

PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2010

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

Members Present: Thomas Quarles, Esq., Chairman; Glenn Normandeau, F&G; Jacquie Colburn, DES; Ken Gallagher, OEP; Mark Gallagher, DOS; B. David Bryan; Brian Giles; Joseph Goodnough, NHLA; Joseph Norton; Mel Pfeifle; R. Andrew Robertson; Bob Spoerl, DRED; Matt Urban, DOT

Members Absent: Paul Blizzard; Rep. John Henson; Michael Lassonde, GCD; Ronald Poirier; Senator Deborah Reynolds

Audience Members: Richard Fink, NHFG

MEETING CONVENED

Chairman Tom Quarles called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

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

1. Approval of the November 2, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Correction of the following items was requested:

Page 2, Item #5, first bullet, last sentence – *change Kierstat to Keirstead.*

Page 2, Item #7, first sentence – *change Gallagher to Gallager.*

A motion was made by Brian Giles to accept the meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Ken Gallagher. The Board unanimously approved.

2. Welcome Mark Gallagher, Marine Patrol, DOS

Mark is replacing David Barrett as the representative from Marine Patrol. Mark has been with Marine Patrol since 1980, and was promoted to Captain in 2001. Mark has also been a member of the LMAC for more than 17 years. Welcome Mark!

3. Republication of Public Water Access Map – Rick Fink

Rick reported that the map has been completed and that 75,000 maps were to be delivered later this month. All Fish and Game owned sites are listed on the map as well as some sites owned by DRED, DES, other public agencies and municipalities. The list is as comprehensive as could be put on one map, however, not all municipal sites are listed. Maps will be distributed to state agencies, license agents, rest areas, etc. The plan is to complete yearly updates and printing so a current map will always be available. This information should also be accessible on the Fish and Game website.

Copies of the new map will be distributed at the next PWAAB Meeting.

4. 2010 Legislative Tracking – Joe Goodnough

Joe Goodnough distributed a list of pending legislation containing 19 items he thought relevant to the Board. There are several bills to keep certain committees from sun-setting. Regarding the Shoreland Protection Act, some are trying to diminish the water

quality protection aspect of the Act. It seems to be a good climate for environmental protection type issues.

HB1451 – relative to the expiration dates of certain committees, i.e. the PWAAB, the Rivers Management Advisory Committee and the Lakes Management Advisory Committee. Director Normandeau believes these boards are very important to keep in place and probably will be renewed by the Legislature, as public input is important to our programs.

In addition to those bills listed, Chairman Quarles **requested adding HB 1284 – regarding posting of meeting minutes under the right-to-know law; HJR 21 – regarding Exeter river bank erosion; HB 1478 – regarding the licensing of dock designers; and a few items with no house bill numbers yet available, which includes an item relative to the NH native plant protection act and an item relative to the classification of Pleasant Lake.**

Jacquie Colburn suggested **adding LSR 2871 – regarding a grant for exotic aquatic plant prevention and LSR 2869 – regarding LMAC amendments relating to establishment of a definition of, and a methodology to determine carrying capacity.**

On a related note, for those interested, 2009 information relevant to the temporary speed limit on Lake Winnepesaukee is available on the Marine Patrol website. The study period ends December 2010.

Joe Goodnough will continue to add the bills requested above and will monitor this legislation and report its status at the next meeting.

5. Upper Connecticut River Access Sites Presentation – Joe Norton

Joe Norton gave a slide presentation on the available hunting and fishing access points to the main stem Upper Connecticut River, of which there are few, several being privately owned. The presentation covered a 50 to 60 mile stretch of the river from Lake Francis south to North Stratford.

6. F&G Project Matrix – Rick Fink

Rick provided an updated matrix to the Board and noted that new information was indicated in red ink. Rick then reported the following:

- Stinson Lake, Rumney: NHFG Land Agent is contacting abutters and seeking the advice of the Attorney General's office. The site is currently a RTPW site that is a non-maintained dirt ramp with many erosion problems. Abutters are opposing the refurbishment of the existing boat ramp based on their claim that F&G needs their permission for the associated wetlands permit because the proposed work is within their 20 foot side-setback under the DES wetland regulations. Jacquie Colburn checked with Dale Kiersted of DES' Wetlands Bureau on this claim. With an existing structure within the setback the process could be different than if there is no current structure. A waiver from

DES could be a possibility? **Jacquie, Dale, Rick and possibly a representative from the AG's office will sit down to discuss this matter at a later date.**

