

**Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2002**

Present: Fred King, Peter Benson, Sylvia Bates, Mary Sloat, Dave Tellman, Scott Mason, Dayton Goudie, Dave Publicover, Everett Frizzell, Phil Stearns, Philip Bryce, Rita Goumillout, John Lanier, Dave Goulet

Staff: Tom Miner, Susan Francher, Bob MacGregor

Opening

Chairman Tellman welcomed everyone and introduced Sylvia Bates who will be the representative from New Hampshire Audubon.

Old Business

Minutes: The minutes of September 25 were not approved at the last meeting, as there was not a quorum present at the meeting. Frizzell made a motion to accept the minutes of September 25, 2001. Sloat seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. Goulet made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 8, 2001 meeting. King seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Report of the ATV Study Subcommittee

The committee met once for approximately 1.5 hours. There was no interest in having a second meeting. Initially 2 trails were under consideration, a connecting trail "West Side Trail" and a larger, self-contained interior trail. The committee felt it was premature to consider the interior trail and concentrated on the connecting trail. The committee felt the West Side Trail could be put in service as an ATV trail with little work. There is a section that will need to be rerouted around a beaver flowage but the majority of the proposed trail runs along an existing trail, a portion of which is an old gravel-based road. Two of the committee members voted against this project, the remainder of the committee members voted in favor of moving forward with development of this trail as a pilot ATV trail project. The length of the trail segment that will be on Nash Stream is approximately 7 miles and would connect existing ATV trails on private land.

Tellman asked Bryce to review the current actions being considered by the State Legislature. Bryce reported that Rep Alger and the ATV study committee submitted legislation regarding ATV use on public land that includes increased registration fees, allows for acquisition of land for the purpose of developing ATV trails, allows for contracting with local law enforcement to help enforce ATV laws, codifies the criteria developed by DRED regarding location of ATV trails on state lands, and provides for the establishment of an ATV trail at Nash Stream. While this legislation has not yet passed it is a clear indication of the direction legislative study committee is heading.

Mason expressed concern that issues regarding fines for property damage from ATV use on private land are not being discussed. He believes property damage caused by ATV's should be treated like timber trespass.

Chris Gamache of the Trails Bureau said there is no specific fee system for property damage in the legislative bill.

Bryce says bill is about building ATV clubs.

Gamache gives his views on the suitability of West Side Road and Andritz and Bordeaux Trails for ATV use.

Tellman opens the floor to questions about ATV Study subcommittee.

Publicover explains why he feels sub-committee did not do its job; Benson's and his feelings are outlined in the minority report.

King feels the topic had been discussed for three years and that was the feeling of the sub-committee, he thought putting in a pilot project was better than theorizing around the table.

Goulet is happy with snowmobile club's representation on the sub-committee.

Goumillout feels West Side Road is a good place for a pilot project.

Lanier says Fish and Game agrees with the minority report in principle, but saying this he supports the pilot proposal as long as there are tests to see what the consequences are on natural resources.

King is disappointed that club membership is not required in the legislation.

Sloat asks if we can require club membership for riding in Nash Stream. Gamache says no.

Frizzell wonders about the exits from Nash Stream, will needed excavation be intrusive. Gamache says it will not require major work.

MacGregor reads motion that was passed at ATV sub-committee meeting.

Tellman feels all State meetings need to have minutes.

Tellman says we should have a test of the 7-mile trail after the Nash Stream Management Plan is revised. ATV sub-committee has a second task; What needs to be part of the pilot project.

Mason feels public opinion supports ATV use.

Motion: Mason motions to open the West Side Trail for ATV use and amend Nash Stream Management Plan as necessary. King seconds.

Discussion: King says decision is up to Commissioner Bald.

Frizzell feels this motion is not necessary.

Goulet feels the motion is inappropriate.

Mason feels King is being nice, he thinks legislature is saying to agencies; get off your duff and open Nash Stream to public use. Asks Lanier what his concerns about ATV use are.

Lanier answers that ATV use is year-round and that affects "critters" breeding season.

Questions about whether ATV use will be year-round.

Bryce suggests that before the vote you go through the proposed changes to the management plan.

