

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

IN RE: MACHIAS DIKE BRIDGE, #2246
PRELIMINARY PUBLIC MEETING

Held at: Machias Memorial High School
One Bulldog Lane
Machias, Maine

June 28, 2022
5:00 p.m.

PANEL MEMBERS:

- Dale Doughty, Director of Planning
- Martin Rooney, Planning Study Project Manager
- Joyce Taylor, Chief Engineer
- Kristen Chamberlain, Manager, NEPA
- Heath Cowen, Property Office

us document all comments and questions which will be part of the project record.

The agenda for tonight is a very, very brief, maybe 10-to-12-minute presentation which I'll leave and hand it over to Dale who will help facilitate the questions. We have quite a few DOT folks here who will help answer questions about this project. Most of the folks up front will do the talking and from my left to right I'll ask them to introduce themselves.

MR. DOUGHTY: My name is Dale Doughty. I'm the Director of Planning at DOT.

MS. TAYLOR: Joyce Taylor, Chief Engineer at MaineDOT.

MS. CHAMBERLAIN: Kristen Chamberlain, MaineDOT Environmental Office.

MR. COWEN: Heath Cowan, Director of the Property Office.

MR. ROONEY: Thank you, everyone. At prior project meetings we went through a lot of the details and a lot of the project history, some of the information regarding alternatives, some of the information timelines on the back, the back chart. We're really going to talk tonight primarily about what's happened in the

(Hearing held at Machias Memorial High School, One Bulldog Lane, Machias, Maine, on June 28, 2022, beginning at 5:00 p.m.)

MR. KITCHEN: Welcome. We don't usually see this many people here. This is really nice. I'm really glad to see this many folks turned out. Thank you for coming. It's obviously a very emotional issue and we have a lot of people who feel very passionate about this.

We certainly appreciate the opportunity to learn more and to have our voices heard and we appreciate DOT being here, and with that, I'm going to turn it over to the Project Manager, Marty Rooney.

MR. ROONEY: Thank you, Bill. As Bill mentioned, my name is Martin Rooney. I'm Maine DOT's Project Manager for the feasibility study for the Machias dike bridge. Before I get started, I'd ask the panel to introduce themselves. I just want to mention that this is part of the public process moving forward for this project. This will be out -- this is our third public meeting in the last year and a half or so. We do have a court reporter here to help

past two years, we're going to talk about some of the regulatory framework associated with this project, we're going to describe how we came -- how MaineDOT came to the decision of moving forward with our bridges of preferred alternative and we're going to talk about what are the next steps and what that means.

You all know the dike is -- well, better than most of us do. Today there's four box culverts, very old, very poor conditions. MaineDOT, typically we inspect bridges once every two years and if things get more acute, we inspect them annually. We're now inspecting the dike twice a year just to -- just to make sure it's safe and because of our own concerns.

Really kind of some of the milestones for this project that leads us here tonight is MaineDOT has been studying this for several years, well over a decade. What's really changed in the past 18 months is MaineDOT received correspondence from federal resource agencies that an in-kind replacement for what's there today is no longer viable. We've also received feedback and a legal determination that we have the ability to reimburse property owners who are

1 directly impacted by the -- by the project, and
2 since we've kind of taken in-kind -- or the
3 in-kind replacement was off the table, MaineDOT
4 has gone back and looked at all together just
5 under 20 alternatives to improve the causeway.

6 We've also heard from folks, and we'll talk
7 about the project's purpose and need in a few
8 minutes, that whatever we do, MaineDOT should
9 look for ways to enhance the causeway features
10 not just in Machias but Down East Maine and
11 state-wide significance as well.

12 The regulatory framework of this project
13 and a lot of these studies we do, as you may be
14 aware, the majority of Maine DOT's capital
15 funding comes from federal sources. With federal
16 money comes federal constraints. Also, any
17 project, regardless of how it's paid for, that is
18 coastal or any project that requires a federal
19 permit such as the dike bridge will need to
20 follow federal process requirements. There's
21 many rules and laws but to focus in on three, the
22 National Environmental Policy Act will help
23 govern our decision, the Endangered Species Act
24 and Section 106 the Historic Preservation Act.

25 As Bill mentioned earlier, there's a lot

1 consider different alternatives and look at kind
2 of a data-driven approach to kind of somewhat
3 qualitatively but predominantly quantitatively
4 score and evaluate different alternatives. Then
5 when we get to kind of where we think we are
6 tonight with a preferred alternative, that allows
7 us to move forward and by following the federal
8 process and going through with the documentation,
9 we try to minimize or avoid impacts but if there
10 are impacts, we can mitigate them or in this case
11 one of the things that we'll talk about is
12 reimbursing property owners, the purpose and need
13 that we've talked about for the last couple of
14 years, high level from -- MaineDOT is a
15 transportation organization, have a structure
16 rating of good condition compared to poor today,
17 essentially keep a safe Route 1 open as well as
18 preserving the Calais Rail Branch Corridor.
19 That's a core focus of the project. It is a
20 transportation project, however, along the way we
21 talked to a lot of folks, we talked to a lot of
22 folks locally, we've heard from a lot of people
23 and we expanded the purpose and need to include
24 things such as maintaining existing uses at a
25 minimum, the vending area, parking area. We want

1 of sensitivity regarding the dike and different
2 options considered for this project. We heard
3 earlier today from a lot of people really
4 imploring us not to make any changes. I've also
5 heard from several people on the phone today
6 asking us to build a big bridge to restore tidal
7 flow. This project has a lot of -- there's a lot
8 of passion and a lot of strong feelings for this
9 project. When it comes to kind of the federal
10 process, federal decisionmaking under NEPA, we --
11 we start out trying to look at problems, trying
12 to look at needs and how to move forward as
13 opposed to jumping to solutions and alternatives.
14 Not everybody is going to agree on that it should
15 be a bridge or it should be a causeway but most
16 people will agree that Route 1 in Down East Maine
17 is pretty important. It's important for the
18 economy, a safe Route 1 is important, as well as
19 the viability of the Sunrise Trail in Calais
20 branch, so we kind of started up here in the
21 public meetings that we've had already on this
22 project, we focused a lot on purpose and need
23 which I'll talk about for this project in a
24 second. As part of the federal process, once we
25 have this high-level purpose and need, we

1 to make sure that whatever MaineDOT does should
2 consider whether it's a seawall or other adjacent
3 planning. Any solution MaineDOT comes up with
4 should minimize flooding and look at coastal
5 impacts. We should also look for ways to improve
6 fish passage and accommodate sea level rise.
7 And kind of starting out with this
8 purpose and need, looking at almost 20 different
9 alternatives, MaineDOT made the determination
10 based on purpose and need, a bridge -- not a
11 bridge the entire length of the causeway, I think
12 it's listed 120 to 150 feet, kind of in the
13 middle is what we feel best meets the project's
14 purpose and need. It will allow for a continued
15 safe Route 1, it will allow us to factor in sea
16 level rise. As part of this bridge alternative,
17 MaineDOT can continue to work with the town,
18 regional stakeholders by not just maintaining
19 uses that exist today but really expanding
20 additional uses. The causeway -- a bridge will
21 also help the recovery of endangered species and
22 a bridge will be eligible for federal
23 transportation funding and as we continue down
24 the process, MaineDOT will compensate directly-
25 impacted property owners.

1 So where do we go from here? We had a
 2 meeting earlier today that many of you were at
 3 kind of focused with property owner concerns.
 4 MaineDOT is not starting construction on the
 5 project in 2022. MaineDOT is not starting
 6 construction on the project in 2023. This
 7 project -- various planning efforts have been
 8 going on on the dike for over ten years. We're
 9 now formalizing this with a preferred alternative
 10 which we're going to carry forward and document
 11 all the information we've heard to date, both
 12 from the public, both from stakeholders as well
 13 as scientific information we've gathered, as well
 14 as continuing to gather additional information.
 15 We heard a lot earlier today and in the past
 16 couple days related to concerns with the clam
 17 flats, related to concerns with the former town
 18 landfill. All this information will be gathered
 19 and be taken forward into an EA and before we
 20 conclude the environmental assessment process, we
 21 will be back here for another formal public
 22 meeting.

23 We're also going to continue the
 24 conversation with directly-impacted landowners.
 25 You'll see my e-mail at the end of this

1 presentation. There are on the back table in
 2 envelopes comment cards which you can reach me
 3 on. We'll continue to gather input but we do
 4 realize landowners impacted will have some unique
 5 concerns and will be involved in this process for
 6 the next -- the next couple years through
 7 continued planning and design. There are a bunch
 8 of these pamphlets, MaineDOT Projects and Your
 9 Property. On the back they describe the process
 10 in detail. So as we move forward after tonight,
 11 not just gather your input, we're still going to
 12 reach out and have conversations of what the
 13 process will entail for those directly affected,
 14 and then there's -- planning is not over tonight.
 15 We've identified that MaineDOT is taking a
 16 preferred alternative forward. We've also made
 17 the commitment to continue to work with the Town
 18 of Machias, yourselves and others about what can
 19 we do together to make the causeway area a
 20 special place. Obviously we -- we've been here
 21 on Saturdays during peak vending times, we've
 22 noticed some safety concerns, that's something we
 23 want to look at. We've heard ideas from
 24 greenspace, overlooks, continued ATV and
 25 snowmobile use, we've heard ideas about a

1 sidewalk on the other side of the dike. Those
 2 are the sort of features that later this summer
 3 and into this fall we want to work with you on.
 4 Just moving on to next steps, I'm going
 5 to pass it over to Dale who will introduce you to
 6 the planning process.

7 MR. DOUGHTY: As Marty said, a lot of
 8 tonight is to hear from you. I think we'd like
 9 to hear from -- there's a lot of people here
 10 tonight so I'm hoping we hear from everyone. A
 11 couple things, I know it says, number one, raise
 12 your hand but I think if you could, kind of work
 13 your way to the mike, a few people, and cycle
 14 through. If for some reason you don't feel like
 15 you can work your way to the mike, please raise
 16 your hand and Mike in the back, another Mike, a
 17 different Mike, we'll see if we can get the mike
 18 to you if for some reason you don't feel that you
 19 should work your way to the mike. If you could
 20 state your name, your municipality and if you're
 21 representing an organization, especially
 22 something affiliated with, if you would let us
 23 know, that will help us contact you and put your
 24 comments in context. There are a lot of people
 25 here. What we hope is you'd limit your comments

1 to about three minutes and let the next person
 2 speak. One of the reasons we'd like to do that
 3 is, one, to get everybody through. We'd also
 4 like to have some time in the end for us to come
 5 out and talk to you individually. So if you have
 6 more than three minutes' worth of comments, if
 7 you could kind of keep those concise, we're more
 8 than happy to stick around and come chat with you
 9 after.

