Minutes of the Meeting
May 13, 2008
Pine Tree State Arboretum
Augusta, Maine

Board Members Present:

Commissioner George Lapointe
Commissioner Patrick McGowan
Martha Freeman, Director

Jeanne Mattson
Leon Gorman

Ben Emory
Bucky Owen

Board Members Absent:

Commissioner D. Martin
Commissioner S. Bradstreet

Diane Doyle
Jeff Thaler

LMF Staff Members Present:

Tim Glidden
Steve Brooke
R. Collin Therrien

Aline Lachance

Others

Richard Barringer, Muskie School
Carole Dyer, former LMF Board member
Andrew Norkin, Appalachian Mountain Club
Angela Twitchell, Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust
David Rodrigues, ME DOC, Bureau of Public Lands
Alan Stearns, ME Dept. of Conservation
Vasco Carter, ME Dept. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Minutes of the Meeting

A motion was made by Martha Freeman and seconded by Bucky Owen to approve the January 15, 2008 Minutes of the Meeting. Vote was unanimous.

Farewell to Carole Dyer

Commissioner Lapointe stated that the Board benefited greatly from Carole’s many years of dedicated service and her knowledge of Maine’s outdoor recreation industry, especially hunting
and fishing. Her efforts to protect and enhance wildlife habitat management areas throughout Maine has served the people of Maine well. The Board will miss her tremendously.

Carole stated how much she appreciated the opportunity to be on the LMF board and how it has been a wonderful experience and highlight in her life. The staff has been excellent to work with making the program a success. What a wonderful time for conservation!

Water Access Proposal

**Cathance River – Head of the Tide Project**, Topsham, Sagadahoc County, 3.02+ acres in fee to the Town of Brunswick under a Project Agreement.

- **Public Notice**
  

- **Appraisal Review Committee Recommendation**
  
  The ARC recommends accepting an appraisal value of $86,000 for the property without improvements and further recommends LMF funding of $42,000 (not including all other costs).

- **Public Comments**
  
  None.

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

5 % Access Improvement Requests

**Grafton Notch Project**, Oxford County, 3,688+ acres

The Appalachian Mountain Club, in conjunction with the Department of Conservation, is requesting a grant in the amount of $20,375 to assist with trail improvements and construction of a new campsite on the Grafton Bayrool parcel along the 39-mile Grafton Loop Trail in Western Maine. A composting privy will also be constructed at the campsite.
A motion was made by Martha Freeman and seconded by Ben Emory to approve access improvement funds in the amount of $20,375. Vote was unanimous.

**Grafton Notch Project.** Oxford County, 3,688+ acres (vote to allocate funds to the Windy Valley Snowmobile Club)

The Windy Valley Snowmobile Club, in conjunction with the Department of Conservation, is requesting a grant in the amount of $9,000 to assist with the relocation of approximately 2000 feet of snowmobile trail characterized by excessive drifting, including the relocation of three bridges to serve the new route.

A motion was made by Bucky Owen and seconded by Jeanne Mattson to approve access improvement funds in the amount of $9,000. Vote was unanimous.

*Note: Both access improvement requests (Appalachian Mountain Club & Windy Valley Snowmobile Club) combined do not exceed the 5% of access improvement grant limit.*

**Riverlink Project.** Garber, Church & Marsh River parcels, Edgecomb and Newcastle, Lincoln County, 231+ acres

The Damariscotta River Association, in conjunction with the Department of Conservation, is requesting a grant in the amount of $21,276 to assist with creation of two trailheads and improving several miles of the trail system. The grant would fund:

- Trail improvement and bridge construction assistance from Maine Conservation Corps on the Dodge Point and Garber portions of the Dodge Point to Schmid Preserve segment;
- Trail improvement on the Church property;
- Bog bridging and stream crossings at several locations;
- Trailheads on the Church property at McKay Road and the Marsh River Preserve north of Route 1; and
- Trailhead signage, kiosks, and trail markers.

A motion was made by Ben Emory and seconded by Martha Freeman to approve access improvement funds in the amount of $21,276. Vote was unanimous.

