



ALLAGASH WILDERNESS WATERWAY 2011 MANAGEMENT PLAN

Advisory Committee Meeting: March 11, 2011 1:00 pm -4:00 pm
 Maine Department of Conservation Regional Office - 45 Radar Road in Ashland

Advisory Committee Participants:	
Name	Organization/interest
Will Harris (Absent)	Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL)
Tom Morrison	Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL)
Katherine Eickenberg	Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL)
Matt LaRoche	Allagash Wilderness Waterway (BPL)
Rex Turner	Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL)
Tom Desjardin	Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL)
Vern Labbe	Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL)
Bill Greaves	Maine Forest Service
John Boland (Absent)	Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Tom Ward (Absent)	Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Sarah Medina	Seven Islands Land Management
Jay Plourde	Irving Woodlands
Jym St. Pierre	Restore the North Woods
Don Cyr	Allagash Wilderness Waterway Advisory Council
Rollin Thurlow	Allagash Alliance
Don Kleiner	Maine Professional Guides Association
Greg Shute (Absent)	Maine Wilderness Guides Association & Chewonki
Steve Tatko	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Paul Johnson (Absent)	Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (retired)
Janet McMahon (Absent)	Allagash Wilderness Waterway Advisory Council
Jamie Fosburgh (Absent)	National Park Service, Allagash Wilderness Waterway Advisory Council
Rick Denico (listening via conference phone)	Private Landowner
Steve Pound (Absent)	Winter Angling
Senator Troy Jackson (Absent)	State Senator
Representative John Martin (Absent)	State Representative
Other Persons Present	
Al Cowperthwaite	North Maine Woods
Kevin Brown	Allagash Wilderness Waterway (BPL)
Peter Hilton	Presque Isle Fish & Game Club

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Welcome & agenda overview

Tom Morrison, Director of Operations for the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (the Bureau), opened the meeting and invited participants to introduce themselves.

Overview of plan process

Rex Turner, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Bureau, overviewed the plan process and general timeline (2011). He also highlighted the overall meeting goal of gaining input on issues and approaches to the planning process.

Explore plan constraints & obligations, including access issues

Rex Turner led the discussion exploring obligations and constraints.

One participant expressed that the 2002 MOA with the National Park Service should be added to the presentation slide discussing influences on the plan update. Furthermore, there should be documentation of what has been completed regarding this agreement. Furthermore, the River Driver's Agreement should be clarified and explored in the context of the plan update.

Clarification is needed regarding federally assisted water projects – what does this include? Would this preclude federal land acquisition adjacent to the waterway?

Overview: existing (1999) plan & AWW Strategic Plan. Exploring approaches to meshing the two plans

The group discussed overlap and differences between the 1999 Management Plan and the Strategic Plan.

- Both value resource analysis, protection, and management.
- The 1999 plan addresses water flow for recreation while the Strategic Plan does not mention recreation and water flow. However, it was mentioned during the meeting that the Strategic Plan does mention recreation and water flows later in the document.
- The 1999 plan is organized by zone (Restricted, Quarter Mile, Mile) whereas the Strategic Plan is organized by policy areas.
- The guiding principles listed on page 2 of the Strategic Plan and the “Wilderness Character Concept” on page 37 of the 1999 Management Plan were identified as key planning elements to compare and contrast.
- An issue was raised regarding the mission statement and the guiding principles for the Strategic Plan. A participant expressed that the mission may not align fully with the guiding principles. This concern related to private landowner concerns. The participant recommended avoiding managing the One-Mile Zone under the implications of the Strategic Plan's mission. Further discussion explored the notion that the Strategic Plan is more expansive in reference to the Waterway than the 1999 plan. Another participant suggested that the expansion is deliberate and is designed to recognize a new principle for ecological integrity. Yet another

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view argued that the Strategic Plan recognized and tried to incorporate both perspectives.

- A participant questioned whether “maximum wilderness character” and “ecological integrity” were in the 1999 plan.
- A participant suggested the Bureau be careful with Management Plan wording and mesh the Management Plan and the Strategic Plan, but remember the advisory nature of the Strategic Plan.
- There was discussion of invasive species as an issue now in more focus than in 1999. It was noted that Section A, Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan mentions managing and protecting native fish. Yet, downstream from Allagash Falls muskies are completely established to the point it may be impossible to manage for native fish species where muskies are present. Should this reality be acknowledged? Education and preventing further expansion were concepts raised as possible actions to explore.
- A participant raised the point that the Strategic Plan seems to look much more to the Wild and Scenic River Designation/act while the 1999 plan downplays the WSR designation.

