

**Lake Camp Road Stakeholder Meeting
July 16, 2008; DOT Region 2 Office
NOTES**

1. In attendance: Don Witherill (DEP), Peter Kallin (BRCA), Clif Buuck (Readfield Code Enforcement Officer), Barb Welch (DEP – Facilitator), Bill Laflamme (DEP), Peter Newkirk (MaineDOT), Clyde Walton (30 Mile River Watershed Assoc.), Betsy Bowen (MARA), Linda Gifford (ME Assoc. of Realtors), Amy Hudnor (LURC), Pattie Aho (ME Real Estate & Dev. Assoc.), Jeff Austin (ME Municipal Assoc.), Kristin Feindel (DEP), Bill Bell (MACD), Josh Platt (Kennebec County SWCD), Larry Fleury (Pattee's Pond Assoc., Winslow CPC), Carl Snow (Pattee's Pond Assoc.), Jim Hart (China Region Lakes Alliance), Amy Mills (Assistant Attorney General – guest speaker)
2. Discussion with Amy Mills from the Attorney General's Office:
 - 1989 Opinion of the Justices stated that using public tax money to maintain and improve private roads for the ingress and egress of owners did not meet the public purpose requirement for the use of public funds.
 - Using public funds (including funds from special assessments) to improve private roads for the benefit of water quality may meet the public purpose doctrine. The AG Office would review language for proposed legislation. However, any approved language could still be challenged in court.
 - Use of 319 federal funds for work on private and public properties for the benefit of water quality could be used as model.
3. Ideas for funding:
 - Seek increase in 319 funding – this is unlikely though due to results of previous lobbying efforts (Maine's Congressional delegation has been very supportive) and more competition for funds even within the state.
 - 15% of shorefront taxes go to water quality improvement/protection.
 - Check box on tax return for water quality protection (has generated minimal income for others).
 - License plate (has generated good revenue for others, but the increased number of plates has diminished the income level for many individual causes).
 - Take a portion of fishing license or state park fees.
 - Apply for funds from Land for Maine's Future.
 - Bonds for lakes.
 - Incentivize camp owner work on roads – likely in the form of tax credits.
 - Bring back Lake Program funding for SWCDs.
 - Amend impact fee to include water quality fee.
 - Make statewide special assessment on lake front properties.
 - Create voluntary special assessment districts where roads can opt to pay fee to have town or SWCD maintain road.
 - Make sure source of funding is adequate and sustainable – road work is expensive.
4. Other general ideas:
 - Expand on concepts from successful lake associations.
 - Encourage watershed districts.
 - Increase availability of technical assistance and outreach to assist with landowner camp road work.

DRAFT

- Distribute information via lake associations, support youth conservation corps.
 - Increase DEP's role as an information clearing house.
 - Strengthen lake associations.
 - Use SWCDs as support for lake associations and road associations that need it.
 - Also address municipal and state road maintenance.
 - Provide better training for planning boards regarding standards for new roads.
5. Road standards subcommittee update:
- Subcommittee met Monday, July 14th and revised checklist.
 - Water quality section was moved to front of checklist and allows roads that are not a problem for water quality to qualify even if don't meet other sections.
 - Draft checklist is available – contact Bill Laflamme for a copy or to provide comments.
6. Misc.:
- Currently there are discussions going on regarding possible DOT fees on traffic centers – it might be beneficial for this committee to be aware of their progress.
 - There will be a meeting of the Funding subcommittee – possible dates will be emailed around.
 - A suggested agenda item for next meeting: Who would be doing the work on the ground? This may help guide sources of funding and other issues that have been discussed.
7. Next Full Committee Meeting:
- Wednesday, August 20, 2008, 9:00-12:00; location will be at the Eastside Wellness Center Elkins Training Room (site of 1st meeting).