well to process permits currently handled by Fay, Spofford & Thorndike as part of their contracted services to the Department.

3. Wild Goose/Sunapee Update – Mike Racine & Tom Quarles

At this time, all DES three permits have been issued and appealed. The appeals process can be long and arduous with likely no resolution until at least March 2010. Representative Henson questioned the basis for the appeals. Joe Goodnough responded that the appeals are mostly based on highway safety and location. He states the Town of Newbury and the LSPA have proposed two separate sites at half the cost of the Wild Goose site. They are proposing fishing at the state park beach and motorized access available at that location, with only cartop access at the Wild Goose site.

Chairman Quarles noted that as Wild Goose will not be moving forward expeditiously he suggests that the Department should begin to move forward with the development process for Harilla's Landing on Lake Winnepesaukee. **Tom will contact Paul Goodwin to determine how Phase I of the project is progressing.**

Representative Henson commented that a bill had been introduced to pursue further study of the Wild Goose site. This study committee was voted down in the House and Senate with the recommendation that the process be allowed to move forward with no further delaying tactics. Representative Henson noted that both the House and the Senate are in favor of the Wild Goose site as designed.

4. 2009 Legislative Tracking Wrap-Up – Joe Goodnough

Thanks to Joe Goodnough for reporting on the progress of bills relative to PWAAB's interests throughout the session:

- HB 2 – Signed by Governor. Regarding the item to sunset certain boards, Tom believes this board should continue its work. Representative Henson noted that he would be happy to sponsor legislation to allow its continuance when the time comes.
- HB 186 – Signed by Governor. Authority to regulate rafts on public waters reinstated effective 1/1/2010.
- HB 205-FN-A – relative to certain boating fees, retained in Committee, 100% attached to HB2, which was signed by Governor.

5. NH Lakes Association Book Distribution – Tom Quarles

Tom distributed a booklet of the NH Lakes Association, titled "Help Protect New Hampshire's Lakes – A guide to wise lake and watershed stewardship" as he felt it was an important tool for members of the board.

6. F&G New Project Prioritization Proposal – Rick Fink

Rick provided a review of his new project prioritization model. This is a more scientific approach to site selection and restoration versus the usual emotional approach. Also included are criteria for determining the placement of portable toilets onsite. This new system does have its flaws and is a work in progress, but seemed a good place to start. Feedback from the board is appreciated. **Please look over the materials and let Rick know if you have any comments or suggestions for improvement.**

New Business

Peterborough, Contoocook River – Tom Quarles noted that the access at the Route 202/Route 123 bridge access has been closed and roped off due to downed trees in the river channel. Tom wanted DOT and Safety to be aware. Even if the river is not navigable from this location, the site should remain open to shore bank fishing. **Tom will call the local police department to discuss the closure.**

Madison, Silver Lake – Bob Spoerl noted that to date there has been no response to the letter sent to the town. **Bob will follow up for next meeting.**

Abandoned Railroad Map – Bob Spoerl distributed a map depicting rail corridors that the state does not have control over or any direct interest in. At this time there is no comprehensive state effort at this time to pursue acquisition, even if they may potentially lead to public water access.

Old Business

Webster Farm – New signage is now in place.

Public Comment – None at this time

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Representative John Henson, seconded by David Barrett. The Board unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Site visits, led by Rick Fink and Alan Moody of F&G to the following locations followed adjournment:

Hot Hole Pond, Concord
Clough Pond, Loudon
Pleasant Lake, Deerfield
Lambert Park, Hooksett
Turee Pond, Bow

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place on **November 2nd, 2009 at 9:00 am** at NH Fish and Game Headquarters, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.