**Other Business**

**Executive Session - Great Pond Lower Penobscot Forest Project** T32 MD, Great Pond TWP, & Milford, Penobscot County

Executive Session was cancelled.
**Policy regarding 5% Grants**

Tim stated that staff does make a concerted effort to contact past and pending project partners eligible to receive the 5% grant as well as encouraging them to apply. However, not all projects make an application for the supplemental 5% access and farm grants and a significant balance can accrue that is not available for allocation to new projects. Furthermore, holding the 5% grant funds in reserve creates some accounting overhead and extra work for staff in tracking which projects might be interested in applying for the funds. Tim is therefore suggesting that LMF hold a smaller percentage of funds in reserve.

After discussing the issue, Board members recommended changing its practice by suggesting that only 2% be held in reserve for conservation & recreational projects but that applicants could apply up to 5% as originally adopted by the Board.

A motion was made by Bucky Owen and seconded by Jeanne Mattson to adopt the new policy. Vote was unanimous.

**Staff Updates**

- The Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources has informed the Board that the Cayford Orchards project has been withdrawn.

- Distributed to the Board were a list of pending LMF projects, a memo outlining available funding for current projects, and the 2008 list of 45 new proposals for consideration at the July 8, 2008 meeting at Maple Hill Farm.

**Quality of Place Presentation**

Richard Barringer, Chair, Governor’s Council on Maine’s Quality of Place presented a slide presentation entitled: **People, Place & Prosperity**. He stated that Maine’s principal advantage in today’s global competition is our ‘Quality of Place’. Our infrastructure (*mountains, forests, open fields, rivers and pristine lakes, picturesque downtowns, arts and culture, historic buildings, and coast*) is Maine’s future.

The Council’s goal is to protect and strengthen our outstanding Quality of Place and is therefore proposing a much needed development tool – A Quality of Place Investment Strategy (QPIS).

The slide presentation begins with the 2006 Brookings Findings and ends with strength-based investment strategy for our workforce and changing economy *(see pages 5 thru 11 for the complete presentation)*.
People, Place & Prosperity

What we love about Maine

2006 Brookings Findings

- Amid surprising pessimism and grid-lock, Maine is poised for an era of economic prosperity
- Once based on resource extraction and goods production, our economy is now more diverse, innovative, service-oriented, and technology-driven
**Brookings' Proposed Strategy**
- Invest in a place-based, innovation economy
- Streamline government at all levels
- Protect and strengthen Maine's Quality of Place

**A Quality of Place System**

**What we know about systems development**
- Each element is important, but the relationships among them REALLY matter
- The state of one influences the state of all
- Change in one produces change in all

**Research tells us...**
"Since Maine's level of research and workforce are likely to remain small for some time, firms in almost every technical field must recruit most of their specialized workforce from out of state. Maine's quality of place will be a key to attracting critical personnel. The work of the Governor's Quality of Place Council addresses these issues and should be considered an important part of Maine's R&D and cluster development efforts."

**Brookings' Key Assertions**
- Maine's Quality of Place is an economic asset of great and increasing value
- Indeed, it is Maine's chief economic asset in the global competition for entrepreneurs, skilled workers, seasonal visitors, and retirees

**Brookings' Key Assertions**
- As the search for Quality Places grows, Maine has a globally-known brand built on an image of livable communities, stunning scenery, and great recreational opportunities
- Today, this asset is under threat, diminishing future economic prospects
An asset at risk...
- The decline of agricultural lands
- The spreading out of homes and schools across the landscape
- The turning away of our industrial base
- The lack of access to natural places
- The loss of historic assets
- The lack of investment in our downtowns

Sprawl and Land Development
- Between 1997 and 2002, Maine lost 40,000 acres of agricultural cropland, or 7.5% of our total land used for productive farming

Sprawl and Land Development
- Between 1970 and 1990, land development in Maine occurred at four times the rate of population growth
- More than 20,000 homes are now located in the Unorganized Territory, twice the number in 1970

