

Land for Maine 's Future Program

Minutes of the Meeting

January 18, 2005

Pine Tree State Arboretum

Augusta , Maine

Board Members present:

Commissioner George Lapointe Carole Dyer Marcia McKeague

Commissioner Pat McGowan Roger Milliken Leon Gorman

Warran Balgooyan Jeff Thaler

Board Members absent:

Commissioner Dan Martin Commissioner Bob Spear Martha Freeman

LMF Staff Members present:

Tim Glidden Steve Brooke R. Collin Therrien

Aline Lachance Jim Connors

Others

Representative H. Stedman Seavey, Jr.

Paul Jacques, Deputy Commissioner, IF&W

Ralph Knoll, Dept. of Conservation

Stephanie Gilbert, Dept. of Agriculture F&RR

Jerry Bley, BPL consultant

Wolfe Tone, Trust for Public Land

Nick Dilks, Conservation Fund

Dave Phillips, Dept. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Sam Hodder, Trust for Public Land

Alan Haberstock, Sebasticook River Watershed Association

Susan Spinell , Maine Conservation Corps

Minutes of the Meeting

A motion was made by Carole Dyer and seconded by Warren Balgooyen to approve the November 16, 2004 Minutes of the Meeting. Vote was unanimous.

Farewell to Roger Milliken

After 9 years on the LMB Board Roger is stepping down in order to take a Sabbatical year. He intends to write non-fiction, primarily essays about land management, land conservation and the relationship of humans with the natural world. It is with mixed feelings that he is tendering his resignation. He cited several accomplishments such as improving the application and scoring process, establishing far-sighted standards for working forest conservation easements, water access, creation of a robust farmland protection effort, and dealing with valuation issues that recognized the limitations of the appraisal process. Roger said that it has been a privilege working with such wonderful people and having created a well oil machine.

Left to right: Tim Glidden, Commissioner Lapointe, and Roger Milliken

Board members wished Roger the very best thanking him for his dedication and creative insight which greatly benefited the Board over the years and for his mentoring. He was a crucial contributor to the success of the Program and will be sadly missed.

Machias River – Phase II Washington County (7,785 + acres in fee to DOC)

- Public Notice

Published in the Kennebec Journal on 1/8/05, the Bangor Daily News on 1/8/05 and the Ellsworth Weekly on 1/7/05.

- Appraisal Review Committee Recommendation

The ARC recommended accepting an appraised value of \$7,920,000 for this project and further recommends LMF funding of \$1,250,000 (not including all other costs). [*Note : Later in this meeting, the Board voted to increase this allocation by \$500,000 to a total of \$1,750,000 .*]

- Public Comments

None.

Ralph Knoll (Dept. of Conservation) noted that the Conservation Fund (TCF) recently became a partner on the project and has agreed to coordinate the transaction with the landowner, International Paper. An appraisal was completed this summer and has been finalized. TCF reports that they are close to signing a purchase agreement with IP within the coming weeks. The Department and TCF have applied for grants to the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund of the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and the Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Program of the US Fish & Wildlife Service. He noted that both programs supported Machias- Phase I. He also expects to receive funds from the Loon Protection Fund (oil spill settlement).

Tim Glidden noted that Patrick Keliher, Executive Director, Atlantic Salmon Commission, expressed his appreciation for all the hard work done on protecting the Machias River .

- Vote

A motion was made by Marcia McKeague and seconded by Carole Dyer to support acquisition. Vote was unanimous.

Kennebunkport Greenbelt York County (324 + acres in fee under PA with DOC)

- Public Notice

Published in the Kennebec Journal on 1/8/05 and Portland Press Herald on 1/7/05.

- Appraisal Review Committee Recommendation

The ARC recommended accepting an appraised value of \$ 960,000 for this project and further recommends LMF funding of 400,000 (not including all other costs).

- Public Comments

Wolfe Tone [Trust for Public Land] thanked the Board for their support and praised Tom Bradbury efforts in bringing this project to a successful completion.

Representative Seavey thanked everyone involved with the project and indicated that they've done a tremendous job. These parcels create an open space corridor linking the interior of the town to conserved lands along its coastal waterfront.

- Vote

A motion was made by Commissioner McGowan and seconded by Roger Milliken to support acquisition. Vote was unanimous.

WATER ACCESS PROJECT

Sandy River Ponds Sandy River Plantation , Franklin County

IF&W Deputy Commissioner, Paul Jacques informed the Board that following a meeting with elected town officials, IF&W has **withdrawn** their request for LMF support for this project. They will pursue other options for funding this project.

A motion to take up the previously tabled project and to accept the request to withdraw was made by Roger Milliken and seconded by Carole Dyer. Vote was unanimous.

5 % FARMLAND BUSINESS GRANT REQUESTS

Packard-Littlefield Farm Lisbon , Androscoggin County

The Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources is seeking on behalf of Packard-Littlefield Farm a Business Planning Grant in an amount not to exceed **\$9,000** . Funds will be used to assist the Packards with (1) improve growing and harvesting methods; (2) plan for transitioning the land to obtain Organic Certification; (3) improve and expend marketing at both the Auburn Farmers' Market and on the farm through the farmstand; (4) improve farm infrastructure; (5) expand existing irrigation pond; and (6) undertake timber stand improvements.

