



# Celebrate—and Vote to Protect— Land for Maine's Future



On May 16, 2012, legislators voted overwhelmingly in support of a bill to put a \$5 million bond in front of Maine voters on the November ballot for the popular Land for Maine's Future program (LMF). Despite the fact that Governor LePage refused to sign it, it will appear on the ballot this fall.

"Voters have overwhelmingly supported LMF funding every time it has come before them," said North Woods Project Director Cathy Johnson. "The LMF program provides funds for state agencies, local land trusts, and conservation groups to buy special natural lands from willing sellers." She notes that LMF also leverages an additional \$3.00 in matching funds from private individuals, land trusts, foundations, nonprofit organizations, the federal government and other partners, for every dollar expended.

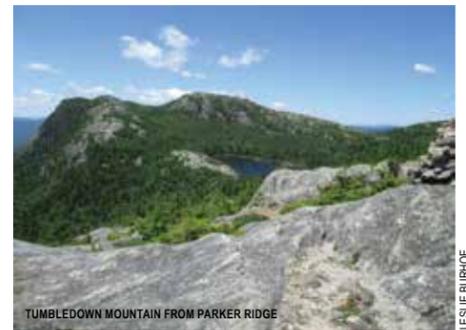
LMF helps to ensure Maine's environmental and economic health by conserving family farms, working forests, waterfronts for commercial fishing, and recreation sites all across Maine. It protects wildlife habitat and guarantees public access to lakes, rivers, and our ocean shorelines, and provides places for Maine citizens and visitors alike to hike, hunt, fish, camp, and paddle.

We urge Maine voters to once again show strong support for LMF by voting for this bond on the November ballot. To remember the importance of the Land for Maine's Future program, this summer visit one of the scores of special places protected thanks to this program. You can learn more online at <http://www.maine.gov/spo/lmf/about.htm>. Or visit one of the many NRCM staff member favorites, which we celebrate here. Thank you for caring about the kind of Maine we leave to future generations by voting in favor of the LMF bond in November.

## NRCM STAFF PICKS

**Leslie Burhoe, Office Manager**

"Every few years I climb Tumbledown and thank our glorious voters for LMF. There is such a stunning view in all directions and trails to meet all levels of hiking. I don't know why I don't go EVERY year. Kennebec Highlands is one of my favorite close to home hikes."



TUMBLEDOWN MOUNTAIN FROM PARKER RIDGE

LESLIE BURHOE

**Gabby Rigaud, Grants Director**

"I am fortunate enough to live near Clary Lake where I can enjoy a quiet paddle along the lake's shoreline watching for birds, fish, and beavers. I also love the lush, winding trail at Cutler Coast. The first moment you come to the edge of the coast is absolutely breathtaking. The hikes in and around the Kennebec Highlands are not to be missed, either."



GABBY RIGAUD

BOLD COAST TRAIL, CUTLER

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## East-West Corridor Would Destroy Maine's Rural Landscape

This past session, the Legislature voted to direct the Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) to spend \$300,000 on a financial feasibility study of a proposed East-West highway across Maine. Peter Vigue, CEO of Cianbro Corporation, has been crisscrossing the state promoting a privately funded, 220-mile East-West highway between Calais on the New Brunswick border, and Coburn Gore on the Quebec border. The corridor would be at least 500 feet wide and, in addition to a four-lane divided highway, could be used for other infrastructure such as pipelines for tar sands oil or natural gas produced by fracking, or for transmission lines.

In 1999, DOT did an extensive study of five different options for an East-West corridor. They concluded that the costs outweighed the benefits. They recommended upgrading the existing Route 9 and Route 2. That recommendation was accepted, and during the past decade all of Route 9 and much of Route 2 have now been upgraded. So now there is even less need for a new highway. While the exact route of the proposed corridor has not been made public, it is clear that it would cross a dozen or more conservation lands, including the Appalachian National Scenic Trail; at least two major rivers, the Penobscot and Kennebec; scores of smaller rivers, streams, and brooks; dozens of wetlands, and other important wildlife habitat.

