ALLAGASH WILDERNESS WATERWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2018, 9:00 am – 11:30
Cross State Office Building, RM 214, Augusta, Maine

Council Members Present: Dave Basley; Peter Bourque; Brent Hardy, Chair; Melford Pelletier; Toby Pineo. Josie Allen and Jamie Fosburgh were unable to attend.

Others Present: Tom Desjardin, Ron Hunt, and Cindy Bastey (Bureau of Parks & Lands [BPL]); Matt LaRoche, (BPL/Allagash Waterway); Paul Johnson (AWW Foundation); Greg Shute and Jen Adams (Chewonki); Camille Denico (Haymock Lake); Cathy Johnson (NRCM)

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 June 15, 2018 meeting
Brent asked if the Council wished to approve the minutes of the June meeting. Melford Pelletier moved and Peter Bourque seconded that the minutes be approved as written. Council approved unanimously.

Operations and Maintenance Update - Matt LaRoche
Water levels:
• We had good water levels for canoeing thru June.
• From mid-July thru early September, we were at or below 300 cfs, with some increases over 500 cfs after rainfall.
  o People start dragging canoes when the river drops below 500 cfs.
  o On September 10th, the level went down to 224 cfs.
    • This is the lowest the river has been since Matt returned to the AWW in 2009.
• We received only a ½ inch of rain on September 11th, and the river has gone up only slightly.
• The river is currently at 246 cfs.
• Telos Dam is currently at 4.5 feet above the sill, and we are releasing 226 cfs into Webster Stream. The Oct. 15th target level is 5.5 feet above the sill.
• Churchill Dam elevation is 926.7’, and we are releasing a base flow of 140 cfs and a canoe flow of 503 cfs, as needed. The Oct. 1st target level for togue spawning is 926.8 feet above sea level.
• Per correspondence with IF&W, if October target lake levels are not attained, water levels will be held at the next highest elevation for the winter.

Public use:
• Camping use is incomplete for 2018 (awaiting data from North Maine Woods); but our income for May (+ $3,794) and July (+ $5,695) was up from 2017; June income (- $8267) was down. I look for our use to be up for the year despite the drought.
  o I will have an up to date public use report at our December meeting.

Projects since our June meeting:
• 180 feet of boardwalk were replaced on the Allagash Falls portage trail.
  o This was a very labor intensive project. The crew at Michaud Farm, our U Maine Ft Kent Intern (Alissa Lutz), and a 2-person MCC crew did an outstanding job on the project. (See photos.)
• The Lock Dam project is underway. (See details below.)
• Three courses of missing siding on three sides of the boarding house have been replaced. Several floor stringers and wall studs were sistered. A timber needs to be replaced before siding the remaining wall. Fourth. Everything was accomplished by Dave Flannigan’s volunteer crew. (See photos.)
• Rangers have been building a 24’ X 48’ pole barn at Churchill Dam. The poles are up and braced, trusses are up, the roof is scheduled to be installed next week.
• Rangers have cut and peeled new floor stringers for the Eagle Lake ranger station. Floor replacement is scheduled for early October.
• New windows have been installed in the tool shed at the Eagle Lake ranger station.
• Lock Dam camp roof has been stripped and re-shingled by volunteers.
• Woodshed at Chamberlain Bridge has been stripped and re-shingled.
• The rotten board and batten siding on the back of the Chamberlain Thorofare Bridge shop has been removed and replaced with new boards and covered with brown flashing.
• The porch at the Assistant Ranger camp at Chamberlain Thorofare Bridge has been rebuilt.
• The bog bridge on the trail from the parking lot at Umsaskis to Sandy Point Campsite has been replaced.
• The bog bridge on the Carry Trail at Allagash Lake has been replaced.
• The roof on the Allagash Mountain fire tower has been patched.
• Staff cleared the trails to the fire towers at Allagash Mountain and Round Pond Mountain.
• Staff installed seven new picnic tables with tarp poles and leveled a few outhouses.

Situations in 2018:
• 1 – Attempt to locate.
  o Medical emergency at home: Ben notified the person and assisted the group out of Chamberlain Lake.
  o Matt set off his InReach device S.O.S by accident. [Chuckles]
• 1 –Boating assist:
  o Swamped/damaged canoe in Chase Rapids.

Special activity permits:
• Can-Am sled dog race – crossing the AWW at Round Pond
• “Mysteries of the Abandoned” filming was done at the Tramway. Four 12-minute segments will appear on the Discovery Channel in September and available later on the web.