10 As Marty said earlier, MaineDOT will be
 11 accepting comments going forward. Here's Marty's
 12 information. He's got a comment card in the back
 13 of the room and you can get ahold of any of us if
 14 you can't remember Marty's contact information
 15 and we'll filter it to Marty. So I guess I'll
 16 open it up to the public. If things go on for a
 17 little while, I may stand up. That just means
 18 you've kind of gone well beyond your three
 19 minutes. Yes, sir.

20 MR. SPRAGUE: My name is Lloyd Sprague.
 21 I live in Marshfield. I'd like to have you go
 22 back to one of the pictures that you were showing
 23 on there. It's high tide on one side but it's
 24 low tide on the other.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think you passed

1 it.

2 MR. SPRAGUE: No, he didn't pass it. Go

3 back. Right there. Go the other way. Right

4 there. On the right side is high tide, on the

5 left side it's low tide. If it was high tide on

6 the other side, it would be going up all the way

7 up around Dunkin' Donuts. Dunkin' Donuts will

8 not last very long because there's that filled

9 land and I helped fill that. I used to own that.

10 We got permission to fill that. When the tide

11 starts washing that, that will all go. So that's

12 a misrepresentation of what's going on.

13 I would also like to have each of you say

14 your name and go on record as saying which is

15 more important, fish or humans. Would you please

16 do that for me?

17 MS. TAYLOR: No, we're not going to do

18 that.

19 MR. SPRAGUE: Okay. So you don't --

20 MS. TAYLOR: We're here to have a

21 conversation. We are trying to protect Route 1.

22 We are caught in a fish situation. Our mission

23 isn't to pass the fish. We have been told we

24 cannot keep it as it is. I am worried about your

25 bridge, I'm worried about keeping Route 1 open.

1 At a certain point we have to take some action

2 and that's what this is about.

3 MR. SPRAGUE: Okay.

4 MS. TAYLOR: I think -- I am happy to

5 sponsor a meeting with NOAA to come up here and

6 do this. Whether they'll come, I don't know but

7 we'll invite them to have this conversation and

8 you can ask them that.

9 MR. SPRAGUE: Also, we were told that the

10 landowners that would be hurt by this would be

11 reimbursed. Does that mean that right now we

12 could have our property assessed what it's worth

13 and then after it's ruined they'll get the

14 difference from the State?

15 MS. TAYLOR: I'm going to answer broadly

16 and then let Heath answer. This is going to be a

17 frustrating process for property owners for the

18 next year because of the NEPA process, we cannot

19 talk to you about numbers and money. We're not

20 allowed to. So I know it's frustrating, it

21 stinks but we -- one of the reasons why we chose

22 a preferred alternative instead of both the

23 culvert and a bridge right now is this process is

24 mandated to be done in a year. If we had kept

25 multiple alternatives, it would have gone on

1 longer so we're hoping to be able to get to an

2 answer sooner by doing this. Heath?

3 MR. SPRAGUE: Can I just say one more

4 thing and then I won't bother you?

5 MS. TAYLOR: No, you're good.

6 MR. SPRAGUE: Everyone that's sitting

7 here that wants the dike fixed, would you raise

8 your hand? Everyone that wants the dike fixed,

9 raise your hand? See, we want the clappers

10 fixed. And also I just want to say this: when

11 he said he got many phone calls from people that

12 voted the bridge, evidently they don't live here

13 if they have to be by phone. Please do not

14 disturb what we have in Machias.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. TAYLOR: I can tell you I completely

17 understand these comments. We stalled on this

18 project for over ten years. We have not gone

19 forward with any flooding option for over ten

20 years trying to get NOAA, frankly, to let us do

21 in-kind solution. They have finally come out and

22 said they will not allow it. That's where

23 MaineDOT is. They will not allow it. We have

24 tried -- tried to do that. I will say one of the

25 reasons why we went to the bridge option rather

1 than the culvert option is the culvert option

2 would flood less. It floods like 125 acres, 50

3 acres, and all this is still approximate, okay?

4 We need to just -- partly why we need to move

5 forward is to get more information. The bridge

6 option floods about 400 acres. If you're in that

7 Zone between 150 and 400 acres, you're like in

8 land purgatory because what NOAA has said to us

9 if we did the culvert, they're going to make us

10 sample for fish every year and reevaluate whether

11 they're going to continue to want more flooding

12 and more passage. In the last letter they wrote

13 to us, we know we can't meet the fish passage

14 standard they set with the culverts and so we

15 asked them, so what are you going to do to us if

16 we do the culverts, and basically we might just

17 keep making you take the gates off the boxes

18 which means we're still going to flood 400 acres

19 and we don't have a process to really work with

20 people who are in this in-between place, and so

21 we felt, you know, that going to the bridge

22 option at least gave people some closure rather

23 than have them not know for 10 or 15 years

24 whether their land is going to be flooded, but

25 this is a preferred alternative, right? If we

1 find out information about the landfill, if we
 2 find out information about the clam flats, the
 3 alternative could flip. We could tell NOAA we --
 4 you know, I don't think we can ever go back to
 5 just fixing the dike, okay, but I think the only
 6 other option was the culvert option and that is
 7 what we've been left to deal with.

8 MR. COWAN: This is Heath again. (Phone
 9 ringing) Just from a property value standpoint,
 10 generally speaking, how it would work is we will
 11 have an appraiser that comes out. Again, this is
 12 at some point in time in the future when we have
 13 that preferred alternative which if it becomes a
 14 chosen alternative, we will figure out what the
 15 impacts are going to be, what the actual
 16 elevation of the flooding would be and then we'll
 17 look to see what your property values are before
 18 the project and what they will be after the
 19 project due to those impacts and you'd be
 20 eligible to be compensated for the difference
 21 between the two. So basically you'd have a fair
 22 market value before and you'd have a fair market
 23 value afterwards and then the difference between
 24 the two would be your compensation, again,
 25 generally speaking.

1 MS. TAYLOR: And there is a Land Claims
 2 Board so if you disagree, which people often do,
 3 there's another process you can go through
 4 without a lawyer. It's set up so landowners can
 5 go and represent themselves. So just because we
 6 give you a price doesn't mean that's the end of
 7 it and you have to go hire a lawyer.

8 MR. COWAN: And just to go a little bit
 9 further with that, that's called the State Claims
 10 Commission and it's a board made up of three
 11 people. It would be a county commissioner, it
 12 would be an appraiser, as well as a lawyer. DOT
 13 would explain to that board how they came up with
 14 those values, you'd explain to them how you think
 15 the values are incorrect and then you could get
 16 an additional award from that board. You'd never
 17 get less out of that board. If you still didn't
 18 agree with the State Claims Commission, you'd
 19 have the opportunity to go to the superior court
 20 here in the State of Maine. At that point in
 21 time you probably would incur some real costs
 22 because you'd probably want to have a lawyer, but
 23 as Joyce said, you don't need a lawyer to go into
 24 the State Claims Commission. You certainly can
 25 have one if you'd like but you don't need to.

1 MS. TAYLOR: Other questions?

2 MR. DOUGHTY: Do we have somebody else?

3 MR. ALBEE: Hello, my name is Geary

4 Albee, I'm from Marshfield. I am a landowner
 5 down there along the river. I've got three minor
 6 things I'd like to touch on just a little bit.
 7 First I'll start with history. You may not like
 8 history down there but I'm going to mention it
 9 anyway. On my deeds that I have it mentions long
 10 beds. Anyone here know what a long bed is?
 11 Well, years ago there was a community effort,
 12 when Machias first settled a lot of farmers,
 13 landowners, village members, they all took the
 14 cattle down there in a community effort and
 15 grazed them altogether, and then it was divided
 16 up into small sections and they had a problem
 17 with flooding. So long beds were dug by hand,
 18 impossible to get machinery down there. The long
 19 beds were dug by hand, nobody used spikes, it was
 20 ditched, probably took over a thousand feet from
 21 Joy's land down to the edge of the river.
 22 There's probably, counting, 15 or 20 of them.
 23 The long beds, the longest ones are probably
 24 close to quarter mile. They dug those by hand,
 25 the community did. You don't care. You're going

1 to -- it's not enough if -- you've made that
 2 decision already but look at the history that was
 3 here back in 1800s that made it -- that's
 4 probably wrong -- late 1800s, early 1900s. That
 5 was hand work. I'll get over that.

6 Number two, the chemical EFSAs, I was hit
 7 with that. I was told I could not hay anymore at
 8 Machias Valley Airport because there was some
 9 human sludge that was dumped out there over the
 10 years. Now, we've got some false information
 11 going on here, folks. This EFSA was a chemical
 12 used as a fire retardant we've been told all
 13 these years. It's in the seats you're sitting on
 14 to slow the burn rate down, the chairs you have
 15 in your house to slow the burn rate down, the
 16 mattresses on your bed. That's where the
 17 chemical was used. My question is, how did it
 18 get in human sludge? It comes through our bodies
 19 to get in that sludge. Where is it, folks? No
 20 one is telling us. Is it acid rain?
 21 Uncontrollable. How many sites up and down the
 22 dike have you tested for EFSAs right now? The
 23 dump sites, there's two of them there. Somewhere
 24 along the line you're going to find EFSAs are
 25 going to start up again when this chemical is

1 started to be used. Maybe not the first site
 2 down there by the railroad tracks. It may not be
 3 there because very, very early history, I don't
 4 know what was dumped there, a little bit of
 5 leather, maybe wagon wheels, whatever, but if you
 6 get into the newer dump up there where they've
 7 got the test sites now up by the collection
 8 center, you might find some EFSAs there. Down on
 9 the dike where my cattle are there are three
 10 streams running through there. I didn't mention
 11 it but I do have cattle down there.
 12 Probably there's 60, 75 acres down there that I
 13 own and that's where I run my cows. They're
 14 strictly beef.

15 But the next question is, you mentioned
 16 it just a little, the money being used in this
 17 project was federal money coming up. Okay, years
 18 ago what money built that dike? Was it local
 19 money? Was it local volunteer money? Because we
 20 wanted a passage to go to East Machias and there
 21 weren't very many vehicles then. We were
 22 probably processing parts. Did we build that
 23 bridge ourselves? Was there any State money
 24 used? Do you have that history there, who paid
 25 for all that originally? I know they were all

1 local builders, very few dump trucks in the area.
 2 That's why it probably was built with gravel and
 3 not large stones like it probably should be right
 4 now, like a jetty built out into the ocean. It
 5 would last a long time if it was large stones.
 6 My question is, maybe the locals ought to come up
 7 with building this again. Thank you.

