

**Spednic Lake/Upper St. Croix River Corridor Management Plan  
Public Scoping Meeting - October 27, 2010  
Vanceboro Elementary School**

**Meeting Notes**

The Public Scoping Meeting was attended by approximately 35 people including representatives from St. Croix International Waterway Commission, Maine Forest Service, US Border Patrol, local guides and outfitters, one group trip leader, and a number of area residents and property owners. Misha Mytar, BPL Senior Planner, and Mark Caron, IFW Regional Biologist, ran the meeting.

**Welcome/Introduction**

- Misha welcomed the group and introductions were made around the room.

**Meeting Purpose and Planning Purpose**

- Meeting goals: To gather knowledge of the properties and to hear thoughts, ideas and concerns for developing a First Draft Plan.
- Short presentation describing the planning process and context and some of the key recreation facilities and management issues.

**Public Comments/Questions**

1. Lake and water level concerns:
  - High in August and too low in Sept. and Oct.
  - Need to be more consistent and predictable
  - New owners of the Domtar Mill - have they been contacted/involved in process?
  - Question regarding process of water level mgt. (criteria), change permitting process
  - Camp owners on river: notification of water level mgt to public/warning signs
2. Question: who maintains campsites on Maine side, both lake and river?
  - Waterway Commission should be compensated for work. Complemented on their job.
  - If SCIWC not maintaining sites then whom?
3. Fire protection concerns.
  - Access roads need to be in good repair.
4. Public access to river:
  - Not enough access points
  - Questions regarding status of Vanceboro, Castle Road and G.F. Flowage
  - Important to secure what is currently informally available
  - G.F. Flowage in particular needs to be secured, long way to next access point
5. Public parking issues:
  - Issue of private driveways/camp roads being blocked by public
  - Private docks being used by public
  - Access roads being blocked up by public makes it hard to canoe groups to get thru
  - Vanceboro access a problem area, also the Domtar-owned snowmobile trail
6. Need for easily accessible info on border along with site specific info

- Put on website (DOC & IFW)
  - Brochures for local stores, outfitters
  - Signboards
7. Clarification on current border laws/rules
- Partially addressed by Border Patrol reps.
  - This is important for recreationists, camp owners
  - Presents safety concerns
  - Question regarding campsites getting an I68 Permit. Nexus Card discussion-only works for US side. Options and limitations with Border Patrol.
  - Statement that it gets more complicated for European/other visitors (non US or Can.)
8. Restrictions of group size? Camp fees? User fees?
- Many people expressed concerns about overregulation.
  - Also concerns about resources for stewardship
9. Concerns regarding over use of river.
- Overflow from other rivers.
  - Everything is free and limited regulation compared to AWW
  - Trash issues on river.
  - The Narrows Campsite: potential to be overused especially if Todd's Island is off limits from Maine users. 2nd site would be beneficial.
10. Group size issues
- Are their sites that can/could accommodate larger groups?
  - Kieve/Wavus brings groups up to 16 people. Maybe 6 times a year. Organized groups this large are not that common.
  - Can we ask for voluntary donations from large groups?
  - Adding extra sites takes away from "wilderness experience".
  - Clearing house information regarding groups coming. Reservation system?
  - Sites away from others and water for larger groups
  - Issues with sharing sites. "First come first served". Camper etiquette.
11. Enforcement
- There are a couple illegal sites: trash/forest fire concerns
  - Maine Warden Service: how much are they on the lake and river?
  - Are there weekends in the year that are consistently busy?
    - day use is hard to gauge/predict
  - Have Rangers on lake and river similar to AWW.
    - would need enforcement working both sides of border
    - not many wardens/fire wardens available
12. Issues with weekend partiers vs. responsible groups
- Trash issues/"carry in carry out"
  - Noise and rude behavior
  - Holidays and weather/water levels affect this kind of use. Maybe 4-5 bad days each season.
  - Scott's Brook us particularly problematic.
  - Management planning is opportunity to inform about rules/laws
13. Vanceboro access issues:

- Small trail portage
  - Water level can create issues on the Canadian side – can put in too early.
  - Need big parking lot and boat launch
14. Questions concerning whether this plan would mean additional limitations on conservation lands or riverfront property.
- Issues for existing landowners within Easement/Fee areas?
  - Questions about shoreline protection areas: permission to use of heavy equipment to address erosion issues.
  - Regulatory issues unrelated to state managed lands.
15. Need to update user survey.
- Could trail logs be used?
  - Last one done in 1990 (river only).
16. Need better Information on economic value of area
17. Any discussion regarding taking out the dams?
- Just make campsites international.
  - Why so much regulation for campsites, especially those difficult to access from land?
18. Access issues thru New England Forestry Foundation easement:
- Are all roads mapped?
  - Where can you drive?
  - Who maintains the roads?
  - No speed limits on access roads. Need some.
19. Suggestions about other stakeholders to involve:
- Forest City Guides, Chewonki, Woodie Wheaton Land Trust, Woodland Pulp, Wagner