NRCM opposes this wasteful proposal that would fragment Maine's North Woods and provide benefit primarily to Canadian truckers. Maine's North Woods is the largest area in the country east of the Mississippi without public roads, and it's a national treasure. NRCM staff are speaking out against this proposal, coordinating with local residents who oppose the corridor, and fighting to get more information about the proposal and the planned route out of Cianbro's board room and into the public view. We are also following the study authorized by the Legislature, which reportedly will not be providing any opportunity for public comment. At this point, the best way for citizens to express their concerns about this project are to speak out at one of the many meetings around the state or write to their local newspapers. We will keep you informed as we learn more. —Cathy Johnson, North Woods Project Director and Senior Staff Attorney



NRCM FILE



CHECK YOUR LABEL!  
Please call NRCM with  
address corrections  
or duplicate mailings!



## • THE BIG PICTURE •

### Health Care for Maine's Environment

by Tony Owens, NRCM Board President

I awoke this morning to the refreshing change made by a northwest breeze and lower humidity. Relief from the record-setting heat, high humidity, and hazy atmosphere was all the respite I needed to welcome my twin two-year-old granddaughters to a morning of exploration at a neighbor's farm. There, the girls endlessly tugged, patted, probed, and attempted to imitate the animals' voices. They climbed among bales of fresh hay and picked blueberries. Such are the bounties of a summer day in Maine, and for each precious one of them I remain eternally grateful.



As a practicing physician for 35 years, I know how lucky I am to have had these moments today. In trying to help my patients navigate a healthy path on life's journey, I realize that days like mine today are rare for many. The restorative power of a morning afield with my grandchildren is therapy enough for me and would be a compelling prescription, if a physician could write it.

As a "patient," Maine's environment is also in need of healing. Fortunately, the summer started off with several prescriptions, so to speak. The EPA's ruling supporting full restoration of spawning habitat on the St. Croix will hopefully be an important step in restoring the nearly extirpated alewife, or river herring, to the river. And the breaching in June of the Great Works Dam on the Penobscot in Bradley was more long-awaited therapy for the health of our state's waters. The St. Croix alewife run could number 30 million; completion of the Penobscot River Restoration Project will add 1,100 miles of spawning habitat in several years. Already, I'm picturing teaching my granddaughters how to drift a fly over salmon holding in the current.

With the help of Maine's Senators Snowe and Collins, Congress upheld the new EPA rules aimed at curbing toxic mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants. This bipartisan breaking of gridlock is the sort of leadership Maine has provided to our nation's Congress, but we will need more of it if we are to adequately address the urgent issue of climate change. Maine is the eighth fastest-warming state, and we have just experienced the warmest spring on record. We have written the prescription for this disease, but so far the "drug store" in Washington won't fill it. New "illnesses" continue to threaten the health of our state—open-pit mines with their associated acid run-off, a potentially devastating East-West highway through Maine's North Woods, not to mention the push to allow oil companies to pump toxic tar sands oil across Maine to deep water terminals, threatening our clean water and wildlife habitat and feeding the addiction to dirty, climate-changing fossil fuel.

When it comes to Maine's environment, we must all be "health care providers." Be sure to find your restorative moment as I did this morning and advocate for good care. Our patient is well and strong, but your vigilance and caring are needed now more than ever. NRCM members and staff will continue to write those prescriptions and with your help, we will get them filled. Thanks for your support.

### Hopeful News Continues for St. Croix Alewives



All of Maine's tribes are now united in support of restoring native alewives to the St. Croix River and submitted a letter to Governor LePage showing that support. In addition, the U.S. EPA ruled that Maine's law blocking alewives on the river violates the Clean Water Act. NRCM is continuing to work with the federal government, the tribes, and

other environmental groups in both the U.S. and Canada to stop Maine's bad policy of blocking this keystone species from its ancestral spawning grounds. St. Croix alewives are important to the cultural and sustenance fishing history of the Passamaquoddy tribe. They are food for all manner of fish-eating birds and mammals and are critical to restoring Maine's once-prosperous ground fishing industry. Maine's self-destructive policy of extirpating the St. Croix alewife must end.