8 MS. TAYLOR: So Kristen didn't write down
 9 your first piece that you shared about the
 10 history because I wasn't familiar with that. I
 11 don't know if you were. So that's good
 12 information. That's the kind of information we
 13 do need because this is preferred alternatives,
 14 not chosen alternatives.

15 MR. ALBEE: It sounds it.

16 MS. TAYLOR: I understand, that's why
 17 we're here, to try to explain it. We are
 18 currently working on doing some test pits with
 19 the old dump. I completely understand what
 20 you're saying. I can tell you that I don't see
 21 us moving forward with a bridge if we are going
 22 to cause contamination. I think that's a show
 23 stopper and that's where we go back to NOAA and
 24 say, hey, we just learned some more information.
 25 So right now part of what we're doing is we're

1 getting more information on the dump, we've
 2 engaged DEP and said you guys need to have to get
 3 involved here because we need to understand, you
 4 know, can we fix it, is it unfixable, what's the
 5 deal because both the culvert option and the
 6 bridge actually raise the watertable so there's a
 7 problem either way, so we need to figure that
 8 out. We will share reports with people when that
 9 comes and we're also going to chase through kind
 10 of I noticed some issues that came up earlier
 11 today about siltation and what happens. The
 12 preliminary testing that we've done of the area
 13 that might be dredged looks really promising but
 14 we haven't -- we haven't gone as far as we need
 15 to go. We need more information, okay, and we're
 16 going to get more information.

17 MR. DOUGHTY: Would someone else like to
 18 speak?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Does the sound
 20 system go up any higher?

21 MS. TAYLOR: Oh, can you not hear us? I
 22 don't want to sound like I'm yelling at you.

23 MR. ROONEY: It sounds like it's really
 24 loud up here, so we're talking soft but we won't
 25 do that anymore.

1 MR. ROBBINS: My name is Joe Robbins. I
 2 have a business in East Machias, most of the
 3 people over here are my friends. I'm a fisherman
 4 too. We moved to Machias from Eastport in 1960.
 5 I made my first trip up the Middle River to catch
 6 trout, I got several, took 'em home, my
 7 stepfather scolded me because half of them were
 8 salmon and that's all I want to say about the
 9 fish.

10 I think if we do go back to gates,
 11 leaving some open for fish passage may be a good
 12 alternative and they could be monitored.

13 MS. TAYLOR: Thank you.

14 MR. ROBBINS: That's all I have to say.

15 MS. TAYLOR: Thanks.

16 MR. DOUGHTY: Feel free to come right up.

17 MS. TAYLOR: Don't be shy, that's why
 18 we're here. And honestly, part of the preferred
 19 alternative, if you tell us stuff we don't know,
 20 that goes into the record. That's part of this
 21 process, so we do need to hear it.

22 MR. WHITE: Howdy. My name is David
 23 Whitney. I'm from Marshfield. I moved to
 24 Marshfield from Machias. It was a long trek. A
 25 lot of friends in this room and I think everybody

1 in this room is conservation minded. I don't see
 2 anybody here that doesn't care about fish and
 3 wildlife and there's -- there's a balance about
 4 the wildlife. It sounds like -- I was at the
 5 meeting today so I may be a little bit repetitive
 6 for you but there's new people here, but NOAA is
 7 steering the ship in a big, big way and I think
 8 that NOAA really needs to be at the table and
 9 understand what we're dealing with. I'm not
 10 qualified to give an analysis about what -- what
 11 the two dumps could do to the sediment and the
 12 leachate and how it moves downstream to
 13 potentially Machiasport and Cutler and those clam
 14 beds but if -- I'll just say if that happens, the
 15 economic impact to this area, clamming is very
 16 large in terms of the economic engine and of
 17 course, the clammers themselves in recent years
 18 have had kind of a boom, the price has been high,
 19 the quantity has been good. The Town of Machias
 20 has shut off clamming for the folks in East
 21 Machias for a number of years and parts of
 22 Machiasport because of our sewer system, and
 23 that's -- that's a sore subject, but this is
 24 something that we're going into hopefully eyes
 25 wide open, and so if we hurt those clam beds and

1 it shuts off that economic engine, it doesn't
 2 just hurt the clammers. It hurts Pineo's True
 3 Value which sells boots and gloves and baskets
 4 and Johnson's Town Line that sells tires and
 5 fixes the rusted-out vehicles and inspects them,
 6 and Whitney's Tri-Town Marine that sells a few
 7 trailers and boats and motors and Hannaford and
 8 on and on and on and rents and mortgages and
 9 livelihoods. We have a depleting number of
 10 people that live here. The population in Maine
 11 is getting older. The population in Washington
 12 County is getting older still. I've got a son
 13 who is unbelievably bright, I mean, I don't know
 14 how he gets the grades. It didn't come from me,
 15 but he's clamming this summer because it's so
 16 lucrative or hopefully lucrative. He really
 17 hasn't gotten into it. This is an attraction for
 18 young kids. This clamming industry is something
 19 that keeps them here. They might have a job at
 20 the post office, they might have a job, you know,
 21 in a government agency, they might have a job
 22 with the town, the university and they also clam
 23 but there are a lot of people that make clamming
 24 their livelihood and that is so, so enormous. I
 25 mean, I could come up with all kinds of excuses

1 why this shouldn't happen, not the least of which
 2 Trail 101 which is two trail clubs, the Down East
 3 Trail Riders and the Ridge Riders' Trail Club,
 4 two clubs that have developed that trail through
 5 the generosity of two of the landowners that are
 6 going to be impacted and then landowners beyond.
 7 There is no way around that trail. Back in the
 8 sixties and seventies when there was no trail
 9 system and people accessed woods roads, they were
 10 just finding ways and the only way to get from
 11 Machias through Marshfield to get beyond to
 12 Northfield and Wesley and whatnot was to go
 13 across the Machias Middle River and that relied
 14 on ice, and I remember as a kid watching when
 15 Wayne Carter decided it was safe to cross the
 16 river, then it was safe to cross the river and
 17 then as the clapper gates stopped working as
 18 efficiently and the saltwater came, it became
 19 even less reliable. So that trail system is
 20 paramount for the snowmobiling industry and it is
 21 also an industry here in Washington County as you
 22 well know. DOT is a part of it, and it's
 23 important. These are all important things. I
 24 appreciate you guys. I can see what a balancing
 25 act you have, you have a challenge in front of

1 you and you want to hear all sides. Thank you
 2 very much for listening.
 3 (Applause)
 4 MR. DOUGHTY: Thank you. Would someone
 5 else like to speak?
 6 MR. KIDDER: How you doin'? My name is
 7 Eric Kidder and I'd just like to say I sold on
 8 that dike for 17 years. I've seen striped bass
 9 come out of that water on the opposite side of
 10 that dike 42, 48 inches, I don't understand about
 11 the salmon, whatever. You know, they say salmon
 12 can't survive at present but the bass survived,
 13 they come out there and I'm not a hundred percent
 14 sure but I believe and I think my wife's great,
 15 great grandfather put a wooden pier in there
 16 originally and made that dike what it is today
 17 through a wooden pier. Now, I know it doesn't
 18 mean a lot to some. When I started there 17
 19 years ago, we had three people down at that dike.
 20 If they destroy the dike now, we're going to be
 21 right back to square one again where I'm the only
 22 one down there again and have to be built back
 23 up, people who bring business to this town. When
 24 people come in here, they have to buy gas, go out
 25 to eat, whatever. As much as a lot of people say

1 that we don't do nothing for the Town of Machias,
 2 well, we do by selling our wares and also do it
 3 by giving business, buying gas and stuff that we
 4 need, and I'm also concerned about the sewerage
 5 treatment plant running in there. What about
 6 that? You know, about all that gunk and stuff
 7 coming straight in there stinking to high heaven.
 8 They say it's treated. Well, is it really
 9 treated? You know, I don't think it is. I've
 10 seen that go in people's food up there at Helen's
 11 Restaurant. I've been down there in the
 12 wintertime when the Dike's (indiscernible), I've
 13 been down there when it's flooded, you know, I've
 14 been down there every imaginable way. I kept
 15 people back so we didn't have accidents down
 16 there, you know, I fought for 17 years to be able
 17 to (indiscernible). Right now we got a full dike
 18 but that's going to be all gone. That will be
 19 all completely gone and for how many years?
 20 Probably three if we put a bridge in there, you
 21 know, and chances are there's probably not going
 22 to be a comeback. That's about all I have to
 23 say. Thank you.

24 MS. TAYLOR: Thank you.

25 MR. DOUGHTY: Anybody else who would like

1 to speak?

2 MS. BARKER: My name is Julie Barker from
 3 Helen's in Machias. Before Helen's, my husband
 4 and I owned the knit shop and farm in Machias and
 5 we now live in East Machias where we can look and
 6 look down on Schoppe Marsh. I didn't know they
 7 were called long beds. I can see lots of those
 8 from my house every morning and had seen them
 9 from the farm for years. When the trail clappers
 10 were removed from our property, no one ever
 11 mentioned that it was happening. They put in a
 12 trail, that was great, they removed the clappers
 13 and we didn't have any land to put -- Dave Craven
 14 had brought his sheep to pasture at the farm.
 15 The next year he couldn't do that because the
 16 land was covered with water. It doesn't flow out
 17 very fast, it's a muddy mess, so we can
 18 definitely see what's happening with that.

19 As far as Helen's goes, we kind of have
 20 our fleet all over the place, our son is a
 21 clammer from Machiasport involved in the
 22 conservation of clams in Machiasport. So knowing
 23 that it's contaminated, a lot of the time when
 24 there's overflow when the rain is bad, it impacts
 25 them. Clams are one of our biggest sellers at

1 the restaurant. We buy only local clams, so this
 2 is a very important piece.

