

- 6-7 turbines, exact number and footprint still up for discussion.
- Arrowood did some mapping based on our 9/14 comments, also had Krebs and Lansing do a report/plan to show potential road access and transmission.
- Travis Belise:
 - Owned for 15 years
 - Sugar 10-12k taps
 - Cut firewood off it
 - Built residential subdivision at foot of mountain
 - Put up MET tower without a CPG about 3 years ago.
 - Determined there is enough good wind to do a project.
 - Prior to Travis's ownership Canadian company did a very heavy cut and put in all the log roads, etc.
- Aaron Arrowood:
 - In southern corner of Swanton Town along rt. 105
 - Just south of Fairfield Pond
 - Existing access road up slope to front of ridge where there is a log landing/gravel pit
 - Arrowood did an initial on the ground assessment within a defined study area.
 - Also did modelling of watershed at a 1km scale.
 - Three primary watersheds that flow west (about 95%), another 3 that flow east, but they only comprise about 5% of the watershed on the property
 - Entire study area is being sugared and has work roads and ATV trails.
 - Study area is about a mile North to South
 - Some adjustments to turbine layout so will need to updated this field season.
- Dori Barton:
 - Started involvement last October
 - Wetlands, streams, wildlife habitat, nat community mapping done in fall '14.
 - Rare plant survey will be done later once disturbance area is more refined.
 - Feels it is relatively dry from a stream perspective, mostly intermittent within project area.
 - Wetland 110 on southern end is large hemlock swamp with some winter deer use, potential DWA, turbines sited to be at least 300' from DWA.
 - Conceptual layout has changed to avoid sensitive areas identified by Arrowood, which is evident from the changes form the KMZ provided earlier.
 - Have the potential for two other turbine locations far to the east, but need to get neighbor permission, would need to extend road out. They are on the map to make up for two they lost in SE due to resource constraints. Arrowood will do field work out in that area this spring.

- Potential vernal pool habitat tagged by some wetlands, but need to go back out in the spring to assess amphibian use.
- Will do functional assessment for all wetlands in the spring.
- Only the stream to the NE is perennial, the others are intermittent.
- Michael Lew Smith
 - Northern hardwood and northern hardwood/red oak, pockets of hickory and small dry oak/hickory/hop hornbeam but not large enough to map as own community, also NH/Hemlock
 - Ranking natural communities with guidance from Eric Sorenson
 - Numerous forest wetlands and seepage communities.
 - Hemlock swamp is 3.25 acres
 - Haven't ranked vernal pools yet, but will do so in the spring
 - Danielle will pull in Mark Ferguson re amph's.
- How determined intermittent – by field characteristic at time of review: Chris B. if there are bugs in it, it's automatically perennial.
- Austin – breeding bird survey.

Stantec – bird/bats

- Consistent with 2006 ANR guidelines for preconstruction surveys.
- Will draft a survey plan and discuss w experts before doing any work, want to design studies to collect the info we need.
- Adam - Do they really need to do radar surveys here? Also there are weather limitations to radar that correlate with the nights of high mortality. Seeing very consistent migratory elevations across the region. What is the additional value the study would provide.
 - Austin, we agree that some of the same trends are apparent and need to confer internally, and will get back to you on this.
 - Adam – are there predictive studies like looking at cloud cover, weather, etc. correlating to mortality that could be more helpful?
- Austin – the Champlain valley has the highest concentration of migratory birds
- Scott – ANR will want 6m/second cut in speeds during bat season
 - Also how will they deal with northern long ear back for acoustic survey? Kirsten will work with Scott on this. Becomes Federal issue on April 2nd, so may pull them in soon than later.
- Begin monitoring by April 15th.
- Breeding birds – do a presence/absence survey of species, but haven't done a post construction survey to see displacement. Typically assume some impact and require mitigation, etc. to offset those impacts.
 - Something to follow up on.
 - This comes into play looking at wildlife functions of wetlands, etc.
 - Need to look at this for the project.
- Scott – may need winter logging/clearing to avoid impacts to bat (do it while the bats are hibernating). Also avoid impacts to breeding birds and amphibians if logged during winter.
- Stantec will get a target date for a draft plan ASAP and will seek ANR feedback on those studies.

JZ – access road would be min 15' wide, then typically 35' for crane path, brought back down to 15' after installation.

- Haven't done cut/fill estimate yet, but slopes are relatively moderate and ridge is quite flat.
- Pad size ~ rotor diameter, about 300' of clearing, do a Sheffield type clearing, where you just clear 3 spokes out, not a circle.

Neil – may want to do some pre-construction bio monitoring to establish a baseline for any future water quality issues.

- On site streams may be headwaters to two stormwater impaired streams, further down, so there may need to be offsets from the project and enhanced stormwater practices, may also need to engage with the Town on what they're doing on stormwater.

Eric – from fragmentation perspective, really want to know road widths, etc.

- Also critical for know whether the two NE turbine locations are in play and whether they will be able to get data from Stantec and Arrowood in time to file late summer.

Real concerns re: two NE towers.... That was new information for us and based on that see potential constraints

Anticipated Schedule:

- Get design work done ASAP and begin field work as soon as conditions allow in the spring.
- For bats/birds – will have spring and fall study periods.
- Would like to file CPG in July '15.
 - Would not have late summer/fall study results in hand, would need to come later in the proceeding.
 - Would need to get ANR ok with that.
- Will they need a 404? Will try to avoid and minimize and not need one, but still not sure, since there are some stream crossings that are inevitable. Will try to not trigger a category 2 permit from ACOE.

ARN should share what DEC permits are necessary

ARN should figure out how they want to pass along feedback on study methodologies.

ARN would like to visit the site as a large group in the spring.

- Need them flesh out how the determined intermittent/perennial – just cause they were dry last October is not a good indication.
- Going out to NE turbine locations will complicate the projects exponentially with potential impacts to beaver pond, forest frag, etc.
- Austin thinks the wetlands features are very unique for wildlife functions esp for herps and birds. High frequency sound could be an impact too for animals traveling between vernal pools.
- Scott – if they don't have a big wind resources there coupled with curtailment/cut in speed for bats, is the energy benefits to public work impacts? They need to do cost/benefit with that cut in mind.
- Tom/Neil doesn't think 15' wide road doesn't seem realistic, and residential development will likely be pulled into stormwater permitted.
- Town beach/Access Area on Fairfield Pond/Fairfield swamp WMA could be a 9K issue?

