

MINUTES  
NASH STREAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 29, 1998

Committee Members Present: Phil Stearns, Mary Sloat, Dave Publicover, Dave Tellman, John Kauffmann and Paul Doscher.

State Employees: Bob MacGregor, Dave Falkenham and Paul Gray.

Public: Richard Paradis, Gene Parker, Don Hartlen, Lannie Lesperance, Ted Burns, Paul Haynes, Michael Lynch, Marion Stanton, Everett Stanton, Glen Beliveau, Fred Gonyer, Robert Reynolds, Jamie Normand, Richard Gourdarzi, Doris DeLong, George DeLong, Stewart Sweatt, Myra Sweatt, William Adair, Ken Grimes, Pat Connary, Mary Grimes, Lawrence LaPointe, Rene Boutin, Clyde Fisk, Arthur McKearney, Leona McKearney, Michael Bennett, E. Harlen Connary, Chris Stinson, Harold Stinson, James Sanborn, Harriet Sanborn, Michele Haynes and Michael A..?

Meeting Started 3:06

Introduced Committee members and State Employees around the table.

## 1. OLD BUSINESS

Sloat moved to approve minutes of the last meeting, Publicover seconded, *passed unanimously*.

Tellman brought up the draft charter that was enclosed with the agenda. MacGregor mentioned that Commissioner of DRED has changed and that a written comment had been received from a committee member asking that something be inserted under Public Participation section to acknowledge that when public attends they are not seated at the committee table.

Question raised about how many members are necessary for a quorum, decision is that quorum is whoever shows up at scheduled meetings.

Doscher moves to approve charter with above changes, Sloat seconds, *passed unanimously*.

## 2. RECREATIONAL USE OF ATV's.

Ted Burns of N. Stratford, spokesman for North Country ATV Club, made a presentation;

There is presently an ATV Trail System in Stratford on private land with designated trails that they would like to eventually connect to the Millsfield area but for now would like to expand into Nash Stream Forest. They feel that riders should be able to use State registered vehicles on State land and legitimize the use going on out there.

Tellman discussed role of committee with assembled members of the public. Read Public Use Guidelines of Nash Stream Management Plan on Page 129 of that document. Tellman said that in order to allow ATV trails the Management Plan would have to be changed.

Sloat responded to a question on how the Plan was produced by describing the process and her involvement.

Stearns discussed his participation at the public meetings and how well represented the snowmobile users were and how poorly represented ATV users were.

Fred Gonyer talked about how he brought up ATV use at the public hearings and was ignored. He claimed this is because Dave Goulet was on the committee and the snowmobile club did not want ATV's using their trails.

Gray talked about how fatally flawed the Management Plan was because it had no mechanism for change and by just outright denying a use such as ATV's made itself inflexible.

Dennis Beliveau thought ATV's had a bad image because it used to be wild kids who rode them but as the committee could see from the people in attendance that all ages are now represented and they are riding responsibly.

Ted Burns gave Tellman a letter from Executive Councilor Ray Burton that supported what the club is trying to do.

Rene Boutin wanted to know what the next step should be.

Sloat thought Management Plan Revision process should be our first objective.

Publicover read change section of the Plan on Page 134 which acknowledges change as inevitable but does not provide a mechanism for dealing with it.

Tellman proposed that we address big issue of Management Plan change.

Doscher says that Committee should ask the Director of Forests and Lands, what the process for changing the Plan should be.

Publicover feels that it's a 3 stage process; 1) find out how to change the Plan, 2) Address ATV use, and 3) Discuss specific trail locations.

Doscher makes a motion; *"To ask the Division of Forests and Lands to produce and make a detailed explanation of the rationale that resulted in the prohibition of ATV's on Nash Stream"*, Sloat seconded, **Passed unanimously.**

Doscher motions that the Committee; *"Ask the Commissioner of DRED and the Director of Forests and Lands, what the process should be to amend the Nash Stream Management Plan and*

*ask for a response as soon as possible.*" Sloat seconded, **Passed unanimously.**

Ken Grimes says snowmobilers have turned Pittsburg around economically, maybe ATV's will do the same for Stratford. Also said ATV's make more of the woods accessible to people who can't walk long distances.

