



# Land for Maine's Future Program

## Minutes of the Meeting

May 11, 2010  
Viles Arboretum  
Augusta, Maine

### **Board Members Present:**

Commissioner Dan Martin	Diane Doyle	Bucky Owen
Commissioner Eliza Townsend	Leon Gorman	Ben Emory
Commissioner Seth Bradstreet	Don Marean	
Martha Freeman, Director (Acting Chair)		

### **Board Members Absent:**

Commissioner George Lapointe	Jeff Thaler
------------------------------	-------------

### **LMF Staff Present:**

Tim Glidden	Steve Brooke	Jim Connors
R. Collin Therrien	Aline Lachance	

### **Others:**

Marty Anderson, Maine Coast Heritage Trust  
Lindsay Bourgoïn, Appalachian Mountain Club  
Bob DeForrest, Maine Coast Heritage Trust  
Gro Flatebo, Royal River Conservation Trust  
Nancy Perlson, Rangeley Lakes Land Trust  
John Pratt, Dept. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife  
Lucy Quimby, Bangor Land Trust  
Alan Stearns, Dept. of Conservation  
Patrick Watson, Maine Coast Heritage Trust

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bradstreet and seconded by Bucky Owen to accept the March 9, 2010 Minutes of the Meeting. Vote was unanimous.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**GREAT POND LOWER PENOBSCOT FOREST, GMO 24,661± acre Working Forest Easement, T-32 MD and Great Pond, Hancock County; and Milford & Greenfield, Penobscot County, to the Maine Department of Conservation** *(Re-tabled at the March 9, 2010 meeting.)*

A motion was made by Bucky Owen and seconded by Commissioner Martin to remove this project off the TABLE. Vote was unanimous.

Tim informed the Board that the project needs to be returned to the Appraisal Review Committee as the federal reviewers have requested that the appraisal be updated to the current date. It will take several months for a new appraisal to be completed. While a few technical issues need to be resolved there appears to be no change in the underlying theme.

Alan Stearns will fully brief the Board regarding key reconfiguration(s) of the project, as needed.

A motion was made by Bucky Owen and Diane Doyle to return to the Appraisal Review Committee for a new appraisal update. Vote was unanimous.

## **- NEW BUSINESS -**

### **CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROJECTS**

**KENNEBEC RIVER ESTUARY PROJECT, Dyer parcel, Bowdoinham, Sagadahoc County, 40± acres in fee to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife**

A motion was made by Diane Doyle and seconded by Bucky Owen to briefly Table this vote while Steve Brooke contacts IF&W regarding whether or not LMF funds paid for the easement. Vote was unanimous. Steve Brooke quickly reached James Connolly by phone and informed the Board that the easement had been donated to IF&W.

Note: In future applications, the Board would like to see applicants address why they are requesting “fee” acquisition on parcels/projects already under protection by an easement.

A second motion was made by Bucky Owen and seconded by Commissioner Bradstreet to remove this project off the TABLE. Vote was unanimous.

#### **- Public Notice**

On April 28, 2010 published in the Kennebec Journal and the Times Record on April 27, 2010.

#### **- Appraisal Review Committee Recommendation**

The ARC recommends accepting an appraisal value of \$26,000 and further recommends LMF funding of \$26,000 (not including All Other costs) for this parcel. *Matching funds will come from banked match other acquisition in this project.*

- Public Comments

None.

- Vote

A motion was made by Bucky Owen and seconded by Commissioner Townsend to support acquisition of this parcel. Vote was unanimous.

**BOG BROOK-MOOSE COVE, Moose Cove III parcel, Trescott, Washington County, 47.5± acres in fee to Maine Coast Heritage Trust under a Project Agreement with the Maine Department of Conservation.**

- Public Notice

On April 28, 2010 published in the Kennebec Journal and the Bangor Daily News.

- Appraisal Review Committee Recommendation

The ARC recommends accepting an appraisal value of \$2,025,000 and further recommends LMF funding of \$698,240 (not including All Other costs) for this parcel.

- Public Comments

None.

- Vote

A motion was made by Bucky Owen and seconded by Ben Emory to support acquisition of this parcel. Vote was unanimous.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE 25.45, Dresden, Lincoln County, 10.5± acres in fee to The Archaeological Conservancy with an easement to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission**

- Public Notice

On April 28, 2010 published in the Kennebec Journal and the Coastal Journal on April 29, 2010.

