COMMISSIONER BETTE WOODY

July, 1975 - September, 1976

A meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was held on Thursday, July 17, 1975 at 10 a.m. in the office of the Commissioner, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston. Present were Messrs. Crane, Brewster and Lund.

The minutes of the June 25, 1975 meeting were approved as submitted.

Commissioner Woody informed the Board of the public meeting held in Mashpee on Wednesday, June 16, 1975. She said, the meeting was at the request of the Board of Selectmen and the primary purpose was to inform the townspeople of the Department's proposal to acquire South Cape Beach and, although the proposal was generally accepted, there was some vocal opposition by the local citizens. The Commissioner stated that she had informed the group that an advisory committee composed of local concerned citizens would be appointed to work closely with the Department during the planning phase as well as oversee the beach operation and maintenance. She added that this seemed to have met with their approval.

As a note of interest, the Commissioner informed the Board that the Governor has recently signed a bill transferring the Mt. Tom Reservation back to the County Commissioners.

In bringing the Board up to date on budget matters, the Commissioner reported that she had met with the House Ways and Means Committee on July 1, 1975 and presented a summary of the Department's fiscal year 1976 budget. Most of the questions, she said, were geared towards recreation funding (namely, rinks, pools and beaches), and the general concensus of the Committee was that these funds should not be used as the primary budget cuts. She indicated that the overall budget for the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs has been reduced by 10 percent with DEM's reduction being between 11-12 percent which suggests a bare bone budget. She added that the Committee is suggesting an additional 20 percent cut.

Director Richard Correia was asked to attend the Board meeting to present a land acquisition proposal in connection with the Holyoke Range acquisition proposal.

Director Correia stated that the 9 acre parcel is located in the Town of Amherst and is being offered for sale by F. Stanley Schade for the sum of $6,800. He indicated on a map the area in question and its direct relationship to the overall acquisition proposal.

Following discussion, upon motion of Mr. Crane, seconded by Mr. Lund, it was -

VOTED - to approve the acquisition of approximately 9 acres of unimproved land in Amherst, Massachusetts (Holyoke Range) owned by F. Stanley Schade and Viola D. Schade for the amount of $6,800.00.

The date for the next Board meeting was set for Thursday, August 14, 1975 in the office of the Commissioner.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held October 28, 1976 at 10:00 a.m. in the office of the Commissioner, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston. Present were Mrs. Dana Duxbury, Messrs. Wislocki, Lopous and Bishop. Absent was Henry Dawson.

In calling the meeting to order, Mrs. Duxbury first brought before the Board the matter of arranging a joint meeting between the Boards of Environmental Management and Fisheries and Wildlife, which, she stated, is required by statute and long over due. She also requested that a meeting be arranged between the Board and Commissioner David Standley's Environmental Quality Engineering Advisory Board to discuss mutual problems relating to the regulations and restrictions of the Wetlands Protection Act. Commissioner Sylva said that he would relay to Commissioner Dobelle, the Board's concern to hold the two meetings at the earliest opportunity.

As a note of interest to the Board, Commissioner Sylva reported on a proposal being prepared by the Departments of Environmental Management, Fisheries and Wildlife and Agriculture to utilize the Gardner State Hospital property which was recently declared surplus. The proposal, he said, reflects a cooperative venture whereby each Department would utilize a portion of the area to its best advantage. The Department of Agriculture, he said, is interested in that portion of the property, which was once farmland, for farm leasing purposes; Fisheries and Wildlife's interest would be in the woodland section for hunting purposes. The Department's interest would be to maintain low key recreation, educational purposes by possibly allotting commercial space in some of the buildings to artists, small craftsmen and alike. It is a unique proposal and once it has been completed, he said, a copy will be forwarded to you for your perusal. He added that the Department of Correction is also bidding for the property.

Considerable discussion then ensued on the Department's 1978 budget and capital outlay requests. The Commissioner gave each member a copy of the summary of appropriation accounts and a list of capital outlay requests. The budget, he said, was submitted in line with the 1977 appropriation with very little increase in any account. He noted that the planning account, which was previously considered

a "line" account was incorporated into the Administration account; the wetlands restriction account was incorporated into the Water Resources Administration account; and the Harbor Islands Transportation account was established as a "line" account. The Commissioner pointed out that the figures as they appear did not represent any bargaining agreement and indicated that there would be severe problems in all accounts if and when a final decision is made.

