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Presumpscot River Watershed Land Conservation Priority Planning (2010 State of the Bay Presentation)

Matt Craig Casco Bay Estuary Partnership

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PRESUMPSCOT RIVER WATERSHED LAND CONSERVATION PRIORITY PLANNING

State of the Bay Conference, October 21, 2010

Matt Craig Technical Program Coordinator, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership





Outline

Background Project Overview Work to Date Lessons Learned



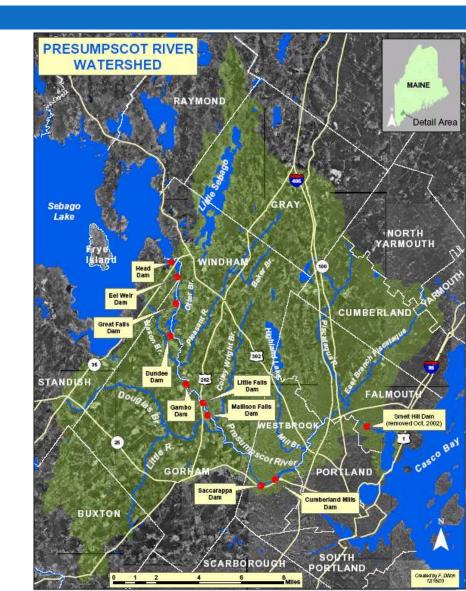


Background



Lower Presumpscot Watershed

- Downstream of Sebago
- 205 square miles
- 27 miles long
- 12 municipalities
- Late 90's pulp mill discharges cease
- 2002 Smelt Hill Dam removed
- 2011 & Beyond Fish passage upstream



Impervious Surfaces

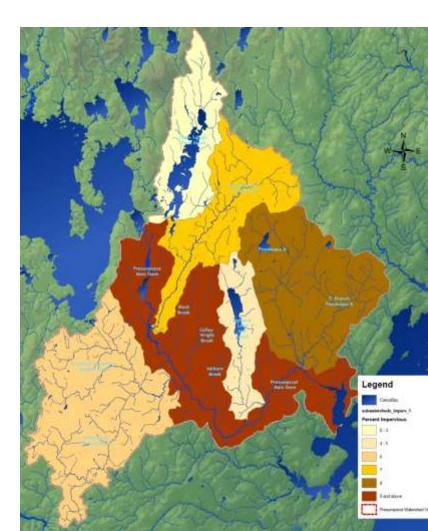
Percent total acreage of the watershed

(2004 impervious data, based on 1999 Land Sat imagery)

- 7.4% impervious surface (9,693 acres)
- □ At 10%, detrimental impacts

Sub Watershed	% Impervious
Black Brook	8.9
Colley Wright Brook	8.0
E. Branch Piscataqua R.	7.5
Highland Lk/Mill Bk	4.6
Inkhorn Brook	3.9
Little R./Tannery Br.	6.3
Little Sebago/Ditch Br.	4.4
N. Branch Little/Douglas	5.8
Piscataqua River	7.6
Pleasant R./Baker Br.	6.5
Presumpscot Main Stem	12.3

Sources: 1999 Land Sat imagery; 2004 impervious coverage

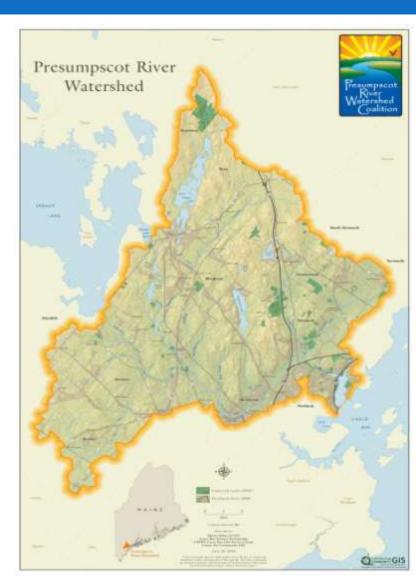


Conserved/Open Space Lands

Percent total acreage of the watershed

(by USFWS Conserved Category, 2010)

