

Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting (NSFCC)

Nov. 2, 2017 Lancaster, NH

NSFCC members present: Chairman David Govatski, Vice chair Mike Waddell, Kevin Evans, Dave Scanlan, Jeff Lougee, Ted Burns, Rita Goumillout, Bill Noons, Norman Cloutier, Albert Cloutier, Mike Lynch, John Lanier, Jim Herbert

Staff members present: Commissioner Rose, Director Brad Simpkins, Tracey Boisvert, Maggie Machinist, Todd Caron, Sabrina Stanwood, Jon Accardi, Will Guinn, Chris Gamache, Clint Savage

Chairman Dave Govatski called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. He welcomed everyone, reviewed the agenda and then asked for introductions from the Committee members.

Update on timber sale and road activities: Maggie Machinist provided an update on a timber sale. The prescription called for thinning and group selection. They worked with the snowmobile club who groomed parallel to the road and worked with the contractor so didn't have to close snowmobile trail. ___ board feet was harvested.

No major road projects—just maintenance

No bridge replacements. The Trout Unlimited grant which was the largest stream improvement project in the northeast is wrapping up.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative meeting was held to look into becoming 3rd party certified.

Oct. 30, 2017 storm damage—no major damage, did cut and move trees off of the road.

Kelsey Notch ATV trail compliance report: 2 monitoring reports were conducted, one on August 10 and October 11, 2017.

August 10 report: the trail held up fairly well. Brought in 105 loads of gravel to re-do a section of the trail up on Kelsey Notch. Response to question from Ted Burns about how many yards/load was 12.

October 11 report: Some erosion and sedimentation, holding up well but showing some wear. Next year will add water bars and culverts on the logging road section.

Response to a question asking about the cost and who pays for it was \$22,000 and is split between the ATV club a portion of OHRV registration account.

Review of updated draft management plan: Director Simpkins provided an update on the draft management plan. He presented a powerpoint that summarized the overall process for revision, the amount of public outreach conducted by the Department, public comments received and the changes to specific chapters. The Department received 20 comments (5 of those from state agencies) during the second round of public comments compared to 170 comments from the first public comment period. The comments received on the second draft were more technical in nature than the first draft.

Chairman Govatski asked who would conduct the monitoring for SFI? Director Simpkins responded that if the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) does not seek 3rd party certification, monitoring may be conducted by hiring seasonal staff or teaming with an educational institution

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John Lanier offered a history on bear baiting and Chairman Govatski added that the original team working on the original management plan had a lengthy discussion about it. The vicinity of the camps and concern about habituating the bears as well as public safety led to prohibiting bear baiting in the original management plan. Rita Goumillout stated that have had problems with bears at the camps.

Chairman Govatski said that the process going forward with the current draft management plan was for the Citizens Committee to discuss and vote on it tonight and then DNCR brings it to the Council on Resources and Economic Development (CORD). He asked the board if there was any discussion on the draft management plan.

Mike Waddell stated that it was a good compromise.

Jeff Lougee asked Director Simpkins to give a sense of how the comments on the 2nd draft were incorporated. Director Simpkins responded that we went through and discussed each comment.

Kevin Evans stated that this management plan addresses how we manage for climate change. How we adapt our management to sustain species.

Chairman Govatski said that a tremendous amount of work was done by DNCR staff. The efforts taking place were very impressive. DNCR took public comments sincerely and in incorporated them in an objective way.

Chairman Govatski asked if there were comments from the audience?

Jaime Sayen, Stratford stated that he didn't think his comments were categorized correctly. The 1995 management plan set the gold standard. Citizens are more diverse authors. The tech team is challenged to implement the plan. For the 1995 plan, the public were invited to make comments before started drafting it, future plans would go back to that process. Citizen oversight over public service.

Director Simpkins stated that there was no statutory committee (the Citizens Committee) at that time and they were starting from scratch for the 1995 plan.

Jaime Sayen commented that he fully understood the ASTM acreage managed area, that 5-10% seedlings in 20000 acreage managed area is too much. Regarding biomass, don't send to Burgess. Need money for monitoring to be appropriated before becoming certified. Need to have policy before talk management. Have to reduce carbon emissions.

Larry Gomes Stark commented that over half the comments had to do with ATVs by CORD said thou shall not have ATVs. The Citizens Committee is letting CORD railroad the process.

Chairman Govatski asked about monitoring. Maggie Machinist said that before every timber sale, conduct inventory, bring the proposed timber sale to an inter-agency workgroup called the State Lands Management Team (SLMT), flag waters, occasionally go back and check. Before, during and immediately after there is a lot of involvement of staff and other agencies. NH Fish and Game Dept. (NHFGD) staff conduct beech nut surveys, woodcock and grouse surveys, and Fisheries staff are out in Nash Stream all summer.

Will Guinn stated that it is a very scientific and reviewed process, using silviculture techniques that have been researched and peer reviewed at universities.

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Larry Gomes addressed the Citizens committee that they are being overridden.

Kelly Butler Stark camp asked if there was any rebuttal to Larry's comment?

John Lanier replied that the Citizens Committee is not a decision-making body. The committee makes recommendations.

Mike Lynch asked Larry if he was upset because he didn't get 1 trail out of the 4 that they proposed?

Larry responded that yes, he was.

Chairman Govatski said that the committee discussed and agreed to review the southern connector.

Rita G. asked if there had been any soil sampling on the southern connector.

Director Simpkins stated that there had not been because we need to finish the management plan first.

Vice Chairman Waddell stated that he would have liked to see more timber harvested-but grateful that the Dept. is doing something. The Dept. did a good job balance conflicts. Hope that the southern corridor gets approved and hope that in the future the Dept. will harvest more timber. Right now, would like this plan to move forward.

Chairman Govatski asked about the definition of seedling and sapling?

Director Simpkins responded that the Sewall inventories of 1988 had those definitions. Any inventories since and current use FIA.

Kevin Evans asked to think about these things set in the baseline for monitoring.

Will Guinn said that FIA are the standard and will continue to use moving forward.

Jaime Sayen asked that the 1995 plan called for species of concern to be monitored.

Maggie said that the responsibility for monitoring is spread across several agencies.

Jaime said that the monitoring that has been done since 1995 has fallen short of what was intended.

Chairman Govatski asked the committee for a recommendation on the draft management plan. Mike Waddell made a motion to recommend that the plan move forward as recommended with the bear baiting and other comments from the Committee made tonight.

Ted Burns seconded. No discussion.

13 ayes

0 nays

Other business: none

Chairman Govatski thanked everyone and asked to for committee members to receive a printed copy.

Next Meeting date: Spring 2018

Chairman Govatski adjourned the meeting at 7:20pm.