

Core Group Meeting  
September 14, 2009

Present: Bob Thompson (AVCOG Exec. Director), Sen. Bruce Bryant, Leon Bucher (IF&W), Mac Ray, Ray and Polly Bussiere, Jackie Conant, Debi Hutchins, Tom and Judy Hamilton, Gene Grouleau, Biff and Mary Atwater, Gary Dougherty.

**Final copy of Kleinschmidt Preliminary Report** was received today. Copies will be sent to the Town of Hartford and one was given to AVCOG.

**Notice of Violation** - Erosion and sediment controls were added to both sides of the dam and a pre-application meeting is to be scheduled by DEP. The Canton Select Board wants to discuss submission of a NRPA permit as corrective action and to change the "temporary" dam to a "permanent" structure so that ALL materials used in the installation of the stop log dam and emergency repair of the breach do not need to be removed this fall.

**The Clean-Up Day** scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> to cut brush was canceled because of concerns about whether the cutting of brush along the brook needed a permit and a general desire to tread lightly until the violation issues are resolved with DEP.

**Whitney Brook Ecosystem Tour/Workshop** - has been scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at the Town office. The purpose of this workshop is to present information on the ecosystem of Lake Anasagunticook, Whitney Brook and the Androscoggin River to raise awareness of the interconnected issues facing that system. The goal of this session is review current conditions of Whitney Brook and develop an action plan to address identified issues. All are welcome and we would like to see participants from the various stakeholder groups in the dam project.

**Community Development Block Grant [CDBG]** program is a possible funding source for a permanent dam. Both Hartford and Canton are members of Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments [AVCOG] and with the assistance of Bob Thompson, Executive Director, is helping us prepare for a 2010 CDBG public infrastructure grant application for a maximum \$500,000 to construct or reconstruct the dam with the main purpose of providing the primary water storage facility for the Canton Water District. All communities applying for these funds must certify that they will provide a cash match of at least 25% of the total grant award. This could mean \$625,000 for the project.

A meeting between CDBG officials, Amy Landry at AVCOG and a representative from the Town of Canton and the water district will determine whether the dam project application will meet the National Objective requirements to benefit 51% or greater low/moderate income persons. It is extremely important that our beneficiary survey meet the program specifications with a methodology appropriate to the grant requirements.

Our grant application "story" could be a strong one because of joint community actions already taken. A letter of intent to file an application is due December 4, 2009 and the final application by January 22, 2010. The Town of Canton will be the owner applicant and the Canton Water District the beneficiary. There is a lot of research and writing to be done before the end of the year:

- The Source Water Protection Plan developed with the aid of Rural Water indicates the importance of the dam in providing quality water storage for the Canton water supply. The impact of low water levels on the CWD program could further support the need for the dam. A case can easily be made to show that water district customers cannot fund the dam and the CDBG funds are necessary.
- The Town of Canton will need to decide on which design option to use from the Kleinschmidt Report. Building a new dam behind the stop log dam seems to be the most favored option. Bob Thompson stated that CDBG would not "partially" fund a project (not build half a dam). To apply for the \$500K, the total cost of the dam project must be within the infrastructure funding plus cash match.
- A listing of all actions taken over the past two and a half years (and earlier) needs to be gathered to build the citizen participation "story". Acquisition of the dam by joint efforts of Canton and Hartford, core group meetings, newspaper and newsletter articles, the inter-local agreement, the upcoming September 25<sup>th</sup>

Tour/Workshop, fundraising activities and more will fill out this part of the application. Moving forward with ideas on how to revitalize the two dam properties can also show citizen involvement although these projects will come from other funding and volunteer support.

- A cash match of at least \$125K must be raised. Locating low or no interest loans, other grants, a capital campaign effort and other fundraising activities must certify that we will meet the 25% cash match requirement.

**Boat Ramp** - Sen. Bruce Bryant and Leon Bucher, Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife [DIF&W], were present to answer questions, which have surfaced from discussions about building a public boat ramp immediately upstream of the dam. To stock the lake, public access to the lake for all commonly used boats is required. Those present seemed to feel that Whitney Brook was not adequate for large or "party" boat access to the lake because of large rocks and shallow draft in places. IF&W is considering the purchase of the Rt. 140 boat ramp currently privately owned. Designs for an angled launch would provide safe ramp access for all size boats with parking across Rt. 140. Crosswalks and reduced speed limits would be needed to provide pedestrian safety. The State would pay for the property, own and maintain the boat ramp and parking.

The State is highly unlikely to fund two public launches on one lake. However, a carry-in boat ramp, which could also handle small motor crafts would enhance access to downtown Canton from the lake, revitalize downtown Canton and provide an economic boost to businesses. Dept. of Conservation through Parks and Land facilities provides grant funding for projects of this sort. Ownership and maintenance of a boat ramp of this type would remain with the Town of Canton.

**Next meeting:** 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Canton Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Hamilton, Secretary