Conservation Land – Permanent	2.6 %
Conservation Land – Not Permanent	0.4%
Unofficial Conservation Land	0.2%
Active Recreational Lands	0.9%
Other Public Land	1.2%
TOTAL	5.5%



Source: CCGIS, based on USFWS data (through 6/30/2010)

Related Efforts

- Municipal open space & comprehensive plans
- Regional comprehensive plan
- Gorham East/West corridor
- Portland North Land Trust
 Collaborative
- Lakes Region Greenprint
- Beginning With Habitat







Need

- Protecting water quality & aquatic habitat requires watershed approach
- Recent water quality improvements;
 sea run fish restoration
- Proactive conservation through prioritization
- Communication & coordination in pursuit of limited funds
- Crossing institutional boundaries
- Conservation supported by multiple constituencies
- Dialogue up & downstream

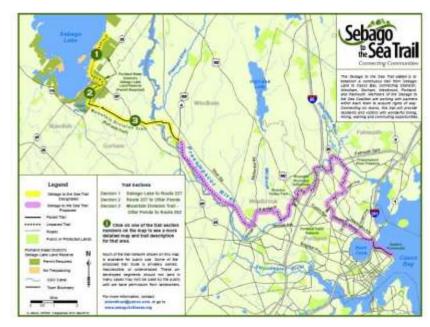


Ray Monahan



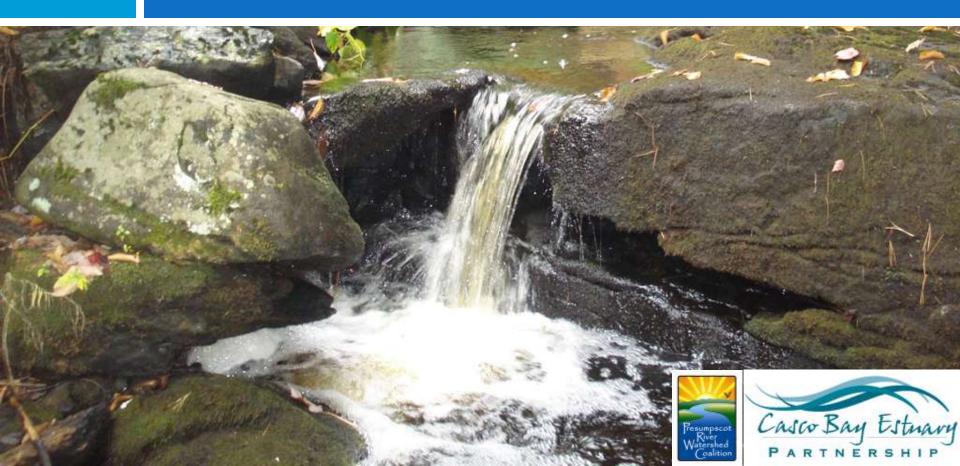
Opportunities

- Protect an undeveloped watershed close to urban areas
- Builds on existing collaborations (S2S, PNLTC, etc.); fisheries restoration
- Find synergy, efficiencies
- Strengthen fund raising
- Policy influence unified voice
- Transferable model
- Incorporation into plans and protection efforts
- Bring unusual voices to the table









Origins

2004: Presumpscot Plan

- Corridor-focused
- Calls for refined prioritization of land conservation
- December 2008: identified as a PRWC focus for 2009
- February 2009: PRWC kickoff meeting
- June 2009 CBEP/PRWC proposal to Environmental Funders Network
- August 2009 \$35,000 EFN grant





Goals

- Establish shared land conservation vision, values & priorities for the lower Presumpscot River watershed
- Develop a transferable collaborative model





Organizational Structure (proposed)

Stakeholder Committee

- Comprised of representatives of organizations and parties interested in land conservation in the Presumpscot watershed
- Decision making body for process and content of the project
- Meets at least once per quarter.
 Additional meetings as necessary
- Nominal 'Chair' to facilitate

