

**ALLAGASH WILDERNESS WATERWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

June 15, 2018, 9:00 am – 10:30
Cross State Office Building, RM 214, Augusta, Maine

Council Members Present: Josie Allen; Dave Basley; Peter Bourque; Jamie Fosburgh; Brent Hardy, Chair; Melford Pelletier; Toby Pineo

Others Present: Tom Desjardin, Ron Hunt, Dave Rodrigues, Jim Vogel and Cindy Bastey (Bureau of Parks & Lands [BPL]); Matt LaRoche, (BPL/Allagash Waterway)); Bob McIntosh and Paul Johnson (AWW Foundation); Dave Flanagan, Lock Dam and Ross Lake; Camille Denico (Lock Dam and Haymock Lake); Greg Shute, Chewonki; Jym St. Pierre, RESTORE; Jocelyn Hubbell, BPL Photographer.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Brent Hardy opened the meeting at 9:00 am and asked Council members and attendees to introduce themselves.

Review of Minutes of the December 15, 2017 meeting

Brent asked if Council members were satisfied with the minutes of the last meeting. Melford Pelletier moved that the minutes be approved as printed, and Josie Allen seconded the motion. Council approval was unanimous.

Melford reflected on some earlier issues, including the stone steps used to stabilize Waterway shorelines, which he feels are inconsistent with wilderness character, unnatural and don't reflect past practices. He objects to protecting wilderness character by discouraging public use at the Eagle Lake access trail, which was created to provide access. He agrees with Ed Cullivan that we want people to visit the Waterway. Moreover, he feels the Indian Stream Road gate, which now impedes access to the Eagle Lake access trail, lies beyond the Restricted Zone on Public Lands and is not within the jurisdiction of the Advisory Council.

Matt reported on a recent stop at the Indian Stream parking lot, where he counted 12-13 vehicles, not all of which he believed were going to Eagle Lake. One thousand feet [to the access trail] did not seem to be that far away.

Operations and Maintenance Review 6/15/18, Matt LaRoche

Water levels:

- Telos Dam is currently at 7.8 feet above the sill (normal to low-normal).
Releasing 205 cfs
- Churchill Dam elevation is 929.3 above sea level.
Releasing a base flow of 204 cfs

Canoe flow of 504 cfs from 8:00 am until noon daily

We are down to summer water levels in the river and on Allagash Stream – 1,000 and 163 cfs.

Ice out:

- May 7th on most of the headwater lakes.
- May 9th at Allagash Lake, always the last to go out.

Public use:

- The public use records from NM Woods are due today.
- Anecdotally, it looks like we are having a good spring so far.
- It seems like we have been having an uptick in canoe groups this spring.
- Use by fishermen seems about normal.

Brent asked about this year's water levels. Last year, they were high for quite a while, then went down very quickly. He is concerned about releasing too much too soon this year, with the effect of declining usage in late summer. He noted that natural streams may run low, but the controlled water on the Allagash can remain high.

Brent also asked if there had been any effect from the work done at Telos dam last year. Matt said the project had slowed the leakage considerably and may have bought the dam another +/- 15 years. It will be important to watch for slumping.

Projects since our March meeting:

- Crew has been spreading the superhumus that was hauled to the campsites last winter:
 - Scofield Point – Churchill Lake
 - McCarren – Chamberlain Lake
 - Ledge Point – Chamberlain Lake
 - Donnelly Point – Chamberlain Lake
 - Lost Popple – Long Lake
 - Allagash Falls

Brent asked how the superhumus was working. Matt felt it was effective in cushioning and protecting the ground surface.

- The public drinking water building at Chamberlain Bridge has been leveled.
- New outhouse roof has been installed at Chisholm brook campsite on Umsaskis Lake.
- Setup a small solar power system at Round Pond, to charge radio batteries.
- Firewood supply has been cut split and stacked at Chamberlain Bridge – 10 cord.
- New picnic tables have been installed with tarp poles at:
 - Allagash Falls campsite
 - Shady campsite on Chamberlain Lake
 - Churchill Dam Campsite
- The main room at waterway headquarters has been painted, walls and ceiling.
- 12 picnic tables have been prefabricated.
- New window was installed at the Eagle Lake ranger station.
- New LED light fixtures have been installed in the Chamberlain Bridge shop.
- Training new employees, we have 4-new Assistant Rangers this year.
- We held a two-day spring staff meeting at Churchill Depot this spring, we covered the following information:
 - Death/serious injury notification (Maine Warden Service)
 - Expectations and SOP
 - The 2017 Annual Report
 - 2018 projects
 - Updates to the Emergency operations plan
 - IF&W Fisheries Div. update
 - Geology of the AWW
 - Archeology of AWW/Northern Maine (David Putnam UMPI)
 - Solar Power systems
 - Possibilities Bag (supplies and equipment that might be needed)
 - Storied Lands and Waters Interpretive Plan
 - Role plays – rule compliance & safety
 - Cover some BLS required training

Grants:

- 300 K received from LWCF for the Lock Dam project.

