

# Land for Maine's Future Program

## Minutes of the Meeting

April 13, 2004

Pine Tree State Arboretum

Augusta, Maine

### **Board Members present:**

Carole Dyer

Commissioner Lapointe

Commissioner Martin

Leon Gorman  
McGowan

Warren Balgooyen

Commissioner

Jeffrey Thaler\*

Commissioner Spear

### **Board Members not present:**

Roger Milliken

Marcia McKeague

Martha Freeman

### **LMF Staff Members present:**

Tim Glidden

Steve Brooke

Surran Pyne

Aline Lachance

**Others present:**

Ralph Knoll, Dept. of Conservation

Bob Williams and John Boland, Dept. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

John McPhedran, Dept. Environmental Protection

Paul White, Raymond Pond Shores Asssocation

Maggie Shannon, Maine Congress of Lake Associations

Theron F. Hamilton, Raymond Pond Association

Will Brune, The Nature Conservancy

Spike Haible, Harpswell Heritage Land Trust

Wes Douglass, Raymond Pond

Rich Knox, Maine Coast Heritage Trust

Noralee Raymond & Charles Turner, RWPA

Gail Cole, citizen

Sheila V, citizen

Samuel C. Whittemore, citizen

David Baker, citizen and Deborah Baker, citizen

Chris Tanguay, citizen

Florence Whittemore, citizen

Belinda Carter, citizen

*\* Note: Mr. Thaler replacing Linda Pagels. Also, Carole Dyer reappointed for another term.*

- **Minutes of the Meetings**

Carole Dyer noted that Will Brune is with The Nature Conservancy. A motion was made by Carole Dyer and seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve the **January 26, 2004** minutes. Vote was unanimous with Jeff Thaler abstaining.

A motion was made by Leon Gorman and seconded by Carole Dyer to approve the **March 16, 2004** minutes. Vote was unanimous with Jeff Thaler abstaining.

## WATER ACCESS PROJECTS

- **Raymond Pond** (7.5 ± acres in fee)

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Carole Dyer to remove from the Table the Raymond Pond proposal. Vote was unanimous.

→ Public Notice

Published in the Kennebec Journal on 3/23/04, the Portland Press Herald on 3/22/04 and the Lake Region Suburban News on 3/26/04.

→ Appraisal Review Committee Recommendation

The ARC recommends allowing an appraisal value of \$250,000 and further recommends LMF funding at \$166,667 (not including all other costs).

→ Public Comments

**Commissioner Lapointe**, Chair, read from letters received from Commissioner Martin (IF&W), the Town of Raymond, (Don Willard, Town Manager) and from Robert Williams (IF&W).

Highlights from these letters as follows:

In Commissioner Martin's letter to the LMF Board, he stated that the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife would work closely with Raymond's Town Officials in its review processes in order to create a workable plan for providing citizen access to the waters of Raymond Pond, including site improvements and ongoing management associated with the subject property. The Department is requesting that the Town's Selectmen consider creating a Citizen's Access Site Group that would work with the Department. The Department will also pursue direct contact with all abutters along the Knapp Road seeking discussions with each party for purposes of addressing road maintenance needs and the Department was willing to participate and address its fair share of these road maintenance needs.

Letter dated April 7, 2004 to Tim Glidden from Don Willard, Raymond Town Manager, stated that the Raymond Board of Selectmen held a public meeting to receive input on DIF&W public access proposal located on the Woodcock property off Knapp Road, Raymond Pond on Tuesday, April 6, 2004. At the conclusion of public testimony and Selectmen deliberations, a motion was made to endorse the DIF&W plan to buy the property on Raymond Pond. Vote was 4 in favor and 1 opposed.

Bob Williams' letter dated March 29, 2004 addressed to the Chair and members of the Raymond Board of Selectmen and Don Willard (Raymond Town Manager) responded to the various issues and concerns previously raised by opponents at the March 16, 2004 LMF Board meeting.

## **Public Comments**

Tim Glidden, LMF Program Director, highlighted public comments from the previous board meeting [*March 16, 2004*]. Copies of these comments were distributed to the Board and public in attendance.

John Boland, IF&W, stated that he attended the Raymond Pond Selectmen meeting, that the meeting went well, the attendees were very civil, and that most of the issues (water quality, loons, milfoil, right-of-way) were quite familiar to the Board.

