

PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

July 12, 2010

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

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

Members Absent: Paul Blizzard; Michael Lassonde, GCD; Joseph Norton; Mel Pfeifle; Ronald Poirier; Senator Deborah Reynolds

Audience Members: Richard Fink, NHFG; Jeff King, NHFG

MEETING CONVENED

Chairman Tom Quarles called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

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

1. Approval of the May 3, 2010 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Joe Goodnough to accept the meeting minutes as written, seconded by B. David Bryan. The Board unanimously approved.

2. 2010 Legislative Tracking and Wrap Up – Joe Goodnough & Tom Quarles

The final 2010 Legislative tracking list was distributed to the Board. The list was reformatted, with the entire list in HB and SB numerical order, with all bills discussed from this session remaining on the list. Only those bills that are in **BOLD** on the list were passed and were briefly discussed. They include: House Bills 1266, 1422, 1462, and 1689, and Senate Bills 362, 441, 442, and 464. Tom will amend the final list to include the \$500,000 taken from the Fish and Game Department to help balance the state budget. Representative Henson noted that most, if not all, members of the House Fish and Game Committee were opposed to the idea of taking money from this fund, but saw it as necessary at this time. Director Normandeau stated that there was really nothing that he could do about the issue, considering where other funds to balance the budget were being taken from. Chairman Quarles requested that Joe Goodnough ask the NH Lakes Association to make it one of their Legislative priorities to prevent taking additional monies from this fund in the future, should the issue come up in future Legislative sessions.

3. State Department 2009 Annual Reports – Tom Quarles

OEP – Ken Gallagher submitted his annual report for the Office of Energy and Planning for review and approval. Andy Robertson moved to approve the report, seconded by B. David Bryan. The Board unanimously approved.

DES – Jacquie Colburn submitted the annual report for the Department of Environmental Services for review and approval. In her absence the report will not be discussed at length.

DRED – Bob Spoerl will submit the report for the Department of Resources and Economic Development at his earliest convenience. The report is complete and just needs to be submitted to the Board.

4. Fish and Game Access Site Rules Re-enacted – Tom Quarles

These rules were set to expire and were re-enacted without changes. Tom wanted to bring to the attention of the Board that according to these rules, generally, a boat access facility is defined as the area which includes the parking lot, approach, staging area, and 50 feet on any side of the launch ramp. What this means is that anything beyond 50 feet of the launch area is considered general public water, and as such, swimming can legally take place outside that 50 foot radius. This definition is especially important at sites such as Willard Pond in Antrim, which is utilized as a swimming facility as much as it is a boat launch area.

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

Follow up from the first 29 lakes reviewed:

4. First Connecticut Lake – access adequate – Owned by TransCanada.
5. Lake Francis – access adequate – water draw down causes boat launching issues – can the launch be extended to alleviate? Are there other possible fixes? How much of a problem is it really? Jacquie Colburn followed up and determined this was a non-issue. The draw down is not done until mid-October once waterfowl season has ended. Bob Spoerl suggested that perhaps signage should be put in place notifying users of the additional access site.
10. Island Pond – Bob Spoerl confirmed access at Stickney Road in Atkinson – adequate boat access, needs beach/picnic access. Site appears to be cartop only and Ken verified that the access is public. However, signs are frequently removed, presumably by neighbors who don't like the access site to be used. Site is owned by the Town of Atkinson.
21. Pine River Pond – DES owns the outlet dam and footprint. However, the adjacent ramp is privately owned. "Sawdust Cove" site is undeveloped and unsigned. Mark Stevens noted that this site cannot legally be designated as a public access site as it is located on a private road, per the opinion of the Attorney General. **DES will provide documentation/opinion letter to Tom Quarles.**
26. Pleasant Lake – access adequate for boating – **Ken to verify additional parking availability** – needs beach access (beach is residents only)
24. Second Connecticut Lake – appears to be adequate boat access – **Andy noted additional cartop access at north end of lake, and will provide GPS coordinates to Ken** – No beach access

26. Spofford Lake – Old RTPW site. **Tom Quarles to verify North beach access** – access adequate
27. Squam Lake – add SLA headquarter ramp site to OEP database. – Lake needs additional boat ramp on northeast area of lake – try to get general public access to Sandwich and Holderness town beaches; Matt Urban reported that Bean Road/Squam Lake roads are state owned and maintained, however, the beach/boat access site is owned by the Town of Sandwich and is designated as residents only.
29. Suncook Lake – Jacquie/Mark verified the location of coffer dam, at the southern end of the lake. The Town of Barnstead leases 5 acres from DES but the site is not developed, has car-top access only. There is a trailer access site at the Narrows Bridge that is open to the public. The Town of Barnstead had approached DES at one point regarding enforcement issues and may be amenable to working with Fish and Game to improve/formalize public access.

