

**New Meadows Watershed Partnership**  
**June 2, 2010 Phippsburg Town Hall**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**In Attendance:** Vanessa Levesque (Town of Brunswick), Kurt Garascia (Brunswick resident), Mike Feldman (Brunswick resident), Mike Doan (FOCB), Paul Mateosian (Town of West Bath), Steve Walker (IFW), Amy Fitzpatrick (DMR), Pam Gerbi (Brunswick resident), Carol Turkey (Town of Harpswell), Matt Craig (CBEP), Bob Cummings (Town of Phippsburg), Dan Devereaux (Town of Brunswick), Scott Weber (Intern)

**Agenda Item 1: Review Agenda and Approve Minutes from April 7, 2010**

- At 9:40 AM, Vanessa convened the meeting and the group approved the morning's agenda and introduced itself to Vanessa's new intern, Scott.
- The group approved the April 7 meeting minutes.

**Agenda Item 2a: Transitioning to a New Chair**

- Consensus that a "chair" system in some form necessary to ensure NMWP Action Plan objectives continue to be met moving forward
- Group decided to implement a co-chair system in the wake of Vanessa's outstanding tenure as Chair. Matt considered the possibility of introducing an AmeriCorps official to assume chair duties, but was hesitant to turn over leadership responsibilities to an outsider, and the group agreed to maintain local chairmanship.
- Issue of paying a Chair brought up but with no resolution
- Steve reiterated his interest in serving as co-Chair, but voiced reservations about his ability to singlehandedly assume chair duties, and Carol volunteered to serve as co-Chair, with the condition that she would not be able to do much from November through March as she prepared for Town meeting. Carol volunteered to take on more chair roles for the August 4 and October 6 meetings if Steve could take on the December and February meetings. They will work together to divide the tasks.
- Steve and Carol suggested that Vanessa meet with them and maybe Anna B. to get the information and materials they will need to be co-chairs. They will set up a meeting to do so.

**Agenda Item 2b: Sub-Committee leadership**

- It was decided that the co-chairs will be responsible for pulling together meeting agendas, locations and materials, and that the sub-committees/working groups will be responsible themselves for coming to the meetings prepared to give updates. Vanessa had organized the subcommittees around the Action Plan Objectives, and the group decided to keep that structure.
- Mike suggested that the group decide who will lead up each subcommittee. The role of that leader will be to provide the NMWP Steering Committee with an update of what has happened in their objective topic (which requires talking to or coordinating with other subcommittee members prior to the larger NMWP Steering Committee meeting).
- The group decided that the NPS Pollution Objective working group should be head up by Heather True (although she was not present to accept or reject)
- The Improve Productivity of Shellfish Harvests Objective working group will be led by Amy Fitzpatrick.
- Mike Doan agreed to head the Research and Monitoring Objective working group

- Matt Craig agreed to head the Protect/Restore Habitats Objective working group
- Steve agreed to head the Tidal Restoration Objective sub-committee
- Mike F. agreed to head the Public Awareness Objective sub-committee on condition that Matt offer him assistance, especially with website work

### **Agenda Item 3: Current Projects—Roundtable Updates**

#### *Objective 1: Reducing NPS Pollution*

- Carol announced that she met with Heather, Diane and Matt a couple weeks ago to develop a plan. They will be using GPS to locate sites more specifically. In addition to applying for 319 money next year, hopefully they will be able to apply for Mitigation funds if they find a good site for that..
- Steve informed Carol and Matt that Kristin (?) was a contact that could assist in determining legality and securing grants for their investigation of high impact sites.