3 I wish somebody from NOAA would be here.
 4 My grandkids live above Middle River Bridge.
 5 They catch sea trout at their house in the river
 6 and they are above. So the fish get in, the fish
 7 are getting in. The stripers are there. You
 8 know, as far as the controlling of the fish, it's
 9 very difficult to say, you know, they're going to
 10 be monitored to see where the salmon are coming
 11 from and it's difficult for us -- those of us who
 12 live here who see the fish are there. Maybe not
 13 all of them but green crabs are there and sea
 14 crabs are there. So it's -- it is an emotional
 15 piece but we all -- like John said, no one here
 16 is not an environmentalist. That's how we
 17 survive. We are Down Easters, we work hard, we
 18 try to support one another, we buy as much local
 19 as we can at the restaurant and we will continue
 20 to do so and, you know, clams might not be as
 21 important to NOAA as the salmon, I'm not sure
 22 where that goes but maybe whales are more
 23 important than lobsters to NOAA. So, you know,
 24 it's a tough pill to swallow when we think
 25 uneducatedly that fixing those clappers would be

1 cheaper for the State, it would be more time --
 2 it would save time. As the project goes, it's
 3 difficult to see. David and I have not done a
 4 very good job of protecting the point from
 5 erosion because we've had a fire, we've dealt
 6 with the pandemic, we're just kind of mowing the
 7 lawn and leaving it out there but it is eroding
 8 some and living at the farm since 2004, very
 9 rarely have we ever seen water splash over the
 10 trail or the dike, occasionally debris and at the
 11 restaurant, I've worked at the restaurant since
 12 1981, the water has never come any higher than it
 13 ever has around the restaurant. It comes to a
 14 certain point and then within a half an hour it's
 15 gone back out. Is it deal? No. Has it always
 16 happened? Yes. And I do think that the water is
 17 rising. I do see where that's splashing out, and
 18 where the little lighthouse used to be, we took
 19 that down because of that reason.

20 So thank you for being honest with us and
 21 please get NOAA to come to Machias to listen to
 22 what people would have to say.

23 MS. TAYLOR: I will do my best and I will
 24 guarantee that we will be sending them the
 25 transcript of this meeting. So I did want to

1 just say something. It's not as easy as fixing
 2 the clappers. The beams in the boxes are
 3 rotting. This is a whole project. I mean, it's
 4 not just putting clappers on. I haven't said
 5 much about it but when Marty mentioned that we
 6 inspect it every six months, you know, as chief
 7 engineer, I have a responsibility to post and
 8 close roads. I've done that. I've got a lot of
 9 people who haven't liked me over the years but I
 10 do what I have to do to keep people safe. I
 11 don't want to have to do that here. I don't want
 12 us to get to that situation, and so we're trying
 13 to get to an alternative that could be built
 14 because we don't want to be in that position. We
 15 haven't talked much about that but I just wanted
 16 to share that that is something that we're
 17 concerned about. If that concrete slab that's
 18 over those boxes goes right now, we don't know
 19 how to fix it, and so that's really troubling to
 20 me and so we're trying to keep an eye on the
 21 condition of the box. The first thing we need to
 22 do is post the bridge and get the heavy trucks
 23 off, but we don't want to be in a position where
 24 this goes on, you know, for six or seven more
 25 years and we end up closing the bridge. So I

1 just wanted to share that.
 2 MR. CARTER: Hi, my name is Wayde Carter
 3 and I'm a selectman here for the Town of
 4 Marshfield. I was born in Machias, grew up in
 5 Marshfield, I fished Middle River, my father was
 6 a game warden, I spent a career as a game warden
 7 and I have seen Atlantic salmon, stripers, sea
 8 trout, smelts, glass eels, all of them. I spent
 9 a lifetime on the river. I still spend time on
 10 the river with my kids.
 11 Has there been any studies as to what's
 12 there and what's not there as far as fish? Have
 13 you done any studies?
 14 MS. CHAMBERLAIN: We haven't done any
 15 formal studies. We've been relying on State and
 16 federal agencies to offer what's there and also
 17 the regulatory framework for endangered
 18 species -- the protection for some of the species
 19 is there regardless if the species are there.
 20 MS. TAYLOR: I would just say DMR, IF&W,
 21 U.S. Fish & Wildlife, NOAA have all been giving
 22 us their information because we take it from
 23 them. I think what is concerning is that NOAA
 24 offered with the culvert, the fish passage number
 25 that they wanted us to meet is impossible to meet

1 and so that's part of the conversation that we
 2 continue to have with them. I think -- you know,
 3 I don't know what they have for information but
 4 this is good. I think we need to press back and,
 5 you know, there's a lot of anecdotal stuff with
 6 people who have obviously seen fish.
 7 MR. CARTER: I was a game warden for over
 8 20 years and I enforced the laws there. In the
 9 1990s, NOAA pushed us into putting more
 10 restrictive trout fishing regulations in because
 11 of the salmon. We spent 26 million a year for
 12 years and years and years to bring back the
 13 salmon. They're not coming back. We could spend
 14 26 million a year to bring the dinosaurs back too
 15 but they're not coming back. Things go extinct.
 16 People don't. So what's more important, the
 17 Atlantic salmon or people?
 18 MS. TAYLOR: That's a good question for
 19 NOAA.
 20 MR. CARTER: I want to know what the
 21 studies are because you can open up that
 22 passageway and there could never be another
 23 Atlantic salmon or another fish come through that
 24 bridge and it's too late after we do it. We've
 25 ruined people's land, we've ruined fishing and

1 the other thing I want to mention is Machias --
 2 nothing against Machias, Machias is mentioned as
 3 the one that's losing stuff. Marshfield is
 4 losing more than Machias is. We have 55 people
 5 that are going to be directly affected by this
 6 bridge going in and I would just like some
 7 answers. What are the studies? What fish are
 8 there? What fish were there? What's the
 9 history? Because moving forward without that,
 10 you've got to admit it's a little bit putting the
 11 cart before the horse.
 12 MS. TAYLOR: So conversation, it really
 13 is about the Atlantic salmon at the end of the
 14 day.
 15 MR. CARTER: I know.
 16 MS. TAYLOR: That's really what it comes
 17 down to.
 18 MR. CARTER: I know. I spent 25 years
 19 doing it but they're not coming back. How much
 20 -- there was one quote in the paper back awhile
 21 ago that if they had the money that was spent to
 22 go to Mars, they could bring the Atlantic salmon
 23 back. Do you want to spend that kind of money on
 24 the Atlantic salmon? I mean, let's put something
 25 else in there that is going to thrive. I mean,

1 dinosaurs went extinct. We're not trying to
 2 bring them back.
 3 MS. TAYLOR: I think this is a good
 4 conversation for NOAA. You have no idea how much
 5 we share your frustration because we over build a
 6 lot of bridges because of Atlantic salmon. Our
 7 work on those is crazy to the point that
 8 contractors have about six weeks to be in the
 9 water all summer long and you can imagine how
 10 much we pay for that.

11 MR. CARTER: I understand but how long
 12 are we going to put up with NOAA? I mean,
 13 they're not here. Does anybody see NOAA here?
 14 They won't be here next week, they won't be here
 15 when the economic thing crashes because of the
 16 clamming. They won't be here. They could care
 17 less what happens to Washington County, but let's
 18 bring the salmon back. I think we need to stand
 19 up to NOAA and have both. Why can't we have
 20 both? That's what I have to say.

21 (Applause)

22 MS. TAYLOR: I would say we have stood up
 23 to NOAA since 2009 and we have not been
 24 successful and now the condition of the bridge is
 25 such that that's what's pushing us to do

1 something.
 2 MR. SHAW: Good afternoon. My name is
 3 Dwayne Shaw. I'm the executive director of the
 4 Down East Salmon Federation and yes, I think we
 5 can have both and there are places where many
 6 Maine communities benefit from having both. Some
 7 of these things seem completely infeasible. I've
 8 worked for ten years as a shellfish biologist out
 9 of Beal's Island. I've worked up and down the
 10 coast of Maine doing shellfish restoration with
 11 planners and communities and a good friend of
 12 mine in Harrington called me a couple of -- about
 13 two years ago and he said, Dwayne, what are these
 14 holes out here on the clam flats, I don't know if
 15 it's a seagull or -- there's something going out
 16 here and by the way, we're seeing really strange
 17 fish. You talk about dinosaurs and prehistoric
 18 fish, there's something called a sturgeon, right?
 19 Most people in Machias maybe have never seen one
 20 in the local waters and neither had Bobby Beal
 21 over in Harrington. And we teased it apart and
 22 figured out these are sturgeon and they're coming
 23 on the clam flats and they're taking little Dixie
 24 cup loads of mud out and they're looking for
 25 clams and perhaps crab and other things to eat.

1 So why all of a sudden are there sturgeon in
 2 Pleasant Bay where there's another set of tide
 3 gates by the way, and the only answer that seems
 4 to be likely is that at the Edwards Dam over on
 5 the Kennebec, on any given day you can walk down
 6 to the center of Augusta and watch these
 7 dinosaurs jumping out of the water one after
 8 another. People pull up there and watch them.
 9 It's absolutely amazing. The Penobscot, same
 10 thing. Major, you know, distress, what are we
 11 going to do about these old decrepit structures,
 12 there's a lot of old decrepit infrastructure that
 13 we're wrestling with and they now have shad
 14 fishing, shad derbies going on on that river
 15 where there have been only very, very few shad
 16 ever documented for centuries. So they can come
 17 back, dinosaurs even -- the sturgeon are older
 18 than the dinosaurs in fact. So the point is it's
 19 incumbent upon us to try and to continue to try,
 20 to continue to try to work together and in the
 21 case of Down East Salmon Federation, I said I'm a
 22 resident of the Town of Franklin and I sit right
 23 at Pond Bay and Donnell Pond and I watch -- the
 24 fishing moves back and forth in that location and
 25 we -- the Salmon Federation, which was created by

1 local anglers and conservationists, many of them
 2 are in the room, Gary is one of them, Dave is
 3 another, it's all any number of folks, Julie has
 4 been a supporter of what we've been doing over
 5 time at Helen's and we're in it together. This
 6 stuff is falling apart. It needs to be dealt
 7 with. We can try to throw NOAA under the bus, we
 8 can say, you know, the Endangered Species Act
 9 should never have been passed, you can blame
 10 Richard Nixon for signing the bloody act, but in
 11 the end, we do care about fish and it is possible
 12 to bring these things back and have our cake, our
 13 clams and eat them, but it's not going to be easy
 14 and DOT, in our opinion, the Down East Salmon
 15 Federation, Joe Robbins spoke earlier, we have
 16 about 1,000 members in the region and probably
 17 4,000 people of various walks of life that
 18 support us.
 19 We have two salmon hatcheries, one in
 20 East Machias and one in Columbia Falls and we're
 21 stocking three rivers, the Narraguagus, the
 22 Pleasant and the East Machias, and we're on the
 23 cutting edge of new science around how do you run
 24 a hatchery that actually works. So the federal
 25 people, they can make mistakes over and over and

1 over again and stay in that rut or they can
 2 innovate and, you know, the nongovernmental
 3 groups like the Atlantic Salmon Federation are in
 4 the job of innovation between all of this mess
 5 that we're in, whether it's sea bass or you name
 6 it, stocking salmon that never return. It's not
 7 beyond reasonable doubt that we can figure some
 8 of this out and that what we've done can actually
 9 lead as we have in so many ways over so many
 10 years.