Training:
• 2 day -Wilderness First Aid and CPR training for all employees
• Bureau of Labor Standards training for all employees

Miscellaneous:
• On August 6, Landvest started replacing Umsaskis Bridge on the American Reality Road
  o The concrete abutments have been set.
  o They are waiting for the steel I-beams that support the bridge.
• “Bill Green’s Maine” came to Churchill Dam to film a short production on the Storied Lands and Waters Interpretive Plan. It aired on August 18th.

Follow-up questions and comments on Matt’s O & M report
Dave Basley asked how the Umsaskis bridge was widened. Matt indicated that 70-foot spans are being installed, allowing increased flow. Gravel will be used to cover the concrete spillway.

Melford Pelletier commented on the replacement boardwalk at Allagash Falls, noting that 180 feet of new planking is not natural and is inconsistent with both wilderness and wild and scenic characters. He compared this type of upgrade to the rock-armoring of shoreline footpaths he discussed at an earlier meeting. He added that this is the second time landscape work has been reported after-the-fact, suggesting that the Council might be alerted to such projects before they are implemented. Melford went on to note that local people once enjoyed using the river without benefit of such improvements, but their use was rejected (refers to treatment of people at Ramsay Ledge in 1990s). Locals are
disappointed by the type of site upgrade that is acceptable today. Melford indicated he does not object to the quality of
the work being done, but brings a different perspective to the type of work that is appropriate.

Brent asked if the new boardwalk replaced an existing one. Matt indicated there has been a boardwalk there for about
30 years, and removing it was not considered. Melford recalled there were occasional steps and small sections of
repairs. Matt said the current boardwalk is not continuous over the entire 180 feet, although it does contain one long
section.

Toby offered that he is always amazed by the work done by the Waterway staff. He thinks the boardwalk is a good
balance of interests and supports the repairs.

**Lock Dam Update – Matt LaRoche**

Brent reported visiting the area two weeks ago, when he observed a rock in the lake that was hit by a snowmobiler years
ago, when it was 3 feet out of the water. The rock is now 1 foot out of the water. He thinks the flow through Lock Dam
under the previous operator must have been nil. The new system will improve flow through the dam and habitat
conditions for white fish. Dave Basley said he is excited about the likely benefit to this fishery.

Matt reported that American Concrete was awarded the contract for the precast concrete, and Emery Lee was awarded
the contract for the installation. They had a very productive preconstruction meeting on August 21st at American
Concrete in Veazie. Emery Lee started mobilizing the precast concrete on September 4th; they started digging on Sept.
5th; and the first piece of precast was set on Sept. 7th. As of Wednesday, [9/12], they had 7 pieces of the precast set.
(See photos.)

Brent asked if they had seen anything of the old dam. Matt indicated they’d encountered a few old timbers.

**Boarding House Update and Future Plans**

Brent described the extent of time and resources Dave Flanagan has donated to stabilize the boarding house: from
reproducing the siding, to providing the necessary materials and equipment on site, to supervising employees and
volunteers to get the work done. This represents a substantial commitment of Dave’s time and resources that needs to
be recognized, and BPL should make this happen. Brent asked for recognition ideas, which included a framed print of the
50th anniversary painting, signed by the Governor or Commissioner; a photo of the Boarding House signed by the
Director; or a Resolution by the Legislature. Tom Desjardin said that BPL would forward a proposal.

Tom reported on a meeting with Michael Goebel-Bain at MHPC about the proposed National Register nomination for
the Boarding House. The Commission is expected to act on this at its October meeting, after which the proposal will go
to Washington for final approval. Once approved, the Bureau can purchase a bronze National Register plaque to affix to
the building.

Tom briefly referred to Melford’s remarks about Waterway landscape changes not seen by the Council prior to
execution. He suggested that the Council discuss what work the members might want to review.

Brent next proposed discussion of other parts of the boarding house that need attention to protect the structure.

**Windows.** Several windows are broken or missing, and frames are damaged. Poly blows out. A short-term solution, like
plywood, is needed to keep bats out. (Someone asked if the storehouse gable windows were also missing glass. Matt
said there was a broken window over the door.) Brent asked if we could put plywood on the boarding house windows,
and replace any broken glass on the storehouse.

Tom Desjardin said BPL would review the needs at the boarding house with Matt and develop a cost estimate. He
indicated that the window frames, sashes and other features need to have patterns made and good architectural
drawings prepared so that they can be accurately reproduced. He favors using zip coating over plywood because it is lighter and less expensive.

