



**Route 1 Tidal Restriction Removal Demonstration
Update Meeting
Wednesday, May 3, 2006**

Attendees

Carolyn Hanson
Paula Ledgett
Phyllis Merikallio
John Mason
Jon Kachmar (Maine Coastal Program, State Planning Office)
Marty Rea
Lorna Perry
Bob Adams (Kittery Trading Post)
Don Card (Maine DMR)
Charles Hebson (Maine DOT)
Ray Konisky (Wells Reserve)
Michael Landgarten (Bob's Clam Hut & Robert's Grille)
Beth LaMontagne (Portsmouth Herald)
Carol Donnelly (York Rivers Association)

Comments, Questions & Answers Following Presentation

John Mason: While the island in the "bayou" just above Wilson Road has changed, it does typically wax and wane. Seems as if grass is beginning to grow in new places. Hopes we look into removing the remaining two "artificial" cascades just above and below Picott that seem to still block the natural flow, as well as the one in the "back channel" of that island. Does seem the water has been much clearer. Again feels the creek is much better the way it is now, that is unless it stinks a lot this summer.

Ray Konisky: Asked if there's been any change in plants. Most feel it's too soon to tell.

Bob Adams: Water is definitely clearer. There was far less ice this winter, but then it was a warmer winter. And less damage to the grasses on the marsh edge. However, their usability of the water has dropped to zero and they've moved their events to Spring Hill. The tides are no longer right and it is no longer a stagnant pool, but always rushing water.

Note: The water clarity might also be a result of the fact that we have had very little rain this spring, thus very little run-off muddying the water.

Marty Rea: Marsh along Litchfield Road is getting more water at more times.

Paula Ledgett: Dam at Rt. 1 REALLY scoured on downstream side. Big deep hole at base of the culvert. Rocks pushed up and impeding water flow at low tide. Water is finding alternate routes to the sides.

Picott Road has lots and lots of bright green algae growing. Looks like a different sort than the one which grew last year, but perhaps that is what it looks like in the spring then green intensity lessens during the summer months.

Wilson Road looks similar to last year. Roadway over culvert really crumbling and in need of repair. All that debris getting into the stream.

We did not detect any bad odors at any of the sites. The Picott Road site on the upstream side looks as though it would fill in with marsh grasses and be a really beautiful and productive salt marsh instead of a stinky shallow pool.

Jon Kachmar: The rocks at Picott Road seem to be intentional weirs placed for fishing eels. The culvert itself might be raised. Would suggest we get standard surveyors (or maybe Public Works) to do elevations of the area. This could also be done as part of a larger, next phase project.

Charles Hebson: Could also ask at the York County tech college if there's someone who could help with the survey work.

Marty: Would like to know what is happening with the shoulder work at Wilson Road. Perhaps as Rick Rossiter when those repairs are going to be done.

Ray: Marty has said that the tides seem higher. There could be an increase of several inches in this area having removed the boards, which would be normal.

Bob: Highest tides at the KTP dock are higher. More high tides are covering the grass by the docks.

Michael: Tides seem to be going higher downstream of Route 1, too - not just in this area.

Marty: The tides are higher, though still not as much as when the older dam was in place and it used to flood over Picott Road. Her yard is also getting higher tides. She saw a seagull the other day with what must have been an eel over a foot long - he was trying to drag it through the mud down into the tidal water.

Bob: Saw a live horseshoe crab the other day. Also see red tails, which is not new. But recently saw a very large (18" tall or more) owl.

Charlie: DOT believes that the scouring below Route 1 is not a result of the removal of the flashboards. He believes the stone that was placed in the previous scour was likely not

engineered properly and was undersized. This has been brought to the attention of DOT Maintenance and we can contact Warren Knowles of Scarborough DOT if we want.

Jon: Would be nice to reduce the velocity of the water through that pipe. Perhaps removing the rest of the tidal restriction (the sheet pile dam) would help. This reduction in velocities would reduce the scour and be more inviting to fish. It doesn't seem as if the pipe itself is undersized but that it is perhaps angled downward on the seaward side, definitely hanging, and may be a bit of blockage because of that.

Charlie: The DOT owns that sheet pile structure, while the Town of Kittery is responsible for its maintenance. If the decision is made to move forward with its removal, we will have to work with the DOT. Funding is not necessarily an issue (though they'll always accept extra monies), but rather concerns about the impact on the Route 1 roadway.

Ray: The plant life should be changing soon and the salt marsh grass will likely be changed. There is also an opportunity here to do some planting. Perhaps working with students and/or with the Kittery Trading Post Outdoor Academy (KODA).

Charlie: How is the steering committee going to measure this in the fall and make a decision how to proceed?

Paula: We're doing water quality monitoring and photographic studies.

Jon: Suggests we maybe put in stakes at plant edges now so we can see where the plants grow/move to over the summer. (KTP has some metal pipes we could use.) This would tell us relative tide levels as well as vegetation changes – how much higher are the tides. Could work with a group like Wells to figure out where to put them.

Ray: Could also do some fish sampling with seine nets and maybe Wells could supervise/help out to identify what fish are in there now.

Jon: Has given us GPAC protocols on how to monitor a watershed and what to monitor. The protocols are likely a bit daunting, but we can pare it back a bit and use some of them. This would help for our measurements and observations to be standardized when taken over time.

Next meeting will be in August 2006.