



PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD  
MARCH 18, 2019 MEETING MINUTES  
NHFG, 11 HAZEN DRIVE, CONCORD, NH 03301

Members Present: Thomas Quarles, Esq., Chairman (general public); Tracie Sales (Jim Gallagher's designee) DES; Kelly Buchanan, NH Lakes; Rep. Roger Dontonville; Matt Urban (Rebecca Martin's designee) DOT; Gary Clark (general public); Ken Gallagher, OSI; Bill Gegas, DNCR; Glenn Normandeau, NHFG; Garret Graaskamp, NHFG; Gene Porter (power boat interests); Dick Smith (fishing interests); Michele Tremblay (river interests); David Bryan (coastal interests).

Members Absent: Timothy Dunleavy, DOS; Jim Gallagher, DES; Rebecca Martin, NHDOT; Senator Ruth Ward; R. Andrew Robertson (non-motorized boating interests); Paul Van Blarigan, GCD;.

Audience Members: Representative Raymond Howard, serving on the House, Fish, Game & Marine Resources Committee.

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**MEETING CONVENED**

Chairman Quarles welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEMS – [Note: Text in bold denotes action items or motions.]**

1. **Approval of PWAAB Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2019**  
**Michele Tremblay made a motion to approve the January 7, 2019 minutes and Ken Gallagher seconded. The board unanimously approved.**

2. **New Members of PWAAB – Scott Biron and Kelly Buchanan**

Chairman Quarles reported that the board had a few new members. He welcomed & introduced the following:

Roger Dontonville, House Fish, Game & Marine Resources Committee Member.

Kelly Buchanan, NH Lakes Association. (Kelly is replacing Joe Goodnough, who recently passed away). Chairman Quarles recognized Joe's years of service to the PWAAB & the lakes & public access in general. He stated, "Joe was a great guy & a real gentlemen."

Kelly introduced herself and reported that she lives in Concord, NH, and enjoys outdoor activities, such as kayaking, boating, etc., and works for the NH Lakes Association, as their Advocacy Program Coordinator. In that role, she serves on certain boards the Association are appointed to, conducts lobbying at the State House and gets involved with municipal work, dealing with local policy issues, etc.

Chairman Quarles reported that Scott Biron, Executive Director, NH Wildlife Federation, e-mailed him early the morning of the PWAAB meeting informing him that he had recently resigned as Executive Director, of the NH Wildlife Federation, and was unsure if he could still be a representative on PWAAB after doing such. Scott was going through the process to replace Ronald Sowa on the PWAAB, to represent hunting interests. This leaves a vacancy on the board for a new representative to represent hunting interests.

### 3. **2017 State Agency Reports – Board review and votes**

- \***DOT**
- \***PWAAB**

**Gene Porter made a motion to approve the DOT report, as written, and Gary Clark seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.**

**Matt Urban made a motion to approve the PWAAB report, as written, and Gary Clark seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.**

### 4. **2018 OSI Report**

**Tom Quarles made a motion to approve the 2018 OSI report as written and Kelly Buchanan seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.**

### 5. **Pending Legislation**

\*HB-1810 – Study Commission & HB 645-DES Dock registration bill. Chairman Quarles reported that this was determined OTP/A “Ought to pass with amendment.”

\*HB-640 – Bill to require non-motorized boats to pay for a registration sticker. Chairman Quarles reported that this bill was retained and determined ITL “Inexpedient to legislate.” Representative Dontonville reported that he served on this committee and reported that the committee felt the intention was good and that it was an effort to try & get some sort of revenue for F&G. He reported that he felt it would come out of the committee ITL.

\*SB-160 – Swimming at 5 test F&G car-top sites. Chairman Quarles reported that this had not been heard yet, however, hopes it will be determined ITL in the House. Director Normandeau reported that this has become a political issue. He reported that the ramps are paid for & maintained by federal monies, which are designated for a specific use, launching boats.

\*SB-201 – Requiring DOT & F&G to develop a boat ramp, dock & parking at Great Bay, Hilton Park, Dover, NH. Director Normandeau reported that he testified against this bill on behalf of the Department. He reported that it would cost approximately \$4,000,000, to build and the Department does not have the money. He felt this bill should not be discussed further until funding is secured.

