

**Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition
& CBEP Habitat Restoration Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 25, 2005
4:00-6:00 pm at Maine DEP Offices
312 Canco Road, Portland**

Next Meeting:

Thursday October 27 4:00 – 6:00 PM

In Attendance (at all or part of the meeting): Forrest Bell-PRW, Betty Williams-CCSWCD, Matt Craig- CBEP Erin Crowley- Americorps, Karen Young-CBEP, Will Plumley- FOPR, Fred Dillon- PRW, Richard Curtis-Gorham Sebago Land Trust, Irwin Novak-USM, Mary Cerullo-Friends of Casco Bay.

- I. Introductions/Purpose of Meeting:** Will recapped the last meeting regarding the joint meeting of the Habitat Restoration Inventory for the Lower Presumpscot River Watershed and also the last Executive Committee meeting to discuss the proposed Watershed Tour.

- II. Project Updates**
 - **Sign Initiative**-Erin and Betty reported that the sign artwork had been completed and delivered to Sign Design. Invoicing has been processed through the District and PRWC/CBEP will reimburse the District. Signs should be complete in 7-10 business days and Betty will pick up when ready and deliver to appropriate town public works departments. Thank you Erin!

 - **PR Watershed Plan copies**-discussion tabled

 - **Reprinting of PRW guides**-Erin reported the first meeting took place on 8/25/05 to discuss particulars including updating and addition of new items. No timeline has been set at this point.

 - **Habitat Restoration Site update**-Matt had burned a few copies of the Restoration Database and passed them around to those that were interested in a copy. Best way to work the database is to download it to your "C" drive.
 - Forrest and Matt pulled a site list together for possible site visits. Sites include: Val Halla Golf Course, Gravel Operation, Trolley Park, Presumpscot Estuary, Mill Brook Gravel Pit, Riverbank Park and ATV crossings on Mill Brook.
 - Matt will send out an email to the subcommittee to determine a good day for doing site visits.
 - MDOT hired Normandeau Associates to look for mitigation sites within the Town of Gorham preferably. The new by-

pass will disturb wetlands and mitigation funds are available and Normandeau has asked for suggestions for possible sites.

- Normandeau has asked for a priority list of possible sites. Matt will produce that and distribute. Two possible areas would be to look ATV Crossings and the Landfill area in the Estuary off Presumpscot Street.
 - Will asked if Normandeau could use the mitigation funds to fund the PRWC for on-the-ground projects? Karen mentioned that they may have some potential hang-ups since usually there is a number of acres that needs to be mitigated with those funds.
 - Richard Curtis mentioned the Grondin Pit that might be a possible site for mitigation.
 - The Ross Grant property at the corner of Route 237 and 25 was also mentioned as a possible site. Regional Waste Systems is the current owner and they are interested in selling. (See Forrest Bell's email of 8-28-05 for update) This property would be ideal for historical preservation and buffer work.
 - Forrest will check with MDOT-Charlie Hebson first and then Normandeau to ask of the possibility of buying the Grant property. (*Suggestion was for Land Trust to call Normandeau since they were first contacted.*)
- **Bus Tour of Watershed**-Executive Committee will be meeting with Erin Crowley who has kindly volunteered her time to help organize the tour. **Committee will meet on Friday September 2, at 12:30 at Casa Novella in Westbrook.** The tour is scheduled for October 6 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
 - Matt/Beverly will help with the mailing list and mailing of invitations.
 - Erin will be point person
 - 2-3 sites instead of 4 or more will allow for more time at each site and better discussion.
 - Tour goals include connectivity, building a sense of place for decision makers, promoting stewardship, education and river visibility.
 - Should we serve food-brown bag lunches?
 - Tour should include information packets such as maps etc.

III. **Project Proposal-Gravel Pit Study**-Irwin Novak submitted a Gravel Pit Study proposal for support of two students in the amount of \$2000. The proposal would map sand and gravel mining operations within the Presumpscot River Watershed using remote sensing and

other available digital data through GIS. Many questions were asked if the final deliverables could include:

- The comparison of 1940's data to the 2003 data
- The percentage of change between the two points in time.
- Have other similar studies been done in Maine? or other parts of the country?
- A preliminary report would be completed by February 2006
- A final report and student presentation to the PRWC during the summer of 2006.
- This information could be used to bring to municipalities and shown to be a river/stream problem with impacts including sprawl. Siltation, biodiversity, infiltration, impacts on habitat and the feeding of growth/sprawl.
- This information may be newsworthy – Press release to local TV and newspapers should be considered.
- Landowner information would be available through this report.
- Will felt that there should be a point person to work with Irwin and the students throughout this project and since Fred Dillon has the most experience with GIS etc., it would make sense for him to fill that role. Fred accepted.
- Irwin will re-write proposal to include requests made.
- Project was approved for funding by consensus of those in attendance.

IV. Committee reports-None

V. Annual meeting brainstorm-Question raised on whether or not we do an annual meeting and when.

- Mary C asked if we couldn't do the annual meeting at the end of the State of the Bay Conference?
- Originally, annual meeting was to be part of River Fest on September 22nd but River Fest will not take place this year due to lack of planning time.
- Annual Meeting could be a regular PRWC meeting.
- More discussion will be needed.

VI. Miscellaneous

- Will said he would revisit a PRWC logo.
- Matt asked about putting a web page together-will check with Beverly at CBEP.

VII. Set meeting schedule for remainder of 2005 & 2006

- Will set schedule at next meeting in October.

