



HEADWATERS SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes - October 28, 2009

Groveton High School Library

PRESENT: Ed Mellett, Northumberland; Bill Schomburg and Ken Hastings, Columbia; Lisa Savard, Bob Ward, Pittsburg; Gary Paquette, Stratford; Kevin McKinnon, Colebrook; Louis Lamoureux, Maidstone; Brendan Whittaker, Mary Sloat, Rebecca Brown, and Adair Mulligan, CRJC

PUBLIC: Edith and Dan Tucker

ABSENT: members from Lemington, Stewartstown, Bloomfield, Canaan

1. Housekeeping - Minutes of the meeting of September 9 were amended to indicate that a 6" pipe, not a 3 ½" discharge pipe, was observed at Columbia Sand & Gravel, and approved on a motion by Gary seconded by Bill.
2. Tour of the region by Governors Lynch and Douglas: Councilor Ray Burton and CRJC hosted a tour of both sides of the river valley from Lancaster to Colebrook on October 7, to highlight scenic aspects and tourism based on natural resources. Stopped to view Colebrook erosion site. Governors, legislators from both states, some executive councilors, and media participated.
3. Mohawk River/Colebrook Business Park river restoration- Mohawk River project is complete; Rebecca showed video of construction process as flow deflector log jams were installed to divert flow into abandoned channels at high water. Economic Development Administration has finally approved a grant for the Business Park project, but timetable has slipped badly because of time taken for EDA to process the proposal and will continue to slip because the agency requires 2-3 weeks to approve every step. It is still not known when construction can begin. Kevin reported that CMA Engineers had been selected for the work and are preparing bid specs. Adair said North Country Council has been a major help in dealing with the EDA application. When the project is built, it will be the first use of engineered log jams east of the Mississippi and will attract much attention. Mary suggested enlisting volunteers to give tours of the site. Louis reported on a large road washout on the Androscoggin in Dummer that will be hard to fix. Adair said engineered log jams had been used in the Northwest to stabilize a road where riprap had washed out. CRJC and project engineer Dr. Maeve McBride will make a presentation at the DES Water Conference on the Colebrook project on November 21, and she invited members to attend.
4. Permit issues
 - a. Wood property, Pittsburg: lakeshore stabilization on First Lake: owner has carefully saved all woody growth on shore but has erosion due to location on north end of lake that gets waves from strong south wind. Is proposing riprap above the 1640' elevation; TransCanada approves. Lisa said that ice doesn't abrade this part of shore because water is drawn down so far. Will suggest that landowner install willow stakes among riprap to see if it might help vegetate it, although the conditions may be too harsh for them to survive.
 - b. Von Dohlen property Pittsburg: retaining wall repair and erosion control, First Lake: property consists of open lawn to the lake, with minimal buffer growth in one area. Proposes replacing log retaining wall, and working below 1640' elevation. Bob said that TransCanada's attorneys consider any work done by others on company property (below 1640' on this lake) to be a liability issue. Must work above 1640' only. Should encourage vegetation; will send buffer sheets to owner; point out provisions of Shoreland Protection Act, and ban on use of fertilizer within 25' of water.
 - c. Columbia River Transportation Company: collection, storage, transfer facility for construction & demolition wood chips from Massachusetts, Columbia: is after the fact permit, since work had begun without a permit. Concern about what the materials are, how they are contained, whether C&D chips could include lead from lead paint, and how quality of the material is ensured. If material is to remain enclosed in trailers between arrival and departure, and if only unpainted debris is used, threat to groundwater is less. Site abuts the conserved and very scenic Pioneer Farm.
 - d. Columbia Sand and Gravel discharge - At request of Subcommittee, Adair alerted DES, who sent an inspector who toured the area with the owner. Inspector reported that discharge pipe observed earlier had been removed, and that relatively simple and inexpensive changes to the management of the settling ponds are probably warranted, but referred the issue to those at DES with more experience in gravel washing operations. DES has referred it to EPA, which is following up.
 - e. Murphy Dam competing applications for hydro: FERC will have to consult the Subcommittee's and CRJC's plans as this moves forward.
 - f. Hydro Quebec power line: a 1200 MW line is proposed to run from the hydro facilities to an as yet undetermined location in southern NH. Little other information is available. Kevin said that it is likely to run

on the existing ROW, although it is not wide enough. Edith pointed out that there is no ROW in Pittsburg, and that an advisory committee composed of The Nature Conservancy, Forest Society, AMC, and Fish & Game are meeting with the project manager from Northeast Utilities. Adair will inquire about participating.

5. Announcements and local issues/concerns

- a. Adair displayed a copy of the Headwaters' Water Resources Plan, edited by Rebecca, that will be distributed soon.
- b. The Poore Family Farm in Stewartstown has received a federal Scenic Byway grant for \$258,200 to complete construction of an interpretive center.
- c. Ed reported that a Northumberland committee has submitted a grant proposal for over \$1 million to stabilize the cemetery, and will look to the conservation commission for some match.
- d. Lisa reported that an 11 acre parcel on Route 3 north of the W. Stewartstown Bridge is for sale; this parcel has experienced significant erosion.

6. Public presentation: Adair Mulligan gave a presentation on the new Connecticut River Water Resources Management Plan for the Headwaters Region. Members offered helpful feedback. The presentation will be available on CD for any members who wish to give it to a group in their own communities. Several members said they would like to have it.