Sprawl and Land Development
- 50% of Maine’s industrial forestlands have changed ownership since 2000
- Forest lands today have more value as house lots than for the forest products they generate

Lack of Access to Natural Places
- Between 1991-2005, the number of small woodlot landowners restricting public access to their land more than doubled from 15% to 36%
- As land becomes more fragmented and developed, it will not be available for public access

Loss of Historic Assets
- Maine has already lost irreplaceable historic structures
- More than 560 historic structures in Maine need repairs and renovations in excess of $300 million
- 79% of Maine citizens say it is important to them to live in towns with cultural assets

Source: Maine Coastal Conservancy of Maine - Survey of Resources
Governor's Council created, Spring '07:
- Examine these claims
- Is Maine’s Quality of Place, in fact, an economic driver?
- If so, how may we best secure its future and build on it?

Research confirms Brookings...
Quality of Place is more than just a “nice” thing; it is an economic driver.

Maine’s Quality of Place
- Our woods and waters, our open fields, our historic and cultural heritage, our picturesque downtowns and working waterfronts, our tradition of public access to private lands are assets of great and increasing economic value to Maine people.
- Why?

Comparative Costs: Maine and New England Metro Areas

Comparative Costs: Maine Metro Areas

Maine’s workforce will stop growing by 2012
Without people, Maine cannot grow its economy

- 48% of Maine companies report having difficulty finding qualified workers for available positions in their business.
- Annually, there is a gap of 4,200 job openings in Maine between the number of skilled workers needed and the supply of educated workers.

The Job Skills Needed are Changing

Growth in Tourism

In 2005, tourism supported the equivalent of one in five Maine jobs.

Growth in Retirement Industry

Population Increase from In-migration for Selected Maine Counties

Growth in Hi-tech Jobs

Percent Change in Employment, 2004-2005

Sectors Targeted for Growth by the Legislature

- Precision Manufacturing
- Marine Technologies and Aquaculture
- Information Technologies
- Biotechnology
- Agriculture and Forest Products
- Advance Materials Manufacturing
Quality of Place supports Maine’s new and changing economy

- A global marketplace for people
- People with energy and skills, who can start and support businesses in the sectors targeted for future growth
- People looking for a place to retire, or to visit awhile
- People who can live anywhere, and are interested in a high Quality of Place

Regional Landscape Conservation

- Recognize and reward private landowner contributions to public access.
- Recognize and reward the growing number of regional landscape conservation efforts—like Mt. Agamenticus-to-the-Sea and the Downeast Lakes Land Trust.
- Create a statewide walking, biking, and hiking trail network.

Recommendations to Secure our Future, in 4 Areas:

1. Regional Landscape Conservation
2. Community and Downtown Revitalization
3. Workforce Development
4. A new, Strength-based Development Strategy

Community & Downtown Revitalization

- Strengthen downtown and community revitalization efforts
- Enhance Maine’s historic preservation tools and resources
- Align the State’s basic land use statutes with Quality of Place

Workforce Development

- Provide hospitality and leisure education and training
- Create a statewide system for tourism research, education, training, and outreach
- Tourism industry assume a leadership role
- Provide education, training, and outreach in community planning, historic preservation, architectural design, and traditional and contemporary craft arts

New, Strength-based Investment Strategy

- New focus for economic development, to invest in these key Quality of Place assets
- With prime responsibility at the local/regional level—bottom-up
- And a new state role; to facilitate, and offer technical assistance, seed money, and ongoing support.
Examples of strength-based places
- Northern Maine Winter Sports Center
- Western Maine Mountain Heritage Network
- Downeast Lakes Land Trust
- Downtown Bangor
- Friends of Fort Knox

Examples of strength-based products
- Cold River Vodka, Freeport
- LL Bean
- Maine Highlands Guild
- Poland Spring Company
- Old Town Canoe

How would these efforts be funded?
- Planning grants
- Bond issue
- Lodging tax (??)
- Block grants

A Sense of Urgency...

Historic change is now upon us. How we respond will determine our future economic prosperity.

See full report at www.maine.gov/sop/ourfuture