

## Meeting of Elected Officials Re: Canton Dam

July 19, 2007

Hartford Town Hall

### Present:

Hartford Select Board: Dave Bowen, Hope McCabe, Lee Holman, Clerk Lianne Bedard

Canton Select Board: Jackie Conant, Rick Ray, Lisa Cummings, Brian Jordan

Canton Water District: Debi Hutchins, Admin. Asst.

LAA: John & Beth Convey, Judy Hamilton

Lake residents and property owners: Malcolm Ray (Canton, LAA and engineer), Paul Bernier (Canton, Hartford, temp. dam), Rob Turnbull (Canton, Whitney Brook), Herb Harding (Canton, Whitney Brook), Norman Parks (Hartford), Mike Ranhoff (Canton, LAA, temp. dam)

Public: Peggy Poskus, Bev Murphy, Mary Standard (Sun Journal)

This was any early start to the Hartford Select Board meeting for the purpose of establishing a commitment from the four boards which are elected represents of the stakeholders in the current water level crisis as a result of a MEMA Emergency Supplemental Dam Safety Order, dated May 8, 2007. All three members of the Hartford Select Bd., all four of the attending members of the Canton Select Bd., Debi or Don Hutchins from the water district, John Cronin from the water and sewer district (not present), four members of the LAA Bd (Polly Bussiere, Mike Poulin not present) and four watershed property owners (Paul Bernier, Mike Ranhoff, Rob Turnbull, Mac Ray) indicated their interest and willingness to serve on a leadership committee to work toward finding a permanent solution to the long-term safety of the dam which maintains the water levels in accordance with the 1978 Water Level Management Plan as amended in 1996.

A committee of seventeen at present could grow larger as other individuals who have been actively seeking solutions become aware of this opportunity to work together to find answers. The next meeting has been set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Canton Town Office.

### **Points raised and goals suggested:**

1. **Cost, expenses already incurred and fund raising** – The Town of Canton will set up a fund to accept donations from the lake association and individuals as previously suggested. This will require an oversight management committee with authorization signatures needed for appropriations and reimbursements. Perhaps this should be one of the first items of business so that donations can be accepted as soon as possible.
2. **Environmental impact of low water levels** – The Canton Water District has been in touch with Andy Tolman (Water Resources Team Leader at Maine Drinking Water Prog/DHHS) and Alex Wong (Groundwater Prog. Manager, Maine Rural Water Assoc.) will evaluate the effect of low water levels and source protection for the lake. Debi Hutchins will let this group know what they learn from this assessment. Water district

water monitoring has been of drinking water not of the lake water. Lake water monitoring has been done for years by the lake association and all that data are on the PEARL website [www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/waterquality/](http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/waterquality/).

The LAA board has already begun soliciting factual and experiential knowledge from State agencies and officials on the expected effect of low water levels on water quality and the health of the lake. Judy Hamilton will forward responses received to date to the email list as established at this meeting.

3. **Ownership** – Dam repairs and water level management is a long-term problem that the Town of Canton, DEP, MEMA and individuals have had to confront for over a decade. It is believed that State officials want to see a change in ownership of the dam as the first step toward a permanent solution. This will involve eminent domain, costs for taking, repairs or construction, maintenance, and a process for planning with specific time frames.
4. **Engineering Report** – The engineers, hired by Ray Fortier around the first of June, were given (by the Attorney General) six weeks to submit a plan for repairs to the dam to meet the MEMA Dam Safety Order of December 6, 2006. It was reported at this meeting that the required engineering plan has not yet been submitted to General Libby, MEMA.
5. **Temporary dam** - There is only one of the three original temporary dam proposals that reached the DEP application process. Michael Ranhoff explained that the application has been submitted along with an erosion control plan, emergency action plan, placement and removal schedule, required public notice, application fee, etc. He is requesting a permit good for three years so that sandbags can be put in place in the spring and removed in the fall to give the lake some stability until a permanent solution can be found. He stressed that this is a temporary fix only. Considerable time, energy and money has been spent by a few individuals to find and install a temporary solution. When the DEP permit arrives, we will be notified of the date for placing the sandbags, which are already filled and waiting on trailers nearby.

Submitted by,  
Judy Hamilton  
Lake Anasagunticook Assn.