\*HB-727 – Funding for DNCR to add parking & improve the boat ramp at Sunapee State Park. Director Normandeau reported that this would require the F&G Department to obtain a \$500,000 bond, with the Department's Boat Access Account to pay it back over a 20 year period. Kelly Buchanan reported that this bill was scheduled to be heard in Executive Session, this afternoon, at 1:00 p.m.

Bill Gegas, DNCR, reported that his agency was taking a neutral stance on this issue, however, were exploring improvements, with some concerns. Director Normandeau reported that Phil Bryce, DNCR, testified that he had several other project requests already submitted for capital monies, and made it clear that this project was not his highest priority. He asked that his agency's requests for capital monies do not get overlooked in order to get this project done.

\*HB-679- Authorizing DES to lease state-owned impoundments. Tracie Sales, DES, reported that this bill was ITL. She reported that DES did support this bill. Michele Tremblay asked if Jim Gallaher could elaborate as to why DES supported this bill at the May PWAAB Meeting.

\*HB-137- Wake boats - now in study committee. (May agenda)

\*HB-188 – Definition of no wake zone – This was determined OTP "Ought to pass" in the House.

\*HB-244- Eliminates mooring appeals board. This was moved to another appeals board.

\*HB-299 & 300 - relative to the sharing of moorings in a congregate mooring field. This bill was determined ITL in the House.

\*HB-324- relative to operation of personal water craft around the marsh lands or flats in the Hampton/Seabrook estuary. This was determined OTP/A in the House.

\*HB-668-relative to heating, agitating or other devices in public waters. This was determined OTP in the House.

\*HB-296-relative to animal waste cleanup in state forests and state parks. This bill was determined ITL in the House. DNCR opposed this bill.

\*SB-234-FN - establishing the position of director of the office of outdoor recreation industry development, in the department of business and economic affairs. This bill was tabled & sent to Senate Finance for further discussion/action.

#### 6. **Public Access to Meredith Town docks & ramp – T. Quarles**

Tom Quarles reported that he spoke with Darlene Forst, of DES, regarding marinas and new regulations that would prohibit the creation of any new private marinas, due to frontage requirements, etc. Darlene informed Tom that the Town does allow some public access to the Meredith town docks & ramps, as DES added this stipulation when they permitted an expansion of the docks. The language states that the marina owner must allow public access to residents of New Hampshire, however, could charge a reasonable fee for non-residents or non-members of private marinas (fee only charged during the summer months).

#### 7. **Road to Public Waters – orphaned sites project**

Ken Gallagher distributed a copy of the updated chart titled: "Roads to Public Waters Remaining Sites with questions." There were 2 clarifications made at the meeting:

- Crystal Lake, Eaton, NH – does have a road to public waters file.
- Rocky Pond, Loudon, NH - pond is in Loudon, not in Hollis, as noted on chart.

#### 8. **Emery Farm, Great Bay, Greenland – new Fish & Game Acquisition**

Director Normandeau reported that the newly acquired Emery Farm consists of 7,000 feet of waterfront property on Great Bay. He reported that he would eventually like to see an access site put in on this property. He reported that this site would allow for great ice-fishing opportunities on the bay. He further reported that there was still a long way to go, however, he is hoping to sell the Department owned Brentwood property and use those funds to do what is necessary at the Emery Farm site.

9. **Fish and Game Project Update and Matrix – Garret Graaskamp**

Garret Graaskamp distributed an updated copy of the matrix to the board.

10. **Franklin proposed whitewater park – Winnepesaukee River**

Michele Tremblay recommended inviting someone from the City of Franklin to the next PWAAB meeting to discuss the proposed whitewater park project.

**New Business**

None at this time.

**Old Business**

These items were not discussed due to time constraints and are deferred until next meeting.

- River access review and prioritization
- DES Beach Inventory and OEP Database

**Public Comment**

No comments heard.

**Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn was made at 12:01 p.m., by Dick Smith and seconded by Gary Clark. The Board unanimously approved.**

**Next Meeting**

Chairman Quarles thanked everyone for coming and reported that the next PWAAB meeting was scheduled for May 20, 2019, at NH Marine Patrol, 31 Dock Rd, Gilford, NH 03249, start time of 10:00 a.m.