



Land for Maine's Future Program

Minutes of the Meeting

February 14, 2017

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:

Robert Marvinney, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Alan Hutchinson, Forest Society of Maine

Karin Tilberg, Forest Society of Maine

Liz Petruska, Contractor, DACF

Jeff Romano, Maine Coast Heritage Trust

Tom Duffus, The Conservation Fund

Eliza Donoghue, Natural Resources Council of Maine

Betsy Cook, Trust for Public Land

Wolfe Tone, Trust for Public Land

1. **Welcome and Introductions** - Commissioner Patrick Keliher, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm and welcomed everyone and asked for introductions from the Board and audience.
2. **Minutes - Motion:** A motion was made by Harry Ricker and seconded by Fred Bucklin to accept without objections the minutes of the December 6, 2016 meeting. Board vote was unanimous.
3. **Bond Balances** - Sarah Demers reviewed the status of funds, noting that the balance of 2007 funds would be used to pay some anticipated invoices.

Status of Funds
ATTACHMENT A

As of December 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	\$3,806,387
Farmland	\$0	\$ 386,613
Working Waterfront	\$0	\$ 277,238
FUNDS REMAINING	\$1,250,000	\$4,470,238
PL 2011, Ch. 696		
C&R, Farmland, WWF	\$3,000,000	\$ 500,000
FUNDS REMAINING	\$4,250,000	\$4,997,806

**Subject to end of month reconciliation*

4. **Project Allocations and Status** - Sarah reviewed the project allocations and noted that cash on hand is sufficient for all allocations. She noted that letters have been sent to all project applicants that requested 1-year extensions on their projects and staff is waiting on appraisals for several projects. It is anticipated that several projects will be closing in the near future, which will be reflected on the materials for the April Board meeting.

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	2	\$170,000
Working Waterfront	2	<u>\$411,500</u>
TOTAL	20	\$4,191,675

5. **Board Notifications and Approvals:**

Gulf Hagas Project, Bowdoin College Grant East TWP, Piscataquis County

7,138 acres working forest easement, 1,264 acres fee land

Tom Miragliuolo reviewed the components of this project, including discussion of working forest easement vs. fee ownership.

Fred summarized the AOC's discussion with regard to this and found that the fee cost of \$650/acre and easement cost of \$175/acre were good investments.

In response to Board questions, Sarah confirmed that the owners of the land under easement still pay property taxes based on whatever tax program they are enrolled in, such as Tree Growth.

The Board reviewed road access via the Katahdin Iron Works Road, which connects Brownville to Greenville and has assured public access. Project partner Karin Tilberg from the Forest Society of Maine, responded to several other questions regarding access to the satisfaction of Board members.

Public comments: None

Board Action:

Statement read by Fred Bucklin: The Appraisal Oversight Committee met on January 25, 2017 to discuss the Gulf Hagas appraisal. The Committee voted in favor (3-0) of supporting the appraiser's value of \$2,000,000.

Commissioner Woodcock noted the "exceptionality" of Fred Bucklin's reading of the statement.

Board vote on acceptance of AOC recommendation: unanimous.

Board Action:

Motion: To confirm the allocation of \$500,000 in LMF Conservation and Recreation funding to support the acquisition of the fee and easement parcels of the Gulf Hagas project, subject to standard conditions. Motion by Fred Bucklin, second by Robert Meyers. Vote unanimous.

Sarah noted that the allocation is up to \$500,000 but may be less based on final project budget.

6. **Staff updates:**

Biennial Report: Draft copies of the 2017 LMF Biennial report were handed out to the Board. Sarah explained that this is a report of the LMF Board to the legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Sarah reviewed the contents of the biennial report, suggesting that she would circulate an electronic copy via email for

Board review. Comments from the Board should be received in time to deliver the report to the Legislature's Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee by the end of February. Sarah will provide a deadline for comments when the report is e mailed. The Board agreed that the report would include a cover letter signed by the Board Chair.

LMF Scoring and Workbook Work Group: Commissioner Keliher discussed the subcommittee's review of the workbook and scoring, setting priorities for a new RFP. There will be further discussions at upcoming meetings.

Access Improvement Grants: Liz Petruska said that 10 letters went out to projects from the Round 7 and 8 funding. Most were planning to submit requests for access funding, and several others were considering doing so. March 6 is the deadline for requests. Chandler Woodcock, Harry Ricker, and Bob Meyers are the members of the committee to review these requests and will do so in March in advance of the April meeting.

Appointment of the Chair of the AOC: Fred Bucklin was appointed.

LMF webpages: LMF pages link to the Maine Trail Finder web page through which users can search for properties supported with LMF funds. Sarah also reviewed the web page linking to blogger Aislinn Sarnaki's BDN 1-minute hikes on LMF lands.

Review schedule of upcoming meetings.

Adjourn

At 1:39 p.m. a motion was made by Harry Ricker and seconded by Lisa Turner to adjourn. Vote was unanimous.