

PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

August 30, 2010

**Field Trip to Public Water Access Sites in Eastern Lakes Region**

Members Present: Thomas Quarles, Esq., Chairman; B. David Bryan, coastal interests; Jacquie Colburn, DES; Ken Gallager, OEP; Brian Giles, rivers association; Joseph Goodnough, NHLA; R. Andrew Robertson, non-motorized boating; Bob Spoerl, DRED; Rep. Jayne Spaulding, NH House Resources, Recreation & Development Committee; Richard Fink, NHFG; Jeff King, NHFG; Ellen Macneil, NHFG

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

**1. Pine River, Ossipee, NH (access to southern end of Ossipee Lake)**

The Board's first stop was this site just east of the Route 16 and 25 intersection in Ossipee. This is a former DRED site which came into State ownership from a failed private development. This was the marina. The Board was given a history of the site by Rick, Bob and Jacquie and the Board proceeded to evaluate the site for potential development into a full Fish & Game trailer boat and cartop access site. **The consensus of opinion was that the cartop launch area should be separated from the trailer boat ramp and that Fish & Game should try to maximize the number of trailer boat parking spaces to around 30. In addition, the universal sign symbols for cartop and trailer boat access should be placed on Route 16 and Route 25 in both directions pointing motorists to the site.** Medium to large size trailer boats can be launched from this site, however they have to travel approximately ¼ mile downstream on the Pine River before they enter the southern end of Ossipee Lake.

Ossipee Lake is one of the largest lakes in the State at over 3,000 acres. No other trailer boat access seems feasible at the southern end of the Lake (see entry #2 below). Therefore, the Board agrees that an additional site on the main part of Ossipee Lake is needed, at the northern or middle part of the Lake.

**2. Constitution Park, Ossipee, NH**

This site east of the above site on Route 25 provides walk-in cartop access only to the southern shore of Lake Ossipee. The beach is signed no swimming due to the fact that there is heavy adjacent boat traffic coming in and out of the channel between the main lake and Broad Bay to the east. The Board's interest in this site was more for its proximity to the Ossipee Lake Natural Area to the west of this site that the Board has followed for a number of years and has discussed in detail.

**3. Ossipee River, Effingham, NH**

This site is also off Route 25 east of the above site. When the New Hampshire Department of Transportation rebuilt the bridge across the Ossipee River, it built a boat launch site on the south side of the bridge. The site consists of a small parking area

and a very long boat ramp made of old-style concrete logs. The river depth and obstructions make this site suitable for cartop boats only. Jacquie Colburn took a sample of what looked like non-native milfoil. Following the field trip the sample was tested and Jacquie reported back to the Board that the sample was not an invasive species.

#### **4. Purity Pond, Eaton, NH**

This is a new Fish & Game canoe cartop site at the north end of Purity Pond off Route 153. This is the site of an old private campground. The site consists of a small gravel parking area and a long sloping ramp for carrying and launching cartop boats. The launching area has a "french mattress" as a launching feature which was described as a "low abrasion canoe pillow". A new and unique feature is the pervious pavers used at the upper level of the site. A plastic matrix is filled with small stones that can then be driven across, allowing for rapid draining of the soil, yet still allowing vehicle traffic.

Like the first site above, **the Board requested that road signs be placed on both sides of Route 153 indicating this new cartop site.** The Board then proceeded to the Purity Springs Resort at the southern end of the lake for a very enjoyable buffet lunch.

#### **5. Kennett Park, Silver Lake, Madison, NH**

This site came to the Board's attention in its review of the State's 35 largest lakes. This site is just to the east of the Chick Packaging building. This site had been signed as restricted to town residents only. However when the LWCF records were checked, it was determined that federal funds were used to improve this park. As a result, DRED contacted the town and asked that the residents only signs and restrictions be removed. While the town residents only sign has been removed, there is a sign indicating no motors. There is also a LWCF sign. **Bob Spoerl needs to check with DRED to see whether, based on the LWCF funding restrictions, the town can restrict this site to non-motorized boats.**

#### **6. Madison Town Park, Silver Lake, Madison, NH (just to the west of site 5 above)**

This site is signed town residents only. It has a dock, swim raft and swim line. Signage indicates that non-motorized boating is allowed. We assume that this park did not have any LWCF funding and thus these restrictions the town has placed on the site are permissible.

#### **7. Connor Pond, Ossipee, NH**

This site is a beautiful remote pond in the Ossipee mountains that is about to be refurbished by Fish & Game as a cartop site with a very small step down ramp. Rick Fink and Jeff King educated the Board about the history of this former Road to Public Waters site and abutter concerns.

**8. Pine River Pond Dam site, Wakefield, NH**

This site is accessed off Route 16. The site is a DES owned dam at the outlet of Pine River Pond, one of the 35 largest lakes in the State. There is signage approaching the dam that falsely claims that this is private property. While there is room for a limited amount of parking, the boat ramp adjacent to the dam is privately owned. There was much discussion whether, if the State acquired that ramp, a sufficiently-sized, suitable access site could be placed here. In general, all agreed it was a "tight" site.

**9. Pine River Pond, Sawdust Cove, Wakefield, NH**

The Board then proceeded to this site which is accessed off a different road from Route 16 on the west side of the lake approximately ½ mile from the dam site. Based on deeds and plans, the Board found this site and walked down to it and noted that there was a small dock with two boats (one sunken) tied up to the dock. There was much walking in the woods attempting to find landmarks, surveyor pins, etc. without much success.

There is a legal issue as to the sufficiency of the load access to this site. The history is that this site was given to the State as a boat access site by the developer of the surrounding area. All the road access to the site once you leave Route 16 is on private roads that were created as part of this development and subdivision process. Many years ago the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office was consulted on whether access on this private road to the site was a problem because it raised the issue of whether there was a right of general public use of this private road. Without knowing the history of the creation of this site, the Attorney General's Office indicated that it was a problem. If Fish & Game or any other department went forward to develop this site, then that opinion would have to be revisited and presumably reversed. Whether a suitable trailer boat site could be constructed would also need further investigation including a survey of exactly what and how much land the State owned. There seemed to be a level area above the cove that might provide sufficient parking. In addition, the deed creating the access reserves the right of an island property owner to dock a private boat at this site.

**10. Merrymeeting Lake, New Durnham, NH**

This is the existing access site at the Fish & Game hatchery at the outlet of Merrymeeting Lake that the Board has been aware of and discussing for many years. The Board was given the history of this site by Rick Fink and Jeff King. Reconstruction of the boat ramp and designated parking is expected to begin when water level allows, possibly November.