### Land for Maine's Future - Continued from page 1



CITY OF GARDINER

**Allison Childs Wells, Senior Director of Public Affairs** "I love an early morning stroll along the dirt roads winding through the Kennebunk Plains, past the world's largest stand of northern blazing star and other rare plants, with endangered Grasshopper Sparrows, Upland Sandpipers, and other birds singing. It also has special meaning in that my husband did his Cornell PhD research here years ago. Bonus: In July and early August, when the birds are done breeding, bring a bowl and pick the plentiful blueberries! Other favorites: Birch Point State Park (Rockland), Gardiner Waterfront Park, Lobster Cove Meadow (Boothbay), Tidal Falls (Sullivan)."

**Todd Martin, Grassroots Organizer** "Jamie's Pond Wildlife Management Area in Hallowell is only a short drive from downtown Hallowell. 'Jimmy Pond' is one of my favorite places to escape into nature year-round. The 800-acre preserve offers several beautiful hikes around the pond and through the woods. My other favorites include Tumbledown Mountain, Camden Hills State Park, and Ferry Beach in Scarborough."



FERRY BEACH STATE PARK

BETH DIMOND



LISA POHLMANN

**Lisa Pohlmann, Executive Director** "Dodge Point in Newcastle is a perfect place to take the grandkids on a wooded hike that loops down along a mile and a half of beach along the Damariscotta River and out across the top of a stream-cut ravine. You'll be sure to see fascinating sea creatures scurrying through the tidal waters and eagles soaring as you eat your PB&J's on a nice, flat rock. My other favorites include the blueberry barrens of Clarry Hill (Union) and Beech Hill (Rockport)."

**Nick Bennett, Staff Scientist** "Jamie's Pond Wildlife Management Area is right across the road from my house, so I spend more time here than at any other LMF site. There's a wonderful lake for swimming and miles of great walking trails. I also like the Maquoit Bay Conservation Area, which is great for duck hunting when it's too rough to take my boat out, and Tumbledown Mountain—probably the closest 'big' hike from the Augusta area and a really great place."



MAQUOIT BAY

BETH DIMOND



JUDY BERK

**Judy Berk, Communications Director** "I recommend Sandy Point Beach, Stockton Springs. This quiet, half-mile long undeveloped beach beckons where the Penobscot River opens into the bay. A lovely spot to stroll or picnic, glimpse seals or Osprey, and take a dip if you're brave. Perhaps I'm prejudiced as my husband and I married on a bluff overlooking its shores! Other favorites: climbing Mount Kineo at Moosehead Lake, walking Maine's Bold Coast trail in Cutler, and strolling to take in spectacular views from blueberry-covered Beech Hill in Rockport."

**Beth Dimond, Public Affairs Coordinator** "Having just moved back to the Brunswick area, I am delighted that LMF has helped to protect land at Crystal Spring Farm and other farms throughout the state. My mother's family is now in its eighth generation of farming, and to preserve Maine's farming heritage is important, as it provides healthy local food. My other favorite spots are Ferry Beach State Park, Sebago Lake Beach, and the Rangeley area."



CRYSTAL SPRINGS FARM, BRUNSWICK

BETH DIMOND

Do you have a favorite Land for Maine's Future spot? Send a short write up to us, along with a photo, and we'll add it to our website and may use it as a My Maine This Week feature or for our publications. Send to Beth Dimond at [bdimond@nrcm.org](mailto:bdimond@nrcm.org).

### Make Your Voice Heard on Tar Sands Oil

NRCM continues to play a leading role opposing an emerging plan to pump dirty tar sands through an oil pipeline in Maine. Compared to conventional oil, tar sands oil is more toxic and too risky for Maine's environment and public health. There has been a flurry of citizen engagement, events, and education this summer in communities along the pipeline. With NRCM's help, citizens are getting educated and mobilizing to take a stand. We need all Maine people to stand against tar sands coming through Maine. Please learn more and sign the petition to keep tar sands oil out of Maine! Visit [www.nrcm.org/TarSandsAction.asp](http://www.nrcm.org/TarSandsAction.asp)

## Farewell to Carol Cole, a Kind, Courageous Friend



Carol enjoyed the beautiful outdoors, one reason why her work at NRCM was so important to her.

