



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation
Service

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Subject: Coopers Mills Dam, Sheepscot River, Whitefield, Maine
To: Robert Wengryznek, Biologist, NRCS, Orono, Maine

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The following are the results of investigations as to what impact the removal of the Coopers Mills Dam might have on the water level of Long Pond, which is located approximately two miles upstream of the dam on the Sheepscot River.

- The Weeks Mills, Maine 7.5' USGS topographic map (1982) shows a water level of 178 feet (NGVD) on Long Pond. Two 10 foot interval contour lines cross the Sheepscot River between Long Pond and the Coopers Mills Dam. The most downstream of these lines is located approximately 550 feet upstream of the dam and has an elevation of 160 feet (NGVD). Based on the elevations from the USGS map it can be concluded that there is an elevation difference of at least 18 feet between the dam and the pond.
- On January 21, 1999 an NRCS survey crew visited the Coopers Mills site. It was observed that the level of the Sheepscot River was somewhat high due to recent rains. The water surface above the dam appeared flat as far upstream as could be seen (approximately 1000'). At the boat launch at the lower end of Long Pond the water surface appeared flat for as far as could be seen looking downstream (approximately 1200'). Levels were subsequently run, by the NRCS crew, to determine the difference in water line elevations of Long Pond and above the Coopers Mills dam. It was found that there was a difference of 13.6 feet between the water level at the dam and that of the pond.
- Whitefield resident Vic Norton (who has lived next to the Coopers Mills dam for 30 years and also owns a cottage on Long Pond) told the NRCS survey crew the dam had no effect on the water levels of Long Pond. He stated that several steep drops were located on the Sheepscot River between the dam and pond and that a natural ledge constriction controls the level of Long Pond.

Based on the above information it is my opinion that the Coopers Mills dam has no effect on the water level of Long Pond.

Lewis P. Crosby

Hydraulic Engineer

cc: M. Thompson
N. Kalloch