Roof. The roof needs work. Bats and mice are chronic problems. Are there any photos of the original roof? Would Terry Harper have photos

Tom thinks the original roof was probably shakes. We would want to match the original roof, if possible. If it is not possible, then a replacement of the current type of roof would be acceptable. He wants look underneath the metal roof for any evidence of former roofing that might still be there. Then we can develop some cost estimates. Brent pointed out that any new roof should be able to shed today’s wetter snow loads.

Funding for additional repairs
Ron Hunt indicated that boarding house repairs have been a priority for BPL funding, along with improvements to Lock and Telos dams. The AWW Dollar Account is a likely source of state funds, but is committed to repayment of another fund at present. Another source of funds (up to 50%) would be the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), if that program is maintained. Ron suggests that a project to replace the boarding house windows and roof could be planned for 2010-2021.

Review of Storied Lands and Water Recommendations – Cindy Bastey

Brent started the discussion by indicating that the Council or a Council rep should be involved in setting priorities from the outset.

Cindy noted the information sent to the Council in preparation for this discussion: the single sheet list of priorities jointly suggested by BPL and the AWW Foundation and a reference list of subjects in Storied Lands & Waters (attached); and an 11-page listing of recommendations and priorities made by author Bruce Jacobson (previously distributed).

Beginning with the list of BPL/AWWF priorities, she summarized some factors influencing the priorities: the different roles of BPL (operations & maintenance) and the Foundation (supplementary activities); budget, fundraising and grant cycles; ongoing operational needs and projects already under way (e.g., dams and boarding house); and a desire to pursue joint projects. She noted that the 7-item list includes 2 projects already under way and 5 to start. It also includes 4 heritage resource projects and 3 projects that concern interpretation. She asked for members’ thoughts on this list.

Melford said he had no specific concerns with the priority list presented but noted that that the Boarding House and Allagash Explorer projects (joint BPL/AWWF priorities) would compete for funding. Ron indicated this is not necessarily so given the different sources of funds and funding cycles that might be used. This makes it possible to pursue more than one project at a time.

Melford did have other questions under the Heritage Resource Recommendations. Referencing Recommendation B-1, he asked for a definition of “Moosetowners.” Cindy indicated that Bruce gives a broad definition in the SLW report [see SLW pp 151-154], and he recommends further professional studies to authenticate that description. Referring to H-11, Melford identified himself as a resource person consulted by Bruce and a bona fide researcher who has the facts about the paddle steamer (not real). He added that falsifying the history of the Waterway should be avoided.

Brent addressed list item 5, “Institute the Lock Dam Working Camp,” recalling that he explained to Bruce that the building should continue its primary role as a place to house dam workers, rangers, volunteers and others while they are working in the Waterway. The camp could be used by others (e.g., scientists or artists) when it is not occupied for work purposes. Peter Bourque agreed with Brent’s view on the use of the camp. Resource agency personnel and fisheries staff, in particular, could benefit from use of this camp. Matt sees work groups being the priority users, but says it may be worth a try to have other experts in residence in July and August. He referenced a similar practice at Baxter State
Park. Ron added that no group could have exclusive use of the camp for any length of time, and its use might be scheduled via reservations through Matt.

Following Council comments on the list of priorities suggested by BPL and the AWW Foundation, Cindy asked if members wanted to recommend other priorities from the recommendations listed under heritage resources or under the interpretive plan.

Brent commented that Recommendation I.4 [Boarding House] finally answered the question of how to use the boarding house once it had been stabilized: install exhibits on the ground floor exploring the theme A Home in the Woods, about King LaCroix’s use of the building.

Melford reported that a Jalbert burial site had been reported south of Michaud Farm. [Recommendation F.2]

Pete asked how many educators BPL has now. Ron indicated that BPL has one staff person, the Interpretive Specialist, who does this work. The Waterway Education Coordinator [Recommendation J.12] will be a difficult goal to achieve given current administration policy to limit state staff.

Cindy asked the Council to consider as priorities other efforts that would contribute either to the protection of Waterway resources or to the development of background information for interpretation. Examples include assembling baseline documentation for historic resources; pursuing recommended historic resource studies; and updating the natural resources inventory. These could be added to the list of priorities as ongoing efforts, to be accomplished over time, many without additional staff or significant additional funds.