11 The long beds, the history of these
 12 places most of our families were involved in this
 13 in one way or another, loggers, along with
 14 fisherman, you name it, on and on, and today
 15 there's a new economy and I am part of it, the 12
 16 employees that we have working in Washington
 17 County right now, plus numerous interns, tons of
 18 students, lots and lots of volunteers have put
 19 their time, hearts and souls into this and --
 20 because we're making progress and that's the
 21 restoration economy. When we look at a 200-year-
 22 old dam in Whiting and it's for sale, the Down
 23 East Salmon Federation stepped in and bought it.
 24 When there was a house that burned on the dike in
 25 Addison right on the structure, the landowners

1 came to us and said you convinced us, we think
 2 we'd like this to go to you, as did the one buyer
 3 down in Baird who has property up there,
 4 marshland, he came to us and said, yeah, it makes
 5 sense, you should recover these ecosystems that
 6 feed us and that we can be proud of.

7 So we're -- we're here to stay, we want
 8 to work together, we're not going to throw NOAA
 9 under the bus. U.S. Fish, DMR, IF&W, DOT, you're
 10 all moving too slow as far as we're concerned.
 11 This stuff needs to be dealt with and the DEP is
 12 another in terms of the sea bass situation. So
 13 if there's a way to fix some of this, we're --
 14 we want to be right there with you all and that
 15 includes people who use the dike and sell
 16 antiques or whatever they do or putting some
 17 cattle out on the marshes, if there's a way to do
 18 it, we want to try to work together but we are in
 19 support of this alternative at this point in time
 20 and that is contingent upon any future
 21 information that might come that says the clam
 22 flats are going to get contaminated or someone's
 23 well is going to get destroyed or anything like
 24 that. Thank you.

25 MS. TAYLOR: Thank you.

1 (Applause)

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I ask one more
 3 question?

4 MS. TAYLOR: Sure.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Whatever happened
 6 to the salmon where it used to be up in
 7 Narraguagus? Where did that go, the Atlantic
 8 salmon? It's no more. Now there's another one
 9 down here. I don't get it. What happened to the
 10 one up there? Why don't we start that one back
 11 up? That used to be a nice thing up there years
 12 ago when I was a kid. It's not there no more.

13 MR. DOUGHTY: Anybody else who would like
 14 to speak? We can also spend some time with you
 15 individually. Yes, please come on up.

16 MR. ROBBINS: Hello, my name is Charles
 17 Robbins. I'm from away over to Pleasant River.
 18 I have friends in Marshfield and I have friends
 19 in the Salmon Federation so I don't really have
 20 an opinion on this project, but I did work for
 21 the MDOT for a few years, I'm retired, and I
 22 worked on a few bridge projects. Are any of you
 23 familiar with any bridge with similar hydraulics
 24 and water levels and all this compared to this
 25 one here? Do any of you know of a bridge that

1 would compare to this? Anybody?

2 MS. TAYLOR: I'm not entirely sure what
 3 you're asking.

4 MR. ROBBINS: Well, there's got to be
 5 certain hydraulics, the water moving in a certain
 6 direction.

7 MS. TAYLOR: We have been looking at that
 8 and we need more specific information prior to
 9 choosing an alternative. This would be surveys
 10 to get more information on the ground.

11 MR. ROBBINS: A good example I think
 12 would be Bagaduce in Penobscot. We worked on
 13 that bridge. It's a narrow bridge. It's almost
 14 like a Venturi to your carburetor. The water is
 15 channeled into a narrow bridge. It is extreme
 16 currents. We tried to take elevations. We had a
 17 dive team there and while they were playing with
 18 the seals, the water level was equal and in just
 19 a few minutes, like 15 minutes, it fluctuates
 20 because the water is restricted in that area but
 21 when that water moves, you're going to move some
 22 vegetation, silt, gravel, everything in that area
 23 and I think this new way, you're going to be
 24 moving siltation for a long time. Do you have
 25 any plans to handle the siltation?

1 MS. TAYLOR: That's definitely something
2 we need to study more. We don't have solid
3 answers right now but part of looking at this is
4 to answer those questions.

5 MR. ROBBINS: Yeah, but other problems,
6 plant erosion, you have flooding in certain
7 areas. It's going to change the whole
8 environmental impact in that whole area. I don't
9 want to tick off my friends in Marshfield.
10 They've always been my friends and I'm worried
11 about their concerns too. Thank you.

12 MS. TAYLOR: Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 MR. DOUGHTY: Anyone else that would like
15 to speak?

16 MR. SPRAGUE: My name is Chris Sprague, I
17 live in Marshfield and Machias. It's hard for me
18 to set here. I feel like I'm at my own funeral.
19 I've lived in Marshfield for most of my life. I
20 have land -- most of the pictures you have is the
21 majority of the land I have. Now I stand to lose
22 about 90 percent of my property. To me, I know
23 you talked about you've been studying this for
24 ten years and you've got to do more studying.
25 Holy cow. Could we have fixed the clappers when

1 we first noticed the problem and we wouldn't
2 have to run into all this foolishness? You take
3 salmon, salmon were in Marshfield. Mr. Robbins
4 spoke about catching them when he was younger.
5 When he was younger, the clapper system worked
6 completely. It shut off the tide once the tide
7 equaled up so fish get through. There's been
8 some new video on striped -- striped bass up in
9 there I think even the last few days. These fish
10 get through there. It sounds like NOAA wants to
11 pound how many fish up through there? To me,
12 they're just telling the fish where to go instead
13 of where they want to go. It will never be back
14 to what it was if you open it up unless it has to
15 be opened up completely but to me, it will never
16 turn back into what it was. We hay down there,
17 we have cattle, slowly the dike system has been
18 decayed and we haven't been able to get on there
19 to hay. The river banks that are down there,
20 they're just brown now. I live on a peninsula,
21 my land will be a swamp and I could stand here
22 and cry but it affects a lot of people. (Crying)
23 I just wish you would listen to us. I feel like
24 we talk on deaf ears. There are other animals in
25 there, there's a habitat that's there now with

1 very unique animals that will be flooded out and
2 see if we can get some magic fish up there that
3 we don't have. A sturgeon, wow, a sturgeon. How
4 about a manatee? Let's hope maybe a manatee will
5 come up in there. Anyway, I don't really know
6 what to say. Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 MS. TAYLOR: And Mr. Sprague, you asked
9 if someone would come walk your property, and
10 Kristen and I are going to come do that with you.

11 MR. SPRAGUE: Thank you.

12 MR. DOUGHTY: Please.

13 MR. ALBEE: Geary Albee again. You
14 mentioned earlier about a trail system and you
15 want to walk the property. It is beautiful down
16 there where I've got my cattle and they are
17 friendly, they won't chase you really, but it is
18 an opportunity to start at the riverbank down
19 there where the vendors are right now and it
20 would be a beautiful walk up along the river. As
21 you get to the edge, this is another manmade part
22 up there. They dug mounds out next to the river,
23 oh, they must be ten feet high along the
24 riverbanks there, and where the streams run into
25 the river, they couldn't right there but it would

1 be an excellent chance to put some small foot
2 bridges there. If you want to walk up along that
3 river, you're going to see a lot of different
4 birds, there's geese in there right now, there's
5 cormorants in there right now, the geese have
6 already laid their eggs and the little ones are
7 running around, there are minnows in them
8 streams, there's turtles in there. I watched
9 some turtles probably just three weeks ago
10 digging there in the mud. It would be a
11 beautiful nature walk up along that river on the
12 west side. The east side, the bushes are
13 probably five or six foot tall but up there where
14 the meadow grass is, it is nice walking,
15 especially on the high bank along the river. You
16 can see a lot, beautiful along the water and it's
17 an opportunity -- I'd love to walk with you
18 ladies down there, anyone that wants to take a
19 walk along the river, glad to give you a tour.
20 Thank you.

21 MS. TAYLOR: Thank you.

22 MR. WHITNEY: Thank you for allowing me
23 to double dip. My name is David Whitney, I'm
24 from Marshfield. I remember back in 1989, 1988,
25 '89, '90 time period there was a gentleman by the

1 name of Tom Sawyer from Bangor, he's a friend of
 2 mine now, at the time he wasn't, he proposed to
 3 develop an ash landfill in Township 30, and that
 4 -- there was a huge -- I bet maybe 25 percent of
 5 the people in this room worked against Township
 6 30 and I think the slogan was "keep your ash out
 7 of Washington County," and I remember listening
 8 to Tom Sawyer talk about -- and his attorneys
 9 talk about how to mitigate any leachate out of
 10 this landfill, that they had a certain membrane
 11 three-quarters of an inch thick and there was no
 12 way, no way anything was going to get through,
 13 but we were hell bent on protecting the Mopang
 14 Stream because it's a natural -- to use my friend
 15 Charlie's name -- Charlie's phrase, it's a
 16 natural hatchery, just a beautiful fish way and
 17 it's worth protecting. So now I look at what
 18 we're doing with our eyes wide open. We've got
 19 two dumps that we're going to hit and we're going
 20 to have to study it. You know, you've explained
 21 very clearly that it's going to be studied but I
 22 just need to share, that dump when I was a kid,
 23 there were no rules. The rule was you back up
 24 and you dump it, whatever, whatever it was and
 25 who knows what it was, and it was burned and

1 there was no lining, there was no magic lining
 2 and I still agree there's probably still not a
 3 magic lining that's going to stop anything from
 4 leaching. You know, I remember my Ziploc bag
 5 in the back of my truck with a little bit of
 6 halibut in the back. That didn't keep the stink
 7 out, but the point of the matter is there is no
 8 lining on the Machias dump and so now this is --
 9 this is another type of development. It's a
 10 development. Putting in a bridge to some
 11 entities, some people, is a development
 12 opportunity. It's to develop the way it should
 13 be or something, but in the process, we're going
 14 to mitigate that problem. Well, that's what Tom
 15 Sawyer said but man, we weren't going to listen
 16 to that. Tom Sawyer couldn't mitigate it, not
 17 and protect the Mopang Stream but here we have a
 18 dump with no lining and we're somehow going to
 19 potentially mitigate? Sounds like a Super Fund
 20 cleanup site to me. I think we ought to leave
 21 well enough alone and keep that tide at bay, keep
 22 that tide at bay, keep that tide at bay.

