

PRRP EVENT: VEAZIE

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE AND WELCOME TO ANOTHER TRULY HISTORIC DAY IN ACCOMPLISHING THE NEXT STEP OF THIS GREAT PROJECT THAT HAS BECOME A MODEL IN SO MANY WAYS AND PROVIDES SO MANY BENEFITS.

I WOULD LIKE TO FIRST ACKNOWLEDGE SOME PEOPLE WHICH IS ALWAYS PROPER AND WILL START WITH THE PENOBSCOT TRIBAL LEADERS: COUNCIL, FORMER CHIEFS : CULMINATION OF EVERYONES EFFORTS TO GET TO THIS DAY. (BUTCH, JIM, BARRY).

THE PENOBSCOT NATION HAS SO MANY PEOPLE TO THANK AND CAN NEVER GET TO THEM ALL HERE AND I AM SURE TO FORGET SOMEONE SO I AM NOT GOING TO TRY INDIVIDUALLY. HOWEVER THERE ARE A FEW THAT I WANT TO MENTION.

PROJECTS LIKE THIS ONE ARE COMPLEX REQUIRING CONSTANT ATTENTION AND EFFORT FROM FUNDRAISING TO EDUCATING, AND THIS PROJECT IS BLESSED TO HAVE GREAT LEADERHSIP AND A TREMENDOUS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN LAURA ROSEDAY WHOS FRIENDSHIP AND PASSION FOR THIS PROJECT I AM VERY APPRECIATIVE OF. THANK YOU LAURA.

ON THE TRIBAL SIDE THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF GREAT CHAMPIONS OF THIS PROJECT BUT NOONE HAS BEEN MORE ENGAGED DAILY THAN JOHN BANKS AND THE TRIBE IS VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE JOHN PROTECTING ITS NATURAL RESOURCES. THANK YOU JOHN.

SO HERE WE ARE, AGAIN AND AS I MENTIONED THIS DAY TRULY IS HISTORIC BUT WE ARE ALSO IN A VERY SIGNIFICANT AND HISTORIC PLACE TO THE PENOBSCOT PEOPLE KNOWN AS EDDINGTON BEND.

IT IS THE SITE THAT DILINEATES PENOBSCOT TERRITORY IN OUR EARLY TREATIES BEING DEFINED AS THE HEAD OF THE TIDE.

THE LAND ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE RIVER HISTORICALLY HAD A LARGE PENOBSCOT ENCAMPMENT (A STOCKADE VILLAGE) WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF CROPS AND STRAWBERRIES.

FOR TEN MILES NORTH FROM THIS PLACE THERE WERE PENOBSCOT VILLAGES ALL ALONG THE RIVER

FOR THE PENOBSCOT WE SIMPLY DESCRIBED THIS PLACE BY ONE WORD, NEGUE, A DESCRIPTIVE WORD THAT MEANS “SHORTCUT” OR “CUT ACROSS” TO AVOID SOME OF THE MORE TREACHOROUS WATERS AT THE BEND. IT FEELS VERY VERY APPROPRIATE TO BE IN THIS PLACE TALKING ABOUT THIS VERY IMPORTANT WORK OF THIS PROJECT.

SO AS I SAID LAST YEAR TO THE PENOBSCOT THIS IS ABOUT SO MUCH MORE THAN SIMPLY FISH, ITS ABOUT EXTRAORDINARY PARTNERSHIPS, FRIENDSHIPS AND MOST IMPORTANTLY ITS ABOUT THE HEALTH AND VITALITY OF THIS SACRED RIVER AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO IT, TO THE PENOBSCOT THIS RIVER IS OUR VERY SOUL, IT’S A PLACE WHERE WE TRULY HOLD HANDS WITH OUR HISTORY AND OUR ANCESTORS AND WITH EACH STEP OF THIS PROJECT WE FEEL THAT MUCH CLOSER TO IT AND REALIZING OUR PEOPLES DREAM OF THIS SACRED RIVER IN ITS NATURAL STATE PROVIDING FOR AND NUTURING OUR PEOPLE IN MANY WAYS AS IT HAS ALWAYS DONE.

THIS RIVER IS SIMPLY WHO WE ARE, IT’S THE VERY CORE OF OUR IDENTITY AS A PEOPLE AND ITS SIMPLY THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE PENOBSCOT NATIONS LIFE AND I THINK ITS EXTREMELY HARD TO FIND THE WORDS TO EXPRESS OUR JOY TODAY.

AGAIN ON BEHALF OF THE PENOBSCOT NATION THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT HAS GOTTEN US TO THIS DAY, THE

PEOPLE I HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED, THE DONORS, THE TRUST, AMBASSADORS, AND SIMPLY THOSE THAT HAVE JUST SUPPORTED THIS EFFORT. WITH THIS PROJECT WE ARE NOT JUST MAKING HISTORY WE ARE RE WRITING IT AND CREATING A FUTURE FOR PENOBSCOTS TO BE JUST THAT, PENOBSCOT IN ITS MOST MEANINGFUL WAY, BUT A FUTURE THAT IS ALSO CRITICAL TO THIS RIVER THAT IS SO VITAL TO THIS ENTIRE REGION FOR US ALL. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!