The Board received testimony both written and oral from several citizens in attendance (*Maggie Shannon, Gail Cole, Deborah & David Baker, Belinda Carter, Florence Whittemore, Charles Turner, Jim Ross, and Chris Tanguay*) re-emphasizing most of the concerns discussed at the previous March 16, 2004 Board meeting dealing with:

- Maintenance of and congestion on access road to site
- Milfoil infestation
- Water quality degradation, surface water run-off
- Impact on loons
- Congestion on the water – public safety and disturbance
- History of public access and current access
- Town of Raymond position
- Stocking and fishing
- Legal issues regarding right-of-way
- Trespassing
- Potential of over development

[Note: see Minutes of the Meeting, March 16, 2004 for details]

→ Vote

After Board discussion, a motion was made by Leon Gorman and seconded by Carole Dyer to support acquisition. Vote was unanimous.

- **Androscoggin River, Canton** (52 ± acres in fee)

→ Public Notice

Published in the Kennebec Journal on 3/23/04 and the Lewiston Sun Journal on 3/20/04.

→ Appraisal Review Committee Recommendation

The ARC recommends allowing an appraisal value of \$50,000 and further recommends LMF funding at \$31,333 (not including all other costs).

→ Public Comments

None.

→ Vote

A motion was made by Carole Dyer and seconded by Commissioner Spear to support acquisition. Vote was unanimous.

- **Schoodic Lake**

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner McGowan to Table this project for discussion at the May 18, 2004 LMF Board Meeting. Vote was unanimous.

## CONSERVATION & RECREATION

- **Lower Kennebec Project – Feeney property** (129 ± acres in fee)

→        Public Notice

Published in the Kennebec Journal on 3/23/04 and the Portland Press Herald on 3/22/04.

→        Appraisal Committee Recommendation

The ARC recommends allowing an appraisal value of \$103,000 and further recommends LMF funding at \$89,900 (not including all other costs).

→ Public Comments

Will Brune stated that this parcel is an excellent anchor, adding more lands to the project boundary [*Merrymeeting Bay and the Lower Kennebec River Estuary*].

→ Vote

A motion was made by Carole Dyer and seconded by Commissioner McGowna to support acquisition. Vote was unanimous.

## 5 % ACCESS IMPROVEMENT REQUEST

- **Skolfield Shore Preserve** (Skolfield Farm) and **Longreach Forest Preserve** (Turfant Sumerton Longreach) a combined proposal for 2 LMF projects.

Access improvement funds in the amounts of **\$11,250** for the Skolfield Shore Preserve and **\$2,250** for the Long Reach Preserve are being requested by the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust to make both parcels more accessible to the public through trail development and improvements.

→ Vote

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Carole Dyer to approve a total of \$13,500 for access improvements. Vote was unanimous.

- **Cold Rain Pond**

The Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife is requesting access improvement funds in the amount of **\$6,000** for road improvements, parking and path improvements to the site.

→ Vote

A motion was made by Commissioner Spear and seconded by Jeff Thaler to approve \$6,000 for access improvements. Vote was unanimous.

## OTHER ITEMS

- **Staff Report**

Back-up Signatory for LMF documents in absence of the Chair

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner McGowan to authorize Martha Freeman to sign LMF documents in the absence of the Chair. Vote was unanimous.

New Maine Land Bond

Tim Glidden reported that legislative consideration of the proposed LMF bond issue was ongoing.

If and when the Legislature authorizes a new LMF Bond issues, it may also enact some changes in the Program's mission that could require adjustments in the Board's process, including its selection criteria. Tim suggested that the Board create an ad-hoc committee of its membership to consider these issues and develop recommendations for any necessary changes in the LMF process that the Board can consider prior to the availability of any new funding.

The following members expressed a willingness to participate on the ad-hoc committee;

Leon Gorman, Carole Dyer, and Warren Balgooyen. Tim reported that Roger Milliken had also expressed interest. Commissioner Lapointe stated that he would be willing to sit-in as much as he could and report back to the Board.

#### Program Review

Tim briefly referred to the recent LMF Program report (*Increasing the Return on a Sound Public Investment*) that suggests looking into how land conservation and the economy relate to each other and their benefits for Maine communities. The new ad-hoc committee will consider these recommendations.

- **Next Board meeting**

May 18, 2004 at the Department of Transportation in Augusta.

**Adjourned** at 3:13 p.m.