As a matter of information, Commissioner Sylva reported that Secretary Murphy has placed a "freeze" on hiring in Rinks and Pools until such time as the Department's Affirmative Action plan has been approved.

In discussing the capital outlay requests, Mr. Wislocki expressed his approval of the Halibut Point acquisition in Rockport.

It was the concensus of the Board to defer action on the budget and capital outlay requests until such time as they have had the opportunity to review them with Commissioner Dobelle.

Mrs. Duxbury stated that since formal applications were received from three applicants for the position of Director of Forests and Parks, she felt that each candidate should be interviewed by the Board. It was agreed that each applicant would be asked the following questions -

1. What is your opinion of the role of Director in relation to that of the Regional system and what would you do to improve this relationship?

2. What is your opinion with respect to the advisory committee structure, and in what direction should such committees be headed?

3. Where do you feel the emphasis should be placed with respect to the Department's budget and capital outlay requests, and what change in emphasis would you initiate in either or both budgets, should you be appointed Director.

4. In the event of your appointment, do you feel you could handle the Affirmative Action policy once it has been established, and what would you do to implement the program.

5. Should the Boston Harbor Islands be consolidated under one agency, and if so, which is your agency preference?

6. What is your opinion with respect to extending recreation facilities to urban areas.

7. What is your opinion with respect to inter-agency cooperation.

After due consideration of the merits of the three applicants for the position of Director of Forests and Parks, it was the concensus of the Board to defer action on the appointment until such time as Commissioner Dobelle has had the opportunity to interview each candidate.

The Board requested Commissioner Sylva to prepare for the Board for discussion at the next Board meeting a legislative summary of the Board of Environmental Management's duties and authority, to which Commissioner Sylva agreed. They also requested that the Commissioner attempt to arrange an informal meeting between the Board and Commissioner Dobelle, and the Board suggested they meet on November 15, 1976 at 9:30 a.m. if it would be agreeable to Commissioner Dobelle. Commissioner Sylva agreed to convey the Board's requests to the Commissioner.

Due to a lack of time, the up-date of the Solid Waste program was deferred to the next Board meeting.

The date for the next Board meeting was set for November 18, 1976 at 10:00 a.m. in the office of the Commissioner, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Secretary

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held November 18, 1976 at 10:00 a.m. in the office of the Commissioner, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston. Present were Mrs. Dana Duxbury, Messrs. Wislocki and Dawson.

The minutes of the October 28, 1976 meeting were approved as submitted.

The fiscal year 1978 budget and capital outlay requests were then reviewed by the Board. Following such review, the Board requested that they have a more positive role in the preparation of the fiscal year 1979 budget before its submission to the Secretary's office. They also requested that at the time of the budget preparation they be given the opportunity to meet with the various bureau chiefs and regional supervisors to review and discuss with them their recommendations.

Upon motion of Mr. Wislocki, seconded by Mrs. Duxbury, it was -

VOTED - to approve the 1978 fiscal year budget and capital outlay requests as submitted to Secretary Evelyn Murphy

Discussion then followed on the appointment of the Director of Forests and Parks. Commissioner Dobelle stated that since he had not had sufficient time to review the applications submitted, nor the opportunity to interview the applicants, he felt he should defer making a decision on the appointment. He assured the Board that his choice would be made before the next meeting.

Director Alden Cousins was then asked to attend the Board meeting to apprise the Board members on the status of the Solid Waste Disposal program.

Director Cousins reported on the proposed disposal facility in the City of Haverhill. He said that a referendum question was placed before the townspeople and the response was 2 to 1 against Haverhill hosting the facility. Although the referendum is non-binding, it will have a decided influence on the City Council and they will be meeting with the Mayor on November 22nd to discuss the referendum. Whatever the outcome of this meeting, he said, I believe the site will be changed by the Council vote.

Director Cousins then reported on a meeting of the Northeast Solid Waste Committee recently held in Amesbury in response to the negative referendum vote. At this meeting, he said, the Committee expressed a desire to initiate contingency plans for alternative sites, and a sub-committee was established to review site criteria and site nomination procedures for selecting a new site. As a note of interest, Director Cousins stated that the cities of Andover, Methuen and Lowell have expressed an interest in hosting the facility.

