



**New Hampshire Council on Resources and Development**

**DRAFT MINUTES – May 11, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

- Taylor Caswell, Chair, Commissioner, NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs.
- John Martin, Designee, NH Department of Health and Human Services
- Mark Doyle, Designee, Department of Safety
- Jack Ruderman, Designee, NH Housing Finance Authority
- Allen Wyman, on behalf of Shawn Jasper, Designee, Department of Agriculture
- Jared Nylund, Designee, NH Department of Administrative Services (arrived at 3:10 PM)
- Stephen Labonte, Designee, NH Department of Transportation
- Betsy McNaughten, Designee, NH Fish & Game
- Patrick Hackley, Designee, NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
- Amy Clark, Designee, Department of Education
- Rene Pelletier on behalf of Mark Sanborn, Department of Environmental Services

**OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

- Stephanie Verdile, NH Office of Planning and Development (CORD Staff)
- Alvina Snegach, NH Office of Planning and Development (CORD Staff)
- Allen Brooks, CORD Attorney, NH Department of Justice
- Steven Walker, NH Conservation Land Stewardship Program
- Charlotte Harding, NH Conservation Land Stewardship Program
- Ben Engel, Land and Community Heritage Investment Program
- Patrick Bell, NH Department of Environmental Services
- Corey Clark, NHDES Dam Bureau

**ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was opened at 3:01 P.M. by Chair Caswell. Council members and guests then introduced themselves.

**MINUTES**

**A. Approval of March 9, 2023 draft minutes**

**MOTION:** *On a motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Labonte, the March 9, 2023, minutes were approved as presented by a unanimous vote in favor.*

**SURPLUS LAND REVIEW**

**A. 2023 SLR 002 (Continued from the January 12, 2023, meeting) Request from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to transfer ownership of the Weeks Crossing Dam and associated property and easements to the Town of Warren. The dam is a 113-foot long, 14-foot-high concrete structure**

51 **with earth abutments. The associated property and easements total 0.42 acres.**  
52 **The dam and property are located on Black Brook off Gould Hill Road in Warren,**  
53 **NH.**

54 Corey Clark from NHDES Dam Bureau was there present the details of the application which  
55 proposes to transfer ownership of the Weeks Crossing Dam and associated property and  
56 easements to the Town of Warren. The dam is owned by NH Fish & Game and had failed in  
57 2017 in a flood event that was declared a major disaster, thus making the state eligible for  
58 federal assistance to reconstruct the dam, which will then be transferred to the Town of Warren.  
59 The dam has been reconstructed in 2021 and the transfer process has been ongoing since  
60 2018. There was a warrant article approved by the Warren Town Meeting which only approved  
61 dam maintenance but not ownership. A new warrant article was approved by the Town Meeting  
62 in 2023 which approved ownership of the dam and future maintenance. The deed has already  
63 been recorded and the application to CORD will finalize the process.

64 Mr. Clark then answered questions from the members about maintenance standards, design  
65 criteria, etc. Mr. Clark said there are dam safety rules and special design criteria that have to be  
66 followed as this is a significant hazard dam and it will be inspected by the State every four  
67 years. He added the Town of Warren has to have an emergency management plan, which it  
68 agreed to, as part of the ownership transfer process.

69  
70 *MOTION made by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Labonte to recommend the proposed transfer of*  
71 *ownership of Weeks Crossing Dam with associated property and easements to the Town of*  
72 *Warren. Motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.*

73  
74 **CONSERVATION LAND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CLSP)**

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76 **A. Steve Walker, Director Conservation Land Stewardship Program (CLS) update.**  
77 **i. Draft Update to Conservation Land Stewardship Policy**  
78

79 Steve Walker said the Agency is almost through its first biennium, that CORD is in charge of its  
80 endowment, and he is trying to keep CORD up to date on what is going on. He said they are in  
81 the process of writing a Policies and Procedure Manual (a summary of which is in the packet)  
82 and invited all members to come visit at some point.

83  
84 Jared Nyland joined the meeting at 3:10 PM.

85  
86 **OTHER BUSINESS**

87  
88 **A. Board on Geographic Name (BGN)- Ken Gallagher, Principal Planner, Office of**  
89 **Planning and Development (OPD). BGN presentation and discussion regarding**  
90 **two name change requests for Mt. Washington and the Baker River.**

91  
92 Chair Caswell introduced Ken Gallagher from NH Office of Planning and Development who  
93 provided a brief overview of the process and the requests.

