

Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition
July 22, 2010
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
@CCSWCD and Sebago to the Sea
(Mountain Division) Trail. Windham

**2010 Upcoming Meetings of the PRWC
Board**

September 23, 2010
December 2, 2010

In attendance: Matt Craig - CBEP, Will Plumley - FOPR, Diane Gould – EPA, Betty Williams, CCSWCD, Merrie Cartwright – NOAA Fisheries, Mary Cerullo – FOCB

1: **Introductions** – Will noted that several Board members sent their regrets and that the updates would be brief so that the group could enjoy the Sebago to the Sea trail.

2. Project Updates –

- Land Conservation Vision, Values and Priorities – Will noted that, of the members present, only Mary was not in attendance at the stakeholders meeting held June 30th at USM. The meeting included 30 stakeholders, including agencies, towns and non-profits. Basically the purpose of the meeting was to take the pulse of the stakeholder community and inform Stephen Engle (the project’s GIS consultant) of the types of mapping information needed for future meetings. The structure of the meeting included introductions, breakouts, and reporting out. Paul Mentag facilitated the public meeting and provided a mechanism for feedback. There were good opportunities for networking and everyone felt the meeting was a strong kickoff. Next Tuesday, the project’s Steering Committee will meet to discuss how to conduct the public input part of the process. Matt noted that we have been invited to submit an application for a second round of grant funding, with a good likelihood of receiving additional funds. We will have to pull an application together.
- Lower River and Estuary Water Quality Reclassification – Matt noted that there was an Executive Committee meeting last week on this project. The Quality Assurance Project Plan for sampling between Cumberland Mills Dam and the Smelt Hill dam site has been completed and has gone to EPA for final signature. The Executive Committee decided to fund FB Environmental to do sonde tending and redeployment at 3 locations this summer. The budget is now about \$5,000. Matt will assist Caycee Dalton in the field. Related to this effort, Friends of Casco Bay is working to upgrade the Presumpscot estuary as well. Betty noted that the efforts compliment each other and that each reclassification proposal should reference the other.

Will noted that we have this summer and next summer to collect data. DEP will make a recommendation to BEP, based on technical information (including our data). BEP (which can be swayed by compelling testimony) will then make its recommendation to the legislature. Will suggested that we will look to Mary for help with Public Relations when the time is right.

3. Sebago to the Sea Trail – Will brought out draft Sebago to the Sea trail maps for the upper part of the trail. These will go on the project's website. It is still uncertain when the rail will be reinstalled from Westbrook to Route 202 (South Windham). Ideally, that effort should be coordinated with the trail construction. At the last meeting of the project committee, it was agreed to focus on the Presumscot route rather than the alternate Stroudwater route. There will be signage to make the trail clear. Uses will include walking, biking, horseback riding and snowmobiling. At this point, the meeting was adjourned and the group walked along a paved section of the trail (Mountain Division), from Route 202 to Gambo Road and back. We also took a brief side trip through the woods to Devil's Den. Everyone agreed the trail is beautiful!

The next meeting will be September 23, 2010 – location to be announced.