I came to NRCM in 2001, joining a wonderful team of professionals in the development department. Chief among them was Carol Cole. By then Carol had been a member of the staff for 20 years. She joked that during her early years at NRCM, she kept our mailing list on index cards in a little box. That may have been true when she started, but not when she finished: Carol helped NRCM grow to more than 6,000 members by the time she stepped down as NRCM's major gifts director in 2005.

Carol died peacefully on June 4, 2012, at home, attended by her husband, Ellerbe. Her health started to fail a few years ago, but she celebrated with us at NRCM's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary party in 2009. The staff also reported frequent "Carol sightings" as she took her daily walk along the Kennebec Rail Trail.

Carol was born in Scotland in 1941. She moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the early 1960s with one of her sisters and eventually joined the fund-raising team at Harvard University. There, she met Ellerbe. They welcomed their sons, Peter and Andrew, in the early '70s and moved to Maine. Ellerbe's work brought them to Augusta, and the family loved its small town feel and proximity to so many rivers, lakes, mountains, and beaches. Eventually Carol found NRCM when she attended a meeting to discuss air quality in Augusta (think the oil crisis of the early 1980s and the Jotul stove craze).

Carol's kind nature appealed to everyone, and her soft Scottish accent brightened all around her. She was a consummate professional, working hard to ensure that members felt appreciated for their generosity and commitment to protecting Maine's environment. She enjoyed her long partnership working with Brownie Carson, loved NRCM's willingness to take on tough issues, and found humor in every situation.

Lao Tzu writes, "From caring comes courage." Carol was a private person, but she cared deeply about family, community, and the natural world. From there she found courage—to move to a new country as such a young woman, to explore every hill and body of water she could, to inspire her sons to find their place in the world, to encourage her colleagues to reach for seemingly impossible goals, and, finally, to deal with her illness.

*Guid cheerio the nou, Carol. —Gretta Wark, Senior Director of Development*

## Meet Our Candidates to the NRCM Board of Directors

Each year, at NRCM's Annual Meeting of the Membership, our members have the opportunity to vote on nominees to our Board of Directors. The following individuals are new candidates to our Board. We are still in the planning stages regarding the Annual Meeting—watch for upcoming notice.



**Patricia Hager** A resident of Massachusetts, Patty retired as Academic Dean of Concord Academy in 2007. There, her colleagues praised her as an insightful leader who could "whittle down unwieldy problems into manageable components. . . ." Patty has another side: accomplished outdoorswoman. She spends much of her free time at her camp in Norridgewock and launches many of her extensive paddles from there.

**Karen Herold** Karen draws on her legal background and a lifetime of hiking, biking, and paddling to promote sound environmental policies and to protect Maine's natural areas. She is on the board of Maine Conservation Voters and Maine Conservation Alliance, and lives in Cumberland.



**Russell B. Pierce, Jr.** is an attorney with the law firm of Norman Hanson & DeTroy, LLC in Portland. In 2006, Russ represented NRCM *pro bono* as we began work on Plum Creek's application to the Land Use Regulation Commission. Since then, he has been an integral member of our North Woods team, representing NRCM before LURC and in the courts and advising on other land use issues. NRCM recognized Russ for his service and commitment in 2009 when we presented him with an Environmental Award at annual meeting. Russ is also past-president and an ongoing member of the Board of Directors of Community Dental, Inc., a leading affordable quality oral health care provider in Maine. Russ is an avid birder, gardener, and hiker, and in his spare time writes and paints with a focus on Maine's outdoors. Russ and his family live in Portland in a home they recently enhanced with solar-powered hot water.

## A Giant Step Forward for the Penobscot River

For decades, the Great Works Dam blocked the Penobscot River in Bradley, Maine. On June 11, 2012, NRCM joined the Penobscot Indian Nation, other conservation groups, representatives from state and federal agencies as well as elected officials to celebrate the start of the removal of the dam. This is an important step in restoring the Penobscot by buying and removing two dams, implementing fish passage at another, and increasing energy generation elsewhere on the river to maintain or even increase access to 1,000 miles of river for 11 species of sea-run fish and the best chance for restoring a self-sustaining population of wild Atlantic salmon in the U.S. With the river's recovery will come a renewal of recreational, economical, and cultural activities. Thanks to all of you who joined us for this special event!



