



THREE PONDS PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

TPPA Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: 07/26/12 **Time:** 6:30pm **Place:** Nute HS, Milton, NH

AGENDA

President Steve Baker opened the meeting and talked briefly about TPPA and the non-profit organization's objectives since it was founded in 2004/5.

Identified Milton hydro dam project from organization's perspective:

Maintaining pond water levels, noise in town, maintaining the Milton dam park, concerns about flooding experienced in 2006.

Steve introduced Kelly W. Sackheim of KC Hydro

Unless otherwise noted the following are Kelly's comments and responses to questions/comments from audience, as best as the secretary was able to capture

- Reviewed her interest in hydro – her niche looking at small sites that others have already expressed an interest in such as Milton
- Federally regulated by FERC
- Her partner operates Laconia dam
- State regulates water levels that he must meet
- Hydro can enhance the ability of the state to manage levels – FERC will require that she meets all regulations federal, state, local; to get permission to start they go through a rigorous review.
- Explained how she used prior application and knew it included some inaccurate info
- Elevation change times volume=kilowatts; Milton capacity about 250 homes max
- They will have to manage within inches of state level that will determine on a daily level whether they can generate
- Required to provide fish passage - salmon and eels migrate
- Engineer last recommended putting building on Lebanon, Maine side near new retaining wall;
- This dam does not meet current standards for passing water in floods – must meet 100 year flood with water not topping dam; engineer proposed using a siphon rather than turbine
- Finances – with NH power prices – new hydro would not generate enough to recoup cost
- Must also take care of town recreation – would look at committing funds to maintain park

- PUC funding developers of green power
- She has submitted applications to develop Milton Mills and 3 Ponds Dam – to fund one and use revenues to fund the other. She was declined license saying she wasn't far enough along
- Soonest project could get online is Sept. 2014
- Will provide drawings for review – Lebanon will be notified by FERC
- Power to grid: can connect directly to 3-phase pole in the park – three lines from their site – max 450 KW; most above ground lines can manage capacity
- From audience - 2 sites downstream – in Rochester hydro will sell directly to customers
- NH is a community choice state; bills show service charge and energy charge
- Prefers to sell directly to users
- From audience - How will Lebanon benefit? Maine residents don't want any change to the lake/ponds.
- From audience – in past there were fluctuations of several feet; then pneumatic system added and level is very consistent and managed across water bodies; computer programmed from Concord.
- Whatever state is doing to manage water level KC Hydro will be required to do
- Feds will make her comply with whatever state has the stricter standards – NH owns the dam;
- They want to run the turbines to maximize efficiencies and at some point it would be better to bypass if flow is too little
- PROS –lower electric rate
Perhaps employment for local community
Ancillary – Milton can set some expectations – amenities such as park
- There would still be fall draw-down – they would be using aerating bubbler to prevent freezing; they wouldn't generate power in winter if there isn't enough flow;
- They need to run turbines 60% of time
- How to prevent flooding – state tells them – they need to meet standards first; they cannot regulate just to generate power
- From audience - Can she get an exemption from state if she isn't able to generate? PUC, depending on political climate might be quite willing to give her waiver. Kelly - She would have to first ask Feds, because state requirements are “hard wired into the license”.
- There will be input from the State –Dan Matiney (sp); point of contact;
- She will strive to align licensing public comment period – 30 day period needs to happen when people are available
- Will meet with NH Fish & Game; has not had contact ME; most likely ME will get involved once process is further along;
- From audience - NH DES website has real time data on Milton Dam

- Owner of dam is responsible for condition of the dam; NH and FERC
- From audience - Is dam structurally sound? Can it tolerate overflow?
- Pass 2.5 times 100 year flood; likely state will be a joint arrangement for inspections; she would become responsible for 5 year inspection and for repairs
- In structurally good condition but does not pass flood pass through regs;
- Go to FERC website and see what is being filed; e-library tab; P-13089 one of her projects
- Steve offered TPPA as a liaison for information and links
- From audience - Why should we trust that this project won't have an adverse affect on Three Ponds and Milton, Lebanon, Acton?
- From audience – How can she be discouraged to continue?
- She is not planning to get discouraged;
- Public must generate concerns and contact state, fed officials
- Milton can make sure the license states what levels must be maintained
- From audience - When is the opportunity to participate in environmental impact
- Process – permit good for 3 years; every 6 months she must present an update
- From audience - Due diligence needed at all stages – we need much more information about all aspects of project – not just licensing
- To make a comment at FERC.org P-14248 Milton Dam P-14363-Milton Mills
- From audience: Major intrusion of government she is inflicting on us
- From audience: Where can we go to find up-to-date status of the project?
- Kelley agreed to provide TPPA with links to such information, and TPPA agreed to publish such links in the TPPA website, www.threeponds.org.
- Post meeting: a “Public Affairs” page has been added to the TPPA website for the above purpose.

**NEXT TPPA BOARD MEETING: Thursday August 16, 2012 6:30 Nute High School
(All members are invited and urged to attend)**

Topic: Milfoil Issues in NH Lakes and Ponds Speaker: Amy Smagula, NH DES

Topic: Preserving Loons in NH Lakes and Ponds Speaker: Tiffany Grade, Loon Preservation Committee

Respectfully submitted:

Wendy Beckwith
Secretary, TPPA