



**Land for Maine's Future Program  
Minutes of the Meeting  
March 22, 2005**

Pine Tree State Arboretum  
Augusta, Maine

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**Board Members Present:**

Commissioner George Lapointe  
Commissioner Pat McGowan  
Commissioner Dan Martin

Carole Dyer  
Martha Freeman  
Commissioner Bob Spear

Leon Gorman

**Board Members Absent:**

Marcia McKeague

Warren Balgooyen

Jeff Thaler

**LMF Staff Members Present:**

Tim Glidden  
Jim Connors

Steve Brooke  
Surran Pyne

R. Collin Therrien  
Aline Lachance

**Others**

Arthur Spiess, Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
Bob Williams, Dept. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife  
Ralph Knoll, Dept. of Conservation  
David Soucy, DOC, Bureau of Parks & Lands  
Stephen Richardson, DOC, Bureau of Parks & Lands  
David Rodrigues, DOC, Bureau of Parks & Lands  
Stephanie Gilbert, Maine Dept. of Agriculture, F&RR

**Minutes of the Meeting**

A motion was made by Carole Dyer and seconded by Commissioner McGowan to approve the ~~March 22~~ January 18, 2005 Minutes of the Meeting. Vote was unanimous.

## Conservation & Recreation Project

### EXECUTIVE SESSION [ 2:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m. ]

Board members were given a brief update on the ongoing negotiations regarding the Bangor & Aroostook Rail Road by David Soucy.

- **Bangor & Aroostook Rail Road – Sherman, Crystal, Patten, Mapleton, Washburn, Houlton, Littleton, Monticello, Bridgewater, Blaine, Mars Hill, Westfield, Presque Isle (Aroostook County) 483± acres, 52.3 miles in fee to DOC.**

- Public Notice

Published in the Kennebec Journal on 3/4/05, the Bangor Daily News on 3/5/05 and the Houlton Pioneer Times on 3/9/05.

- Appraisal Review Committee Recommendation

The Appraisal Review Committee approved a total allocation of up to \$600,000 for the Bangor & Aroostook Rail Road Right-of-Way project.

*Note:* At the September 21, 2004 Board meeting the ARC recommended that the Board vote to allocate funds to support Maine Department of Conservation and the State of Maine's acquisition by negotiation and contract or by rights of first refusal of three sections of the Bangor & Aroostook Rail Road line in the towns of Mapleton and Washburn; Sherman, Crystal and Patten; and Houlton, Littleton, Monticello, Bridgewater, Blaine, Mars Hill, Westfield and Presque Isle.

- Public Comments

None.

*Note:* At the September 21, 2004 Board meeting Tim Glidden noted that he did receive two letters of support for the project – from the Town of Sherman and the Mapleton Valley Economic Corporation.

- Vote

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Carole Dyer to approve a total allocation of up to \$600,000 in support of a total purchase price not to exceed \$900,000 for the project. Vote was unanimous.

## Water Access Project

- **Prong Pond** - Beaver Cove Twp., Piscataquis County) 2.62± acres in fee to IF&W.

- Public Notice

Published in the Kennebec Journal on 3/4/05 and the Bangor Daily News on 3/5/05.

- Appraisal Review Committee Recommendation

The ARC recommended accepting an appraised value of \$70,000 for this project and further recommends LMF funding of \$44,667 (not including all other costs) to the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife for the Prong Pond water access project.

- Public Comments

None.

- Vote

A motion was made by Carole Dyer and seconded by Martha Freeman to support acquisition. Vote was unanimous.

## 5 % Access Improvement Request

- **West Branch Project** (Somerset County)

The Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks & Lands, is requesting \$50,000 in access improvement funds to upgrade approximately 25 miles of access road. Cost estimates include culvert replacement, spot gravelling and ditching.

- Vote

A motion was made by Commissioner McGowan and seconded by Carole Dyer to approve access improvement funds in the amount of \$50,000. Vote was unanimous.

## 5 % Farm Capital Grant Request

- **Meserve Farm** Scarborough, Cumberland County

The Scarborough Land Conservation Trust is requesting \$23,500 in capital improvement funds to restore 50 acres of hayland, 20 acres of cropland and 20 acres of pasture.

- Vote

A motion was made by Leon Gorman and seconded by Commissioner Spear to approve access improvement funds in the amount of \$23,500. Vote was unanimous.

*Note:* Meserve Farm previously received a grant from LMFB towards the completion of a business plan for the farm and farming operation.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Project Amendments & Reconfigurations**

- **Presumpscot Preserve** Portland, Cumberland County

The City of Portland is requesting approval to amend and reconfigure the boundary lines for the Presumpscot Preserve acquisition. The boundary adjustment involves the mutual transfer of lands (*2 parcels to the City of Portland and 1 parcel to the abutting owner*). Vote is to authorize exchange of property to resolve boundary issue.