(Applause)

24 MR. CRAIG: My name is Dave Craig, I'm
 25 from Bucks Harbor. One thing I ain't heard

1 talked about so far, and I apologize for looking
 2 like a dirt bag but I just came right straight
 3 out of a hay field to get here, and that's what I
 4 want to talk to you about. One thing I haven't
 5 heard talked about is the habitat that's up in
 6 there now that stands to be lost, and I will say
 7 I'm glad you presented yourselves the way you
 8 have because I came here ready to eviscerate,
 9 you know, someone from DOT and you've been
 10 professional and I will throw NOAA under the bus
 11 because they seem to be the villain in this if
 12 they're unwilling to give any and they're doing
 13 the same thing to lobster fishing.

14 One of the biggest industries in the
 15 State of Maine is under threat because of them
 16 but anyways, what I want to talk about is the
 17 reason that that land was made in 1867 to 1868,
 18 and I have the original report to the Secretary
 19 of the Department of -- to the Secretary of
 20 Agriculture describing in detail how the dike was
 21 made, why it was made, the fact that it created
 22 330 acres of grassland and that many local farms
 23 use. I have the original leather-bound book that
 24 that's in, and in Washington County, we have
 25 woodland, we have blueberry land, we have a lot

1 of water, freshwater and saltwater. We don't
 2 have much grassland. Grassland is how we feed
 3 ourselves. Unless you're an absolute vegetarian,
 4 which finest kind, most of us eat meat. We like
 5 to be able to feed ourselves, Geary Albee raising
 6 cattle up there, hay, Chris Sprague, you've heard
 7 from these people. I don't stand to lose
 8 anything, I live down river but these are my
 9 friends, these are fellow farmers and if anybody
 10 thinks this is a joke, go to Hannaford, see what
 11 the price of beef is, see how much there is, see
 12 how empty the shelves are there. For local
 13 people to be able to feed themselves is
 14 important, it's important, and there's another
 15 aspect to that too, and that's deer. Washington
 16 County people love their deer. Believe me,
 17 they'll risk a lot to get a deer. I've witnessed
 18 that firsthand, and -- okay, I'll say one last
 19 thing and then I'll sit down and shut up. Fish,
 20 and I respect Dwayne Shaw, the work that he's
 21 done, Joe Robbins is the most knowledgeable
 22 Atlantic salmon fisherman there is, Charlie's
 23 brother fished for him from here to Russia.
 24 They're actually a sacred fish to me. My Celtic
 25 ancestors, they don't worship them but they look

1 at the salmon as a very special fish and I do,
 2 and I fished for them in three countries, I
 3 poured 29 years of blood and sweat into trying to
 4 keep them alive. I don't know as -- there may be
 5 only one other person in this room that's laid on
 6 the river all night watching a gill net or hide
 7 in the bushes watching someone trying to jig one
 8 when the black flies are so thick you can barely
 9 take a breath. So I'd like to say, don't talk to
 10 me about clamming, you know. How about, you
 11 know, Narraguagus, Pleasant, Machias, East
 12 Machias, Dennys, St. Croix? These are all good
 13 salmon rivers that don't have salmon, and we're
 14 worried about Middle River that never was a
 15 salmon river --

16 (Applause)

17 MR. CRAIG: Take a walk up river by
 18 there. The salmon would get sunburn trying to
 19 get up through, it's about that deep and rocky,
 20 you know. So the grass, the grass is a precious
 21 resource. If people were smart, they'd make
 22 dikes all up and down the coast. 330 acres of
 23 grassland is extremely valuable. It's valuable
 24 for farming but also that whole area is one of
 25 the most deer per square acre, we'll say, of any

1 place Down East and it feeds a big area too.
 2 Deer populate there, there's a lot of feed source
 3 there, they spill over into the surrounding areas
 4 and Maine people and Washington County people
 5 especially have identified deer as a high value
 6 thing.

7 So I -- I can't believe that, you know,
 8 we can do the things that we do with technology
 9 and things. I've got a device here I can talk to
 10 friends in New Zealand, you know, with no trouble
 11 at all but we can't figure out how to rebuild the
 12 dike and put nice new clappers in there? I don't
 13 believe it. Donnie Hanscom and an excavator,
 14 they'll take you down and they'll show you how to
 15 do it --

16 (Applause)

17 MR. CRAIG: You get some stone in there
 18 and put in some nice, fancy stainless steel, I'll
 19 kick in for them, you know. There's got to be
 20 some 2022 version clappers that could function.
 21 I realize there is -- something needs to be done.
 22 I'm with you. I'm glad that I came and heard
 23 what you had to say. I really am because you
 24 fellows are up against it too and you're getting
 25 clashed at a little bit but I think people are a

1 little more sympathetic where you're at in this.
 2 So I hope the takeaway is NOAA needs to be here,
 3 they need to hear this and let's strategize and
 4 see if we can figure this out for the people, the
 5 landowners, the grassland, the salmon,
 6 everything. Thanks.

7 (Applause)

8 MS. TAYLOR: Thank you. So we heard
 9 about the deer earlier so we are going to go back
 10 to Inland Fish & Wildlife and have some
 11 conversations, and I want to be clear, we know
 12 how to fix -- we can build some new boxes.
 13 That's not the issue. We can't get a permit from
 14 Army Corps to do exactly what's there now.
 15 That's where we stand right now.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: State comes before
 17 federal.

18 MS. TAYLOR: That is not our experience.

19 MR. ZAENGLE: My name is Fred Zaengle. I
 20 live up in Whiting off the Rabbit Lane. My wife
 21 and I are both chemists and we just moved up from
 22 Pennsylvania in September so I really admire the
 23 fact that everybody knows everybody and has been
 24 fishing with everybody and so on and so forth.
 25 We haven't been, but we're both chemists and when

1 you talk about disturbing a landfill, especially
 2 a landfill where you used to back up and dump,
 3 there's three things that come to mind, and one
 4 is mercury; two is lead; and three is DDT. I'm
 5 familiar with DDT in that I worked for a company
 6 that used to manufacture DDT. I worked in
 7 chemicals for 52 years, I worked for a company
 8 that used to manufacture DDT and when DDT was
 9 outlawed, all we could do was cover the ground
 10 with asphalt and dike it and leave it and that
 11 particular 14-acre property all outside of
 12 Philadelphia is a wasteland because there is
 13 nothing that could be done. So my point is, by
 14 messing with that dump, and I don't even know
 15 where the dump was but it's up there somewhere,
 16 by messing with that dump, we may be releasing
 17 more toxic chemicals into the ocean with the
 18 tidal flow. So have they looked at DDT, lead and
 19 mercury in the former dump?

20 MS. TAYLOR: That's next; that's next.

21 Now that -- part of this is we started with what,
 22 25 alternatives and we are down to two, so before
 23 you start spending serious money on an
 24 investigation, you've got to get your numbers
 25 down, and so now we're down to the one and

1 testing that dump counts for both the
2 alternatives. So that's where we're at with
3 starting a testing program.

4 MR. ZAENGLE: My question would be, if
5 you find high levels of mercury and lead and even
6 DDT in the dump, does that have any effect on the
7 way you could remediate the dike?

8 MS. TAYLOR: Absolutely. I said
9 previously, you know, if we -- and DEP will be
10 involved -- can't contain the dump and we're
11 going to cause more pollution, I don't see us
12 moving forward with the bridge. That's not what
13 we -- you know, what will happen is we either
14 will close Route 1 and figure it out, we could
15 even bridge the bridge. I've actually looked at
16 bridging the bridge with my maintenance folks
17 where we have some steel beams but you're not
18 going to have trucks on it, you're going to lose
19 a bunch of your vending area and a lot of your
20 causeway if we do that. So that's basically
21 going to make everybody really unhappy, but yeah,
22 I mean, we're going to have to stop and go back
23 to NOAA if that's the case.

24 MR. ZAENGLE: One other thing I heard on
25 the news, and as I say, I'm new in the area so

1 maybe I'm wrong on this but I heard somebody from
2 MaineDOT talk about sea level rise over the next
3 hundred years and the fact that it's going to
4 come up four feet over the next hundred years.
5 I'll be happy to be here five years personally
6 but 95 years from now, if I pass away, 95 years
7 from now are you planning to change the elevation
8 of the whole dike system or the bridge or how are
9 you going to --

10 MS. TAYLOR: Right now, you know, a
11 bridge has a hundred year life so we're going to
12 look at the bridge. That's a commitment DOT has
13 made. That four foot did not come from us, it
14 came from a state technical science committee.
15 Honestly, before we start raising the causeway
16 itself, some people like Helen's are going to
17 have to be splashed with some water for it to get
18 real and so we've basically said we're not
19 raising the roads right now and taking property
20 and impacting people until it's a little more
21 real.

22 MR. ZAENGLE: Thank you.

23 (Applause)

24 MR. MICHAUD: Tom Michaud. I represent
25 the Causeway Commons Building with Dunkin' Donuts

1 and Pat's Pizza in it. I obviously have some
2 concerns about what happens to the property
3 erosion-wise, the well that we survive off from
4 and the pressurized sewer line that serves
5 everything on our side of the river that goes
6 under the river. I'm curious to see what impact
7 the channel change would have on that.

8 It's frustrating to see this process
9 revolve around hunches on fish passage. I wish
10 some studies could be done to prove one way or
11 another what's passing and what's not and I'm
12 curious if you could elaborate on NOAA's role in
13 the permitting process.

14 MS. TAYLOR: So I have my professional
15 assistant here in case I get this wrong but they
16 don't give a permit. They consult through the
17 NECO process and if they end up saying you can't
18 do that alternative and they -- what they did
19 with the existing condition that we tried to do
20 is they used a word called jeopardy and if they
21 use the word jeopardy, we have to take that
22 alternative off the table and Army Corps cannot
23 give us our permit which we need whether we use
24 federal money or not with an Army Corps action.
25 Did I get it right?

1 MS. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes.

2 MS. TAYLOR: Okay.

3 MR. MICHAUD: Has the DOT moved forward
4 with other projects that haven't had NOAA sign
5 off on them or labeled a project in jeopardy?

6 MS. TAYLOR: This is our first jeopardy
7 project.

8 MR. MICHAUD: This is exciting. You have
9 a chance to set a precedent here that sets us in
10 the right space to move forward with this
11 specific town's needs in mind. I'll leave it at
12 that.

13 (Applause).

