





Maine Seafood Alliance
Director's meeting
Minutes
April 20, 2010 Sullivan Town Office

Present: Jim Markos, Tom Howell, Ginny Olsen, Steve Beatham, Gary Edwards, Dan Rogde, Jeff Jewett, Randy Ramsdell, Alison Sirois-DMR, Jamie Lewis-DMR

Item 1 Minutes of March 9 meetings- The report was accepted on a motion by Ginny and second by Dan

Item 2 Treasurer's Report- The report was read- there is a balance of \$11,064.76 at this time. Memberships and renewals are still coming in.



Item 3 Alison Sirois and Jamie Lewis from the DMR Public Health Division attended to discuss rainfall information gathering and the possible donation of automatic gauges by MSA. The following points were made:

-  Jamie is leading an effort by the Public Health Division to work with national program called the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) to develop a group of volunteers to be trained and provide up to date precipitation information to the Department. Several training sessions are planned. More information is available at <http://www.cocorahs.org/> .
-  DMR does not have staff capabilities to manage any number of automatic gauges.
-  NOAA has an automatic gauge it wants to use to fill in a gap in coverage in the Milbridge area.
-  If MSA can develop a system to manage the gauges to keep them operational and reliable there are areas in the state where the data would be helpful to the department.




Follow-up: Gary will look for a host in Milbridge, there are several possibilities.

Gary will contact Amy at DMR to continue the discussion about how MSA can best help with rain data.

Item 3 Continue discussion of resource closures:

-  Tom presented a package that included an Emergency Flood plan, a flood impact areas and a set of maps dividing the coast into zones and defining impact areas during rain events.
-  The board discussed the points of the plan to gain a better understanding of how it could help relieve the adverse effects of flood closures on the industry.

Follow-up;

-  Tom will meld the original concept paper with the proposed plan and impact matrix as well as comments from industry sources to make a draft plan.
-  The plan will be provided to Department staff and other industry contacts for review and discussion.
-  The plan will be presented to the Shellfish Advisory Council for review and discussion.

Note: the board emphasized that the process to review, improve upon and implement the proposal needs to be open and inclusive in order to be successful.

Item 4 Other Business



The Down East RC&D Vacationland Resources committee is undertaking an effort to revive and improve on a project called the “Downeast Fisheries Trail” that highlights the history and impact of the fishing industry in Downeast Maine. VRC is asking for support from MSA as they move forward.

Adjournment at 11:40

Next meeting May 13 RC&D Office- Cherryfield