

Damon, Jessica

From: Stratton, Robert D
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 10:43 AM
To: Michael Carey
Cc: Damon, Jessica; Tim Brochu; Aaron Dority
Subject: Silver Maple Wind Songbird Impact Mitigation Proposal
Attachments: Frenchman Bay Community Forest letter_Silver Maple Wind (2).pdf

Good morning Michael,

MDIFW has reviewed SWEB Development's proposal for mitigation of impacts to songbirds from the proposed 20 megawatt Silver Maple Wind project in Clifton. SWEB's proposal consists of a \$100,000 contribution to Frenchman Bay Conservancy's (FBC) effort to purchase and establish a 1,400 acre Frenchman Bay Community Forest in Hancock (total cost \$900,000.) The Community Forest will abut the 3,100 acre Weaver Wind Hancock mitigation parcel. In the attached letter, FBC indicates the intention to develop a management plan for the property following its purchase and anticipates an initial harvest to accelerate the transition to its ultimate goal of an ecological reserve with no active management. It should be noted that MDIFW supports the work of FBC, but must consider SWEB's proposal relative to the affected resources. As previously communicated, the goal of a mitigation plan for Silver Maple Wind, as it was for nearby Weaver Wind, is to provide "*adequate and appropriate mitigation of anticipated and potential impacts to songbirds*" through "*acquisition and active management of a sufficient quality and quantity of land for stop-over and nesting habitat for land-bird migrants in the Downeast Coastal Plain*". MDIFW provided SWEB with comparative information for mitigation plans on which it could base development of its proposal to mitigate impacts to migrating songbirds.

Upon review, MDIFW finds that SWEB's proposed contribution of \$100,000 to FBC's acquisition plans does not represent an acceptable level of mitigation for impacts to songbirds from the proposed Silver Maple Wind project. Further, MDIFW anticipated a more developed habitat management plan that would provide a working tool to facilitate efforts to offset impacts to migrating songbirds in the Downeast coastal plain. Unless a more extensive and comprehensive proposal is provided that encompasses the indicated goals for mitigation of impacts to migrating songbirds, MDIFW is unable to find that the proposed Silver Maple Wind Project has adequately addressed detrimental impacts to wildlife resources.

If you have any questions on the information provided herein, please contact me at robert.d.stratton@maine.gov or (207) 287-5659.

Bob Stratton

Wildlife Biologist

Environmental Program Manager

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

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From: Michael Carey <michael.carey@swebdevelopment.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2020 10:05 AM

To: Damon, Jessica <Jessica.Damon@maine.gov>

Cc: Stratton, Robert D <Robert.D.Stratton@maine.gov>; Aaron Dority <aaron@frenchmanbay.org>; Tim Brochu <tbrochu@cesincusa.com>

Subject: Frenchman Bay Contribution - Toward Mitigation

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Hello Bob and Jessica,

Attached is a letter from the Frenchman's Bay Conservancy, which outlines SWEB's willingness to make a contribution to their project (proximal to the Weaver Wind Project), as a means of offsetting potential issues flagged by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

A couple of notes:

- While SWEB is not necessarily in agreement with IF&W's assessment of our project's location in relation to the Maine Coastal Plain, we are eager to progress the project in a way that will work as best as possible for all stakeholders.
- The amount of our expected contribution is one that the project can afford, especially in lieu of the fact that radar lighting will now be incorporated in our project plan.
 - Jessica, we can confirm SWEB is in agreement with the DEP's radar requirements, and radar controlled FAA lighting will be added to our project plans.
- We are keen to finalize talks with the IF&W, and SWEB is in full and undisputed concurrence with all other recommendations put forward by their team.

Thank you all, and we're looking forward to bottoming this out.

Talk to you soon

Michael Carey
Development Manager

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