

Minutes of the Ossipee Lake Natural Area Working Group

DATE: 23 January 2009

PRESENT:	Bud Berry/Diane Hanley	Lakes Management Advisory Committee
	Melissa Coppola	Natural Heritage Bureau
	Jacquie Colburn	DES Lakes Management and Protection
	Joshua Dirth	Bureau of Marine Patrol
	Kevin Donovan	Parks and Recreation
	Jean Hansen	Long Sands Association
	Sheila Jones	Town of Effingham
	Don Kent	Natural Heritage Bureau
	Wayne Killam	Business Community
	Richard Lover	Boating Community
	Allen McKenney	Boating Community
	Harry Merrow	Town of Center Ossipee
	Bryan Nowell	Forest Protection Bureau
	John Panagiotakos	Boating Community
	John Shipman	Town of Freedom
	Susan Slack	Green Mountain Conservation Group
	David Smith	Ossipee Lake Alliance

Don Kent called the second meeting of the Ossipee Lake Natural Area (OLNA) Working Group to order at 1:00 PM. The Working Group approved the minutes of the previous meeting via email communication.

Old Business

Melissa Coppola used a PowerPoint presentation to respond to a request from Dennis Gould at the 14 November 2008 meeting to reconsider closing "Short Sands". The presentation illustrated that "Short Sands" constitutes the state's best opportunity for protecting and conserving the OLNA's four natural communities and two remaining threatened and endangered plant species. In addition, the presentation illustrated that the public use area proposed in November 2008 is 40 percent larger than the public use area of 2007 and 2008. "Short Sands" will remain closed.

New Business

The Working Group reviewed Statutes and Rules applicable to the OLNA. The application to natural areas of rules intended for developed parks, and the on-going Division of Parks and Recreation rule revision process, hampered group discussion. Nevertheless, the Working Group reached general agreement about appropriate activities for the OLNA public use area. Issues requiring resolution include differentiating between Natural Areas and beaches, digging, and dogs. The Working Group

OLNA Working Group

acknowledged that dogs on the public use area would be leashed, and their waste removed.

Sheila Jones and Kevin Donovan led a discussion of bathroom alternatives for the OLN. High lake levels, ice scouring, high groundwater levels, and setback distances restrict establishment of an onshore bathroom. Many, but not all, OLN boaters have marine toilets. Sheila Jones emphasized the importance of bathroom facilities at public landings. Wayne Killam and Bryan Nowell championed the idea for a barge equipped with bathroom facilities. An on-site barge will require acquisition, maintenance, and sufficient waste capacity. Jacquie Colburn indicated that the OLN Working Group would be unable to complete an application for Clean Vessel Act funding by this year's 30 January 2009 deadline. In addition, she indicated that the Lake Winnisquam Association was pursuing Clean Vessel Act funding to establish public, boat-based toilets. John Panagiotakos suggested the Working Group could evaluate submitting a Clean Vessel Act proposal next year. In summary, Don Kent suggested that the short-term solution is likely marine toilets or returning to on-shore facilities, and that a barge is likely a long-term solution.

Jacquie Colburn led a discussion on water quality. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) inspects public beach waters to monitor disease-causing pathogens via *E. coli* bacteria and toxin producing cyanobacteria. Results are available in 24 hours from the DES laboratory in Concord. If bacteria levels exceed the state's water quality standards, or technicians identify a cyanobacteria bloom, DES posts advisory signs. DES collects daily bacteria samples at posted beaches until samples achieve state standards.

The Working Group indicated their interest in water quality sampling of OLN nearshore waters on weekends, preferably Sunday afternoon. John Shipman advocated for weekly sampling. Jacquie Colburn suggested that the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program might be able to collect samples and deliver them to Concord on Monday, or to her Sunday evening. David Smith suggested over-the-counter bacteria tests as an alternative to DES-sanctioned sampling. Bud Berry suggested an alternative laboratory, for example the Conway wastewater treatment facility. John Shipman, Jacquie Colburn, and Bud Berry will lead a subgroup to examine the water quality sampling issue.

Action Items

1. Don Kent will work with the Division of Parks and Recreation to clarify the rules (Res 7301) to ensure consistency with public use of the OLN. The Working Group will discuss a revised "Statutes and Rules Applicable to the Ossipee Lake Natural Area" at the next Working Group meeting.
2. Don Kent will re-contact the Division of Historical Resources to verify their procedure for conveying historical artifacts inadvertently uncovered at the OLN public use area.
3. Sheila Jones will continue to evaluate bathroom alternatives at the OLN and report any new information at the next Working Group meeting.

OLNA Working Group

4. Jacquie Colburn will provide John Panagiotakos with contact information for the Lake Winnisquam Association.
5. John Shipman, Jacquie Colburn, and Bud Berry will lead a subgroup to further examine the water quality sampling issue and report to the Working Group at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The OLNA Working Group will meet 1 to 4 PM, 27 February 2009 at the Freedom Town Hall.

Donald M. Kent

Donald M. Kent, Ph.D.
Chair, OLNA Working Group