- Appraisal Review Committee Recommendation

The ARC recommends accepting an appraisal value of \$330,000 and further recommends LMF funding of \$228,000 (not including All Other costs) for this site.

- Public Comments

None.

- Vote

A motion was made by Ben Emory and seconded by Commissioner Bradstreet to support acquisition of this parcel. Vote was unanimous.

**HEADS OF ESTUARIES PROJECT, Meadow Brook (aka Kennedy) parcel, Jonesport, Washington County, 29.3± acres in fee to the Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation under a Project Agreement with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife**

- Public Notice

On April 28, 2010 published in the Kennebec Journal and the Bangor Daily News.

- Appraisal Review Committee Recommendation

The ARC recommends accepting an appraisal value of \$310,000 and further recommends LMF funding of \$254,000 (not including All Other costs) for this parcel.

- Public Comments

None.

- Vote

A motion was made by Commissioner Bradstreet and seconded by Ben Emory to support acquisition of this parcel. Vote was unanimous.

**HUNTER COVE, Rangeley, Franklin County, 198± acres in fee to Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust under a Project Agreement with the Maine Department of Conservation.**

- Public Notice

On April 28, 2010 published in the Kennebec Journal and the Lewiston Sun Journal on April 27, 2010.

- Appraisal Review Committee Recommendation

The ARC recommends accepting an appraisal value of \$890,000 and further recommends LMF funding of \$607,000 (not including All Other costs) for this project.

- Public Comments

None.

- Vote

A motion was made by Bucky Owen and seconded by Ben Emory to support acquisition of this project. Vote was unanimous.

## **WATER ACCESS PROPOSALS**

**SOUTH POND, Water Access parcel, Buckfield, Oxford County, 1.4±** acres in fee held by Western Foothills Land Trust under a Project Agreement with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife.

- Public Notice

On April 28, 2010 published in the Kennebec Journal and the Lewiston Sun Journal on April 27, 2010.

- Appraisal Review Committee Recommendation

The ARC recommends that parcel provides adequate value to support a \$30,000 allocation of water access funds (not including All Other costs).

- Public Comments

None.

- Vote

A motion was made by Ben Emory and seconded by Commissioner Bradstreet to support acquisition of this water access project. Vote was unanimous.

**KILKENNY COVE, Hancock, Hancock County, 7.5±** acre to be acquired in fee by the Maine Coast Heritage Trust under a Project Agreement with the Maine Department of Conservation to be transferred at a later date to Frenchman Bay Conservancy

- Public Notice

On April 28, 2010 published in the Kennebec Journal and the Ellsworth American on May 6, 2010.

- Appraisal Review Committee Recommendation

The ARC recommends accepting an appraisal value of \$100,000 and further recommends LMF funding of \$83,000 (not including All Other costs) for this water access parcel.

- Public Comments

None.

- Vote

A motion was made by Bucky Owen and seconded by Ben Emory to support acquisition of this water access project. Vote was unanimous.

## 5% ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS:

### GRANT POLICY RECOMMENDATION

#### Background:

Tim stated there is no written policy beyond the statutory provisions to determine eligibility for “minor capital improvement” grants (so-called 5% grants). In the fall of 2009 it became clear that not all projects were making timely use of the 5% grant availability. In addition, applications from older projects that predate the 1999 Bond were requesting grant monies. In November 2009, the Board discussed limiting eligibility to a two year window. Requests for the 5% access funding have increased dramatically since. LMF funding has diminished and become more uncertain and the current system is not sustainable.

Tim is proposing a new approach for Board consideration as described below with final action to be taken at the July Board meeting.

#### Proposal:

*1. Use the 5% funds currently available for any and all 5% grants on past (completed) and pending LMF projects – first come, first serve. It appears that there will be ~ \$400,000 in this pool after the May applications are acted on. When those funds are committed, all of those past projects would no longer be eligible for 5% grants. Thus the currently available 5% funds can be used as a transition cushion as Board moves to a new eligibility standard.*

*2. If and when a new Bond passes in the fall, the Board would set aside 5% of any funds awarded into a single pool (i.e., not flagged by project) to hold for 5% grants to these new projects for a period of up to 2 yrs on a first come, first serve basis. Any remaining funds would lapse back to the general LMF pool and be available for reallocation.*

- Vote to Approve Grant Requests Recommendation

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin and Commissioner Bradstreet to TABLE the motion until next Board meeting in order to give LMF staff time to discuss and share with our cooperating entities the intent to make changes to the 5% grant funds process. Vote was unanimous.

