



## Land for Maine's Future Program

Minutes of the Meeting

**December 6, 2016**

32 Blossom Lane, Marquardt Building, Room 118  
Augusta, Maine

### **Board Members Present:**

Robert Meyers, Lisa Turner, Fred Bucklin, Harry Ricker, Commissioner Patrick Keliher, Commissioner Walter Whitcomb, and Commissioner Chandler Woodcock

### **Board Members Absent:** Brad Moll

### **Staff Members Present:**

Sarah Demers, Tom Miragliuolo and R. Collin Therrien

### **Others:**

Aline Smith, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Forestry

Bob Marvinney, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Forestry

Karen R. Tilberg, Forest Society of Maine

Jeff Romano, Maine Coast Heritage Trust

Kevin Miller, Portland Press Herald

Rob Wood, The Nature Conservancy

Bethany Atkins, ME Dept. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Liz Petruska, Contractor, DACF, Bureau of Public Lands

1. **Welcome and Introductions** - Commissioner Patrick Keliher, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm and welcomed everyone and asked for introductions from the Board and audience.
2. **Minutes - Motion:** A motion was made by Fred Bucklin and seconded by Lisa Turner to accept without objections the October 25, 2016 Minutes of the Meeting. Board vote was unanimous.
3. **Bond Balances** - Sarah noted the following chart shows transfer of funds from internal borrowing, which is now available as cash on hand.

Status of Funds  
ATTACHMENT A

As of October 31, 2016

Authorized	Bonds to be Sold	Cash on Hand*
PL 2007, Ch. 39 C&R and Farmland	\$ 0	\$7,568.00
PL 2009, Ch. 645		
C&R	\$1,250,000	\$4, 454,551
Farmland	\$0	\$ 387,693
Working Waterfront	\$0	\$ 277,238
<b>FUNDS REMAINING</b>	<b>\$1,250,000</b>	<b>\$5,119,482</b>
PL 2011, Ch. 696 C&R, Farmland, WWF	\$3,000,000	\$ 500,000
<b>FUNDS REMAINING</b>	<b>\$4,250,000</b>	<b>\$5,627,050</b>

*\*Subject to end of month reconciliation*

The chart below depicts funds that have been allocated to active projects.

Project Allocations		
Active Projects		Allocations
C&R	15	\$3,610,175
Water Access	3	\$235,000
Working Waterfront	3	<u>\$621,500</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>\$4,466,675</b>

4. **Project Status** – Sarah reviewed the status of projects, noting that the spreadsheet now reflects the Seboomook project as withdrawn and the multi parcel Round 7 Pleasant Bay Wildlife Management Area project completed with the closing of the Ports Harbor North and Ports Harbor South parcels in December 2016. Note: This is the last of the Round 7 projects.

5. **Access Improvement Grants**

A. **Hiring a Contractor** - LMF has been short staffed since May 2016 when one of our members retired. Staff is currently at capacity closing out the remaining 20+ Round 8 projects, and because the access improvement grants process is a key component of LMF, we need additional capacity in order to implement it. Therefore, LMF is looking to hire a contractor. Cost to hire a contractor is estimated to be \$7,500, for 8-10 hours per week for roughly 6 months.

After consultation with the Attorney General’s Office, the Director has received confirmation that the Board could use funds that have been donated to the LMF Program to hire a contractor. Donations to the Program are held in a separate distinct dedicated account and total just over \$38,000. Maine statute requires that donations are used for the same purposes as Bond funds, and requires Board authorization for their use.

*Motion:* A motion was made by Lisa Turner and seconded by Robert Meyers to approve hiring a contractor to assist with administering LMF Access Improvement Grants. Vote was unanimous.

B. **Access Improvement Grants Board Process** - In reviewing access improvement grants, three possible options were presented for consideration:

- (1) entire Board reviews the applications and decides on allocation,
- (2) appoint a sub-committee to review and make recommendations to the Board for Board vote, and
- (3) staff reviews and provides summaries to board with recommendations for Board vote.

After much discussion, the Board felt the best option would be to appoint a sub-committee to review proposals and make recommendations to the Board for approval. Robert Meyers, Harry Ricker, and Commissioner Chandler Woodcock indicated that they would serve on the sub-committee.