- 8 K received from MOHF for a new snowmobile, the second machine supported by MOHF.
- Did not receive funding (10K) from MOHF for the AWW visitor survey.

Special activity permits:

- CanAm sled dog race – crossing the AWW at Round Pond
- Like a Shot Entertainment – “Mysteries of the Abandon” filming at the tramway.
A British firm shot 8 hours of film to produce four 4-minute segments for the Discovery Channel, to be aired in the US. They hired videographer Patrick Bonsant who produced BPL’s AWW videos. The film company was not interested in the trains, only the tramway.

2018 Staff:

- I am very pleased with our crew for 2018.
- Trevor has some good workers at Round Pond and Michaud Farm.
- We have a young man from the Falkland Islands working at Churchill Depot. He is green, but very smart- he learns fast.
- The new Assistant ranger at Chamberlain Bridge was the UMFK intern in 2016 and 17. He was pretty much all trained and is doing very well.
- Everyone is getting along well and helping each other out.

Lock Dam Update – Matt/Dave Rodrigues

Dave reported that the Lock Dam Project was still on track to be completed this year. We have the needed permits and the \$300,000 LWCF grant from the National Park Service. The project did come in over budget, and we may ask the NPS to increase the grant amount by \$100,000 to \$110,000.

The precast concrete contract was awarded to American Concrete of Bangor, where components are under construction and due onsite by September 1st. The permits require that construction on the project begin no earlier than Sept. 1 and be completed by the end of October. The Bureau hopes to have water flowing by October 12. Emery Lee and Sons of Millinocket will construct the sluiceway and do the site work. Dave Flanagan noted the project calls for cca-treated lumber (vs. acq-treated), which is the best treatment for a water application and approved by EPA for that purpose. The cca bonds well to wood and tolerates iron. [CCA = chromated copper arsenate. ACQ = alkaline copper quaternary, which corrodes iron-containing metal fasteners.]

Paul Johnson asked what water levels in Chamberlain Lake would be observed during construction. Matt said the minimum depth near the work area was expected to be 5.5 ft. and a coffer dam would be used. Paul recommended a lower level to expand the work area and place the coffer dam closer to the outlet. Dave Basley recommended discussing the working water level with the IF&W regional biologist.

Brent asked if there would be engineers on site to conduct regular inspections throughout construction. Dave indicated there would be 4 engineers inspecting the project. Matt said he would visit the work site regularly.

Briefing on Highlights of Storied Land & Waters – Cindy Bastey

Brent introduced the briefing by indicating that the September Council meeting will include an agenda item for discussion of the recommendations made by Bruce Jacobson in *Storied Lands and Waters*. All members of the Council have now received a copy of the project report, and should review the document before the next meeting.

Cindy introduced the final documents of the Storied Lands & Waters project, which include the following:

1. *Storied Lands & Waters of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway: Interpretive Plan and Heritage Resource Assessment*, by Bruce Jacobson
2. *Allagash Wilderness Waterway Sample Lesson Plans*, by Bruce Jacobson

3. *Allagash Wilderness Waterway Bibliography*, by Bruce Jacobson
4. *Allagash Waterway Watersheds Map*, by James W. Sewall Company, created at Bruce Jacobson's request

These documents are available for free download from the Maine State Library's digitalmaine Repository at <http://digitalmaine.com/awwf/>. Hard copies of *Storied Lands & Waters of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway* can be purchased from Amazon for \$7.25, plus shipping and handling.

Boarding House Repairs - Matt/David Flanagan

Dave Flanagan reported on his assessment of the materials needed to begin repairs on the Boarding House. In addition to the novelty siding, he noticed several studs were missing. In the end, 70 studs and 56 floor stringers would need to be sawed and used before applying two bands of siding. He proposed coming up August 14 and 15 to do the work, and was looking to Matt for an okay to begin. Matt gave his approval and indicated that he would be available to help. Dave noted that Rick Denico had asked him to look after this work before he passed, and Dave is pleased to honor that request.

Briefing on 5-Year Review Process - Jim Vogel

Jim Vogel, BPL Senior Planner, outlined the management planning process for Public Lands. Lands management plans are prepared for several units in a region and for a period of 15 years. There are reviews every 5 years to see if there are new issues or substantial changes that would warrant amending the plan. Each management plan has an Advisory Committee that has input to preparation of the 15-year plan and is contacted at review points. The Bureau has intended to follow a similar process with the AWW Management plan, and the 5-year review would have begun last year in 2017. Matt noted that the 2012 AWW plan had an advisory committee that was separate from the Advisory Committee created by statute and appointed by the Governor.

Brent asked for a motion to adjourn. Peter so moved and Melford seconded. Council members voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:30 am.