

**Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition**  
**May 24, 2007**  
**3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**  
**@ Gilsland Farm, Falmouth**

**2007 Upcoming Meetings of the PRWC Board**

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>July 26<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>September 27<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 6<sup>th</sup></b>

**In attendance:** Kerry McCormack - Mainland and Island Trust, Forrest Bell - PRW, Jeff Varricchione - DEP, Matt Craig – CBEP, Merrie Cartwright – NOAA Fisheries, Betty Williams - CCSWCD, Diane Gould - EPA, Will Plumley- FOPR, Lois Winter - USF&W, Bill Hancock – Maine Audubon, Richard Curtis – Presumpscot Regional Land Trust, Sandra Cort – FOPR,

**I .Introductions** – Will led a round of introductions. Richard noted that his organization has changed its name from the Gorham Sebago Land Trust to the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust

**Other** - Lois noted that \$350,000 in Julienne Oil Spill funding is available for habitat restoration projects. She suggested that it would be a good idea to **contact Richard Dressler at IF & W to determine whether the funding could be directed towards Cumberland Mills dam removal.** The Julienne Oil Spill Trustees will be meeting June 6<sup>th</sup> to make some decisions regarding projects. Matt noted there are some projects under discussion including land protection in Casco Bay and the Fore River. He, Matt Collins (agent for John Catena), Jon Kachmar, and Erno visited a 30-40 acre parcel on the Presumpscot Estuary that is landlocked by the Highway and cut off from tidal flow. Matt Collins is interested in the site but thought that protection of Ragged Island was a more likely candidate. Lois noted that the Presumpscot site already has some protection (sight lines). Erno will do research on existing easements.

Matt noted that there is a Protect Your Watershed conference coming up June 5 – 7

**II. Active Projects Discussion**

**Website** – Matt noted that the website is up at the address [www.presumpscotcoalition.org](http://www.presumpscotcoalition.org). Draft content is up for the PRWC and the PWI. Last week at the PWI meeting, the group looked at interactive tools, e.g., a geospatial map that can be clicked to pull up information on sites. Rosemary Mosher, the consultant working with PWI, presented some alternatives. It was hoped that she could share them with the PRWC but was unable to make it today. We need to think about interactive tools and what our audience will be. The border is now teal (Forrest doesn't care for the color). Erin Crowley has done a great job with the website but she is leaving soon for Ohio and her role will end. Several members noted that the website is easy to navigate, looks good and is not too wordy. The PWI section still needs a lot of work. We need a long-term webmaster. Matt can play that role for the moment. Will noted that there will be a

calendar page for PRWC members to use to post important dates, etc. He doesn't know if that can be interactive.

**Fish Assemblage Study** – Diane noted that researcher Chris Yoder has been in contact with Jim Stahlnecker at the Maine DEP and the date of the spring anadromous fish sampling has been moved forward to June due to the unusually cool weather in early spring.

**Guide to the Presumpscot River** – Forrest noted that a lot has been done but it is a bigger job than first thought. It is 95 pp. long and needs photo credits, pictures inserted, etc. The water quality section is done but some of the history is incorrect. He is looking for a small group to react to it. The funding for the Guide needs to be spent by September. Lois noted that the Presumpscot River Preserve Management Plan could be a good resource. Sandi suggested the FERC documents as a resource as well. Rob Sanford and Will are writing a book (drafts due in August) about the Presumpscot, with profits going to the FOPR. Rather than cover the same areas as Will's book, it was suggested that the *Guide* can be primarily a field guide to trails, canoeing, portages, etc. **Forrest asked for a lunch meeting with a small group to work on the Guide.** He will start with the Executive Committee plus others as interested.

**PWI** – Matt reported that all the sondes are in the water. Fortunately, they went in after the storm. A new sonde (on loan from CBEP) is going in further up the mainstem above Saccarappa. A turbidity probe has been added to that sonde.

He also described the recent event at Rhine's Farm on the Presumpscot River. Thanks to Betty, volunteers planted 2500-3000 trees along the river. More will be going in as well. Betty will work on publicizing this major success.

The YCC crew has been hired. Andrew Darkenwald will serve as technical director. Beckie Mackinnon (Americorps) is crew leader.