C. **Access Improvement Grants Fact Sheet** - The board asked the Director to include language directing applicants to ensure that maps of the primary access point of the site and other public access points are scaled to size for easy review by the Board. Sarah will to incorporate the various comments from Board members, and send out a clean version of the fact sheet via e-mail for their final review and approval.

**6. Call for Proposals** - Overview of available funds:

<b>LMF Call for Proposals</b>		
<b>Funds available*</b>	<b>2009 Bond</b>	<b>2011 Bond</b>
Conservation & Recreation	**	\$1.5 million
Farmland	\$387,693	\$1 million
Working Waterfront	\$277,238	\$1 million
Water Access		\$ 192,000

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1. \*\*Additional funds may be available from the 2009 bond, but the exact amount won't be known until existing commitments for Round 8 projects are met (inventory, access improvements and legal expenses).

2. \$4.25 million remains un-sold – funds are not immediately available for purchase of land. Bonds are sold once a year in June.

3. 2011 bond directs Board to prioritize funds for protection of deer wintering habitat.

Considerations for a new call for proposals:

- Board could reallocating 2011 funds to different funding categories, or let these allocations remain unchanged;
- Consider this a potential “mini round” – provides an opportunity to try out the process;
- Staff would likely hold 2 public meetings to review changes made to the workbook and respond to questions about the application process;
- Consider not less than 60 days and not more than 90 for application submissions;
- Board did not feel it necessary to consider a full review of the LAPAC report.
- Maybe the workbook could be more specific as to what we are looking for in an application.
- Possibly look at similar programs in NH, VT in comparison to our program.
- How many state ownership/fee ownership
- Have staff put together how many remaining projects are in need of funds

The Board agreed to form a sub-committee to review the 2014 Proposal Workbook, recommendations for changes from the previous Board members and identify any other items that may need revisions.

Patrick Keliher, Lisa Turner, Robert Meyers, and Walt Whitcomb volunteered to be on the sub-committee. LMF staff will set-up the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting for some time in January 2017 and the sub-committee will report back to the full Board at the February Board meeting.

**7. 2017 Schedule for AOC & LMF Board Meetings** - Members expressed only 1 concern regarding the upcoming 2017 schedule. They would like the September 12<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting changed to August. Staff will send out a revised schedule for Board members to review and approve. Once approved, the schedule will be posted on the LMF website.

8. **Gulf Hagas** – Staff provided an overview of the project and a status update. Staff reviewed the original project configuration and the DACF’s request to eliminate the High Elevation Forest easement parcel and the impact to the project budget.
  - Even with the elimination of the High Elevation Easement, this project extremely overmatched. Federal Forest Legacy and NAWCA funds as well as private fund raising will constitute the match to LMF.

The Board asked if the State will have full fee ownership as well as access to roads and working forest. Karen Tilberg, Deputy Director of the Forest Society of Maine, indicated that yes, the State will have ownership of the portion of the KIW road that crosses the land acquired by the State and a stewardship endowment for road maintenance and improvements will be established. The DACF will be the easement holder and will also have access to the working forest easement. The board asked that the deed be reviewed by LMF staff and legal to ensure access is available for the public on the KIW road.

***Motion:*** A motion was made by Robert Meyers and seconded by Fred Bucklin to approve the elimination of the High Elevation Forest Easement from the LMF Gulf Hagas conservation and recreation project. Vote was unanimous.

9. **Biennial Report** - The 2015 Biennial Report is on the web-page. It covers January 2013-December 2014. [www.maine.gov/dacf/lmf/docs/2015BiennialReport.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/lmf/docs/2015BiennialReport.pdf)

A draft Biennial Report for 2015-2016 will be in the next Board packet in February.

10. **LMF 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** - Established in 1987 when Maine voters 1<sup>st</sup> approved bonds for purchasing lands of statewide significance for recreational and conservation. Sarah is looking for opportunities over the next year to hi-light LMF’s accomplishments over the last 30 years and would like to hear any suggestions the Board might have.

### **Adjourn**

At 2:25 p.m. a motion was made by Patrick Keliher and seconded by Harry Ricker to adjourn. Vote was unanimous.