

Attendance: Jerry, Ann, Bill, Richard, John, Shannon, Emma Larussa - Project Director at Androscoggin Soil and Water Conservation District, Tracy

Agenda

1. Watershed survey

Ken will invite Emma Larusso (20-30 minutes) to discuss what is needed.

- Bill sent out the watershed survey volunteer booklet to the association board ahead of the meeting.
- If we want to move forward this year, there are dates we should iron out.
- Lake association will need to create a postcard and mail to addresses used.
- Emma can begin to collect the addresses but once she starts that process it is helpful to fact check the address - go down and check the databases.
- Make a list of properties who want to be excluded from the survey. (They can opt out)
- There is an old watershed survey - there was talk to extend the survey to include Upper Range because Upper drains into Middle.
- There may be more funding later on down the line for a bigger area possibly. That does increase the number of resources you need.
- Last survey was in 2004. Middle Range was split into 6 sectors.
- There is a team of people who will go to one section and document all of the shorefront properties within that sector. Middle Range has 6 sectors. Adding Upper doubles the amount.
- You need one technical leader per sector - \$500-800/day per leader. Thompson lake is doing it over 2 days. 12 sectors per day. Probably we could get it done in one day. Middle Range definitely one day. Jumping from 6-12 doubles the money.
- Leaders - qualified leaders - Emma has a list of possible leaders. (Scott, Jeff Stearn - well versed in erosion and erosion control.)
- Emma can provide a list of contacts.
- Need to recruit volunteers - we need 3 volunteers per sector. A leader and three volunteers. Volunteers need to attend the training (pick training and survey date). Training 2 hours online the same week of the survey. An evening for training then the date. One training session. Need to attend training and survey day in order to volunteer.
- Organize training/notify volunteers
- Inform police & emergency personnel - just to make them aware we will be driving/walking around
- Postcards notify landowners of the survey. They are not supposed to point fingers or enforce violations. They are to gather information and get concerned lakefront owners to get help (financial and technical assistance). There is an option for people to opt out.
- Someone needs to collect the opt outs - fill out information on the postcard to opt out and we need to keep track of the opt out and that will be included in the survey packets.
- Emma - Technical Assistance 60/hour [Emma guesses 20-30 hours are needed for that]
 - Create watershed map
 - Create sector maps
 - Technical Leader day of survey

- Provide address list
- Print all material and bring it to the survey.
- DEP would be willing to complete the volunteer training
- Tablets for survey data input (app called Survey 123)
- Other Costs
 - 500-800/day/leader - have contacts available if help is needed
 - Postcards printed
 - Stamps
- Survey packet has address, tax info, etc. residential/commercial - describe culvert, erosion issues, slope, distance to water - doesn't take a long time to go from site to site
- If you see a problem - site one/erosion one, 1-2, keep going as you find problems. Team stays together (group of 4) stay together
- Volunteer training will go through all of that (2 hour training)
- Budget 1-2,000 for postcards and stamps - sent to everybody in the watershed. (Our annual Newsletter usually costs 700.00)
- Recipients of postcard mails back only if they want to opt out. Everything else is notifying that it is happening.
- Costs NOT included
 - Cost to write survey report
 - Cost to Write Watershed Based Management Plan
- Doing the survey allows us to get grant money - the plan will say this is what we need to do to improve the watershed.
- 319 Funding can help us improve (roads/landowners...)
- Another option is to wait until next year. If you wait, the DEP will help with the process. DEP will provide the maps, survey info, maps, training, three technical leaders... But no funding until 2025 at the earliest.
- Any funding to check septic systems? - Emma will check and get back to the group
- Richard's question - can we look at the old survey and recheck the problem spots to see if they are problems. They received funding to fix those problems so hopefully are not problems.
- The old watershed report is available and Emma will forward the report to the board.
- Problem sites are listed and funds that were given.
- Poland Spring Estates on the Upper Range were wanting to be eligible for funding.
- The best time to do the survey is in May. Easiest to see/no snow. Possibly early June or April.
- Usually done on the weekend.
- Is this a state sponsored program? Is this under the state or private? If we hear nothing we are going onto the property. Any waivers? Legally if there is injury? - If we recruit volunteers to go on property - what protections do we need?
- Best to do in the spring - not good to do after the leaves.

2. RPA board will discuss timeframe, logistics, approvals needed from membership.

- Question: Do we want to do in 2024? More time to recruit and funding would be available through DEP. We would have to take the funding to the membership in order to do the survey.
- Not sure why funding is not available now - give us a little more time to get volunteers and to take advantage of DEP funding.
- Do we know more info about upcoming DEP funding? What do we know about the 2024 funding - not sure why it's not available this year?
- We guess approximately \$7,000 (Middle Range only)

3. Ann...current financial situation

- 17,000 approximately
- Owe Scott around 600
- We have about 10-11,000.
- We send about 900 postcards.
- If we wait could we include Upper?
 - Could put in newsletter - what we need, what it costs, etc. and take a vote at the annual meeting
 - Land Owner By In - in terms of accessing people's property
 - More time to publicize it and recruit people and hopefully will help improve land access - and the funding relief
 - Bill suggests getting the town involved and making them aware of what is happening in the town.
 - Or can we go to the town manager? Selectmen's Meeting?
 - Can we follow up with Emma - what do we have to do to make sure we can get the funding...
 - Bill will email Ken to see if he has any information about the DEP funding (a new law/regulation? Was it available this year?)