#### *Objective 2: Improve Productivity of Shellfish Harvests*

- Amy stated that officials from the Department of Health and Human Services, and from DEP will work with town codes inspectors to prevent and mitigate septic system problems.
- Amy provided handout summarizing the upcoming work in the New Meadows area to do shoreline surveys, dye testing, etc.
- Amy mentioned possibility of an infrared flyover, but stated the cost likely rendered it unrealistic. She called Seth Barker at DMR for more information and is waiting for his reply.
- The group discussed concerns about extensive driving over and parking on both sides of the Old Bath Rd. landing in West Bath. DEP got involved and required posting signs and barriers to prevent parking, and they have been working with West Bath to identify the landowner, which has been in dispute for years.
- The group discussed the Quahog harvest. There are still many harvesters out there. One wholesaler reported to Dan having paid out \$2.2 million to harvesters from the time the lakes re-opened this past summer through April 2010.

#### *Objective 3: Research and Monitoring*

- Mike D. stated that FOCB has not conducted water quality (nutrient and oxygen level) studies in the lakes in the last few years. Their New Meadows presence has been focused on the Marina and south. This year they intent to put a continuous sampling logger in the lower lake near the deep hole – they plan to get it in by the end of June.
- In addition, Mike would like to complete a detailed surface to bottom profile of the water column along a transect from the upper lake to the marina, preferably with the help of a student.

#### *Objective 4: Protect/Restore Habitats*

- Matt announced that their application to the Gulf of Maine Council to fix the culvert under Adams Road in Brunswick was funded. Not only will this help the Town replace a failing culvert that needed replacement, but it was also restore salt marsh habitat above the culvert. He will work with John Foster at Brunswick Public Works to implement the project.

#### *Objective 5: Explore Tidal Restriction Restoration*

- Steve informed the group that Larry Oliver from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) recently contacted Vanessa to follow-up on a letter of interest that the Towns of Brunswick and West Bath sent to the ACOE in 2004 for a feasibility study of tidal restoration under Bath Road. The ACOE funding may now be available and they are interested in this project. They have asked if there is still interest at the local level. The ACOE would provide the first \$100,000 for the feasibility study. Any costs above that must be shared with non-federal money.
- Steve suggested that Larry might like another letter from the two towns re-committing support of the project. Paul agreed that would be useful, as he does not have a clear feel from W. Bath as to their position.
- Carol raised the question of the costs of conducting feasibility studies. Would it be a lot more than \$100,000?
- Bob said that the group needs to bring this project to an end one way or another and suggested that the NMWP help compile all the facts so that others can make the decision.
- Pam reminded the group that we know what outstanding questions remain, and we should use the feasibility study to get answers to them. Vanessa passed out a handout that Pam compiled that lists the questions and concerns regarding tidal restoration that came out of the surveys and the public forum.
- Mike F believes that its important to get all the facts. He also said that this might be easier politically when the economics of towns improve and the quahog harvests die back.
- Kurt informed the group of the formidable opposition to tidal restoration in his community. However, he is not against studies to gather more information.
- Steve suggested that the Towns are presented with the idea that any match would be in-kind work from municipalities, and grants from state and private entities. He said that he would talk to the ACOE before going to towns to get a better understanding of the process and costs. He would report back to the NMWP on what he finds, and work to get on Town agendas.
- Vanessa asked the Steering Committee if they were ready to come to a consensus to support pursuing the ACOE Feasibility Study contingent on a recommitment from the Towns of West Bath and Brunswick. Everyone present agreed.

#### *Objective 6: Public Awareness*

- Vanessa asked the group whether they had a chance to examine the NMWP website at <http://www.newmeadowpartnership.org>, to which a few affirmed.
- Pam applauded the website as being user-friendly. Amy thought it was clear and had good information.
- Bob observed that viewers only customarily check websites if they are updated frequently. He also recommended someone report on the NMWP in the local press, perhaps the *Harpwell Anchor*, or *The Times Record*, etc.
- Minutes and agendas should be added to the website, as well as older reports and documents
- The group liked Scott's idea to add some information about recreational opportunities and links to local recreation sites and businesses
- Matt informed the group that he would continue to handle the technical logistics of website updates.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Other Business**

- Vanessa asked the attendees if any other relevant issues should be brought up and none were mentioned.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Wrap Up**

- Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM with the attendees thanking Vanessa for her tenure as Chair and for bringing the group to a new level.