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So I got here a
15 little bit late so I have a couple questions.

16 THE REPORTER: May I have your name, sir?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't really
18 want to.

19 THE REPORTER: Sir, may I have your name?

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't really
21 want to.

22 THE REPORTER: Okay.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So I'm a
24 commercial fisherman. NOAA is very low for me,
25 they're very low on everything. They've

1 destroyed shrimp, herring and I can keep going
 2 but I'll just leave it at that. So when we have
 3 two inches of rain in a 24-hour period, they shut
 4 the Machias River down all the way for clamming a
 5 bunch of places, red tide, pollution, pretty
 6 nasty stuff, clams are filter feeders. Lobsters
 7 dig into the mud and then -- well, we do have a
 8 precedent here because the bridge in Penobscot,
 9 they closed all above it to lobster fishing
 10 because of mercury, because of the heavy metals,
 11 because they said that it gave us a bad view on
 12 the lobster industry in the State of Maine.
 13 Nobody wants to eat a lobster with mercury in it.
 14 I don't fish that side but I've got a lot of
 15 friends that do and Hog Island is really far up,
 16 it's about four feet of water at low water, maybe
 17 three. Those lobsters will not be able to be
 18 caught. We're looking at the Penobscot River way
 19 more. Machias, I don't want to say it's really
 20 gross what they've done because they treat it but
 21 I'm not really a fan. The clam flats most of the
 22 way up past the historical building are not open,
 23 it's gross, no one wants to eat them. So if you
 24 increase what comes out of there, could you
 25 imagine how far down that impact would go? I

1 mean, you're talking a hundred clam diggers and
 2 probably 20 fisherman. It doesn't sound like a
 3 lot but those are families that need to be taken
 4 into consideration. Penobscot Bay, you can't
 5 scallop there because you might disturb the
 6 bottom, lobster fish there because you might
 7 disturb the bottom. Those people all had to move
 8 down out of that area. What happens is fishermen
 9 don't know where to punch at so they start
 10 punching each other and when you move down river
 11 you're now in someone else's territory. They'll
 12 cut you out, you'll cut them out, and everybody
 13 loses. So you're talking 20 fishermen turns into
 14 a hundred fishermen. It just keeps getting
 15 bigger and bigger and bigger.
 16 I truly don't believe NOAA has got the
 17 interest of fish in mind on this one because look
 18 at Mohegans, pogies. They shut down the
 19 fishermen and I've never seen more fish in my
 20 entire life. Every river from Penobscot Bay up
 21 here is flooded and yet they claim there's no
 22 fish in the ocean. So you can't really say they
 23 care too much about a striper. So when you guys
 24 say they've got to try, well, they're catching
 25 striper there now. Those striper come right up

1 to the dike, them guys walk down and cast right
 2 off the little thing in front of Helen's and they
 3 catch 48-inch, 50-inch striper. So I don't
 4 really see why you need to go past that point.
 5 They're already coming up in, they're already
 6 feeding on pogies. What's the matter? So the
 7 amount of stuff that's going to flow down that
 8 river, not just the land that's going to be lost
 9 but you can go down there at low water and look
 10 at that place and it's not something you really
 11 want to swim in anyway, so I don't really see how
 12 increasing the flow would be better. So I don't
 13 know if -- how they got the Penobscot Bridge
 14 through, probably no one was paying attention,
 15 but this area doesn't want to be another
 16 Penobscot. People want to keep their ground, be
 17 left alone and I get that you're claiming the
 18 Army Corps can't do anything for a permit and I
 19 just don't see that either. I think it's
 20 political. I think that this has been -- how
 21 many years now have we been focused on this?

22 MS. TAYLOR: A long time.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Exactly. I think
 24 it needs to be fixed, left alone and let people
 25 in Washington County dictate what happens in

1 Washington County because it's already bad enough
 2 as it is. Thank you.

3 (Applause)

4 MS. TAYLOR: Thank you. So in case you
 5 missed it, this is a preferred alternative but
 6 the two big things that I think we are still
 7 chasing is the landfill and the impact that the
 8 additional water would cause and it is the
 9 siltation and what happens. We have absolutely
 10 no interest in furthering and causing any closed
 11 clam flats. That is the point where we go back
 12 to NOAA and have a conversation.

13 MR. DOUGHTY: Anyone else that would like
 14 to speak?

15 MR. SHAW: Yeah, Dave had set the double
 16 dipping precedent. Dwayne Shaw with Down East
 17 Salmon Federation, and a question about some of
 18 the other causeways or tidal -- whatever you may
 19 want to call it, DOT has responsibility over the
 20 dike in Addison as well. It's my understanding,
 21 and you can correct me, but after about eight to
 22 nine years of studying, which the two towns of
 23 Columbia and Addison requested the Corps of
 24 Engineers to come in to assist the town -- I'm
 25 sorry -- DOT with an evaluation of hydrology and

1 all the various elements. Most recently DOT I
2 believe announced that they intend to work with
3 NOAA to open that system up.

4 MS. TAYLOR: That's not what happened.

5 MR. SHAW: Could you explain what's going
6 on in Addison since it's such a parallel and many
7 of us have kind of our feet in both watersheds?

8 MS. TAYLOR: Yup, with Addison, we, to be
9 honest, just felt like we were not getting our
10 money's worth out of the Army Corps study. It
11 was going incredibly slow and so we have pulled
12 out of it. We gave it to DMR and our message
13 there is we are going to post the bridge and
14 we'll close it if we have to at this point and,
15 you know, I think there has been very little
16 public process out there to talk to anybody about
17 flooding and at this point I think that, you
18 know, we are not the Department of Restoration.
19 We're just not and we're in a very uncomfortable
20 position in this meeting and I understand the
21 desire for fish passage and restoration
22 everywhere but our job is to keep people safe and
23 our job is to make sure people can get from point
24 A to point B and if that means closing the
25 Addison Bridge, that's what we'll do and, you

1 know, that's not a nice message for people, it
2 hasn't been said too much publically but we are
3 posting it. We find that people -- now, if there
4 can be a solution and you guys work with DMR and
5 everybody is happy about it, I'm all in but right
6 now we're trying to get through this project, and
7 I can tell you, this is my experience is, you
8 know, we have some other conversations going on
9 where there's not Atlantic salmon in southern
10 Maine and the regulations are not set up to flood
11 property. The Army Corps does not -- they want
12 to charge us mitigation here in Machias and we
13 said we're not paying, are you kidding me, you're
14 getting what you want. So I think that there's
15 -- we've given it to DMR but we haven't weighed
16 in that we're, you know, okay with taking it out
17 yet. We're going to post the bridge and if we
18 have to, we'll close it.

19 MR. SHAW: I've got friends and family
20 that live on both sides of that and said the
21 (indiscernible) just the approaches on a couple
22 of sides are already dangerous. DOT is not -- I
23 guess to put it bluntly, DOT seems to have been
24 asleep at the wheel a little bit here because
25 when I go by the telephone poles, they've got a

1 marker on them, this is six feet and if you drive
2 down through there after a big rainstorm, you
3 might end up in six feet of water, so there's an
4 awful lot of going back to the amount of
5 infrastructure where the money is going to come
6 from to deal with these things, the public safety
7 issues, the fishing issues. It's complicated.
8 It's super complicated, and it's going to cost
9 money and it's going to put people to work.
10 There isn't unanimous opinion around what should
11 be done in Addison and Columbia. I've been a
12 resident of Columbia for many years. There's
13 diverse opinions. The Greene family who had a
14 farm there for generations advocated for 40 years
15 to open those tide gates up, Lawrence Drisco, the
16 local school principal for 80 some years, his
17 lifetime, spanned some years, advocated for 50
18 years to open that up. So there's a diversity of
19 opinions and there are laws and we're all faced
20 with that.

21 MS. TAYLOR: Let me say it a little
22 differently because that probably sounded too
23 harsh. I guess what I'm saying is we're here in
24 Machias because we have a public safety issue.
25 That's what's driving a sense of urgency right

1 now to get to a solution. There's a different
2 choice -- the choice to close Route 1 in Machias
3 doesn't sound like a very good choice. Addison
4 has a fairly short detour in comparison. If we
5 have to do that, would it stink if you were the
6 people who had to go around, yup, but at the same
7 point, it's not the same road and that's what we
8 have to look at. So we're looking at public
9 safety. What I would encourage is -- we are not
10 the people to go and convince all of these people
11 that flooding is the best thing that ever
12 happened. We don't understand it ourselves,
13 right? We're in this position for public safety.
14 That's what I'm telling NOAA and DMR they need to
15 do in Addison. They need to carry the
16 conversation. We can talk offline. Let's talk
17 offline about Addison because that's not why
18 we're here.

19 MR. SHAW: Sure, and the communities
20 themselves need to wake up to a lot of these
21 facts. The dump here in Machias, I dumped my
22 trash there for years. It's a ticking time bomb.
23 Somebody is -- at some point there's going to be
24 a problem, whether it's already there and we have
25 to come to understand how bad it is, but with the

1 hurricanes that are predicted, it's just a matter
 2 of time and we've got to get ahead of it and the
 3 Town of Machias should take it upon themselves to
 4 really look into this, not wait for a bridge to
 5 fail before you start thinking about the dump.
 6 The other one that I want to point out, and this
 7 is just -- I'm not asking for an answer but there
 8 is a causeway out to Beals' Island, to Eastport,
 9 it goes right through the Reservation, the Tribe
 10 is involved with the Corps and DOT and other
 11 agencies to look at opening that back up because
 12 the clam flats are dead because of the way that
 13 was filled without any flow of water at all. So
 14 there's a lot of this.

15 MS. TAYLOR: Yes, there is.

16 MR. SHAW: You all have your hands full.

17 MS. TAYLOR: Thank you.

18 MS. ATWOOD: My name is Valerie Atwood.

19 Back in 2009, just so -- just two things that I
 20 want to say so that they're on the record -- was
 21 the first time that I attended a meeting up at
 22 the University on this Machias River dike. I'm
 23 the lady that gave the history. I'm more or less
 24 considered the local historian, and so we've been
 25 at this since at least 2009 and that was a public

1 meeting.

2 The second thing is that the reason the
 3 settlers came to Machias in 1763 was because of
 4 the salt marsh. There had been -- they had lived
 5 in Scarborough, there was a period of drought and
 6 forest fires in that area, they needed feed for
 7 their animals and they came down the coast
 8 looking for a place that they could get salt
 9 marsh or get hay and they found this salt marsh
 10 hay and this is why Machias was settled. Thank
 11 you.

