

May 23, 2005

For more information, contact:
Matt Craig, (207) 228-8359

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Public Forum to Initiate New Meadows Lake Tidal Restoration Feasibility Study

West Bath and Brunswick, ME-- On the evening of Monday, June 27, the New Meadows River Steering Committee and the Casco Bay Estuary Project will host the first in a series of three public forums on the New Meadows Lake Tidal Restoration Feasibility Study.

The objective of the study is to develop and evaluate restoration alternatives at the Bath Road causeway with the goal of improving water quality and enhancing inter-tidal and salt marsh habitat in New Meadows Lake. The study will generate new technical information that, in combination with existing information, will enable a well-informed decision-making process for a feasible restoration project.

Public participation is critical to ensure that the study will be thorough, accurate and responsive to the community's needs. Project team members from the New Meadows River Steering Committee, the Casco Bay Habitat Restoration Committee, and Woodlot Alternatives, Inc. will provide the first public forum. The objectives of the first forum are:

- To familiarize the public with the intent, scope of work and schedule for the completion of the feasibility study
- To provide the public with existing information relevant to the study
- To solicit input and information relative to the study, New Meadows Lake and related issues of concern.

The forum will feature an overview presentation, a series of informal posters focused on specific aspects of the study and New Meadows Lake, and ample time for questions, answers and comments.

Funding for the study is being provided through a partnership grant from the Gulf of Maine Council for the Marine Environment and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The June 27th forum will be held at the Old Brunswick High School from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. The forum is free and open to the public, and pre-registration is not required. For more information, contact Matt Craig at the Casco Bay Estuary Project, (207) 228-8359, mcraig@usm.maine.edu.