

## **Maine Forest Legacy Committee Meeting Minutes**

### **June 27, 2007**

**Committee Members Present:** Alan Stearns, Bob Englehardt, Tim Glidden, Sallie Stockwell, Don Hudson, Kate Dempsey, Steve Leblanc, Matt Polstein

**Others Present:** Neal Bungard, Alan Hutchinson, Mark Berry, Jennifer Melville, Mackenzi Keliher, Jerry Bley, Sam Hodder, Sara Laplante, Jackie Lee, Bill Cherry, Debra Perkins, Emma Glidden, Jym St. Pierre, Bryan Wentzel. Meeting also broadcast online.

**Committee Members Absent:** Peter Triandafillou, Don Mansius

- I. Acceptance of Minutes
  
  - II. Alan Stearns provided an overview of a project spreadsheet which was distributed.
    - a. FY08 Projects
      - i. Lower Penobscot – Great Ponds – Likely to be funded
      - ii. Grafton Stowe Mountain – 50/50 chance of funding
      - iii. Wassataquiok – Unlikely chance of funding, this project has been resubmitted for FY09 consideration
    - b. Recently closed projects
      - i. KIW, Grafton
    - c. Pending projects
      - i. Sebago Lands – Bley/Stearns presented a proposed revision to the project, including recent memorandum to LMF. Project revisions should not impact the already allocated funding and will not penalize the State. It is a recognized result of negotiations. From a fiscal standpoint, the Sebago grant is one of the smallest recent FLP grants to Maine.
        1. Closing anticipated by end of calendar year. Changes to the project were based on changes that occurred within the Hancock Lands Company and their desire to proceed at a slower pace and pursue a smaller-than 6,000 acre easement. (Please see LMF memo for additional project details.) Hancock may be open to additional state-held easements on their lands in the future.
        2. LMF is still in support of the project based on its location and the opportunity to preserve large tracts for hunting and other recreational opportunities in Southern Maine. Hancock has indicated that they will not seek alternative uses (i.e. development) for their other holdings.
        3. Hancock has expressed desire to actively manage for recreation.
- Upon motion and second, the Committee voted unanimously in favor of Sebago project revision
- ii. Lower Penobscot – Amherst Tract: Closing anticipated by end of calendar year. Meeting with public officials is scheduled in Amherst.
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- III. Meeting and summer schedule overview (see more information pasted into agenda)
  - a. Glidden, Traindafillou, Stockwell and Polstein comprise scoring subcommittee
    - i. Request to post the AON on website
  - b. Full Committee meets again in September with advisory vote

IV. FY09 Project Presentations (Please see project applications for additional specifics)

**a. TNC/DLLT: Machias River Phase III**

- i. Builds directly on the success of Phases I & II. Two tracts:
  1. Wassabius – 6,561 Fee acquisition
  2. Washington Bald Mtn 27,164 Easement on GMO ownership
- ii. Important ecologically, recreationally and historically. Washington Bald represents an important hiking resource in region. Project provides a buffer around existing ecological reserves.
- iii. Very real development threats to the existing working forest and recreational access.
- iv. Access via Stud Mill Road- access has historically been allowed
- v. Estimated \$250,000 endowment

**b. FSM: Gulf Hugas**

- i. 32,000 acre easement in 100-Mile Wilderness Region. Across from recent KIW easement acquisition.
  1. Carrier has owned property for 3-4 years. They are new to large-scale ownership and conservation partnerships. Landowner has indicated that the ecologically important areas are still intact. Interested in learning how the State might more actively manage for recreation.
  2. Committee member concerns about recreation in the region include connectivity to adjacent lands managing for motorized access.
  3. Project sits on gateway to North Woods. Significant fish & wildlife habitat protection. Significant ecological and recreational values, including the Pleasant River.

**c. TPL: Seboeis Lake, Grafton – Stowe Mountain and Wassataquoik Valley Forest**  
(Grafton – Stowe and Wassataquoik are resubmitted for consideration for FY09)

- i. Grafton – Stowe – 3,300 Acre Fee Acquisition
    1. Grafton -Stowe builds on recently completed Grafton project and abuts the State's Mahoosuc Unit. Includes recreational resources such as the Grafton Loop Trail, an ITS trail through lower elevations.
  - ii. Wassataquoik – 8,713 Acre Fee Acquisition.
    1. Current access is primarily for forest management. Access from East is comparable to that of other parcels. Whetstone bridge is critical to vehicular access to parcel from the East.
    2. Parcel includes wetland of special significance.
  - iii. Seboeis – 8,778 Acre Easement or fee
    1. Recently acquired trail rights across ITS 83
    2. Issue of sale of recreational rights discussed in relation to this project
- d. Request for regional maps made. Maps should identify the projects on a regional scale and indicate adjacent Forest Legacy projects. If possible, applicants should also show trails and connectivity.
- e. The Format for this meeting was widely recognized as useful and will likely continue in the future.