12 (Applause)

13 MS. WOOD: Hi, my name is Stephanie Wood.

14 I am a property owner in Marshfield. I wasn't
 15 going to speak until Valerie mentioned the marsh
 16 hay piece. This has been a long time, it's
 17 exhausting repeating the same thing over and over
 18 but just so people know, my husband along with
 19 many -- Geary and the Getchells and the Bowkers,
 20 all in Marshfield harvest the hay that she's
 21 talking about, so what we stand to lose right now
 22 with the flooding, we will lose at least 1,500
 23 bales of hay a year at \$5 a bale. I looked up
 24 there and I saw the Getchell Boys' sign. Those
 25 boys are part of this harvesting as well. So

1 that's what we're standing to lose. It's more
 2 than the salmon.

3 (Applause)

4 MS. TAYLOR: Thank you.

5 MR. BOWKER: How you doin'? Dan Bowker,
 6 I'm a landowner. I'm going to lose a hundred
 7 percent of my land down there which historically
 8 was used for the hay they're talking about. I am
 9 one of the Bowkers that had been taking hay off
 10 there since I was -- I was a lot shorter than the
 11 hay was definitely. I've been doing it all my
 12 life down there. It's definitely a livelihood.
 13 The one thing that I'm going to ask -- I'm going
 14 to put three organizations on the spot. I want
 15 to ask the three organizations here that are
 16 representing the salmon people that are for the
 17 full bridge, I would like them to come forward
 18 and say that they actually would like to get rid
 19 of our livelihood which basically was created --
 20 it's the reason Machias was created. I'd like to
 21 put them on the spot and ask them to come up and
 22 individually as a representative of the group
 23 they're representing for the bridge say they
 24 would like to get rid of our livelihood, our land
 25 for the salmon. They're the ones saying it for

1 the salmon. We've proven that the salmon go
 2 through the clappers. I can remember as a kid
 3 down there with my father trout fishing, some of
 4 the best trout fishing. There used to be a trout
 5 hatchery on that land, it was on my family land,
 6 there was always a trout hatchery on that. So
 7 I'd like them to come forward and as a
 8 representative of their group, they're here
 9 representing their group tonight, say that they
 10 want to get rid of our livelihood for salmon.
 11 Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 MS. RICE: Hi, I'm Hannah Rice. I grew
 14 up in Marshfield, I actually still live there
 15 now. The house that I grew up in is the house
 16 that you see in every rendering, every picture of
 17 the project, any picture of the dike pretty much
 18 my house that I grew up in is right there. When
 19 I was in high school, I actually had a picture of
 20 my parents' house on the wall in my classroom
 21 where my teacher talked about wanting to flood
 22 and destroy my parents' land back then and that
 23 was with (indiscernible). Anyway, I want to talk
 24 a little bit about the place that I grew up and
 25 about this community and also one of the things

1 that I think is a huge word that comes to mind
 2 when you think of Washington County is self-
 3 sufficiency. People here like to be able to go
 4 and clam and we consume most of the clams that
 5 are clammed here, they hay, they have cows, my
 6 family has chickens, so we don't buy eggs at the
 7 store or you can get them from a friend who has a
 8 farm or whatnot. You can pretty much buy
 9 anything that you need for food-wise here or you
 10 can hunt for it. I know I've shot a couple of
 11 deer out there in that area that is pictured
 12 behind the dike. My dad did that for years too.
 13 Now he lets my sister and I shoot the deer so
 14 that's kind of nice of him. Yeah, so I think
 15 self-sufficiency is a huge thing here and when
 16 you take away something that is as huge as the
 17 dike is to all those landowners, to potentially
 18 the clambers, the lobster fisherman, we've got a
 19 lot of different industries that would be
 20 impacted here. This area is a small community
 21 and our economy is small. So when you affect
 22 some of those big industries for this area, that
 23 has a huge, huge impact not only on those who
 24 have land but also on all those people that we
 25 know that we go and get lobster from or we go and

1 get clams from or we go to their little farm
 2 stand and get their baked goods or whatever. It
 3 affects all of those people and growing up here,
 4 it's been heart breaking to watch for years since
 5 I was in high school, my dad being jerked back
 6 and forth, they're going to take out the dike,
 7 they're not going to take out the dike, they're
 8 going to take out the dike, they're not going to
 9 take out the dike, and that's been heart breaking
 10 to watch and so in some ways I really appreciate
 11 that, you know, you've picked one option because
 12 then you're like, well, I guess this is the worst
 13 possible thing that could potentially happen and
 14 it illuminates some of that and so I do
 15 appreciate that and I appreciate what you guys
 16 are doing in taking the time to listen to us and
 17 everything and talking to us today and I do think
 18 a lot of the frustrations that people have had
 19 aren't necessarily as directed at you as you may
 20 have felt today because I think we've had this
 21 being pushed at us for years and shoved down our
 22 throats and if this is what we need to do all for
 23 the salmon, that is very frustrating because our
 24 economy here really is not contingent upon
 25 salmon. Conservation is something that is very

1 important to everybody here because our
 2 industries and our livelihoods are contingent
 3 upon conversation. If you ruin clam flats,
 4 that's a huge industry. If you ruin lobster
 5 fishing, that's a huge industry. If you take
 6 away marsh hay, that affects the food people have
 7 on their tables. It is a big issue and it may be
 8 something that in other places it's not that much
 9 of an impact but because we are so small and
 10 because we are so self-sufficient here, when you
 11 take away something that inhibits how self-
 12 sufficient we can be, it cripples this area and
 13 our economy and our people and that's really
 14 hard. I know in my backyard the other day we
 15 were watching a bunch of fawns run around, we
 16 have seven deer that have fawns every year and
 17 they live right out there in the marsh. As a kid
 18 when I'd be getting ready for soccer in the fall
 19 and I'd go to run, I'd run the trails and I'd
 20 always end up having a heart attack because the
 21 deer would jump out and I'd be like, (startled
 22 sound). I was already out of breath enough, but,
 23 you know, the amount of animals and wildlife, we
 24 see foxes and muskrat and beaver and I could go
 25 on and on and on and some of the animals that

1 live there I think are actually endangered. We
 2 are kind of like, oh, I wonder what that is, and
 3 you get out the binoculars and you come across it
 4 and whatnot but as people here, we love to fish.
 5 I would love to see fish in the river. That
 6 river, Middle River, actually has a kids only
 7 fishing area up the river and I think Julie
 8 mentioned her grandkids fishing up there as well
 9 and I remember going up there as a kid with your
 10 kids (pointing) fishing and that was fun and
 11 that's one of the big things about conservation
 12 that I think people miss is you also want to
 13 teach people to love the things they're
 14 conserving. You want them to love where they are
 15 and love that land and the fish and love to go
 16 fishing, and those things -- you know, the locals
 17 here, we love that, we want to preserve that and
 18 conserve that and keep it as nice as it is, and I
 19 think when you have something introduced that's
 20 not there and thriving like the salmon that comes
 21 in and that's going to take precedence over all
 22 those things that we all love and have now and
 23 you're saying we hope we get salmon, we hope we
 24 have this. Well, we love what we already have.
 25 We love the deer and the hay and the clams and

1 the lobster and all those things that are already
2 thriving. So the idea that even -- I'm not
3 saying that you guys would mess it up but if you
4 built a bridge and somehow you didn't do
5 something correctly or you did something where
6 you tested and it wasn't tested right and stuff
7 did ruin those things on accident because I've
8 heard of those kinds of things happening a lot
9 because we're all human and we make mistakes but,
10 you know, if that puts those things in jeopardy
11 or at risk, that's heartbreaking for us because
12 this is our home, this is where we live and we
13 love the area that we live in and the things that
14 make us the community we are are those things.
15 Thank you.

16 MS. TAYLOR: Thank you.

17 (Applause)

18 MR. SPRAGUE: My name is John Sprague. I
19 live in Marshfield. That was my granddaughter.
20 Don't you think we look a lot alike? I feel I
21 owe you people an apology because I come out as
22 very combative. In my life situations I've been
23 in I've had to debate an awful lot of things.
24 The frustrating thing about this whole thing is
25 I've set at every meeting they've ever had. We

1 were told they were going to fix the clappers.
2 Praise the Lord. And guess what? We came back
3 to this again. And then they told us they're
4 going to fix the clappers and they were going to
5 start fixing them in '23 I believe it was and
6 here we are again. Please do the studies that
7 you need to, show that that river was never a
8 salmon river, show that the clappers allow fish
9 to go up there and if you flood those lands, the
10 poison is going to be unreal and let Machias be
11 Machias, okay? I apologize if I offended you.

12 MS. TAYLOR: You do not need to
13 apologize, sir.

14 (Applause)

15 MR. DOUGHTY: Not at all. None of you
16 do. If it were my community, I would be on that
17 side of the table. This is very valuable for us.
18 I think we'd like to maybe end this portion but
19 stick around a little bit and have a
20 conversation. Probably some of us will start
21 picking up but we'll be here for awhile. We have
22 some other subject area experts with us today and
23 so if you have a question, you may engage some of
24 them. So please come up and chat with us if
25 you'd like.

1 MS. TAYLOR: Can the DOT people just hold
2 up your hands if you're off to the sides just so
3 you guys can get a sense of who they are.

4 MR. DOUGHTY: We also have some
5 consultants who can also raise their hands as
6 well.

7 MS. TAYLOR: I just want to thank you. I
8 know this is incredibly difficult and I really
9 appreciate that you turned out and told us things
10 that we don't know, we heard some things and this
11 is what the process is for, for us to listen, to
12 explain and to go back and think about how we can
13 figure this out. So thank you very much.

14 MR. KITCHEN: And I would like to thank
15 everyone for showing up and for sharing. I know
16 that was not easy, and thanks to DOT for being
17 candid and for listening. There's a lot of
18 things that obviously they haven't heard before.
19 On that subject, I would urge everyone, because a
20 lot of us will walk out of here and think of
21 things that we wish we had said. Please put them
22 in writing, share them directly with DOT, you can
23 certainly get them to the town office and we will
24 forward them but don't miss this opportunity and
25 we'll continue to push to get NOAA here. Thanks,

1 everyone.
2 (Whereupon, the above-named hearing was concluded
3 at 7:03 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

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I, Joanne P. Alley, a Notary Public in and for the State of Maine, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate record as taken by me by means of computer-aided machine shorthand.

I further certify that I am a disinterested person in the event or outcome of the aforementioned cause of action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of July, 2022.

Joanne P. Alley
Court Reporter/Notary Public
My commission expires: July 17, 2029

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