

**Joint Meeting**  
**Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee (QWAC) and**  
**Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee (WRWAC)**  
**February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**7:30 PM**

**Location:** Barre Town Hall, Barre, MA 01005

**QWAC Members Present:** Tom Berube (MA Sportsmen's Council), Tom Lautzenheiser (MA Audubon), Art Miner Quabbin Fisherman's Association, Tom Barnes (North Worcester County Quabbin Anglers), Jerry Eves (PVTU), Jim Boyko (Swift River Valley Historical Society).

**WRWAC Members Present:** Jeff Schaaf (Trout Unlimited), Matt Hopkinson (Sierra Club), Tom Hughes (Oakham Select Board Rep), Martha Varnot (Barre Select Board Rep), Dick Williams (Rutland Select Board Rep), Ed Yaglou (Upper Ware River Watershed Association), Burton Frost (Barre Historical Society).

**DCR and EOEEA Staff Present:** DCR Commissioner, ED Lambert, Stephanie Cooper, Jonathan Yeo, William Pula, John Scannell, Dave Small, Thom Snowman, Randy Stone, Herm Eck, Derek Beard, Jonathan Yeo.

**Public Attending:** State Representative Anne Gobi, Judy Spencer, Lexi Dewey, Bruce Spencer, John Gregoire, Jeff Hutchins, Dick Martin, Ron Rich Jr., Dean Zuppio, Robert D. Wetmore.

**Meeting Start Time: 7:34 PM**

**Presentation of DCR responses to the STAC Report and the public comments on the STAC report**

Jonathan Yeo and Thom Snowman presented the highlights of DCRs' response to the STAC report and the public comments DCR received on the STAC report. A written report, detailing the DCR response can be found at the following website; [http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/materials/watershed/dcrstacresponse2\\_2013.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/materials/watershed/dcrstacresponse2_2013.pdf).

This report outlines how DCR plans to implement the recommendations in the STAC report. Future timber sales will go through a more transparent process and allow more opportunities for public comments. Aesthetic considerations will be given a higher priority than in the past. Monitoring the impacts of harvesting will increase. The land acquisition program for the Wachusett Reservoir will be strengthened.

Public comments on DCR's response to the STAC Report will be accepted until March 15, 2013.

### **Questions/comments from advisory committee members**

Tom Berube asked if the public would have a chance to tour the timber sales before they are sold. DCR will schedule public site visits before the timber is sold, if requested.

Dick Williams commented that public involvement was a good thing, as long as it does not encourage the public to visit active logging operations which could be dangerous. DCR stated that signage will be used to help inform the public of the reasons for its land management actions as well as alert the public of logging activities in the area.

Ed Yaglou asked if the new timber sale procedures would be so stringent that the loggers would be afraid to bid for economic reasons. DCR stated that they have sold timber with similar requirements in the past.

Martha Varnot asked if loggers were consulted about the public having more information on DCR timber sales...would this lead to vandalism of logging equipment. DCR commented that vandalism of logging equipment has been rare but is concerned about future projects. Public tours of proposed timber sales would occur before timber is sold to loggers.

Tom Berube commented on the increase of terrestrial invasive plants in Connecticut and suggested using community service volunteers to help control terrestrial invasive plants on the watersheds. DCR will look into to using volunteers. They have been used in the past for other projects.

Matt Hopkinson suggested placing signs, with date of harvest on them, at every harvest site, so the public could see how quickly these harvest areas change as they regenerate and go through the succession process. DCR stated that these signs could work well, with the photo documentation of this change that will be placed on the DCR website.

Tom Barns asked for clarification of the “clean equipment requirement” that was mentioned as a way to reduce the spread of terrestrial invasive plants. DCR stated that this would involve loggers cleaning their equipment themselves so that it will pass a visual inspection by a DCR forester if the equipment is being moved from privately owned land or state property with invasive plants. A similar process was used by some utility companies working on the watersheds.

Tom Lautzenheiser thanked DCR for the efforts put into its response to the STAC report and commented that the STAC report thresholds for opening sizes were based more on cultural values than scientific data.

Dick Williams inquired about the water quality monitoring on active harvest. DCR has monitored active harvest at Wachusett for several years and is starting to monitor some active lots at Quabbin and Ware River. Annual reports of monitoring will be presented to advisory committees.

### **Questions/comments from the Public**

Dean Zuppio asked if the STAC report will have any impact on recreational use of the watersheds. The STAC report did not address recreational use of the watersheds.

Judy Spencer asked if the DCR had plans to deal with the hemlock trees that are being weakened by the hemlock woolly adelgid. DCR has had a hemlock policy to deal with the hemlock woolly adelgid issue on watershed lands for over a decade. DCR plans to continue to follow this policy which can be found in the land management plans on the DCR web site.

Bruce Spence commented that DCR’s sister agencies DFW and state parks treat invasive plants... will watershed managers start to treat invasive plants ? Bruce also inquired about the species diversity of the regeneration in the recently

created openings. DCR stated that most openings have amazing diversity but regeneration is influenced by many factors and is somewhat variable from place to place. Terrestrial invasive plants are a challenge to water suppliers. Some water suppliers do use chemical treatments and some do not. DCR is looking into the use of chemicals and may decide to try a pilot program on its' off watershed lands (i.e., Sudbury Watershed). Bruce Spencer commented about the utility companies using chemicals on their right of ways (ROW) through the watersheds. DCR stated that private land owners and utility ROW holders do use chemicals on DCR watersheds and these chemicals have not been detected in any DCR water quality testing.

## **Agenda**

### **Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee**

**April 1, 2013 7:30 PM**

**Location:** DCR Quabbin Visitors Center

485 Ware Road

Belchertown, MA 01007

Approval of minutes of meeting of December 10, 2012 and February 12, 2013

Proposed Quabbin Watershed Forestry lots

NET Dedication National Trails Day

Quabbin Fishing Season

Water elevation and current status of Water System

Member's issues

Schedule next meeting