94 Mr. Gallagher spoke about his role as the designated state contact for the Federal Board on  
95 Geographic Names. He said that when there are any proposals for naming or renaming any  
96 geographic features, the Board will reach out to various state and local parties that may have  
97 any interest or may want to comment. Mr. Gallagher said that he has been doing this for over 15  
98 years and his process was always to reach out to the members of CORD individually by email  
99 seeking their input or comments and this time the idea was to try to solicit comments from  
100 CORD members at a meeting.

101 Mr. Gallagher also explained that the comments for the proposals are only recommendations as  
102 there is no decision needed. The Federal Board will then make the decision having collected all  
103 the relevant stakeholders' feedback. He added that they have contacted other interested parties  
104 for both proposals, like the Towns affected by the Baker River name change. The Mt.  
105 Washington proposal does not affect any local governments; therefore, none were contacted.  
106 Then Mr. Gallagher went over the renaming proposals which were also contained in the meeting  
107 handout.

108 The first one is to rename Mt. Washington. The proposed name is Agiocochook and it is already  
109 used as an alternate name in the federal Geographic Names Information System. He said that  
110 he included a table of name changes that CORD weighed in on over the years and that there  
111 was a small summit there, above the timberline near the auto road, that was already named  
112 Agiocochook Crag about 10 years ago. Mr. Gallagher said that he was able to find the name  
113 used in some signage there, although it was no widespread. Agiocochook was the original  
114 name, and it means a "place of the great spirit."

115 The second proposal is to rename the Baker River. The proposed name is Asquamchumauke  
116 River. The name is also already used as an alternate name in the federal Geographic Names  
117 Information system. The name translates as "salmon spawning place." There is information in  
118 the renaming proposal about the proposed name and who Lt. Baker was.

119 Mr. Gallagher concluded that the intent was to either get comments from CORD members at this  
120 meeting or give them the opportunity to go through their individual agency process and submit  
121 written comments to Mr. Gallagher until May 26, 2023.

122 Mr. Gallagher answered how he became the contact for the Federal Board on Geographic  
123 Names and that there it is not set in any statute. He also answered a question about the  
124 process, which he said is up to the CORD members, whether they would like to discuss and  
125 comment at the meeting or follow up with written comments to Mr. Gallagher once they have  
126 discussed it internally in their respective agencies.

127 Chair Caswell spoke about the federal process having a pretty public component and this is a  
128 facilitation of the state agencies and the public to have a part in that process and be able to  
129 comment. He said individual agencies may have their own process to go through before  
130 commenting and in that case, they should do so, and then submit comments in writing. Mr.  
131 Caswell said Mr. Gallagher provided the background information on both proposals at this  
132 meeting and CORD does not have any statutory authority to comment as a public body,  
133 therefore, it is up to CORD members as representatives of their individual agencies.

134 There were more questions to Mr. Gallagher about whether he received any other comments,  
135 which he said he did not, as it was too early in the process. He explained he is also trying to  
136 reach out to the Native American communities in NH, as this is usually done on the federal level  
137 as well, but NH does not have any federally recognized Native American Tribes. Therefore, Mr.  
138 Gallagher reached out to the NH Commission on Native American Affairs, and they voted  
139 unanimously to write letters of support for both applications, although they have not yet  
140 submitted them. Another question was about the process itself and how the public may be able  
141 to find out about things like that, which Mr. Gallagher said there were no really controversial  
142 proposals apart from Mt. Clay one, but that was a bit of a different process and CORD was not  
143 involved there.

144 There was a short discussion of the process to follow, and whether it would make sense to  
145 submit the written comments directly to Mr. Gallagher from each agency involved. Mr. Caswell  
146 noted he is not aware of any time when CORD had taken a vote and reiterated his suggestion to  
147 have the members go through their respective agency process and submit written comments.

148 Ms. McNaughten spoke about the fact that NH Fish & Game had already discussed this issue  
149 and there were concerns with the law enforcement component as the location is usually the  
150 most crucial part when it comes to matters related to 911. Fish & Game had decided to provide

151 no comment on either proposal as they did not feel like either warranted a comment within the  
152 agency's mission.