Steering Committee

- Subcommittee of the Stakeholder
 Committee
- Tasked with project management tasks by the Stakeholder
 Committee. Tasks include background research, organizing public involvement, report drafting, and grant management.
- Meets at least once per month with additional meetings as necessary



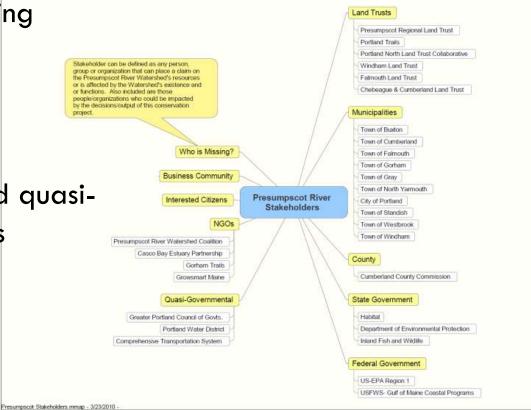
Steering Committee

- Brooks More, Town of Windham
- Janet Yancey, Portland Trails
- Jessica Burton, Portland North Land Trust Collaborative
- Matt Craig, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership
- Molly Casto, City of Portland
- Rebeccah Schaffner, Greater Portland Council of Governments
- Richard Curtis, Presumpscot Regional Land Trust
- Will Plumley, Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition
- □ Services:
 - GIS analysis Stephen Engle, Center for Community GIS
 - Facilitation Paul Mentag, Institute for Civic Leadership



Stakeholder Committee

- Stakeholders invited following deliberative analysis
- 12 municipalities
- 6 local land trusts
- Select agencies, NGOs, and quasigovernmental organizations
- Public forums, targeting:
 - 'Unusual' voices
 - Businesses
 - Large landowners





How will vision, values & priorities be developed?

DATA



- Stakeholder meetings
- Public forums
- Available GIS data
 - Conserved lands, habitat, land use, etc.
- New GIS data
 - Trails?
 - Active farms?
 - Working forests?
- Dump n' donuts?

VALUES, PRIORITIZATION

- Stakeholders
- Public input & refinement
- Between meeting work by Steering Committee
- GIS analysis





Products

Final report (mock up):

- Background
- Process
- Vision
- Values maps
- Priorities maps
- Recommendations
- Implementation strategies
- Lessons learned

- Geodatabase:
 - Data storage
 - Data sharing
 - Data analysis
 - Data development



Examples

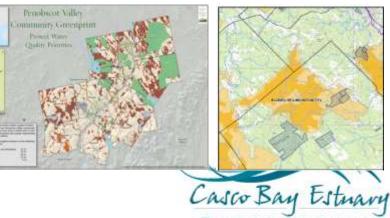
- Mount Agamenticus to the Sea
- Sagadahoc Region Rural
 Resource Initiative
- Land Conservation Plan for Maine's Piscataqua Region Watersheds
- Greenprints Trust For Public
 Land



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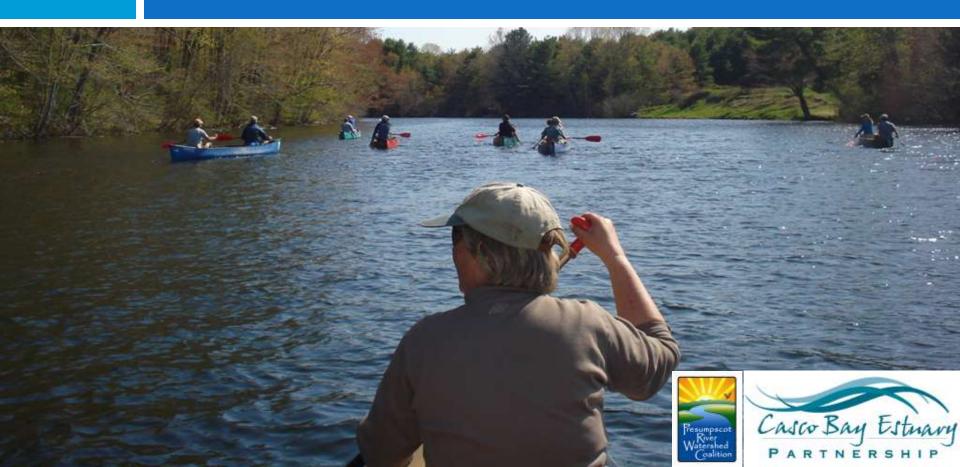
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Work To Date