### Clockwise from top:

- Heavy equipment made its way out onto the Penobscot River to begin removal of the Great Works Dam, the first dam to be removed as part of the Penobscot River Restoration Project. The dam will be removed this year, and removal of the Veazie Dam will begin in 2013.
- Penobscot tribal elder Butch Phillips opened the June 11th celebration with a blessing.
- NRCM Executive Director Lisa Pohlmann shares a moment with Alan Hutchinson, former board member of the Penobscot River Restoration Trust.
- A smile 25 years in the making: Bill Townsend, attorney, river activist, and NRCM National Advisory Board member, has worked to restore fish passage on the Penobscot River for more than a quarter century.
- U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar traveled to Maine to take part in the June 11th event. "Today marks an important milestone for river conservation in America," Salazar said. "Through a historic partnership..., we are reconnecting 1,000 miles of river, restoring vital habitat for fish and wildlife, expanding opportunities for outdoor recreation, and supporting energy production, jobs, and economic growth in communities throughout Maine."



## Maine Environment

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Maine Environment is provided four times a year to more than 12,000 members and supporters of the Natural Resources Council of Maine. NRCM is a Maine-based nonprofit membership organization working to protect, conserve, and restore our land, air, wildlife, and water, now and for future generations. Membership starts at \$28/year. Join online at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org).

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## Don't Miss These Upcoming NRCM Events



More details at [www.nrcm.org/attendanevent.asp](http://www.nrcm.org/attendanevent.asp).



**Bird Walk and Brunch** Join us on Saturday, August 11th at the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust office for a relaxing bird walk with NRCM's Allison Wells and husband Jeff, authors of the new book, *Maine's Favorite Birds*. We'll meet at 8:45 a.m. for a snack, then we'll carpool to nearby Timber Point at the Rachel Carson Preserve to walk along the beach, marsh, and meadow for an hour and a half, looking and listening for Yellow Warblers, Red-eyed Vireos, Common Eiders, and other favorite Maine birds. Perhaps we'll find a few less common species including terns and shorebirds. **Not an early riser?** Join us at 10:30 a.m. for brunch and a chance to meet Allison and Jeff, NRCM Executive Director Lisa Pohlmann, and others, and buy your own signed copy of the book! Learn more and RSVP at [www.nrcm.org/attendanevent.asp](http://www.nrcm.org/attendanevent.asp).



**"Rachel's Run."** Join NRCM on Saturday, September 29th at Capital Park in Augusta for "Rachel's Run and Kids' Fun," a 5k run with 1k kids' fun run to raise funds and awareness about keeping toxic chemicals out of Maine's environment for now and future generations. Strollers are welcome! *"Mom brigade" to be led by former Speaker of the House and committed advocate for a toxic-free Maine, Hannah Pingree.* This event is being held to celebrate the publication of Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, 50 years ago. Her efforts brought toxic pollution to the public's attention and helped change laws and protect wildlife and human health. We owe our current progress toward a toxic-free Maine to her leadership. Visit our website at [www.nrcm.org/RachelsRun.asp](http://www.nrcm.org/RachelsRun.asp) to learn more and sign up today!

## Product Stewardship News



For decades, NRCM has been hard at work to help you more easily recycle your electronic waste, mercury-containing products, and redeemable beverage containers. We have created a new web page that gives you all the information you need about how and where to safely recycle computers and televisions, redeemable bottles and cans, mercury thermostats, CFL bulbs, and more. Visit [www.nrcm.org/productstewardship.recycling.asp](http://www.nrcm.org/productstewardship.recycling.asp) to learn more and to download our new product stewardship tip sheet.

## FDA Bans BPA from Baby Bottles and Sippy Cups Nationwide



Two years after the Legislature banned toxic Bisphenol-A (BPA) in baby bottles and sippy cups sold in Maine, the U.S. FDA has announced that BPA can no longer be used in manufacturing those same products nationwide. However, BPA is still commonly used in the linings of metal cans and lids of glass jars that hold food. Hundreds of peer review scientific studies demonstrate that BPA leaches into food and can cause neurological damage. NRCM and our partners in the Alliance for a Clean and Healthy Maine are working to get BPA out of food intentionally marketed to children under the age of three in Maine.

