

Dam Project Update September 14, 2009

The core group of representatives from the five "community" stake holder groups (Towns of Canton and Hartford, Canton Water District, lake and millpond associations) has acquired the dam properties for the Town of Canton, has secured a Preliminary Engineering Report from Kleinschmidt Consultants describing three options for a permanent dam with cost estimates, produced an inter-local agreement demonstrating a joint community action to maintain and operate a completed permanent dam, and has installed a temporary dam which restored water levels in the lake this summer. The Dam Project is now moving into a new phase, which will require more hard work from our "community" in order to succeed.

Once the Town of Canton decides on the permanent dam design, work must begin to find the funds needed to complete this project. Both Canton and Hartford are members of the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments [AVCOG] who have been helping the core group find access to the big \$\$ needed to complete this project. Planning is underway for the Town of Canton to apply for a 2010 Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] public infrastructure funding for a maximum \$500,000 to construct or reconstruct the dam "with the main purpose of providing the primary water storage facility for an active 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", which means \$625,000 for the project. A meeting between CDBG officials and representatives from the Town and water district will be arranged soon to determine whether our application will meet the requirement to "demonstrate that the project meets the National Objective of benefiting 51% or greater low/moderate income persons".

Ideas on how to develop the two dam properties to revitalize the town center will be important to the CDBG application and funding from subsequent grants will be sought. Ideas continue to surface: a bridge across the brook for walkers and snowmobiles, a boat ramp, park, gazebo and more. We encourage you to bring your ideas to the Town through the core group.

On July 24, 2009, DEP issued the Town of Canton a Notice of Violation alleging failure to comply with Maine's Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law and Natural Resources Protection Act for violations documented through a site visit to the temporary dam. There were three violations sited:

- For filling, displacing or exposing soil or other earthen materials without taking measures to prevent unreasonable erosion of soil or sediment into the stream
- For placing fill adjacent to the stream without first obtaining a permit
- For placing fill in the stream without first obtaining a permit

Corrective actions were taken immediately to install erosion and sediment controls on both sides of the temporary dam and the Select Board submitted

a request for a pre-application meeting with DEP as suggested by the State. The plan is to apply for a NRPA permit to make the "temporary" dam a "permanent" structure so that all materials used to install the stop log dam and the emergency repair of the breach do not need to be removed. This would also secure water levels in the lake and provide time to complete construction on a permanent structure.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, September 25th, a Whitney brook Ecosystem Tour/Workshop is planned to raise awareness of the interconnected issues surrounding this project. Water quality, fisheries, preservation of valuable wetlands, pollution from erosion, safe recreational use, and much more are equally important to both the lake and the brook and put the health of both at risk. This workshop is open to all who are interested.

The next core group meeting is Monday, September 28th, 6:30 p.m. at the Canton town office.

Submitted by,
Judy Hamilton, Secretary
Core Group for a Permanent Solution