Note: After a brief overview of each request, it was decided by the Board to combine the vote into one motion in order to fund these 11 access improvement proposals.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Ben Emory to fund the amounts requested by each applicant. Vote was unanimous.

Highlights below:

**NOON FAMILY SHEEP FARM, Springvale, York County, 65± acres of agricultural conservation easement held by the Three Rivers Land Trust under a Project Agreement with the Maine Department of Agriculture**

The Three Rivers Land Trust is requesting a one time capital improvement grant in the amount of \$7,075 to improve drainage, animal trails and crossings, improve the pond spillway and eradicate invasive plant species, as well as remove large rocks in the fields. These improvements will increase soil quality, increase overall productivity and protect water quality.

**DAVIS FARM (aka Old Crow Ranch), Durham, Cumberland County, 72± acres of agricultural conservation easement held by the Royal River Conservation Trust under a Project Agreement with the Maine Department of Agriculture**

The Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources is requesting to reallocate already approved improvement grant in the amount of \$2,227.21 to purchase and install a high-tensile fence for the heavy-use area pastures.

**SPRING RIVER LAKE (DONNELL POND), T10 SD, Hancock County, 7,187± acres in fee to the Maine Department of Conservation**

The Department of Conservation is requesting an access improvement grant in the amount of \$73,200 to performed work at four specific projects along the Blackwoods Scenic Byway corridor, all within the Spring River Lake parcel of the Donnell Pond Unit. This includes:

- 1) Establishing a trailhead/parking area serving the Tunk Mountain/Hidden Pond trails;
- 2) Adopt and ungrade the informal Tunk Mountain/Hidden Pond trail network;
- 3) Enhance access near the outlet of Spring River Lake; and
- 4) Improve/expand Spring River Lake Day-use area.

**BALD MOUNTAIN, Rangeley, Franklin County, 1,873± acres in fee to the Maine Department of Conservation**

The Maine Department of Conservation is requesting an access improvement grant in the amount of \$22,500 to urgently improve trail safety, reduce erosion and divert water from the trail. They are looking at bog bridges, stone steps, waterbars and other drainage work, and excavator rental.

## **MACHIAS RIVER PROJECT**

**Phase I, T25 MD, T29 MD, T30 MD, T31 MD, T35 MD, T37 MD, and T 41 MD, Washington County, 5,772± acres in fee to the Maine Department of Conservation and 7,405± acres of conservation easement to the Maine Department of Marine Resources.**

**AND**

**Phase II, T35 MD, T41 MD, Hancock County and T36 MDBPP, T42 MDBPP, and T46 MDBPP, Washington County, 7,630± acres in fee to the Maine Department of Conservation**

The Maine Department of Conservation is requesting an access improvement grant in the amount of \$92,200 to: (1) improve the Little River Road by adding 8” of screened gravel and replacing cross drainage structures and ditching to this road, (2) improve access by brushing, graveling and signing at the Wonderland Campsite and 1<sup>st</sup> Machias Lake boat access, (3) conduct an engineering study at Salmon Pond, (4) to brush back and surfacing road to sites, replacing picnic tables and fire rings at each Route 9 campsites and installing a yardarm sign at Route 9, and (5) improve boat launch site at 2<sup>nd</sup> Machias Lake to allow for safe entry and egress by vehicles.

## **TUMBLEDOWN – MOUNT BLUE**

**Phase I, Weld, & Temple, Franklin County, 2,468± acres in fee to the Maine Department of Conservation.**

**AND**

**Phase II Weld, TWP 6 North of Weld, Franklin County, 3,778± acres in fee to the Maine Department of Conservation**

The Maine Department of Conservation is requesting an access improvement grant in the amount of \$14,550 to focus on erosion control structures, stone step construction, and improved signage on the Parker Ridge, Loop and Little Jackson Mountain trails. Combined, these three trails total 5.26 miles.

**CUTLER – THE BOLD COAST, Cutler, Washington County, 2,100± acres in fee to the Maine Department of Conservation**

The Maine Department of Conservation is requesting an access improvement grant in the amount of \$50,000 to increase parking/expansions and coastal trail improvements of the Cutler Unit which is composed of two sections. The existing parking area frequently overflows onto Route 191 creating a significant safety hazard and the area north of Route 191 is limited via two rough, grown in gravel roads. A proposed solution is to provide small parking areas on these two shared-use roads from which users can continue into the Unit on foot. Also needed, is significant capital improvements along the trail network.