Pete felt that both baseline documentation and the natural resources inventory are worthy efforts. He suggested that the AWW Foundation might contribute funds toward an MOHF grant to assist with the natural resource inventory or naturalist writing. Cindy felt that the inventory could draw on data already available from the Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Natural Areas Program, but a writer/naturalist could best present the information to the Waterway visitor. Greg Shute noted how useful Dean Bennet’s Natural History Guide [1994] has been to Chewonki trips. Dave Basley noted that an archive of Maine Fish and Wildlife magazine articles with useful info is now available from IF&W.

Brent suggested that colleges, universities and others would probably leap at the opportunity to do archaeological research in the Waterway, which would expand our understanding of its history. He felt we should make the opportunity known. Melford noted that research is one objective of the UMFK Elmer Violette camp, which should be available for historic as well as natural resource studies. (Mel is a UMFK Board member, and offered to find out more about this.) Someone offered that archeological research might also be an appropriate use of the Lock Dam camp. Dave recommended that research documents be reviewed by the appropriate resource agency before findings associated with the Allagash are published. Cindy added that resource agencies should be consulted throughout research projects.

Cindy asked the Council if they would like to add three ongoing work priorities to the original seven priorities discussed above. Council members agreed to add the following:

1. Assemble baseline documentation for historic resources.
2. Update the natural resources inventory and prepare visitor materials.
3. Make opportunities for archeologic/historic and natural resource research available in the waterway.

Melford moved and Toby seconded that the meeting adjourn. Members voted unanimously to adjourn.

After Notes:
The next meeting is Friday, December 14, 2018.
Pete reported on his recent visit to the locomotives with his grandchildren: a great mid-week trip, attended by several groups, including people of all ages enjoying the site. He asked if the AWW has a day use fee or if thought been given to one or to an iron warden for donations to help with trail expenses. Cami Denico supported voluntary donations.
AWW Boarding House Stabilization Project Supplies & Equipment

Boarding House Work Crew

Repaired Boardwalk at Allagash Falls

Lock Dam Improvement Project Excavation & Installation

Lock Dam – New Water Control Gate Segment

Lock Dam - Inside Segment
Review of Storied Lands & Waters (SL&W) Recommendations

Please find the following two Items, which should be helpful in our discussion of Storied Lands and Waters (SL&W) recommendations in September.

1. Summary of Priorities selected by the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) and the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation (AWWF)
2. Table of Storied Lands & Waters Recommendations by chapter name, major and minor section headings and page number (printed volume). Hopefully, this will help locate sections of interest to you in the SL&W report.

In addition, the 11-page “Storied Lands and Waters of the AWW – Summary of Recommendations” is forwarded separately. This has been distributed before and contains the full text of the SL&W recommendations, with the author’s priorities highlighted in gray.

Summary of Priorities selected by BPL and the AWW Foundation

BPL staff and AWW Foundation board members independently reviewed and developed preliminary priorities from the recommendations made by Bruce Jacobson in Storied Lands & Waters (SL&W). Staff and Board representatives then met in May 2018 to compare priorities and discuss working together to implement some projects in the near-term, which could be reviewed by the AWW Advisory Council.

BPL/AWWF Shared Priorities for Near-Term: BPL staff and AWWF board members agreed that, of the 106 SL&W recommendations and 28 priority recommendations, we could support near-term attention to the following seven projects. Four projects address historic resource protection, and three projects represent new interpretation.

<table>
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<th>Project</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>Stabilize the Boarding House, C.12;</td>
<td>Joint Priority: stabilization work has started</td>
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<td>Preserve Allagash Mtn. firetower, C.15;</td>
<td>AWWF priority for interpretation. Needed work requires Lands support.</td>
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<td>Preserve Lock and Telos Dams, C.16;</td>
<td>Joint Priority: Plans prepared. Lock dam improvements in progress</td>
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<td>Preserve the Jalbert Family logbooks, D.2;</td>
<td>AWWF Priority</td>
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<td>Institute Lock Dam Working Camp, I.8;</td>
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<td>Expand Junior Ranger Program, I.10;</td>
<td>BPL Priority: to be combined with creation of Allagash Explorer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create Allagash Explorer, I.11-I.14;</td>
<td>Joint Priority</td>
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The group also agreed to collaborate with related groups in SL&W-related efforts, notably Maine Historic Preservation, the Maine State Library, Baxter State Park, Public Lands, and others (see numerous recommendations throughout SL&W).

At the meeting’s conclusion, we agreed to meet each year to review progress on implementation and recommend new priorities for the next period.
### Table of Storied Lands & Waters Recommendations*

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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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*Though not listed among the SL&W recommendations, a current natural resource inventory focusing on the features and processes that visitors see in the Waterway should be recognized as a priority recommendation.