Other Comments

- A point of distinction was made between the “waterway” and the “watercourse”. Specifically, it was mentioned that the Strategic Plan carefully and purposefully chose one word or the other.
- It was suggested that the Bureau be sure to be clear where the BPL authority is to actually manage the waterway.
- There was a suggestion to consider creating a vision statement for the 1999 plan.

Issue Brainstorming

Participants listed issues (large or small) that they felt merit consideration and that fall under specific policies from the 1999 Management Plan. Participants were also asked to list other policy area to be considered (if they felt another category is necessary).

1999 AWW MGT. Plan Policy 1: Enhance the Wilderness Character of The Restricted Zone.

- “Different level of protection in different locations of AWW.”
- “Assess ecological integrity & wilderness appearance.” (Referenced Section A, 1, c. of the AWW Strategic Plan)
- “Historical buildings, should they be preserved or removed? – Boarding House, Telos Dam buildings, Moir Farm.”

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- “any structure or change in the Restricted Zone should have to answer ‘How does this enhance the wilderness character of the zone.’”
- The plan should be clearer about the relationship with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

1999 AWW MGT. Plan Policy 2:

Assure Resource Identification, Protection, and Appropriate Management Within The Restricted Zone By Working With Those Agencies Responsible For Historical, Cultural, Natural, Wildlife, And Fishery Resources.

- “Good overarching philosophical goal.”
- Reference to Section A, 1, a. of the AWW Strategic Plan (concerning mapping).
[discussion comment]

1999 AWW MGT. Plan Policy 3:

Provide For Traditional Recreational Uses In A Wilderness Character Setting In The Restricted Zone

- “Define “traditional” – seems to mean something different to different groups.”
- “Maintain existing access points.”
- “Consider additional campsites at “bottlenecks” in the Waterway.”
- “How traditional is sledding?”
- “Evaluate carrying capacity.” (Referenced Section A, 1, d. of AWW Strategic Plan).
- Incorporate protocols for traditional, non-motorized winter use. [discussion comment]

1999 AWW MGT. Plan Policy 4: **Prevent Development In The New Construction Area That Is Incompatible With The Wilderness Character Of The Restricted Zone.**

- “Should there be any new buildings in the ¼ mile zone?”
- “Is replacement or repair “development”?”
- “New Construction Zone” is a misleading name – suggests that it is zoned for new construction.
- “Agency structures should be on state land, not private land.”

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1999 AWW MGT. Plan Policy 5:

Maintain The Appearance From The Watercourse Of A Generally Unbroken Forest Canopy In The Restricted Zone And By Working With Landowners To Identify Areas Visible From The Watercourse In The One Mile Area, And Encouraging Appropriate Silvicultural Harvests.

- “Good communication with landowners needs to be maintained to ensure cooperation – how are these communications done?”
- “Spell out clearly requirement and intent for cooperative management strategies”
- “Doing well now – continue communication & cooperation. Use “carrots not sticks” with landowners.”
- “Insect infestations affecting private lands” [need to be addressed in the plan].
- “Done Good”
- Visual Area lines may be off. We now have better technology to map.
-Does it need to be mapped? [discussion comments]
- Wilderness assessment needed (referencing Section A, 1, C. from the AWW Strategic Plan). [discussion comment]

1999 AWW MGT. Plan Policy 6:

Identify And Encourage Appropriate Management Of Natural, Recreational, Historical, Cultural, Wildlife, And Fishery Resources Located In The Working Forest Of The One Mile Area, Outside Of The Restricted Zone, That Are Visited By Waterway Users Or That Contribute To The Wilderness Character Of The Restricted Zone, By Working With Landowners And Public And Private Organizations.

- “Develop an educational process to depict the improvement of land management practices over the last 100 years”
- “Pecking order for resources? 1) Ecological, 2) Historical, 3) Recreational”
- “Interpreting resources with outside organizations in order to prevent having to do it on the waterway and detract from the wilderness character in the waterway”.

1999 AWW MGT. Plan Policy 7:

Maintain Watercourse Water Quality And Ensure Sufficient Quantity For Wildlife And Recreation Uses

“Manage water flows”

“Canoe flows”

“Allow AWW Superintendent and Manager to determine water drawn from the lakes”.

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“Long-term impact & cost of dams vs. going back to non-dam traditional water flows”.

NEW POLICY SUGGESTIONS:

“Trails”

“Acquire outholdings” Referencing Section A, 5, a. of the Strategic Plan

“ “Encourage” recreational use”.

Next Steps for the Advisory Committee

The procedural question of best ways to move forward and organize Advisory Committee meetings and input was explored. Digital options for interaction/meeting should be explored. It was agreed subgroups would only be formed in deemed necessary (if an issue or set of issues demanded more focus in a group setting).