June 30th Forum - Participants

- Presumpscot Regional Land Trust
- Portland Trails
- Portland North Land Trust Collaborative
- Windham Land Trust
- Falmouth Land Trust
- Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust
- Casco Bay Estuary Partnership
- Friends of the Presumpscot River
- Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition
- Cumberland County Soil & Water
 Conservation District
- Greater Portland Council of Governments

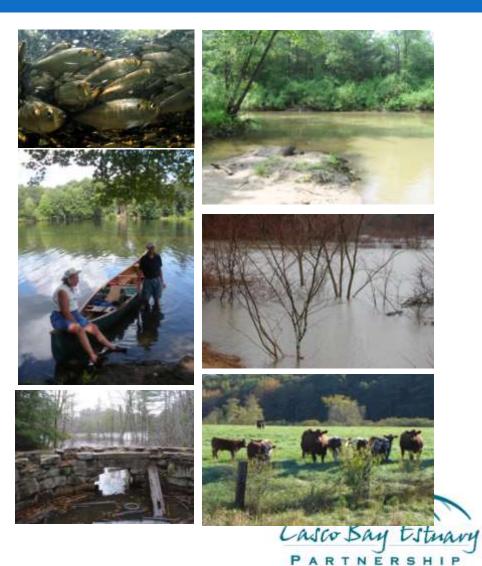
- Buxton
- Falmouth
- Portland
- Standish
- Windham
- Maine Forest Service
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Adminstration
- US Fish & Wildlife Service, Gulf of Maine Coastal Program

Consultants:

- Center for Community GIS
- Institute for Civic Leadership

What inspires us to conserve?

- Water quality & aquatic habitat
- Rare & threatened natural communities
- Native fish
- Recreation
- Historical significance
- Accessibility urban areas
- Aesthetic/ethics
- □ 'Basic needs' food, water, wood
- Development pressures
- Legacy future generations



Which are the most important landscape elements that need to be protected?

- Water quality
- Riparian areas
- Lakes and ponds
- Wetlands
- First order streams
- Waterfalls
- Rural character
- Working farms & forests
- Open space
- Historic elements/landmarks
- Hills & valleys

- Traditional recreational use
- Unfragmented forest blocks
- Wildlife corridors
- Rare & threatened communities
- Fisheries
- Urban green space
- **Specific Places:**
- Mill Brook
- Pleasant River
- Upper Presumpscot
- Presumpscot Falls

Feedback

Plus (+):

- Efficient use of time
- Excellent facilitation, format, agenda
- Good breakout group
 questions & discussions
- Level of participation, representation & engagement
- Location/facility

Delta (\triangle) :

- Seek better municipal participation
- Product/outcomes/ expectations?
- Engage business, landowners
- Background information
- Next steps?



What's Next?

- Stakeholder meeting November 30th
- Steering Committee
 meeting November
 10th

- □ Winter 2010 2011
 - Public Forums
 - Stakeholder meetings
 - Map development
 - Prioritization



Lessons Learned



What have we learned so far?



- Broad support & interest
- Dependent on individual commitment
- Define shared goals, process, roles, outcomes at onset
- Volunteers & P/T staff integral, but availability limited
- Tradeoff b/t grassroots approach (more work) vs. existing models (less control)



What have we learned so far?

Collaboration:

- □ Time, resource intensive
- Lack of clear 'lead' organization & staff
- Tension: pre-define project outcomes, or develop outcomes collaboratively?

Process:

- Important, but not what attracts participants
- Avoid 'process drift'





Thank You!

Environmental Funders Network

A project of the Maine Community Foundation and the Maine Philanthropy Center



Quality of Place Initiative 2009, 2010 Grant Funding



For More Information

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