Initial Review of remaining 6 lakes is as follows:

30. Lake Umbagog – access adequate – the NHFG ramp at the southern end of the lake is being rebuilt this fall; there is also an access site at the wildlife refuge on the Magalloway River, and several turnouts along Route 16 that allow for cartop access
31. Lake Waukegan – access adequate
32. Webster Lake – Fish and Game and the Town of Franklin are working together to repair the current access ramp, however, there appear to be issues with the DOT right of way at the site; at this time the WMA site owned by Fish and Game will remain as undeveloped, and used for passive recreation only
33. Lake Wentworth/via Crescent Lake – access adequate, although a more direct access to main lake would be better; investigate state park and land on north shore?
34. Lake Winnepesaukee – to be discussed at another meeting as there are 28 access sites to be reviewed, **Tom will distribute the map and list of sites will be distributed separately for ease of review; Bob Spoerl will report on the fees for Elacoya State Park when this lake is discussed**
35. Lake Winnisquam – access adequate

Tom and Ken will put together a final list of the access situation at the largest 35 lakes, broken out by “boat access” and “all other,” with the goal of finalizing the document by the fall meeting so the list can become a part of the SCORP and be utilized by Fish and Game in their efforts to prioritize access needs.

Andy and Brian will reconcile the inventory of New Hampshire rivers list they have with information available thru Fish and Game regarding sites that they

own. This list will be distributed and reviewed at a future meeting. There are approximately 60 major rivers to review. **Andy will draft letters for the various Local Advisory Committees in the state rivers management and protection program, inquiring about their access points.**

6. F&G Project Matrix – Jeff King

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

- Laurel Lake, Fitzwilliam: Waiting for subdivision to move forward.
- Ossipee River, Effingham: Transfers and maintenance agreement with Town have been finalized. Project complete.
- Connecticut River, Orford: Waiting for the town to provide design plans for dry hydrant.
- Meetinghouse Pond, Marlborough: The Open house on May 24th was not well attended. Two designs were brought forth, one using concrete and the other a stone mattress. The stone mattress design was the preferred design. **A conceptual plan will be provided at the next PWAAB meeting.** Project targeted for completion in 2011.
- Newfound Lake, Bristol: FST moving forward with floating dock design.
- Stinson Lake, Rumney: Project should be allowed by DES to move forward without abutter approval, as several attempts at contact have been made. **A conceptual plan will be provided at the next PWAAB meeting.**
- Connecticut River, Charlestown/N. Walpole: Site visit with DOT. Concept plan provided for cartop access site. DOT determining if they can get easement.
- Contoocook River, Bennington: Monadnock Paper opening site as public access. NHFG advising regarding signage and rules.
- Lake Armington, Piermont: Town would like ramp refurbished. Site is a former RTPW. No action at this time.
- Lamprey River, Newmarket: Estimate for town's portion of ramp improvements costs sent.
- Eagle Pond, Wilmot: FST is preparing preliminary path side level spreader for carry down ramp.
- Beaver Lake, Derry: Shoreland protection and wetlands permits have been approved. Eradication of exotic plants has begun.
- Hot Hole Pond, Concord: Working on site plan and starting permitting phase.
- Onway Lake, Raymond: Permit applications were approved for shoreland protection and wetlands permits.
- Lake Sunapee, Newbury: DES Hearings on appealed permits to be held in October.
- Pine River, Ossipee: Conceptual design phase has begun.

The following sites have been scheduled and/or completed construction in 2010:

- Connor Pond, Ossipee – project to be completed by late summer.
- Purity Pond, Eaton – project complete.

- Winnepesaukee River, Franklin – project near completion.
- Cedar Pond, Milan: Pavement only remains to be completed.
- Turtletown Pond, Concord: Pavement only remains to be completed.
- Umbagog Lake, Cambridge: Ramp replacement scheduled for Fall 2010.
- Merrymeeting Lake, New Durham – scheduled for construction in October.

Old Business

Deering Reservoir, Deering – The Town of Deering leases the site from DES. Mark Stevens of DES noted that the system in place is in compliance with the terms of the lease. The site must remain open to the public, but there is no exclusionary clause that would keep the Town from charging a reasonable fee to non-residents. At this time, the fee structure is \$5 per carload, or a season pass is available for \$15. Fees are charged from Memorial Day through Labor Day only. Monies raised by fees charged may only be used for maintenance of this site. The trailered parking spaces are not included in the Town's lease area and are free to the public, however, cartop vehicles are not allowed to park in that area.

Rocky Pond, Hollis – Matt Urban reported that he was unsure about ownership of the site at this time. **More research will be done on the RTPW records concerning this site.**

New Business

None

Public Comment – None at this time

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Joe Goodnough, and seconded by Matt Urban. The Board unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place on **August 30, 2010. No formal meeting will be held, and the Board will take its Annual Field Trip, this year to sites located in the eastern Lakes Region of the state.**