- Vote

A motion was made by Roger Milliken and seconded by Marcia McKeague to approve a Business Planning Grant in an amount not to exceed \$9,000. Vote was unanimous.

Meserve Farm Scarborough, York County

The Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources is seeking on behalf of Valeria Davies & George Carpenter [tenants of Meserve Farm] a Business Planning Grant in an amount not to exceed **\$9,000** . Funds will be used to assist them with (1) bringing the farm back into active, productive and diversified operations; (2) improve soil, pasture and hay quality; (3) develop multiple water resources; (4) establish a goat cheese dairy operation; (5) public access to the site and educational program; (6) undertake timber stand improvements; (7) install perimeter fencing for rotational grazing; and (8) extend season crops.

- Vote

A motion was made by Roger Milliken and seconded by Marcia McKeague to approve a Business Planning Grant in an amount not to exceed \$9,000. Vote was unanimous.

OTHER ITEMS

Project Updates

- Crowley Island

Action is anticipated shortly under the Project Agreement to release a 10 acre portion of the project lands that had been previously optioned. The value of these lands was not included in the original project.

- Raymond Pond

The Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife has informed Raymond town officials that the Department's effort to acquire boat access along with resuming its former fishery resource enhancement and stocking program to the pond has ended unsuccessfully. Project therefore is withdrawn.

- St. Croix River Access Improvement

Steve Brooke noted that completion of the 2003-2004 access upgrades include: upgrading 5 miles of wood road to the Little Falls river access along with addressing erosion and parking issues at the site; at the Loon Bay site improvements done addressing erosion and water runoff problems, and installation of a toilet and a picnic shelter; development and authorization of a water access campsite at The Cape; minor upgrades at three existing campsites; additional toilets for current needs and directional signs along wood roads to the Little Falls and Loon Bay accesses.

- Maine Conservation Corps

Susan Spinell, Director, Maine Conservation Corps, presented a power point slide presentation of the access improvement work done by Corps volunteers on Sandy Point and Long Reach & Skolfield Shore Preserves [both LMF acquisitions]. Corps members volunteer statewide to complete environmental conservation projects.

Sandy Point – MCC volunteers developed trail plans during the winter of 2004. The site had been restored from industrial use, including a railroad spur, commercial wharf, and fertilizer plant. Community volunteers proposed a route for a 7000+ foot long walking path through forested wetlands on the property. MCC also assisted in the design of 1600 ft. of trail built to ADA (handicap accessible) standards. She noted that MBNA contributed materials and volunteers.

Long Reach / Skolfield Preservse -

Cedar stairs provide access to the Ocean and bridges connect trails across drainages.

In 2005 the MCC in partnership with eight other conservation corps across the country will be working with the Maine DOC Forest Protection Service to educate the public about Wildland Urban Interface and assist with mapping rural areas that have a large build up of fuel. It is hope that this project will help reduce the threat of wildfires in Maine .

Report of the Nominating Committee

At the request of the Board, the Nominating Committee reviewed all pending projects to identify those projects that (a) might require reconfiguration, (b) do not appear to have reasonable prospect for success based on progress to date, and (c) establish criteria for reallocating any funds that become available as a result of this review.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 2:25 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.

A motion was made by Roger Milliken and seconded by Marcia McKeague to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing active projects still under negotiation.

Acceptance of the Nominating Committee Report

A motion was made by Roger Milliken and seconded by Marcia McKeague to increase the Board allocation to the Machias Phase II project to a total of \$1,750,000 and the Pike Lands project to a total of \$350,000.

The Board further directed staff to hold any remaining funds in reserve to meet emerging needs in existing projects over the coming year according to the following criteria:

- o Projects of the strongest regional and statewide value should be considered. [except for the Board's prior commitment to the Pike Lands project, no additional local projects should be targeted]
- o Projects at risk in the near term if funds are not available should be favored over projects which could be supported from a future bond.
- o On-going, multi-parcel efforts which have emerging, near-term needs beyond the scope of their existing allocation should be considered.
- o In making any additional allocations, consideration should be given to the degree of leverage and to whether the Board made any reductions in the original request.

Staff Updates

Biennial Report is being prepared. LMF's accomplishments over the past 2 years include:

Ø LMF support for over 70 land conservation transactions as part of 47 different projects;

Ø 38 projects are still underway;

Ø supporting the conservation of over 101,000 acres all over Maine (81,000 fee; 20,000 easement) bringing LMF-supported conserved lands to a total of 218,000 acres (168,000 fee; 50,000 easement) since 1987;

Ø supported the conservation of 1024 acres of farmland in the past two years;

Ø 10 new water access projects have been completed; and

Ø Preliminary analysis indicates that for the \$16 million of LMF funds invested in 2003 and 2004, the State was able to leverage also \$47 million from other sources – that's \$2.9 for every \$1 dollar invested (as compared to our minimum match requirement of 50 cents for every \$1).

Tim noted that the staff will be making a presentation next week to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry.

Next Board meeting

Scheduled for March 22, 2005 at the Pine Tree State Arboretum.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.