**HEIGHT OF LAND, Township D, Franklin County, 500± acres in fee to the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust under a Project Agreement with the Maine Department of Conservation**



The Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust is requesting an access improvement grant in the amount of \$9,545 to construct a parking area and a trail to provide access to Bemis Stream which is a major tributary into Mooselookmeguntic Lake. The parking area will be adjacent to the Bemis Track Road. The trail will be constructed to allow recreationists, particularly fishermen, to walk and hand-carry small boats to Bemis Stream.

**CUPSUPTIC LAKE PARK, Adams TWP, Oxford County, 125± acres in fee to the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust under a Project Agreement with the Maine Department of Conservation**

The Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust is requesting an access improvement grant in the amount of \$55,750 to: (1) support the construction of additional parking space to accommodate increased day use of the public beach area, (2) removal of the fire pits and revegetation at six waterfront campsites, (3) construct a handicapped parking area for two vehicles next to the existing restroom facilities, (4) a handicapped accessible trail from the parking area to the new picnic sites at the beach area, (5) installation of a handicapped accessible ramp into the restroom facilities, (6) develop two picnic sites with handicapped access, (7) install electronic key pad or card to control motorized access and provide handicapped access, and (8) signage.

**Spednic Lake – St Croix River, Forest City TWP, Forest TWP, T11 R3 NBPP, Vanceboro, Lambert Lake TWP, Dyer TWP, Fowler TWP, Washington County, 2,773± acres in fee to IF&W (lake) and DOC (river).**

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife is requesting an access improvement grant in the amount of \$11,400 for improvements to three existing campsites along with adding one or two new campsites. The proposed upgrades include installation of fire rings, pit toilets with privacy screens, picnic tables and new signage to better identify campsites. Also, depending on the site(s), platforms for tents and areas for canoe haul-outs will also be required.

The Maine Department of Conservation is requesting an access improvement grant in the amount of \$2,590 to create additional camping access on the Maine side of the US-Canada border. Installation of three new sites will be completed (Little Falls 2, Split Rock 1 and II) and improvements will be made to three other sites Little Falls 1, Porters Meadows, & Annapurna. Scope of work includes ground leveling and filling for tent pads, rock and stump removal, firepit construction, and development and installation of user signage. New fiberglass backcountry toilets will be installed at three of these sites.

**SOUTH POND, Buckfield, Oxford County, 14± acre in fee (Conservation & Recreation) and 1.4± acres in fee (water access) held by Western Foothills Land Trust under a Project Agreement with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife.**

The Western Foothills Land Trust is requesting an access improvement grant in the amount of \$5,600 for hiking trails and trail heads, signage, resource protection and restoration (rock barrier installation, failed culvert replacement), and improved parking at the parcel's proposed water access site.

## — *PROJECT UPDATES & RECONFIGURATIONS* —

### **CARIBOU BOG – PENJAJAWOC Phase III**

Report from the Scoring Committee with Proposal from the Caribou Bog Penjajawoc Collaborative

Despite BLT best efforts to reach agreements to purchase the ‘Hur’, ‘Fesjian’, and Gould/Smith parcels the landowners are unwilling to proceed further. Coincidentally, a sudden opportunity has presented itself in that Mr. Wood has proposed a new configuration of land that he would be willing to sell. This parcel is closest to the Penjajawoc Marsh. Mr. Wood has an approved subdivision plan from the City of Bangor and all necessary permits. Construction would begin in June 2010, if this parcel is not acquired which has an abundance of wildlife and is part of an overall plan to preserve Caribou Bog. Therefore, the Bangor Land Trust is requesting that all remaining funds be allocated to the purchase of a 41± acre parcel from Mr. Wood

In 2001, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife identified that the 300-acre Penjajawoc Marsh as the single-most significant emergent marsh for waterbirds in Maine. Based on current and historic records, this marsh has more webless, wetland-dependent bird species (non-waterfowl) than any other marsh studies in Maine to date and has more endangered/special concern species than any of the 106 marshes studies over the past 5 years in Maine.

This project amendment would change the total acreage this phase of the project from 1,189 as proposed to 104 – a reduction of 91% and a change in status from “statewide significant” to “regionally significant”.

The LMF Scoring Committee revisited this request and has recommended lowering the original score from 105 to 76 points. Based on a score of 76 points, project allocation would be \$208,000, minus \$98,000 used for the Benson acquisition, leaving a balance of \$111,000.