*Note: The exchange of land will result in a net increase in the area of protected lands.*

*Also, the Project Agreement requires that the LMF Board approve the exchange of land.*

- Vote

A motion was made by Commissioner Spear and seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve the reconfiguration of the boundary lines. Vote was unanimous.

- **Caribou Bog, Hsu parcel** Old Town, Penobscot County

At the time the Board approved this acquisition the project partners had not established a Match Bank. Since that time, a total of \$179,158 has been documented in matching funds now qualifying the partners for an increase in allocation to the full cost of this acquisition. They are seeking an increase in allocation for the Hsu parcel from \$22,267 to \$33,400 for this parcel.

- Vote

A motion was made by Carole Dyer and seconded by Commissioner McGowan to increase the allocation for the Hsu parcel from \$22,276 to \$33,400. Vote was unanimous.

- **Five Fields Farm** Bridgton, Cumberland County

The Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources is seeking approval from the Board to **change the title holder** of the easement to Maine Farmland Trust in order to secure federal funding for the Five Fields Farm project. Maine Farmland Trust will execute a Project Agreement with the Department of Agriculture F&RR.

- Vote

A motion was made by Commissioner Spear and seconded by Carole Dyer to approve the change in title holder. Vote was unanimous.

- **Hanson's Farm** Sanford, York County

The Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources is seeking approval from the Board to **change the title holder** of the easement to Maine Farmland Trust in order to secure federal funding for the Hanson's Farm project. Maine Farmland Trust will execute a Project Agreement with the Department of Agriculture F&RR.

- Vote

A motion was made by Commissioner Spear and seconded by Carole Dyer to approve the change in title holder. Vote was unanimous.

- **Brae Maple Farm** Union, Knox County

The Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources is seeking approval from the Board to **change the title holder** of the easement to Georges River Land Trust in order to secure federal funding for the Brae Maple Farm project. The Trust will execute a Project Agreement with the Department of Agriculture F&RR.

- Vote

A motion was made by Commissioner Spear and seconded by Carole Dyer to approve the change in title holder. Vote was unanimous.

## **Staff Updates & Report**

- **Bond Legislation**

Tim has participated in a series of work sessions dealing with the Governor's bond proposal. At present, \$45 million for land acquisition over a 3 year period is being considered. He noted that the validity of the LMF Program is not a problem and, in fact, the program has strong support by both the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry and Appropriations.

- **Project Status Update**

**Round 4 –**

A portion of the **Downeast Lakes** project (*the Farm Cove parcel*) closed in December 2004 with the remaining project lands continuing to make good progress towards completion in 2005. Both the **Machias River-Phase II** and **Schoodic Bog** projects are also expected to be complete in 2005. Making significant progress is **Sebois Lake**, **Killick Pond**, and **Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea**.

**Round 3 –**

The land conservation acquisition of the *Wade and Marsh River parcels* (**RiverLink** project) were completed in early December 2004. Steady progress is underway with the **Katahdin Forest** project.

**Round 2 –**

**Lower Kennebec**-Merrymeeting Bay and **Sebago Headwaters** projects are well underway. The acquisition process for the *Umberhind parcel* of the **Lower Kennebec** project was completed in November 2004 and the *Frye parcel* and *Peddicord parcel* are soon to be finalized.

**Round 1 –**

The completion of the acquisition process for the **Greater Mt. Agamenticus – ATP** *parcel* is pending, with an anticipated completion before the May 2005 Board meeting. The remaining Conservation & Recreation, Farmland Protection projects to be completed from this round consists of those projects having a core of multiple land tracts.

**Water Access**

**Indian Lake**, **Patrick Land**, and **Schoodic Lake** have been completed.

## Report on Historic Resource Inventories



Arthur Spiess, gave a 5 minute powerpoint presentation. He outlined the legislation requiring LMF post-purchase assessment of a variety of resource values, including archaeological sites. The Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) began archaeological fieldwork for the LMF Board on the original Kennebunk Plains purchase in 1990.

Mr. Spiess noted that because Maine's archaeological record is still relatively poorly known, about half the purchase parcels require some level of

archaeological fieldwork, usually a brief test to locate the most obvious sites. In addition to

developing information for management planning, LMF archaeological survey has made major contributions to the archaeological knowledge in Maine. He noted that they found in site on the Plains, and did several years of follow-up work with private, non-LMF funding.

Some of the sites included in Mr. Spiess presentation included: Kennebunk Plains, East Ridge tract, Devil's Head, Bear River Rips, Choice View Farm, Kennebec Highlands, Frenchman's Hole and West Branch.

### **Next Board Meeting**

The next Land for Maine's Future Board meeting will be held on May 24, 2005 at the Pine Tree State Arboretum.

### **Adjourn**

3:15 p.m.