

Bristol Dam Advisory Committee
Town Hall
Wednesday, January 10, 2017

Committee members present: Jim Albright, Pam Allen, Phil Averill, Bill Benner, Claire Enterline, Chuck Farrell, John Freburger, James Hatch, Abigail Ingraham.

Also present: Chris Hall, Slade Moore, Rick Poland, Jed Wright (US Fish and Wildlife Service)

At the request of visiting speaker Jed Wright, each member introduced themselves and shared their local affiliations and interest in the Dam project.

Consideration of the Minutes of December 7 was deferred to the next meeting.

Enterline outlined the agenda.

Slade Moore (Bristol Fish Committee) gave a slide presentation and talk on the life cycle of the Alewife and related River Herring species, and the history of its harvest in Bristol and Maine as far as data is available. He concluded with a review of the history of the Bristol Mills Dam and fishway, and recent proposals from Wright-Pierce for upgraded fish passage.

Jed Wright (US Fish and Wildlife Service) gave a presentation on how dams affect river ecosystems.

In discussion following the presentations, members of the Committee pointed to the large increase in alewife numbers from 2013 to 2016, and asked what could be expected in future, and whether the watershed could support one million fish per annum. An estimate for the watershed's minimum carrying capacity of 660,000 fish per annum was given, given the assumptions of 235 fish per acre of habitat and 2,800 acres available. It was noted that the population should be expected to fluctuate due to natural self-regulation. The maximum carrying capacity is unknown.

A discussion ensued as to what the goal should be: Hatch stated that it should be a sustainable fishery, while Farrell cautioned that without a clear and achievable target the Town could be in danger of spending money "to feel good." Wright noted that wherever passage had been facilitated in Maine, fish have been quick to take advantage of it.

Ingraham asked how healthy the river is today, triggering a discussion on future needs for presentations to the Committee. Representatives of the PWA and the Fish Committee indicated their beliefs that the river is, in fact, in good condition.

Enterline summed the discussion saying that the Committee should request presentations including:

- Bristol Fish Committee – R. Poland's observations over the last 15 years

- PWA – water quality measurements
- Joe McLean, Wright-Pierce: water levels
- IF&W: wildlife in the habitat above the dam
- An anadromous species specialist, on other (non-river herring) species
- Firefighting water requirements
- Infrastructure – bridges, etc. (Wright-Pierce)
- Recreational values of the impoundment (swimming, fishing, canoeing, etc.)
- Experience of comparable towns and watersheds – e.g. the Sheepscot
- Financial consequences of alternative options
- Ecological impacts of alternative options

Benner and others expressed concern that the agenda should be limited to a manageable size, with agreement that some subjects, however interesting, would have to remain outside the scope of the Committee's work.

Enterline then led a review of the Committee's purpose and governance as outlined in the Committee Binder.

It was moved by Albright and seconded by Freburger that Sections 1.1 (Committee Authority), 1.2 (Committee Charge) and 1.3 (Committee Deliverables) be accepted. Passed 7 – 1.

In discussion of Committee Governance, the following points were made:

- The Committee does not need its own Treasurer, as disbursements and accounts will be kept by the Town Office and reported to the Committee.
- Two hard copies of the Committee Binder, including agenda, minutes, and all documents submitted to the Committee, will be available for public review at the Town Office, one of which may be signed out for borrowing by members of the public.
- Additional binders would be made available to those members of the Committee who prefer to receive
- Meeting time would in future be from 6 pm to 8 pm, still on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.
- Robert's Rules of Order would apply to the process of the Committee.
- Voting would be by a simple majority, with a quorum of 5 members (out of 8).
- The Chair is authorized to invite speakers to meetings.
- The Chair will be the central point of communication for committee emails and any press releases; and will liaise with the Town Office to ensure the Committee Binders are up to date. The Committee would expect to issue press releases whenever major decisions have been agreed.
- Communications with the Bristol Selectmen must be with all three simultaneously, and should preferably be done in the public forum of the Selectmen's Meeting.
- Agendas and Minutes of the Committee's meetings will be sent by the Town of Bristol to the Towns of Damariscotta and Bremen.

- All rules of governance will be available in the Committee Binders sent electronically to members of the Committee, and kept in hard copy in the Town Office.

It was moved (Hatch) and seconded (Farrell) to accept Section 1, Committee's Charge and Guiding Principle and 2, Committee Governance, in their entirety, subject to the following amendments:

- Paragraph 1.1, Committee Authority, add the words 'and Fishway' at the end of the sentence. ('.....various options for the future of the Bristol Mills Dam **and Fishway.**')
- Paragraph 2.2, Meeting Schedule and Timeline: replace '5:30 pm' with '**6:00 pm**'.
- Paragraph 2.3.2, Committee Decisions/Voting, add a new concluding sentence: "**Roberts Rules of Order shall govern questions of Committee Process and Procedure.**"

There followed discussion of the Scope of Work, upon which it was agreed to defer acceptance of Section 3, 'Feasibility Process and Expectations for the Final Report' until the next meeting when input will be sought from Wright-Pierce and we will seek assurance that all the Committee's concerns are being addressed.

The next meeting on January 24 will be attempt to conclude the Scope of Work to be agreed with Wright-Pierce.

A motion to Adjourn at 8.10 pm was proposed by Farrell and seconded by Freburger. Passed 8 – 0.

Christopher Hall
Town Administrator