

2009 Upcoming Meetings of the PRWC Board

May 28, 2009 Location TBD

July 23, 2009 Location TBD

Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition
March 26, 2009
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
@Maine Audubon Gilsland Farm Sanctuary,
Falmouth, ME

In attendance: Diane Gould-EPA, Matt Craig - CBEP, Will Plumley - FOPR, Jeff Varricchione - DEP, Richard Curtis - PRLT, Lisa Vickers - DEP, Diane Gould – EPA, Nan Cummings – Portland Trails, Jessica Burton – PNLTC, Roger Berle – Portland Trails and PNLTC, Lee Carlton – USM, Kerry McCormick – Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust, James Gooch -Trust for Public Land, Dennis Hawks – Windham Land Trust, Stephen Engle – Center for Comm. GIS, Curtis Bohlen – CBEP, Megan Shore – Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Brooks More – Windham Planning Director, Matt Craig, CBEP,

1. Introductions and Purpose of the Meeting: Will led a round of introductions and noted that this was a special meeting focused on the single new project: *Establish Land Conservation Vision, Values & Priorities for the Presumpscot River Watershed*. He also noted that all the watershed land trusts were represented except Gorham Trails. Will had agreed to convene this first meeting but anticipated that there would be a leader for future meetings. Will opened the discussion with a summary of the benefits of working together (to which Richard had also contributed). He noted that:

- By crafting a common vision, values, and priorities we can be more proactive.
- Large areas of land that need protection may cross boundaries.
- We can work collaboratively to leverage funding.
- We can provide mutual assistance and strengthen support for projects.
- Nothing will fall through the cracks.

The challenges we all face are:

- Lack of time for additional efforts.
- Uncertainty about how our individual priorities will interweave
- Lack of funds specifically for working together.

2. How does the Presumpscot River Management Plan inform our work? Will reviewed the Open Space section of the Presumpscot Plan, emphasizing that the Plan’s focus is on protecting natural resource values but that it also acknowledges that there are other important values to protect.

Discussion followed on the geographic scope of the new project. It was agreed that the Plan was too narrow in scope, focusing only on the mainstem. After five years working in the watershed it is clear that there is value in broadening the scope to include the watershed from Sebago Lake down.

3. Discuss and Agree on: Will led a group discussion of several key initial questions. The transcribed flip charts are as follows:

-What constitutes success?

- Shift Land Trust work from reactive to proactive
- Create a Priority Map with an Action Plan
- Actually protecting important lands
- Broader vision that aids fundraising
- Integrate conservation vision with other community aspects: economics, education...
- For the Common Good (from PRWC perspective, Common Good includes the ecological community)
- Define our land conservation values
- Better understand watershed metrics related to land conservation
- Every Land Trust approves this vision/values
- Important outlier interests are not overlooked.
- Stakeholders and aspects of the watershed beyond just the Land Trusts need to be represented.

-Who are the Stakeholders? [Will drew a Venn diagram illustrating the intersection of overlapping interests] *This is a very preliminary list as there wasn't enough time for the group to focus on this question.*

- Municipalities
- Gorham Trails
- GPCOG
- PACTS

-Parking Lot Questions

- Which watershed?
- How does it relate to broader community needs
- Learn from others
- Idea: Honor existing Land Trust priorities
- Goals?
- Phases:
 - Vision and Planning (Broad participation)
 - Implementation
- How much detail needed to support specific land priorities?

4. Begin to discuss: (Will continued the group discussion with additional questions)

-Scope/Methodology?

- Greenprinting [Greenprinting is the creation of conservation scenarios that help communities make informed conservation decisions. TPL has experience with this process in other regions of Maine]

- 14-month process
 - Initial stakeholders meeting
 - Survey and interviews
 - GIS and technical team of experts
 - Public listening sessions
 - Vetted by stakeholder group
 - Map overlays of priorities
 - Non-binding
 - Found common ground and agreement
 - New coalition formed
 - TPL managed the process
 - Cost: \$270,000 –in all
\$130,000 – Greenprinting only
 - Funded by \$.50 per capita assessment on municipalities plus funds raised by TPL
- PNLTC
 - Work for 3 Land Trusts
 - Convening larger group not realistic
 - Think beyond town boundaries for ecosystems and trails
 - Scope?

• Years?	Budget?
1	<50K
2	50 – 150K
3	150K+
4	
5	

-Roles? - Potential

- Jim Gooch – Convener and Project Coordinator [Jim has already started Greenprinting discussions with PNLTC]
- USF&WS – Willing to do mapping

5. Next Steps – Will led a discussion of Next Steps. Important questions are:

- Are any of us willing to put up funding?
- Time commitments?
- Is there interest in finding the money to proceed?

The Land Trusts should come back with their reaction. Will suggested that an Ad Hoc Steering Committee with 4 or 5 other members in addition to himself should come back with straw scenarios for:

- Scope
- Timeframe
- Budget

The group should include at least one non-Land Trust member. The following agreed to participate:

- Jessica
- Nan
- Will
- Richard
- Matt
- (Dennis and Brooks were also suggested as options)

Will agreed to convene a meeting of this group.

Meeting Adjourned/Next meeting-The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM and was immediately followed by the Maine Land Trust Network Casco Bay Regional Meeting from 4:30 – 6:00 PM. The next PRWC meeting will be May 28, 2009, location TBD.