153  
154 Mr. Doyle agreed with Ms. McNaughten on her statement about 911 and, as he is the Director  
155 of 911, he said that when it comes to the provision of emergency services, location is the most  
156 critical thing that they are looking for from anyone who makes a 911 call, especially in a remote  
157 location with poor cell service. Having to rely on voice only provided data in this situation is  
158 crucial, and with a familiar name it is always more helpful to discerning the information from  
159 such a call. It is for this reason, Mr. Doyle said, the Department of Safety would most likely not  
160 recommend the name changes. He added he will also be providing a written position on this as  
161 well. Mr. Doyle also mentioned he spoke with the Governor's Office today as well and noted  
162 there is also a tourism aspect of Mt. Washington, its world renown fame and tourist draw, which  
163 may be lost because of that, and that will be economically problematic.

164  
165 Mr. Gallagher was also asked if the comments should be submitted separately for each proposal,  
166 and he concurred. He also said that all comments should be emailed to  
167 [kenneth.r.gallager@livefree.nh.gov](mailto:kenneth.r.gallager@livefree.nh.gov).

168  
169 There was a short discussion about long names and how it could be problematic to remember  
170 them, although, it was noted that there are plenty of other long names that are successfully  
171 used throughout the country.

172  
173 Mr. Hackley said the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources has not had a chance to  
174 discuss this and will be providing written comments.

175  
176 There was discussion about these and other names from that era that are in use around the  
177 country and that it is a tough call to make, seeing as these names were given during a different  
178 era, with different norms, and they were chosen based on the accomplishments of these  
179 individuals at that time.

180  
181 Mr. Gallagher also answered questions about the Agiocochook Crag he mentioned earlier and  
182 that it would come up on Open Street Maps as it is officially named that way. He clarified the  
183 alternative names do not get put on maps though. There was another question about reaching  
184 out to the Appalachian Mountain Club and Mr. Gallagher said he will check with the Federal  
185 Board.

186  
187 Chair Caswell spoke about the Business and Economic Affairs Department which houses the  
188 Division of Travel and Tourism, and it would probably not be in favor of supporting the name  
189 changes as Mt. Washington is an internationally well-known landmark, which is heavily  
190 promoted by the Department. He said the recognition of Mt. Washington and its correlation to  
191 NH is pretty strong.

192 Discussion ensued about the other prominent features associated with Mt. Washington, like the  
193 cog railway, the observatory, etc. Mr. Gallagher explained the change will mostly affect the maps.  
194 He also noted one of the cog railway locomotives already bears the name Agiocochook.

195  
196 Mr. Gallagher then explained the Federal Board decision making process once they receive  
197 comments. He also explained how the Board is related to USGS.

198  
199 Discussion ensued about how easy it is to name of rename geographic features.

200

201 Mr. Gallagher also said there was a historic marker for the Baker River which listed Lt. Baker's  
202 activities related to destroying a Native American village, which was retired in 2022.

203  
204 Attorney Brooks noted CORD does not have any statutory authority in this process therefore,  
205 there cannot be an official vote. He explained Mr. Gallagher used the CORD meeting as a  
206 conduit to provide the information on both names change proposals to all the agencies at the  
207 same time. He said it is now up to individual CORD members as representatives of their  
208 agencies to provide comments.

209  
210 There was another discussion about the fact that this process should involve the general public  
211 more besides the agencies and other stakeholders, although it is unknown what the vehicle  
212 would be to facilitate such a large discussion.

213  
214 Mr. Gallagher reiterated the state, county, and local governments located in the vicinity of the  
215 areas get to comment on such applications if the geographic feature is in their jurisdiction. He  
216 said that the deadline is May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and that comments or the fact of lack thereof should be  
217 sent to [kenneth.r.gallager@livefree.nh.gov](mailto:kenneth.r.gallager@livefree.nh.gov).

218  
219 **B. Next Meeting: August 10, 2023, from 3:00 to 4:00 P.M.**

220 Ms. Verdile said the next meeting will take place on August 10, 2023 and reminded CORD  
221 members the SLR submission deadline for that meeting is on June 30, 2023, with the  
222 administrative materials submission deadline on August 1, 2023.

223  
224 **MOTION:** After a motion by Mr. Hackley the meeting was adjourned at 3:44 PM.