## Get Your NRCM Sporting Camp Discount!



Summer's still here, which means you can still take advantage of NRCM's member discount at participating Maine sporting camps. Visit our website at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org) for the list of camps and contact Beth Dimond at [beth@nrcm.org](mailto:beth@nrcm.org) for your savings voucher.

## Green Tip of the Day



**Light Hiking.** On your next outdoor vacation, remember the old adage: "Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints." *For a green tip every day, visit NRCM's website at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org).*

## Special Memberships Given June 1, 2012 to July 20, 2012

### Honoraria and Memorial Gifts

Merryspring Inc. in honor of Lisa Pohlmann  
 Anne M. Kotchek in memory of Spike and Kermit  
 Bill and Louise Townsend in memory of Carol Cole  
 Hal and Brigitte L. Kingsbury in memory of Carol Cole  
 Harvey and Kimberly Wasserman in memory of Carol Cole  
 Mr. and Mrs. Anthony F. Marple in memory of Carol Cole  
 Stephen and Elizabeth Shafer in memory of Carol Cole  
 Susan E. Russell in memory of Carol Cole  
 Carolyn Toth in memory of Dr. Kenneth Smith  
 H. Gilman and Ellen F. Nichols in memory of Dr. Kenneth Smith  
 Helen W. Jenkins in memory of Dr. Kenneth Smith  
 Hilda C. Bennett and Rosina E. Bennett in memory of Dr. Kenneth Smith  
 Mary E. McWilliams in memory of Dr. Kenneth Smith  
 Mrs. Carole N. Bauman in memory of Dr. Kenneth Smith  
 Patricia C. Sprague in memory of Dr. Kenneth Smith  
 Oceanside Meadows Innstitute for the Arts and Sciences in honor of Jeff and Allison Wells  
 Sharon Hobe in memory of Dr. Kenneth Smith

### Gift Memberships

Mildred Kennedy-Stirling by Kenny Cole  
 Mike and Cathy Coughlin by Jane F. Bestor  
 Christopher Nelson by Tira Dreyfus

New members of **PARTNERS IN MAINE'S FUTURE** Program, our monthly giving club. Members' automatic donations help us save on administrative costs, including paper. Special thanks to these members!

Monique Y. Crochet  
 Jerol B. Ellis  
 Karen Hussey

Scott and Amy Milo  
 James H. and Marjorie Turner  
 Leighton A. and Joyce M. Wentworth



## People's Choice Award VOTE NOW!

NRCM received nominations from across the state for our seventh annual People's Choice Award. Now it's time for you to vote! All of our finalists—and all of the nominees—are leaders among citizens working to protect the Maine we love. Voting opened August 6<sup>th</sup> and will continue through Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. Visit [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org) to cast your vote—and remind your friends and family to vote, too! If you don't have Internet access, please call Beth Dimond at (207) 430-0106 to learn about the nominees and to place your vote. Thanks to all who took the time to nominate those you know who are doing important work to protect Maine's environment.



## "My Maine This Week"

*"Time at this secluded spot on the Sandy River in Farmington is the best way to spend a summer afternoon."*

—Trista Hoar  
 of Temple, Maine

Send Us Your "My Maine This Week" Do you have a photograph of Maine you'd like to share? A poem? Send your submissions to [beth@nrcm.org](mailto:beth@nrcm.org). Visit "My Maine This Week" online at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org).

## NEW AT THE NRCM INSIDER



**Great Works Dam Removal** – Watch our short video capturing the activities and excitement of the removal of Great Works Dam from the Penobscot River!

## New in the NRCM Blogosphere

**Finding My Inner Julia Child** Public affairs coordinator Beth Dimond shares her new-found "joy of cooking" with help from a local farmer's market!

**A Climb Worth the Effort** In "A Climb Worth the Effort," NRCM's executive director Lisa Pohlmann shares the thrill of climbing Mt. Katahdin and the importance of persisting in our long journey protecting Maine's environment.

Subscribe to our blogs at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org).



If you "Like" us on Facebook... you'd be among the first to see the live stream of the actual breach of the Great Works Dam on the Penobscot River, posted on NRCM's Wall. "Like" us today!

Follow us on Twitter!  
 Search for NRCMenvironment.