In the project amendment budget, the applicant requested the balance of the original allocation (less the \$50,000 for water access: \$165,000) to be allocated for purchase of the Wood’s parcel. The change of score created a deficit of \$55,000 that needs to be raised from other sources.

#### Board Action

- 1) A motion was made by Ben Emory and seconded by Commissioner Martin to accept the Scoring Committee’s recommendation to approve project reconfiguration. Vote was unanimous except for Bucky Owen who abstained.
- 2) A second motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Ben Emory to Table LMF funding allocation for the project pending review by the Scoring Committee of the Rare-Threatened & Endangered Species score in the multiple values category. Vote was unanimous except for Bucky Owen who abstained.

**EXPANDING MAINE'S WILDLIFE MANAGEMEN AREAS** - Amend project budget and the Board's allocation for the James parcel.

- Vote to amend project

A motion was made by Ben Emory and seconded by Bucky Owen to increase allocation for the James parcel from \$35,961 to \$106,000 from the existing overall allocation for the entire project. Vote was unanimous.

— ***OTHER BUSINESS*** —

**Updates from Chair & Staff:**

- **Farmland Proposals**

Mini-Round Farmland Proposals received:

Clark Farm & Forest  
Deb-Tone Farm  
Kent's Hill Orchard  
River Rise Farm

The Scoring Committee will be reviewing these 4 proposals and making recommendations at the July Board meeting.

- **Economic Criteria update**

Martha met with some members of the Ad-hoc group [The Nature Conservancy, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Keith Bisson, and Bruce Hazard]. There was great discussion regarding economic models, partnership with people in the communities, case studies, and reaching a middle ground. They plan to bring a draft proposal for consideration before the Board in July.

- **Keeping Maine's Forests** – the Great Maine Forest Initiative

In November 2009, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and U.S. Secretary of the Interior asked **Keeping Maine's Forests** for a preliminary pilot project proposal by mid-February that would address how best to utilizing existing federal programs regarding forest conservation on large scale multiple holdings.

A proposal will emerge later this summer. Objectives are: maintaining a diverse, robust and economically beneficial forest products industry; meet Maine's energy needs; protect biodiversity and preserve selected special places; enhance public access for the full spectrum of existing recreational uses; and forest adaptation to a changing climate.

- **Signage Initiative update**

Staff sent out roughly 96 e-mails to our cooperating entities asking them if currently they acknowledge the LMF Program's support in signage at the entrance of project lands and if they would like LMF signs sent to them for posting at sites acquired with LMF funding. The response from cooperating entities has been very positive. Over 60 signs were distributed.

- **Legislative update**

Proposed Bond amount reduced by a quarter million. New LMF bond amount is \$9.75 million.

If new bond is approved in November, the working waterfront pilot program will receive \$1.75 million.

\$1 million earmark for Farm projects.

\$500,000 will be allocated to the Bureau of Parks & Lands/Dept. of Conservation for capital investment in existing parks.

The remaining funds (\$6.5 million) would be available for conservation, recreation, water access, and farmland projects.

Change in match requirement; now (50 %) 1 to 1 match across the board.

- **Project updates**

Four Seasons Trail Acquisition

The Four Seasons Trail Association (FSTA) has been approached by a representative of Aroostook County asking if they could locate a 400 foot communications tower on land that the County would purchase from FSTA and also to allow for a permanent easement for FSTA to continue using the land for trail maintenance and development. The County would also purchase additional acreage on behalf of FSTA.

This request would require Board approval and 2/3 votes from the Legislature.

It was suggested that we look into leasing the property or have the parcel revert back to the State or have 1<sup>st</sup> option to buy should we sell the parcel.

Katahdin Iron Works – AMC Easement

The Department of Conservation and Appalachian Mountain Club are discussing an amendment to the Kathadin Iron Works easement. Such an amendment does not require Board approval thought it is subject to strict statutory provisions governing conservation easement amendments.

- **Next Board Meeting – Out of Town**

Once a year, the Board visits sites funded by LMF to see how the project(s) fit into the community/region. Members suggested that the next Board meeting take place in Bethel as LMF has funded a number of projects in the ‘greater Bethel area’ [*Bear River Rips water access site, Rumford Whitecap, and Grafton Notch*]. These sites are also good examples for Quality of Place initiatives. This year, the Board is looking into how conservation projects tie into the economic sustainability of surrounding communities as this new criteria will be incorporated into the selection process for future proposals.

Adjourned: 3:35 p.m.