

**Allagash Wilderness Waterway
Advisory Council Meeting
February 15, 2008
Central Maine Commerce Center
Minutes**

Advisory Council Members Present:

Don Nicoll
Anthony Hourihan
Don Hudson
Dick Walthers
Bob McIntosh
Janet McMahon
Don Cyr

Bureau of Parks & Lands Staff

Will Harris
Tom Morrison

Tim Hall
Melissa Macaluso

Others Present:

Gil Gilpatrick
Rick Denico
Jamie Fosburgh
John Rust

Paul Johnson
Jym St. Pierre
Rollin Thurlow
Karen Woodsom

I. Don Nicoli Called Meeting to Order.

Introductions were made by the Council and members of the public.

Meeting logistics

Don Nicoli gave a brief overview of the plan proposal to be drafted by the council

II. Director's Report

Will Harris gave a brief overview of the department items including budget cuts, consolidation and law suit

Henderson Brook Bridge

The LURC staff recommendation to permit the bridge was upheld by the Commission on an appeal that was heard on February 6, 2008. This permit as well as the permit from the Army Corp of Engineers, allows construction to proceed later this year.

Final decision on the lawsuit from Judge Woodcock was in the state's favor.

Outreach

Will has been working with Paul Johnson to develop more reliable day use data for the AWW as well as the technical advisory group on recreational usage to begin discussions about recreational usage, quality of experience and rules with declining financial resources.

Resources

General Fund, Loon Plate, and Poland Springs funds have all been reduced significantly, BPL is in the process of making priority decisions on where we will make reductions due to declining financial resources. 6 assistant ranger positions are proposed for elimination AWW, In addition Will would like to move forward with the plan to

create a superintendant and Chief Ranger Position that was recommended by the working group report for recruitment in March if approved. The Council asked BPL staff to provide information regarding staffing levels in the past, present, and future.

III. AWW Strategic Issues

Each council member expressed issued of importance to them issues raised included:

Janet

- carry capacity, campsite and trail location, fisheries management , invasive species, dams, forest management, rare species, acquisitions, watershed management with maps
- New management plan from IRP
- IRP doesn't look at river as a system

Jaime

- Fundamental decision of resources by accessing what the future holds.
- Future condition of resource

Bob

- Need to clarify designation of WSRA to river plan.

Don N.

- Baseline is integrity of what should be the resource.
- Identification preservation and interoperation of artifacts

Don H.

- Recreational management and how to accommodate both day and through travelers.
- Identify areas of conflict to address

Dick W.

- Pull from experience and information that has already been gathered.
- Work with tech users

Anthony

- What is the long term fit with the working forest on the waterway
- Impact of reduced funding
- Other structures for governance

IV. AWW Draft Mission Statement

The council commented on the draft mission statement from the governor's working group. After reviewing the statements

* Protect and enhance the wilderness character of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and ensure its optimum public use through its careful management as a wilderness area, with priorities placed on offering wilderness experience to its primary users, the canoeists and fishermen.

* Preserve, protect and interpret significant artifacts that reveal the life experience and impact of the native peoples, the settlers, and those who came to use the forests and waters of the region for harvesting and transporting timber from the forest.

* Support and facilitate low impact recreational and educational uses of the Waterway that respect the integrity of the natural areas and history of the region, and are consistent with the Waterway's natural and historical conservation and enhancement programs

- a. Jaime – what is the anchor of the statement
- b. Anthony – add in last paragraph reflect the of rights of adjoining land owners
- c. Janet- insert ecological integrity
- d. Jaime- insert to address issue of extended canoe trips (Brownies mention of this in working group)
- e. Dick- mission statement should remain true to the original concept. and that landowner rights should be addressed, but possibly in a different area
- f. Bob - stated land rights are a legitimate concern to be addressed and could be placed in a policy statement.
- g. Janet - why the maximum wilderness character language was not included in the draft?
- h. Don H – Working Group did have discussion over the terms and 'punted' to the council
- i. Don N – Maximum Wilderness character referred to the land along the waterway, in the protected zones and has been interoperated in a variety of ways
- j. Don N. Brownies' issue was with the thru tripper
- k. Don H- Pay attention to landowner rights could be a management/policy issue
- l. Anthony- ok to deal with landowners in another section but it does need to be included
- m. Don N- need to keep track of the policy issues and deal with them in the proper sections
- n. Anthony stated he was uncomfortable with 'enhancing' as well as protecting the ecological integrity
- o. Jamie- possibly change the mission statement to reorder proposal

The council after discussing language with wording of ecological integrity, protect and maintain, extended trip and how to incorporate or change language to reflect what the AWW is and stands for based upon the original mission statement by keeping working generic to represent everyone. Council members will draft 2 versions of the mission statement one version using existing language and minor changes and the other will emphasize on protection, recreation and cultural with different wording language for consideration on. These drafts will be submitted to BP&L for distribution.

V. Review and discussion of ecology and recreational uses

The council discussed inventory and monitoring of species and suggest having a map detailing the information. Dams were also discussed and how the long term maintenance and replacement or removal might affect fisheries and water levels. Don recommended Janet prepare the work plan on ecology. Don Hudson spoke about the Recreational challenges of how the AWW should be managed with budget issues, rules and enforcement with multiple user types (day users, sedentary users, and through paddlers) and how they can affect river flow with group size. Don N stated Don Hudson should work as a liaison for the technical work group.

VI. Review and discussion of cultural preservation & interpretation

Don Cyr discussed a survey of the structures and possibly registers historical places and how this could help some smaller towns in the area with historical links to the AWW to generate revenue. Don Cyr would prepare a work plan.

VII. Supplemental Funding

Supplemental Funding was discussed and how to incorporate staff and outside resources, and identifying development of target programs with definition and scope with public comments welcome.

VIII. Timeline

Don N presented the Council a draft schedule that includes the following:

April 2008

1. Adopt proposed draft AWW Mission Statement
2. Adopt draft issues statements statements in each of four subject areas
3. Adopt schedule of public hearings on the Council's documents

May, 2008 -- series of public hearings on draft documents

June 2008

1. Adopt proposed Mission Statement
2. Refine issues statements, identify key questions for exploration and information gathering and assign responsibilities to subcommittees for developing draft goals statements

June/July/August 2008 - subcommittees prepare draft goals statements

August 2008 - Council retreat (AWW)

1. discussion and action on draft goals statements
2. Adopt schedule of public hearings on the draft goals

September, 2008 -- series of public hearings on draft goals

October 2008

1. Adopt proposed goals
2. Make specific arrangements for drafting and action on the Council Report

November 2008 - Adopt report and submit it to the Bureau Director, Commissioner, Governor and Legislature

IX. Public Comments

John Rust

the mission statement being a visionary statement and should be left broad

Guides to help with story documents.

Funding should be a menu selection for entities to pick from

Karen Woodsum,

Public Lands Task Force is leading to the creation of a diverse group supporting core commitments

Agencies should collaborate more

Rollin Thurlow

Let visitors plan the trips on the Allagash according to the waterway by removing the dams

Consider non motorized winter use.

History needs to include Pisquaticus and Penobscot counties as well as Aroostook.

Jym St. Pierre

Familiar with History of the past council meetings

Can provide documents on the various issues
Committee to look at the removing impacts of the dams
Overview of the past meetings
Website to reflect meeting schedules

Rick Denaco

Suggested having a discussion with the engineers on the bridges and dams
Fee structure would a source of revenue for funds.

Paul Johnson

Baseline resources should be documented now
Landowners should help with inventories and manning the waterway

Meeting Adjourned at 3:04pm

DRAFT