

**9/27/24 JOINT STATEMENT
5 TOWN DAM COMMITTEE
(SILVER, ALAMOOSOOK, TODDY)**

Representatives from the 5 Town Dam Committee met at the Bucksport Town Office on Wednesday, September 25th to continue discussions on the status and impacts of the ongoing efforts of Bucksport Mill LLC/AIM to relinquish ownership of the Silver Lake, Alamoosook, and Toddy dams.

The group recapped a meeting the previous week with business and environmental organizations enlisted to assist in developing a robust, fact-based analysis of the impacts of removing/releasing water from the dams. It was a productive meeting that will lead to additional conversations. The Committee is focusing on collecting economic, recreational, and environmental data to help shape the path moving forward.

On 9/26/24, the Orland voters approved a moratorium on any change in dam ownership/operation status to give the Town 180 days to develop an ordinance similar to the one just enacted by Bucksport. That ordinance will regulate dam transfer, abandonment, or removal of any dam within Orland. The ordinance under development does not replace the State statute but complements that process by focusing on safety and economic concerns not addressed in the State's environmentally focused statute.

The Committee will continue to meet to ensure that the five communities have a coordinated response to Bucksport Mill, LLC/AIM's efforts to relinquish ownership of the dams.

Bucksport has enacted an emergency moratorium on the transfer, abandonment, removal, or unregulated release of impounded waters or dams, and had the first reading of an ordinance to address that topic. It in many ways mirrors the State but has additional requirements. It focuses on safety and economic concerns in contrast to the State statute which focuses on the environmental aspects. Enacting the ordinance will add protections for the community. Orland is actively considering taking the same steps however the Town has a different type of governing structure and the process would take significantly more time.

The Committee is proactively compiling data related to the environmental and economic impact of these water bodies and the dams. As part of this effort, we are developing an outreach strategy to work with business and environmental organizations that can serve as resources for this effort.

The Committee will continue to meet to ensure that the five communities have a coordinated response to Bucksport Mill, LLC/AIM's efforts to relinquish ownership of the dams.