

**Spednic Lake/Upper St. Croix River Corridor Management Plan
Public Meeting on the Final Draft Plan- May 31, 2011
Vanceboro Elementary School**

Meeting Notes

The Public Scoping Meeting was attended by approximately 30 people including representatives from St. Croix International Waterway Commission, Maine Forest Service, US Border Patrol, local guides and outfitters, group trip leaders, and a number of area residents and property owners. Misha Mytar, Kathy Eickenberg and Mike Leighton attended for BPL. Mark Caron attended for IF&W.

Welcome/Introduction

- Mike welcomed the group and introductions were made around the room.

Meeting Purpose and Planning Purpose

- Meeting goals: To gather feedback on the Final Draft Management Plan
- Misha gave a short presentation describing the planning process and context and detailing many of the management issues and recommendations in the Final Draft Plan.

Public Comments/Questions

1. Encroachments

- Concern expressed about encroachments from neighboring lots. How is this being addressed? IF&W responded that they are addressing issues.

2. Group size

- There should be a central clearing house to get special permission for large groups. Waterway Commission has worked in past.
- Questions about whether this system is intended to work like Allagash which limits groups that can get special permits for large groups.
- There is concern about there being only a limited number of sites for large groups. Sites have already been limited by border issues. What happens when those sites are taken, since they can't be reserved? There are practical implications to implementing group size rules.
- It is important to know how many sites will be available for larger groups.
- Large groups have been a positive use in the past. Should be encouraging group use – to get kids outside. Large groups also allow economic benefits.
- The plan should help guide group use rather than limit it.
- Who decides what sites are appropriate for group use? Do we already know how many people each site can accommodate?
- The MITA model works well. They describe the sites based on differing capacity and encourage smaller groups to stay out of larger capacity sites.

3. Other Regulation

- Concern expressed about overregulation. Keep it simple.

- Part of what has been special about the waterway is its user-friendliness for youth, church groups, camps, etc.
 - People come to St. Croix to escape regulations on other rivers.
 - Discussion about three complementary parts - Regulation vs. Management vs. Public Information
4. Border Enforcement
 - People had questions about how border is enforced on lake – these questions were answered by Border Protection staff that were present.
 - Old I-68 program is being phased out. Small Vessel Reporting System is replacement.
 5. Access to waterway
 - Is anything being done about privately owned sites that the public tends to use?
 - Concern about washout on Salmon Brook Road – who will fix it?
 6. ATV trails
 - Concern that some nearby ATV trails were recently posted to close to ATVs.
 - Clarification is needed on what access easement on nearby land says about ATV access.
 7. Enforcement
 - How will it happen? Who will be out there? What will it cost? How will it be funded?
 - Holiday weekends are most problematic.
 8. Maintenance
 - Waterway Commission is burdened to maintain facilities.
 9. Alcohol Use and Behavior
 - Alcohol use can be problematic. Brings inappropriate behavior that can conflict with youth group use.
 - We already have laws against many inappropriate behaviors – littering, etc.
 10. Planning process
 - There needs to be more public outreach about meetings. Especially when additional meetings are scheduled about rulemaking. Need more participation from those who live in the area and on the river.