

**Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee**  
**September 13, 2010**  
**7:30 PM**

**Location:** DCR Administration Building, Belchertown, MA

**Members Present:** Joe Babineau, Tom Berube, Elisa Campbell, Craig Cortis, Dennis Duguay, Bill Lafley, Tom Lautzenheiser, Art Miner, Mason Phelps

**DCR Staff Present:** Justin Gonsor, Bill Pula

**Public Attending:** Beth Adams, Glen Ayers, Lexie Dewey, J.R. Greene, Ralph Lapinskas

**Superintendent's Report**

**Meeting Start Time: 7:32 PM**

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were unanimously approved for the June 7, 2010 meeting.

**Status of Forestry Plan**

Bill Pula reiterated that the Secretary of EEA , as a result of the visioning process, developed the Commonwealth Heritage Plan, which called for DCR to do a reevaluation of our Land Management Plan through the Science and Technical Advisory Committee. The committee has held two meetings already. Bill Pula also commented on the outstanding lots, which are already been marked and sold. DCR will proceed with these lots after they are reviewed. There are currently two active lots in Quabbin, while two projects were refunded. The Science and Technical Advisory Board will have their report completed by late fall. Elisa Campbell wondered whether or not the Advisory Committee's meeting would be open to the public. Tom Lautzenheiser said the meetings are open to the public, but it was like pulling teeth to get it that way. Glen Ayers inquired about the 20 forestry lots that are proceeding. He wanted to know if the information about these lots is available to the public; baseline information such as species diversity and vernal pool distribution. Bill Pula told him that information is available to view, upon request, at the Visitor's Center. Bill Pula

also commented about the lot selection process. Lots are proposed in the spring; at that point, they go through an evaluation process, historical review, and the regular forestry review. This data can also be made available to the public upon request. Beth Adams wanted to know DCR's definition of what a, "logging moratorium" actually entails. Bill Pula reiterated that DCR is not putting proposing any new lots; they are not marking any new trees at this time. DCR is proceeding with the lots that were previously marked up to two years ago. The moratorium will be in place until the Forest Management Plan is reviewed by the Science and Technical Advisory Committee and the results of the review are presented to the appropriate Advisory Committees and the public. The moratorium does not apply to lots that were already sold.

### **New England National Scenic Trail (NENST)**

Bill Pula reported on the walk led by the Commissioner in July of the proposed route of the trail, but has not gotten much feedback on it since. Elisa Campbell participated in the walk, and is in opposition to the location of the trail on DCR Watershed Land. She feels that the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), the group that would be in charge of maintaining the trail, would not have enough volunteers to adequately maintain the trail. She cited the poor condition of the M&M Trail on the Holyoke Range, managed by the AMC, as an example. Tom Lautzenheiser also participated in the walk. He was concerned with the portions of the trail that skirt wetlands and stream crossings. Jonathan Yeo and Paul Lyons who were on the walk, stated that the infrastructure would be maintained and built to the highest standards. He also feels that DCR wants this trail at Quabbin, and since the committee has said their piece on the issue, it should be taken off the agenda. Elisa Campbell felt that it should be kept on the agenda because if it is taken off, then they will not be allowed to talk about it at the next meeting. Bill Lafley wanted to know what the next step in the process would be. Bill Pula said an agreement was made to pursue the trail, but an MOU needs to be drafted and signed by the Commissioner and AMC to become official. When the Commissioner heard QWAC was opposed to it, he backed off the issue. It was decided to keep the NENST on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **Proposed Review of the Public Access Plan including Night Access Permits**

Bill Pula stated that Quabbin staff is reviewing the Public Access Plan this winter and will include QWAC in the process. He also describes the Night Access Permit program. Currently, the permits can only be purchased at the Visitor's Center in Belchertown. Bill Pula expressed interest in finding an easier way to issue the permits. Dennis Duguay wondered why people can't purchase them over the internet, like hunting and fishing licenses. Bill Pula responded by saying that it probably wouldn't be cost effective, as it can be very expensive to set up that type of system. He will have Lisa Gustavsen give a presentation on the issue next meeting. Art Miner suggested issuing the Night Access Permits at the fishing areas. Bill Pula agreed that would be a good idea. J.R. Greene expressed concern for people that live outside the immediate area and have to make long distance calls to reach Quabbin. He wanted an e-mail set up so those people don't have to pay long distance charges. Bill Pula said that it should be possible. Beth Adams inquired about the canoe/kayak rentals at Quabbin. Bill Pula gave a rundown of the rental program. Dennis Duguay asked if you still need a fishing license to rent a canoe or kayak; you do. Bill Pula asked for any other input on the Public Access Plan. He personally felt that a real process for approving a trail or new activity should be put in place; something that is more than just a statement. Elisa Campbell added that she thought the committee is basically against new activities, but that it doesn't specifically say that in the plan. It was decided that a Review of the Public Access Plan should be kept on the agenda for next meeting.

