

PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Meeting of January 8, 2007

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

Members Present: Thomas Quarles, Esq., Chairman; Daniel R. Lynch, F&G; Carol Barleon, OEP; B. David Bryan; Jacquie Colburn, DES; Patricia Goodridge; Cheryl Killam, GCD; Johanna Lyons, DRED; Allen K. MacNeil; Mark Hemmerlein, DOT; Dick Smith

Members Absent: Paul Blizzard; David Barrett, DOS; Senator John T. Gallus; Senator Joseph D. Kenney; Brian Giles; Maynard Goldman, NHLA; and Roger J. Bellerose, Sr.

Audience Members:

MEETING CONVENED

Chairman Tom Quarles called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

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

1. Approval of the December 4, 2006, Meeting Minutes - Tom Quarles, Chairman
Cheryl Killam requested the following corrections to the minutes:

On page three, Item #7, 5th line, change "handicapped" to "wheelchair accessible."

Allen MacNeil moved to approve the minutes of December 4, 2006 as corrected, seconded by Carol Barleon. The Board unanimously approved.

2. 2007 Meeting Schedule & Vice Chair Appointment - Tom Quarles

It was determined that meetings will continue to be held on the first Monday of each month, unless that date is a holiday, in which case the meeting would take place the following Monday.

As there were no other nominations for Vice Chairman, Tom proposed nominating Allen MacNeil to that position. Carol Barleon made the motion to nominate, seconded by Cheryl Killam. The Board unanimously approved.

3. DRED Annual Report Presentation - Johanna Lyons

Johanna Lyons briefly presented her agency's Annual Report for 2006 concerning public water access, a draft of which had been previously sent to board members. There were questions raised regarding whether DRED lands held by easements, which allow access for recreational purposes, thereby specifically allow public water access. Johanna will research this and report back to the Board at our next meeting. There was also discussion regarding Senate Bill #5, of the 2006 legislative session, to change DRED funding, which will be discussed further at February's meeting.

4. Update on Winnisquam Access Site - Daniel Lynch & Jacquie Colburn

Dan Lynch reported that a hearing regarding the wetlands permit would be held by NHDES on Thursday, January 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Laconia City Hall. Dan also noted that the next working group meeting would be held on January 12, 9 a.m. onsite. Tom Quarles stated that he would provide a letter of support on behalf of the PWAAB for the project to NHDES prior to the wetlands permit hearing.

5. DES Water Quality Monitoring - Jacquie Colburn

In response to questions posed recently regarding DES' 2005 Annual Report, Jacquie gave a brief presentation to the board explaining the data collection processes used to address "Surface Water Quality Assessments" as relates to designated uses for swimming and aquatic life support. Some designated uses include: primary contact recreation, secondary contact recreation, swimming, aquatic life support, shellfish, and drinking water. There are a number of parameters that must be tested to aid in determining impairment for those designated uses. There are many different things that can be considered impairments, such as non-native aquatic plants, dissolved oxygen levels, sedimentation and siltation. Jacquie reported that this process is ongoing and it will take many, many years to fully assess all bodies of water in NH. Jacquie further stated that these figures were part of the Clean Water Act's reporting requirements to the EPA and that all information is available via the NHDES website.

6. F&G Project Update - Daniel Lynch

Dan Lynch provided an updated Boat Access Site Status Matrix to the board and discussed the updates noted as follows:

1) Pleasant Lake (Deerfield) - Wetlands permit received. Bids for tree removal work are due by January 12, with work to begin Spring 2007.

2) Baker River (Plymouth) -Project complete with exception of handrail, which is currently being fabricated for Spring installation.

3) Winnepesaukee River (Northfield) - Tom stated he was contacted by several groups utilizing this site regarding trash issues onsite. There is currently an MOA between NHFG and NHDOT for refurbishment of the site by NHFG, with maintenance and operation of this site remaining under NHDOT control.

4) Connecticut River (Orford) - Dan stated that NHFG is still waiting on a response from the Town regarding the terms of the lease agreement.

5) Merrimack River (Greeley Park, Nashua) -At this time there is no vehicular RR crossing in place at this location and it is highly unlikely that a new crossing would be granted on this active line. Tom and Dave Mikolaities will schedule a site visit to view the existing crossing nearby to determine its feasibility.

6) Wild Goose (Sunapee) - It was noted that the Town had employed an engineering consulting firm to refute the findings of the consultant working for NHFG. An eight page letter of issues was submitted to NHDOT, which the DOT Commissioner has sent to DOT's Design Bureau to prepare a response by the end of January. Mike Pillsbury will inform the Board of the outcome of this review.

7. Proposed Legislation - Daniel Lynch, Jacquie Colburn & Dick Smith

Lee Perry, Executive Director of NHFG provided a presentation regarding the status of the Department's funding issues and three legislative proposals to address them.

Dick Smith provided the board with a list of 2007 LSR's that the board should keep in mind. Tom requested that Dick mark the document as "Draft" on every page as well as modifying the comments section to contain the board's position rather than a personal view. There will be more comprehensive discussion of this item at the February meeting. Agencies should check the list provided against their own and have any additions or corrections ready for the next meeting.

A report on the NH Lake Association's website was also discussed, titled: The Value of NH's Water.

8. Bass Tournament / Lake Carrying Capacity - Dick Smith

This issue was postponed for discussion at February's meeting due to the lateness of the hour.

9. Possible Subcommittee Projects: Signage/Maps/Database - Tom Quarles

Tom noted that he would like a subcommittee to be involved in the process of updating the Access Site Map. This and other subcommittee issues were postponed for discussion at February's meeting.

10. Update on Harilla's Landing, Lake Winnepesaukee - Tom Quarles

More details on this item will be forthcoming for February's meeting.

Old Business - None at this time

New Business -- Robb Reservoir, Stoddard - Tom Quarles

Tom provided a letter to Dan Lynch for response.

Public Comment - None at this time

Adjournment -- Jacquie Colburn moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mark Hemmerlein. The Board unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

The next meeting will take place on February 5, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the East/West Conference Room at Fish and Game Headquarters in Concord, N.H.