

# EGC DRAFT – 10-30-2019

## MEMORANDUM

Date: October 30, 2019

To: Attendees & Greater East Grand Region Planning File

By: E. Cleaves

Re: Mattawamkeag River Access – On- Site Meeting –October 29, 2019

Attending: Diano Circo – Chief Planner MDIF&W, Kevin Dunham MDIFW Region F Fisheries, Sue Szwed – Town of Reed Plantation, Diane Hines –Town Manager Reed Plantation, Steve Keith – Consultant with Elbridge Cleaves-Greater East Grand Planning Region.

Sites visited: Drew Bridge, Reed Plantation Town owned land- Wytopotlock Village; Reed Plantation– TCF owned land; Bancroft – Confluence Mattawamkeag & Baskahegan Rivers, Bancroft; 2000 Road - Baskahegan Stream take-out; Haynesville – Ferry Bridge (See attached map of stops)

Purpose: To further assess potential for formal IF&W involvement. Followed up on exploratory site visits in September with Kevin Dunham. Diano Circo goal: secure important and existing access over private lands to public water with and time and change of ownership may be at-risk of loss. Main focus: Traditionally used boat access for fishing.

General synopsis: MDIF&W fishing access program seems to best fit Drew Bridge and Ferry Bridge sites. Much discussion about leveraging IF&W (fisheries) and BPL (recreational) focuses by developing an overall plan for the Mattawamkeag. The plan would need to include both fisheries and recreational access including proposed water trails and primitive camp sites. Avoiding local tax payer funding critical – need other public, grant and philanthropic sources. Allow at least 2 year time lag between site selection and actual development.

The following summarize site visits and discussions:

- Drew Bridge – Privately owned land, strong evidence of use. Sue confirmed it is maintained by caretaker who lives in Wytopotlock. (Can get name and contact for landowner) Some wetland and size constraints but generally a good site. Sue confirmed tradition used for years for small boats and canoes.
- Town owned land – Reed Plantation – Proximity to village area favorable. Somewhat inundated by high water along the shore since prior visit limiting access to water. Some wetland and size constraints likely requiring parking on opposite side of public road. Sue confirmed traditional use by canoes (carry-in) and small boats for years. Was maintained by nearby landowner who no longer lives in Wytopotlock. May have permitting constraints. Best potential: carry-in site for canoes/kayaks. May be candidate for BPL? Title may be affirmed with recent tax mapping by Plisga & Day.
- TCF owned and FSM eased lands north of former Fish & Game Club – Much discussion and interest in canoe/kayak access and potential for primitive camping. Very desirable location - some portions having a steep slope to river with small island obstruction, both of which abates near north line of property. Layering of rights (conservation easement-IF&W access easement, BPL agreement to help fund campsite development) would need careful review for legal synergy. A definite for further exploration.
- Confluence Baskahegan & Mattawamkeag- Not a candidate for public ownership, landowner preference is to partner with local organizations. Acknowledged key location for canoe/kayak access (Mattawamkeag) along with primitive campsite? Discussed access to river needing stairs and slide approach- Diano has plans and will forward. Steve Keith mentioned Project Share as a means to explore correction/prevention of further bank erosion, Acknowledged

probable archeological significance. General affirmation of historic significance - log driving, early settlement, Native American use, etc. Brief mention of DOT permission for access to parking and trail head. Made brief stop to view Beans Falls- Nice.

- Brief stop at 2000 road Baskahegan Stream take-out. Not a public candidate but key take-out for Baskahegan River trip—a “wild” but easy paddling experience 7 miles +/- from Danforth. Need for river access in Danforth – project may be forthcoming by the Town.
- Haynesville- Ferry Bridge – Long history of traditional use –fishing, trapping, hunting, fiddle heading, recreation - accesses 10 miles +/- stretch of River between Big Cove and Haynesville. Also provides water access to Cold and Skagrock Brooks. Situate on lands of Lakeville Shores - a willing seller. Preference to explore feasibility of improving existing landing and parking located east of road. Ability to utilize land under powerline is key – will need to be explored. Walked west side of road – turning radius near shore of river somewhat constricted by small brook entering to the west. Agreed first order of business is to acquire parcel. Landowner preference to sell all 2.5 acres not just the area lying easterly of road. Expectations to proceed with process to acquire. Paul Derwood, 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman of Haynesville planned to attend but was called away unexpectedly. EGC instructed to offer his full support. Funding for acquisition and maintenance needs to come from sources other than tax base.

