

York River Study Committee Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2020, Online via Zoom

Voting Members Present: Karen Arsenault, Stefan Claesson, Cindy Donnell, Chuck Ott, Judy Spiller

Voting Members Absent: Jean Demetracopoulos, Thom Kearns, Joan LeBlanc, Mike Masi, Jack Murphy

Other Committee Members Present: Paul Dest, Jennifer Hunter, Jim MacCartney

Guests: Kristie Rabasca, Caroline Rose, Julia O'Connell

As there was not a quorum present at 5:30, the group opted to have informal discussion of items that were updates/informational in nature until a quorum was present. Summaries are provided below.

Legislative update: Committee members worked through the issues Senator King's staff brought up at the end of July related to Maine DOT concerns. Senator King is satisfied and ready to move forward. Several committee members will participate in a strategy meeting with his staff later this week. Senator Collins remains non-committal on bill sponsorship at this point.

DOT-NPS transportation projects agreement: Jim and several other committee members participated in about 6 meetings with DOT and other agencies to discuss Section 7 implementation. DOT and NPS will develop a programmatic agreement for transportation projects and activities. Administrators from both agencies wrote letters of intent and these were shared with Senator King's office. Work on the agreement will begin in earnest when there is movement on designation.

NPS Study Report: Jim said the Study Report and supporting documents should be transmitted to Congress this session.

At 5:50, a quorum was present, and the meeting began.

- Final Budget Report – Paul presented the final budget report and memo. The budget report includes funds for the York River Study during the five-year Cooperative Agreement (CA) period, from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2020. Some additional support was provided prior to the CA by the Town of York by providing staff time and after the CA with some additional donations.
- Review minutes from July meeting – On a motion by Chuck and seconded by Karen, all approved minutes from the July 2020 meeting.
- Committee Vice Chair discussion – Jenn noted that at the last meeting when electing a new Chair, the Committee said they would discuss electing a new Vice Chair at a future meeting. The Committee deferred action until there is forward movement on designation and a change of status for the Committee. Until then, Paul Dest will continue as Vice Chair.
- Questions and additional discussion – None.
- Summary of next steps and planned actions – Jenn noted: (1) Karen and Judy will participate in a call with Senator King's staff and legislative specialist David Brooks; (2) she will post updates, including approved minutes, on the website; and (3) she will work with Judy and Paul to schedule the next Committee meeting, likely in November.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Hunter