King withdraws second of the motion.

Benson feels we are not just talking about Nash Stream and that what happens here can affect all public lands in New Hampshire.

Mason feels the only issue for this committee is Nash Stream, not Bear Brook or other State lands.

End of Discussion

Miner talks about Management Plan changes.

King asks about funding for strategies, Miner answers that plan says things will be done as funding becomes available.

Bates asks if changes are consistent with Conservation Easement. Miner says yes.

Motion: Sloat makes motion to accept changes in Strategy Updates (brown sheets). Goulet seconds.

Discussion: Benson says all additions should be annotated.

Publicover feels the Department should keep a record of the annotated changes.

King feels that the Committee Appointment Process should be in the plan.

Bryce feels that the Committee Charter addresses this issue.

King still feels Committee Appointment Process should be in the Plan, Bryce agrees.

Motion Passes on voice vote

Miner addresses changes in Management Vision (Green Sheet)

Page 61, Line 24 – insert word offer before other in the underlined sentence.

King wants change to Page 64, Line 21 – change will be created to has been created.

Motion: King moves to accept the green sheets as changed, Sloat seconds.

Amendment: Publicover would like to see Page 63; Line 33 read “existing designated and properly maintained roads and trails.” Mason seconds.

Discussion: Bates is concerned about handicapped access, would this prevent a new handicapped trail.

Amendment fails 5 to 6

Main Motion passes 9 to 2

Discussion of Goals, Objectives and Strategies (Salmon Sheets)

Tellman thinks 10 years is good time frame for plan revision.

Lanier is concerned about Management Vision being changed.

Motion: Goulet motions to have 10-year time frame for Management Plan revision, Bates seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Goulet wonders if old camp leases would be relet.

Motion: King moves for passage of the Salmon Sheets, Sloat seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Tellman opens floor to the public.

Ted Burns of Stratford – Applauds Fred King for taking the bull by the horns on ATV issue, feels the Nash Stream Advisory Committee has not worked with the club, thinks

minority report on ATV's libels Fred King and that the two organizations (Nature Conservancy and Appalachian Mountain Club) are being obstructionists.

Discussion of the Public Use Guidelines (blue sheets)

Stearns would like to see bear baiting allowed.

Discussion of bear baiting ensued.

King says that in the interest of time committee should e-mail staff their comments on Rules sheet; subsequent meeting will go over rule changing.

Discussion of Recreation Management Guidelines (Yellow Sheets)

Discussion focused on the length of time of ATV pilot project.

Goulet thought that we should have only summer time ATV usage.

Wording will be worked on to minimize snowmobile and ATV confrontations.

Sloat wonders if speed limit could be lower on Nash Stream, Bryce says that is the purpose of the pilot project.

Motion: Sloat makes motion for 3-year time frame for ATV pilot project, Goulet seconds.

Bryce wonders how much money is going to be sunk into the trail.

Suggestion for line 20 to read "or not continue".

Mason wonders if 3 years is long enough for Fish and Game to study breeding populations.

When will 3 year clock start, from first day of usability?

Bryce and Benson feel clock should start when groundwork starts.

Lanier says he needs one season without machines to gather base-line data.

Stearns says change 3 years to 5 years.

Amendment: At end of 3 years the Commissioner of DRED has the ability to renew, revoke or continue the pilot process for an additional 2 years.

Sloat withdraws original motion, King moves to accept amendment language as motion, Stearns seconds.

Motion passes 8 to 2.

Motion: King moves to accept changes on Roads and Access Management Guidelines (Pink Sheets), Mason seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion on Camp Lease Inter-Office memo.

Sloat wonders about renting out cabins for profit.

Bryce doesn't think this is a good idea.

Goulet supports option 3 on Inter-Office memo.

Benson would like to see the general public have a better chance to buy lease lots when they become available.

Motion: Goulet motioned to accept Alternative 3 as the preferred option, Publicover seconded.

Bryce says if we go with Alternative 3 we need to include a right of first refusal clause for the State.

Motion is withdrawn.

Next meeting will be after Public Meeting concerning Management Plan changes scheduled for the first or second week of April.

Meeting Adjourned 7:20