

Nash Stream Advisory Committee Meeting
Lancaster, NH
March 7, 2012
Minutes by- John Accardi/John Lanier/Maggie Machinist

5:10- Fred King called meeting to order.
Introductions were made by committee members.

1) Land Acquisition: DRED is looking to purchase a 344 acre parcel in Columbia adjacent to Nash Stream in the Northeast corner. The Land is currently owned by Allen Bouthillier and Greg Stone. The state is ready to close on this deal and already has G&C approval. The property is being purchased mostly from Forests and Lands funding and \$5,000 from snowmobile funds from the Trails Bureau. The committee voted in support of this purchase. **Update: The State closed on March 23rd...title is now vested with the State of NH, under DRED management**

Clint Savage discussed proposed ATV trail across the new acquisition as well as across existing Nash Stream. This trail would go through Kelsey Notch and would connect to Bayroot Lands over to Millsfield. This project might involve re-routing the snowmachine trail away from a year round resident along Kelsey Notch Rd. Approximately 1 mile would be on Nash Stream. The new trail location needs to be reviewed by Forests and Lands (Maggie) as well as Fish and Game. If the trail is moved it would eliminate 5 bridge crossings. The Nash Stream Plan would need to be revised in order for this project to move forward. We are early in the process. The trail would be built by the ATV and snowmobile clubs. Dave Goulet expressed concern about who would be responsible for maintaining the trail, because he feels the N. Stratford trails are in horrible condition.

2) Trio Ponds Road Improvements: \$54,000 was spent to fix up the Trio Pond and Whitcomb Pond Roads. This work was done to remediate wetland issues and to cause no further impacts to the wetlands; without this wetland remediation work, vehicular use of the roads would have been shut down.. Cobbles were placed in the wetlands and 5 steel culverts were used to improve the two roads. A section of the road up to Whitcomb Pond was re-routed around a large wetland. The road is holding up well. Albert Cloutier was the contracted responsible for the work.

3) West Side Road Status: Trails Bureau is working with the North Stratford ATV club. Trail was closed most of the summer due to the Memorial Day Flood. The road/trail was fixed in the fall. Trail system is holding up well and is continued to be monitored. The MOU with the ATV Club is over-due renewal.

4) Forest Management Activities: F & L had a timbersale the summer of 2010 in comp. 22 off of the East Branch Rd. This was contracted out to Kel-Log and approximately 564 mbf of sawlogs and 3, 840 cds of pulp were cut. Part of the picnic loop was re-routed during this project further away from the stream. The next timber sale will be 2013/2014 in compartment 13, up along Nash Stream Road and 14 ½ road. Sale area will be approximately 300 acres.

5) Road Repairs: There was a flood on Memorial day, in which 75% of the camp owners were stranded up at camp. Staff went in with ATV's, with help from the snowmobile club, to check on camp owners. We spent a little less than \$20,000 on the main road and 14 ½ road on emergency repairs and approximately \$8,000 on the Westside Rd. This work was 75% reimbursed by FEMA.

6) Fish Habitat Work: Since 2009 several crossings have been replaced in cooperation with Trout Unlimited and Fish and Game. In the past year there has also been a lot of in-stream work completed to directly improve fish habitat. For 2012- we will be graveling the new section of road, which was moved to reconnect the floodplain with the stream. Pond Brook and Horseshoe Brook are priorities for replacement in the coming future.

Edith Tucker asked a question about hiring a contract forester to increase production, which she said she remembers us talking about in the past. Ken D. didn't recall that earlier conversation and said that we would hire summer people until we are able to hire a full time position. Maggie M. mentioned that we weren't that far behind our allowable cut because the last harvest was very large.

Tom Bushey expressed concern about the condition of the dam at Little Bog Pond. Since we are doing all of this work on the main stream, he would hate for a dam breach to ruin it all. DRED does not own the dam, but DES does and unfortunately no one has the money to repair dams. Director Brad Simpkins said we would talk to DES and see where this dam falls on their priority list.

7) Management Plan Amendments: Ken Desmarais. The Nash Stream Plan was completed in 1995 and the plan will soon be 20 years old. January 2015 is the tentative date of a new plan. We now have better GIS, data and technology available. Involvement with the Nash Stream Committee will be utilized.

8) Camp Site License Program: In 2009 leases were redone and camps were reappraised, and in turn the leases went up. Values were compared with other leased camps across the north country. Two (2) fee levels were established, Basic and Waterfront, and breaks given to no drive in access. Every 5 years the license is re-assessed and subject to G& C approval.

There will be some changes to the way camp owners have access to firewood. No longer will the camp owner be able to cut marked trees. Camp owners will only be allowed to cut dead and down wood, similar to our existing firewood program. A firewood permit will be issued through Maggie, up to 2 cords/year. There will be no fee for the firewood. In the future, this will be worked into the lease agreement, but until the next revision we will use this permit system. Hazard Trees around camps will be accessed individually and a letter will be written for each instance. Director Simpkins spoke about the liability of cutting standing trees and the AG's office said that the public can only cut dead and down trees.

We will also be having a new issuing agent for fire permits. Fred King suggested a newsletter be sent out to the camp owners addressing these changes.

9) Fred King (Electing a new chairman): Fred King is stepping down as chairman and John Lanier was nominated as the new chairman of the Nash Stream Committee. State RSA says the committee will meet once a year. The state thanked Fred King for his years of service with a pen and a cake.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20.