

WRWAC

Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee
Contact: Jeff Schaaf at (413) 477-6646
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 21, 2010

Members: (members in BOLD were present)

Massachusetts Council of Sportsmen: Robert Carey, **William Label**

Alternate: **Clark Abysalh**

Worcester County League of Sportsmen: Dave Papale

Alternate: (Paul Thompson)

Trout Unlimited: **Jeffrey Schaaf, Co-chairman**

Alternate: (empty)

A Rod and Gun Club: **Chris Duggan**

Alternate: (Brian Waterman)

Barre Selectboard: Martha Varnot

Alternate: Edward Yaglou

Hubbardston Selectboard: Thomas Bratko

Alternate: (empty)

Oakham Selectmen: Thomas Hughes

Alternate: Henry Stone

Rutland Selectmen: **Charles R. Williams**

Alternate: (empty)

Barre Historical Society: **Burt Frost**

Alternate: **Peg Frost**

Hubbardston Historical Society: (empty)

Alternate: (empty)

Oakham Historical Society: Wes Dwelly

Alternate: **Bill Mucha**

Rutland Historical Society: Helen Viner

Alternate: Tim Nahrwold

Massachusetts Wildlife Federation: Bill Westaway, **Co-chairman**

Alternate: Thomas Berube

Massachusetts Audubon Society: Charles Delaney

Alternate: (empty)

Sierra Club: Matt Hopkinson

Alternate: (empty)

Upper Ware River Watershed Association: Donald Rich

Alternate: Edward Yaglou

General Public: Mark DuBois

Alternate: (empty)

Visitors

Karl Makela
Dean Zuppio

DCR DWSP Representative(s):

Dave Small, Asst. Reg. Dir
Lisa Gustavsen
Herm Eck, scribe

Agenda

- Public Access Plan

Public Access Plan

Lisa Gustavsen reviewed the access plan update process, the changes that were made compared to the 2000 Plan and our next steps. The major changes include: established a restricted access zone (formerly the quiet zone), designated all roads open for bicycle access, traded two horseback routes upon USAC request, added aquatic invasive species (AIS) protection program to boating and fishing policies, and added an annual review to allow opportunities to tweak the access plan. During the briefing a couple items came up:

- 1) Karl Makela, a proponent for snowmobile access to groom cross-country trails in the restricted area, was not pleased with our decision that this was an expansion of recreational activity, because he feels that is a maintenance activity like plowing our roads. WRWAC advised him to get in touch with his legislator if he wanted to resubmit his request.
- 2) Dean Z pointed out that our blue diamond shaped signs allowing snowmobile access conflicts with DCR-Parks blue diamond which signifies no motorized activity. Dave S is going to look into this.
- 3) The WRWAC was very supportive of the upcoming AIS Plan and implementation this spring and summer. A field trip was mentioned.
- 4) Bill Mucha again requested that we remove the 12/31 time restriction for access and then asked when told of the management activities that would conflict with that, if we'd allow Sunday and evening after 6pm access before 12/31.

DCR offered to send copies of the final Plan to the members when it is finalized. I told them they should have copies in early February.

The comment period ends January 22, 2010. The next and hopefully, final Internal Working Group meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, Jan. 26th.

Current issue regarding unauthorized snowmobile access near the MWRA facility and historical marker were addressed. Lisa brought 2 signs with her to the meeting that DCR scrambled to make and we've asked the CSC to post them immediately. Dean inquired about a public meeting on the Ware River Public Access Plan. Dave explained that this WRWAC meeting on the plan update would be the last public meeting on access updates this year. Dean also pointed out that the rail trail section between Whitehall Road and Whitehall Road was not mapped as a snowmobile trail.

Dick Williams asked why some checks were sent back for timber sale bids. Dave explained that this was a defensive move to give us time to ensure that all lots meet our high standards and possibly prevent the forestry program from being shut down.

Dave also mentioned that the foot bridge for Brigham Road was moved and will be installed soon.

Future meeting dates:

Thursday March 25, 2010 at 7:00 at the Franklin Wood Studio in Rutland behind the Police/Fire station.