Mr. Wislocki asked if legislation was necessary at this time to acquire the site for the facility, wherever it might be. Director Cousins replied that his office had eminent domain powers as well as the funds to purchase the land.

Director Cousins suggested to the Board that some method be established within the Department of Environmental Affairs to assist in the landfill site selection process. Mrs. Duxbury added that there was a serious need for a stronger communication between the Department, Secretary Murphy and the Governor with respect to the complex problems of the Solid Waste program. Commissioner Dobelle stated that he would relay the Board's concern to Secretary Murphy as well as the Governor.

The Board then reviewed the Affirmative Action Plan. They expressed their approval of the Plan but indicated that they wished to defer its acceptance until such time as Messrs. Bishop and Loupos had the opportunity to present their comments.

The report on the authority of the Board of Environmental Management, prepared by Attorney Ruma, was then discussed. It was the Board's feeling that the report was still not clear regarding the employment and/or dismissal of certain personnel and requested Mr. Ruma to prepare a clearer definition,

The date for the next Board meeting was set for December 16, 1976 at 10:00 a.m. in the office of the Commissioner. Following the Board meeting, a joint luncheon meeting with the Board of Fisheries, Wildlife and Recreational Vehicles is scheduled at the Parker House at 12 noon.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Secretary

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held December 16, 1976 at 10:00 a.m. in the office of the Commissioner, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston. Present were Mrs. Dana Duxbury, Messrs. Dawson and Wislocki.

The minutes of the November 18, 1976 meeting were approved as submitted.

Commissioner Dobelle referred to the Board his appointment of Gilbert Bliss to the position of Director of Forests and Parks. He expressed his concern to the Board for having made the appointment without first notifying them of his choice by letter 21 days in advance as required by statute under Chapter 21, Section 2C. Due to an oversight, he said, I was not made aware of this mandate. He requested the Board to approve the appointment at this meeting. He stated that the Division of Forests and Parks has been without direction for the past 18 months and felt the appointment most crucial. He indicated that Mr. Bliss' professional knowledge, skills and capacity was outstanding and would, in his opinion, add strength to the Division as well as the Department.

The Commissioner added that Charles Dane, Regional Forest and Park Supervisor of Region I has accepted the position of Chief of Recreation, replacing Mr. Bliss. Also, he said, Richard Correia, Director of Acquisition and Construction has accepted the position of Acting Deputy Commissioner until the Joseph Brown matter has been cleared. He added that Mr. Correia has accepted the added responsibility without additional compensation while still maintaining his present position as Director of Acquisition and Construction.

As a note of interest, The Commissioner informed the Board that within the next week he would appoint the first woman forester in the history of the Commonwealth.

Considerable discussion ensued relative to the Board's authority to approve the appointment of a division director. They informed the Commissioner that they seriously regarded this authority and wished to go on record in reaffirming their position.

Following discussion, the Board approved the appointment of Charles Dane as Chief of Recreation and the designation of Richard Correia as Acting Deputy Commissioner.

The Board gave tentative approval to the proposed appointment of Gilbert Bliss as Director of Forests and Parks, with its official approval to be made at the next Board meeting in compliance with Chapter 21, Section 2C of the General Laws.

Mr. Gilbert Bliss was then asked to attend the Board meeting to outline for the Board the procedures and functions of the Bureau of Recreation. He was then followed by Kenton Beaujean, Chief Forester; Charles Hood, Chief of Insect Pest Control, and concluded with Mr. Sid Thompson, Chief of Forest fire Control. The Board expressed a keen interest in the Bureau Chiefs programs and thanked them for their very enlightening presentation.

Due to a lack of time, the Affirmative Action Program and briefing on the SCORP workshop was tabled until the next Board meeting.

The date for the next Board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 1977 at 10:00 a.m. at the Department's Auburn Skating facility at which time the Board will meet with the five regional supervisors.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting recessed at 12 noon to reconvene at 12:30 p.m. for a joint luncheon meeting of the Boards of Environmental Management and Fisheries, Wildlife and Recreational Vehicles at the Parker House, Boston.

The date for the next Board meeting has been changed from January 16 1977 to January 6, 1977.

Secretary