

Core Group Meeting
August 3, 2009

Present: Jackie Conant, Dave Bowen, Rob Turnbull, Polly Bussiere, Mitzie Turnbull, Judy Hamilton, Herb Harding, Gene Grouleau and Ray Bussiere.

Chair, Malcolm Ray, was unable to attend this meeting. Dave Bowen, Vice Chair, conducted the meeting from a proposed agenda and information provided by Mac.

AVCOG - Notification was received recently that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Infrastructure Grant program includes wording - "dams with the main purpose of providing the primary water storage facility for an active water district or municipal system" - making our project eligible for a maximum \$500K. A 25% cash match of the total grant award is also required. The applicant/s and the ownership, maintenance, and operation of the completed dam must be determined. Canton owns the dam and it has been a joint project of the two towns and the water district from the beginning with the three municipal agencies represented in the Inter-local Agreement. The dam provides the water storage in the lake, which is the water supply for Canton and the water district customer base demonstrates that the project meets the National Objective. Water district proof of eligibility and a decision for direction of the project (repair or replacement options) will also be required for a grant application. A letter of intent is due by December 4, 2009 and the 2010 CDBG application deadline is January 22, 2010.

Bob Thompson has been successful in opening CDBG possibilities for the dam project and provided assistance to the core group because of Hartford's membership. We recommend that Canton join AVCOG for several reasons, among others, to encourage continued assistance of AVCOG for seeking federal funding of the dam project. Jackie will bring this to the Canton Select Board and would appreciate membership information from AVCOG for their next meeting.

Brownfields Assessment - When asked about the Brownfield's survey, Bob Thompson said that their grant funds provided for a Phase I investigation. If further study or remediation is required, funds are generally available to municipalities and are often in high demand. A "clean bill of health" for the dam properties will be needed for federal funding for the project.

Notice of Violation from DEP - dated July 24th was issued to Canton for failure to comply with Maine's Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law in the construction of the temporary dam. May 27th site visit showed that "rock material from the bottom of the stream bed had been moved to an area directly behind the wooden dam structure without a permit" and at a follow up site visit on July 13th, "that a large amount of rock fill had been placed in the resource [brook] and heavy equipment was operated in the resource itself without a permit". DEP expects to pursue monetary penalties as part of a civil penalty action in these violations.

Mac emailed DEP enforcement officer, Colin Clark, on July 30th. He explained actions taken in the initial construction to reinforce the bottom log and prevent a wash-under and the emergency actions taken after the June 19th wash out under the third span of the timber dam. He cited Maine law [MRSA T. 38 Sec. 480-Q Section 9]: "A permit is not required for emergency repair or normal maintenance and repair of existing public works which affect any protected natural resource." The addition of rock material after the June 19th washout was considered within the authority of the Town as given by the statutes. Silt fences and erosion mats have been installed on both sides of the temporary dam, corrective action as requested by DEP. Full NRPA permits, acceptable for processing to both DEP and Town, is required and the Canton Select Board is going to ask for a pre-application meeting as soon as possible. We have already discussed asking for a permit to make the temporary dam more permanent (taking only the top three logs out in the winter instead of removing everything in the fall).

Lake Days and fundraising raffles are moving forward for the coming weekend. Posters, signs and emails advertise the joint community event sponsored by the lake association as a celebration of "community", restoration of water levels and a fundraising event for the dam project. Activities begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday unless the rain date (Sunday 1 p.m.) is necessary.

Cleanup day, suggested by Mac, has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 12th. The pre-application meeting with DEP should make clear what permits, if any, are needed to bush-hog the whole site, cut all saplings on the banks from the CWD property line to Route 108, clean up construction materials and possibly begin to remove the steel super structure on the old dam.

Eminent domain check issued Mr. Fortier was recently cashed.

Revitalization of the dam properties - A rendition of the completed dam project, including the revitalization of the two properties, would be helpful in fundraising. We have had suggestions - public boat ramp, snowmobile connection to other trails, foot/snowmobile bridge crossing, and park. Computer programs and skills are needed to produce these drawings. Mac has suggested that this part of the project might attract one of his engineering students. Perhaps this should be a primary agenda for one of our early fall meetings and invite all interested parties to submit their "visions" for consideration.

Next meeting: 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 17th at the Canton Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Hamilton, Secretary