### **Boat Decontamination Program**

Bill Pula gave an update on the boat washing program. The last day for washings was September 11<sup>th</sup>. Everyone who wanted to get their boat cleaned was able to do so. 22 days were set aside to wash boats; roughly 500 boats went through the program. At the next meeting, a report will be given on the entire boat washing program. Tom Berube commented that DCR has had employees inspecting boats at many of the lakes throughout the state this season. Bill Pula added that Quabbin hired two boat ramp monitors for the season. They were mainly stationed at Comet Pond and Long Pond, but did go elsewhere. They worked to educate people on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Elisa Campbell asked about a new invasive clam that has recently been found in New York. Bill Pula mentioned that it was an Asian Clam that was discovered, and that we will be partnering with the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) to further study them. The plan for the Cold Weather Quarantine (CWQ) is to schedule at

least three days after the closing of the fishing season, and to add additional days if there is demand. Carpeting on trailers will be allowed for the CWQ. As of right now, the plan is to have CWQ on November 20, December 18, and January 8 as inspection days. Tentative locations for the CWQ are Belchertown and New Salem. J.R. Greene wanted to make sure that information regarding the CWQ Program will put in the local papers to notify any interested parties. Dennis Duguay asked for an update on the Zebra Mussel experiment that has been ongoing. Bill Pula stated that the mussels do not survive in Quabbin water; they need calcium levels of roughly 20 parts per million, while at Quabbin our calcium levels are around 2 parts per million.

### **Member Issues**

Craig Cortis asked about how people go about using their Night Access Permits. Bill Pula responded by going over the program and what people must do once they obtain them. There are designated gates for night access, you must call the rangers the day you are planning on night fishing, park outside the gate and walk in, leaving one permit on the dashboard of your car, and keeping one permit in your wallet. This way, the rangers know everyone who is on our land, and what they are doing.

Tom Lautzenheiser mentioned that DCR's sister agency, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, is currently undergoing their forestry review process. Their last public meeting was tonight, but they will be accepting public comments through the end of September. Tom encouraged anyone interested to give their input.

Dennis Duguay asked about the status of the Quabbin Park Hunt. Bill Pula noted that it was still under consideration.

Tom Berube inquired about the paraplegic hunt. Bill Pula said the dates for the hunt are October 28, 29, and 30. He also mentioned that the process would be the same as in years past.

Art Miner gave a wrap up of this year's Special Olympics. He said it was a gorgeous day and everything went off without a hitch. He thanked Quabbin, DCR, and the Watershed Rangers. Everyone was very accommodating. Art also mentioned that on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, there will be a fishing event for veterans, at Quabbin. He was wondering if anyone was interested in coming out for the day and volunteering their boat. It will be a 1-day event, similar to the Special Olympics. Bill Pula talked about the Soldier On Program; a group of

veterans from this program was taken out on a boat ride two weeks ago. Another Veteran's Group will be coming to Gate 31 this coming weekend as well. It was agreed upon to add the Deer Hunt to the next meetings agenda.

### **Schedule Fall Trip and Next QWAC Meeting**

Bill Pula asked for suggestions on where to hold the fall trip. J.R. Greene suggested the areas that had extensive storm damage from a few months ago. Bill Pula noted that in Pelham, at Gate 15, would be a good spot to start. Possible dates, the best place to meet, and carpooling arrangements were all discussed. They decided to incorporate the event with the general forestry trip that takes place around that time. October 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM was the agreed upon date and time.

**Meeting Adjourned : 8:29 PM**

**Agenda**  
**Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee December 13,**  
**2010**  
**7:30 PM Quabbin Visitors Center**  
**485 Ware Rd, Belchertown**

**Approval of Minutes of September 13, 2010**

**Quabbin Public Access Plan Evaluation**

**2010 Deer Hunt Results**

**2010 Quabbin Fishing Area Report**

**Cold Weather Boat Decontamination**

**Members Issues**

**Discuss Joint Meeting with Ware River Watershed Advisory  
Committee for January 13, 2011**