Ted Burns gave the Committee a list of people who had signed a local petition supporting ATV use in Nash Stream.

Richard Goudarzi of the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, an educational foundation for the wise use of ATV's supports this proposal.

Ted Burns wants the Trails Bureau to be kept informed on the status of the proposal.

Break at 4:10, all of public and Paul Gray leave.  
Resume at 4:18

### **3. VISUAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Tom Kokx of Thomas Kokx Associates is introduced. Kokx gives some background on himself and then presented an overview of his proposal to incorporate different data layers to show how visual quality is affected by different management procedures. In the first phase he would concentrate on the area around Christine Lake and work with the three major landowners in this section (DRED, SPNHF, Percy Summer Club). He considers this a pilot project and if it is found to be useful it can be extended to incorporate all of Nash Stream. Kokx handed out samples of the products he can generate.

Tellman mentions a project that the North Country Council was involved with a number of years ago that rated views of different kinds of cuts. Kokx was involved with this project also, as was Sloat.

Tellman says that coloring of the product affects viewer satisfaction. He also thinks that the program needs to be more sophisticated so that instead of just showing what the cut looks like initially it also shows it as time progresses. Kokx says his program is capable of this.

Publicover asked what was the relation of this proposal to the Visual Guide on Page 108 of the Management Plan. Kokx states this is the next step beyond the guides on Page 108.

Doscher says the most important output for him is to show which stands are the most visible when you are managing them.

Kauffmann thought a weakness of the Plan is the failure to use viewpoints outside of the forest when considering visual quality.

Sloat asked if this is something Kokx has been hired to do. No, it is a proposal by Kokx for

the State, SPNHF and the Percy Summer Club.

Stearns mentioned a Diamond clearcut on the Percy Peaks that could be seen from his house that obviously did not consider aesthetics.

Tellman wonders if down the road the visual quality considerations created by this program might become too restrictive on timber harvesting and reduce the cut. Kokx says the program can be used to tailor cutting so it minimizes the impact on visual quality.

Publicover feels that seeing that State land management activities are chronically under funded, is this the wisest use of money or would it be better spent elsewhere.

#### **4. ROBERTS BROOK TIMBER SALE UPDATE**

MacGregor reports that he walked the 30 acre clearcut necessitated by ice damage with Wayne Millen of USFS, holder of the Conservation Easement, Millen supported clearcut proposal with addition of uncut patches in middle of clearcut and residual of 4 to 8 trees per acre for wildlife. Letter requesting changes has been sent to Forest Supervisor Donna Hepp. The addition of the clearcut has added 50MBF of sawlogs and 400 cords of pulp to total volume of sale. MacGregor has verbal agreement with contractor to pay bid prices for additional wood. Contractor asked for permission to change contract to allow for some harvesting this summer but MacGregor felt ground was still too wet and should be continued as frozen ground sale. This sale is contracted to be finished this winter.

#### **5. ICE STORM DAMAGE UPDATE**

MacGregor reports that ice damage acreage is finalized at about 20,000 acres. Sloat asks what percent of that is in areas suitable for timber harvesting. MacGregor says only 10 to 15%. State is going to continue with harvesting plans and not change schedule to try and salvage ice damaged wood.

#### **6. COHOS TRAIL UPDATE**

MacGregor reports a Special Use Permit is on Director Bryces' desk and will be signed within the next week with an accompanying press release.

#### **7. WORK ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Falkenham showed a map of the completed inventory in Compartment 22, related that Compartment contains 2,600 acres and therefore represents two years worth of scheduled inventory work. Plan is to package one large sale of 6,000 cords to account for two years worth of allowable cut volume. This would be the only sale for the next two years thereby keeping on a 3,000 cord per year schedule. Natural Gas Pipeline is crossing three miles of Nash Stream Forest, Forests and Lands staff is monitoring use.

## **8. FINAL THOUGHTS**

Convey to Tom Miner that committee is ready to meet sometime in December as soon as they have guidance from DRED on process for changing Management Plan.

Committee feels 4:00 meeting starting time will accommodate more members.

Adjourned 5:40