

## Survey of Key New Meadows Lakes Stakeholders: RESIDENT SURVEY

Date/Time:

ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewers:

Address:

Business Name:

Check one:

The property abuts New Meadows Lakes

The property abuts New Meadows River

One lot back from the Lake or River

Other, in the watershed

Outside watershed

Would like to be contacted in future? (Ask at end of interview) Y/N

Email:

Phone:

Name:

Mailing address:

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*Hi, I'm [name] and this is Nate. We'd like to ask you a few questions about a community issue if this is a good time for you. Could we have about 15 minutes of your time?*

*We're with the New Meadows Watershed Partnership. We are focusing today on the Upper New Meadows, from Thomas Pt. Beach up to Old Bath Rd, particularly the New Meadows Lakes. As you may realize, the New Meadows is a long, tidal, salt-water bay. The New Meadows Watershed Partnership is concerned about the Upper New Meadows because data collected over the last few years shows problems with the water quality. A major cause of this water quality problem is the construction of several bridges and causeways over the past century that block water from moving freely between Casco Bay and the Upper New Meadows. The Upper New Meadows is like a bathtub with a clogged drain.*

*The reason we're talking to people who live around or use the New Meadows is that we want to better understand how you use and view the New Meadows, and how you might feel about increasing the flow of water in and out of the 'Lakes'. The information we collect will be anonymous. This information will help us figure out how to move forward in improving the conditions of this beautiful place.*

ID # \_\_\_\_\_

**A. About You: Questions for RESIDENTS**

A1. How long have you lived here?

A2. Do you live here year-round or seasonally?

A3. Do you rent or own your home?

A4. What do you like best about living here?

A5. How do you use the New Meadows? *(Prompts: For example, do you fish, swim, boat, hunt, clam, walk, bring your children here?)*

Do you have a clam license?

**B. About You: Questions for CLAMMERS**

B2. Where are you licensed to clam and what type of license do you have (recreational or commercial)?

B3. How long have you been clamming in this area?

B4. Would you be in favor of increased tidal mud flat acreage in the New Meadows lakes? Why or why not?

### C. About Health of New Meadows

C1. We're interested in hearing what you think about the water quality in the Upper New Meadows. Do you think the water quality is:  
\_\_\_Very good \_\_\_Moderately good \_\_\_Moderately poor \_\_\_Very Poor

C2.a. What signs have you noticed that indicate that the New Meadows is healthy?

C2.b. What signs have you noticed that indicate that the New Meadows is unhealthy?

*Scientific studies have found some environmental problems in the Upper New Meadows. For example, oxygen levels in the water have been low enough to kill fish. The nutrient levels are really high, and that, combined with a lack of natural water circulation leads to foam and algal blooms. The small tidal range means that there are fewer clam flats exposed and less salt marsh than in a natural system. Our group is wondering how people who live and use the New Meadows view the health of this area.*

C3. Does this information change your perception of the health of the New Meadows? If so, in what way? If not, why not?

#### D. Returning Tidal Flow

D1. Are you aware that Bath Road/State Road blocks the natural tidal flow?

*The New Meadows group has discussed opening up the causeway under Bath Road/State Road. If this is done, there would be a larger passage way under the road, increased water movement between Casco Bay and the Upper New Meadows, and more mud flats exposed during low tide. The reason the New Meadows Partnership has been discussing tidal restoration is because we expect it would improve water quality and restore habitats, as well as improve boating access between the Upper New Meadows and Casco Bay. We recognize that opening up the causeway could also affect the way you use the Upper New Meadows, and the following questions are about your views on this.*

D2. Do you agree that the Bath Road causeway has an effect on the water quality and habitat of the New Meadows? Why or why not?

D3. How do you think the New Meadows would change as a result of opening up the Bath Road causeway?

D4. How would returning tidal flow affect the way you use the New Meadows?

D5. Would you support returning natural tidal flow to the New Meadows Lakes? Why or why not?

D6. Do you have questions or concerns regarding the return of natural tidal flow?

#### **E. General Feedback**

E1. Do you have concerns about the New Meadows that we have not discussed?

#### **F. Contact Information**

F1. Would you be interested in receiving information and announcements about future meetings or presentations regarding the tidal restriction in the New Meadows? *(If yes, please provide contact information on cover sheet)*

THANK YOU!