Matt handed out the PWI fact sheet with the new PRWC logo and an EPA fact sheet on the project.

**Macroinvertebrates** – Jeff and Merrie reported that the PRWC has expressed an interest in paying to add a macroinvertebrate sampling site at the Riverside Golf Course, which would cost \$2,000 for before and after buffer installation sampling at the level of detail that would satisfy DEP for water quality classification. Most of the cost is for taxonomy. Comments on this idea included the question of when would we do the post – sampling? How reliable would the information be? Jeff noted that the protocol uses 3 rock bags. Seeing a change over a year or two is difficult. DEP will be sampled by DEP in a couple of years. This might be the right time to do the follow-up sampling. Other monitoring approaches were suggested, e.g. tree height or a less expensive, less rigorous macroinvertebrate analysis. Jeff noted that if our goal is to document stream health and recovery, macroinvertebrates are the best way to go. It was agreed to hold a vote until the end of the meeting.

Merrie also brought up the idea of using macroinvertebrate sampling as an outreach tool, with PRWC experts volunteering to work with groups of kids, etc. as opportunities arise. She wondered if we could spend \$150 - \$200 to purchase keys, nets and keep them at PRW. Betty said she thought CCSWCD might have gear already. **This topic should be discussed again after Betty checks with CCSWCD.** Forrest thought PRW could buy the gear as well.

**Canoe Trip-** Bill noted that he was not certain what the goal of the canoe trip should be. Will suggested that he work with others on the Canoe Trip team to develop a vision for the trip (Matt, Forrest, Roger, Lois as her time permits). **Will noted that we need to create a contact list.**

**Trail Connectivity in Westbrook** – Richard (with Will and Forrest) have been working on this. The Presumpscot Regional Land Trust has applied for a grant from the Maine Community Foundation for \$7,500. They think that \$20,000 over the next 3 years could bring stakeholders together, do the mapping and lay out properties for routes. They would have a sense of the route, the properties involved, the hurdles, and the grants to pursue. They will know in July if they will receive the funding. Portland Trails and Will wrote letters of support. Forrest noted that they are reviving the Name “Sebago to the Sea.”

**Tributary Signage** – Betty reported that the subcommittee met yesterday and is proposing 8 sites for new signs (2 signs per site). A handout was provided with a list of the sites. The cost would be \$912 (\$57 per sign). They noted that it is not feasible to put the logo on the signs but suggested that putting a sticker on the back of the signs with the logo would be possible. Stickers (which could include the web address) would cost \$407 for 1000, \$328 for 500. Merrie wondered if we should consider funding some signs now, others later to save money and keep this project going. Forrest noted there are 35 other road crossings we could consider for future signage. Matt noted that we need to be sensitive to sign pollution and objected to the Covered Bridge site. Jeff suggested that we look at the Route 25 area at the headwaters of the Little River as a potential signage site. Voting on this issue was moved to the end of the meeting.

**Outreach to Municipalities**– Matt - Nothing to report. He noted that Don Kale had agreed to take the lead on this issue.

**Fundraising** – Will noted the subcommittee meeting was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts; more to come.

**III. Deep dive on an active project** – It was agreed that the macroinvertebrate sampling discussion fulfilled this item on the agenda.

**IV. Decisions on spending** – It was not clear how much funding in total is available to the PRWC. We have at least \$3000 - \$4000. **Karen will be asked to provide an update on the budget.**

## **Proposals:**

Macroinvertebrate sampling - \$1000 for pre-buffer installation sampling

Signage - \$912 for signs at 8 sites (with no sign at the Covered Bridge and a sign added at Route 25 in Gorham)

Stickers -       \$407 for 1000  
                  \$328 for 500

## **Decided:**

Consensus to do all 8 signs. Betty's subcommittee will select a site on Route 25.

No consensus on the stickers. **We will discuss again at the next meeting.**

Consensus to spend \$1000 now for pre-buffer installation macroinvertebrate sampling (Jeff and Diane recused themselves from the show of hands). We will address funding for the post-project sampling in the future.

## **Next Meeting**

- July 26<sup>th</sup>. The Executive Committee will select a good summer location, to be announced.