- Forest Lake, Winchester: Rick reviewed this item with Gabe Gries, Region 4 Fisheries Biologist. Rick stated that this access was at one time open to the public, but was closed by a private landowner. The Mount Pisgah Sportsman's Club convinced the landowner to subdivide off the boat ramp portion of their property and give it to the Club to operate as an access site. The site is now once-again open to the general public. More information on this item can be found on the NHFG website as part of the August 2009 Fishing Report.
- Laurel Lake, Fitzwilliam: Negotiations are ongoing with the landowner for improved parking space.
- Nubanusit Lake, Hancock: The Town is cooperating, trying to establish a 30 year lease option in order to construct or improve the existing RTPW boat ramp at the east end of the lake. Project may need to move forward with only state funding, as parking space constraints do not allow the site to meet standards to allow federal funds to be used.
- Lake Umbagog, Cambridge: Concrete ramp to be replaced and concrete anchor to be installed. Work is scheduled for fall 2010 as time and weather allow. A request for a floating dock is an additional item awaiting approval at this access site.
- Harilla's Landing, Moultonborough: NHDOT is highly motivated to keep this project moving forward. Mike Pillsbury will remain the contact person for this project at NHDOT. The land swap with the Yacht Club requiring town subdivision approval is one of the biggest obstacles for this project and must be done by DOT.
- Lamprey River, Newmarket: Project is to be completed by NHFG in cooperation with the Town of Newmarket. Federal funding for this project requires parking that seems to be an issue for the town which is causing delays in moving forward.

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

Items 7 and 8 were discussed together and are reported below.

8. Public Water Access Plan Review and Revision – Ken Gallager

This plan relates to public access in the broadest terms and includes ALL types of access, not just boat access. There are 35 lakes larger than 500 acres in the state, and as the general public is most interested in access to the state's largest lakes the board will focus on those 35 first. The list provided by Ken Gallager, dated December 28, 2009, was used for this discussion. Information on this list was regularized to: cartop boat launch, trailer ramp, or beach/swimming/picnic.

The board was asked to review the list and determine if they felt additional access of any type was necessary at any of these 35 lakes. Chairman Quarles

identified several sites that he felt are in need of trailer ramp access. They include: Commerford Reservoir, Monroe; Province Lake, Wakefield; Silver Lake, Madison; Suncook Lakes, Barnstead; Lake Wentworth, Wolfeboro. Some of these sites have some type of access, but access is restricted to town residents only so there is effectively no public access.

Chairman Quarles further identified those lakes that he felt were in potential need of beach/swimming/picnic access: Commerford Reservoir, Monroe; Highland Lake, Stoddard; Island Pond, Derry; Merrymeeting Lake, New Durham; Moore Reservoir, Littleton/Dalton; Northwood Lake, Northwood; Nubanusit Lake, Hancock; Ossipee Lake, Freedom/Ossipee; Paugus Bay, Laconia; Pleasant Lake, New London; Province Lake, Wakefield; Second Connecticut Lake, Pittsburg; Squam Lake, Holderness; and Lake Waukegan, Meredith.

The above is not to indicate that these sites are a priority, just that access is in some way lacking. **Ken Gallager will get GIS maps done for at least the sites listed above, if not all 35 largest lakes.**

Rick Fink will attempt to utilize his new prioritization plan to determine the need for trailer ramp access at the sites noted above as needing it.

Copies of the June 1995 "Mapping Committee Report for Public Boat Access Areas" will be copied for all members of the Board.

River access will need to be looked at in the near future as well. **Those board members representing river interests (Brian Giles and R. Andrew Roberston) should start thinking about looking at the need for this type of access.**

9. Fish and Game Proposed Revisions to Access Site Rules – Sandy Falicon

The Fish and Game Boat Access rules, Fis 1601.01, 1601.02 and 1602.01, are up for re-adoption at this time. These rules were expiring, no changes are being proposed. **These rules will be distributed and discussed at the March meeting.**

Old Business

Silver Lake, Madison – This issue has been resolved. The "Residents Only" signs at the site at the north end of the lake next to Route 113 have been removed. The town cannot prohibit access to general public as they utilized LWCF funding for the project. No further action is necessary at this time.

Contoocook River, Peterborough – Tom Quarles reported that someone had cut out every obstruction and that now both channels are clear from the Rt. 136/202 bridge downstream. The "river closure" signs at the access site here just north of the bridge have also been removed.

New Business

Deering Reservoir, Deering – Town wants to start charging for parking for public access. **Rick Fink and Jacquie Colburn will investigate this issue further. Bob Spoerl will check to see if LWCF funds were used for this site. This item will be discussed at the March meeting.**

Rocky Pond, Hollis – Town has put many restrictions on use of this site. This is a current RTPW site. **Matt Urban will look into the RTPW statute to determine the legality of these restrictions.**

Public Comment – None at this time

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Joe Goodnough, and seconded by Matt Urban. Board unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place on **March 1, 2010 at 9:00 am** at NH Fish and Game Headquarters, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.