

BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

January 30, 2002

National Grid USA Service Company, Inc.

Westborough, MA

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Wednesday, January 30, 2002 at the National Grid USA Service Company Inc. in Westborough, MA. Those in attendance were Chairman Michael Last, Brendan O'Neill, Patricia Karl, Whitney Hatch and Tom Sullivan. Absent were Ron Smith and Van Johnson. Present from DEM were Commissioner Peter Webber, Deputy Commissioner of Administration Peter Scavotto, Director of Forests and Parks Todd Frederick, Chief of Legal Services Mary Griffin, Deputy Commissioner of Resource Conservation Susan Frechette, Director of the Office of Public Information Darrell Pressley, State Lands Forester Bill Rivers, Legal Counsel Marcos Pittore and Correspondence Secretary Anita Wysocki. Present from EOE was Director of Forest and Land Policy Bob O'Connor. Others present included Heidi Roddis, Mark Bettencourt, James McCaffrey, Helga Stottmeier, Karen Lombard and Amy McNamara. The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by Chairman Michael Last.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Whitney Hatch moved to approve the December Meeting Minutes. Tom Sullivan seconded.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the December 2001 Meeting Minutes.

All in favor. None opposed.

FORESTRY: STATE LAND MANAGEMENT

Bill Rivers presented an overview of the Bureau of Forestry, Management Forestry Program. According to Bill, there are eight Management Forestry districts that cover approximately 285,000 acres. Bill discussed the sustainable forestry initiative, components of ecosystem management, road conditions and degradation, bridges and major drainage structures, state forest boundaries, focus forests, and road classification and inventory. Bill shared preliminary data on type distribution, age class distribution, size class distribution, stand condition and hemlock wooly adelgid assessment. Bill described staffing and vehicle concerns. Bill concluded that, with current staffing, less than three dollars per acre per year is spent on forest management activities. Discussion with Board members ensued.

LAND ACQUISITION

Marcos Pittore describe the purchase of two parcels of land in Douglas for addition to the Douglas State Forest. According to Marcos, a title defect appeared in the title to one of the parcels leading to this request for a friendly taking.

On a motion duly made by Patricia Karl and seconded by Tom Sullivan, it was

VOTED: To approve the taking by eminent domain by the Department of Environmental Management, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws Chapter 79, and General Laws Chapter 132A Section 3 of approximately 18,700 square feet of land, consisting of two adjoining parcels, in the Town of Douglas, for the purpose of clearing the title to the parcels, for addition to the Douglas State Forest.

All in favor. None opposed.

Roll Call: Patricia Karl, yes; Tom Sullivan, yes; Michael Last, yes; Brendan O'Neill, yes; Whitney Hatch, yes

Mary informed the Board that DEM is closing today on the third phase of the BioReserve.



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COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Budget: Commissioner Webber reported that an increase in the FY'02 appropriation to the Second Century revenue account was approved as part of the supplemental budget. Commissioner Webber added that Secretary Durand, with Governor Swift's endorsement, has allocated additional capital funds that will cover day to day costs and expenditures. Peter stated that he anticipates impacts due to the Governor's early retirement incentive and he is uncertain with regards to backfilling positions. Peter reported that the Governor filed House 1 a couple of weeks ago in which DEM recommended \$38.149 million with most accounts consolidated into a single line item. Peter added that DEM received the consolidated budget with a lower amount of \$34.473 million. According to Peter, in this number is an increase in the Second Century Fund of approximately \$3.6 million. Patricia suggested that DEM look at maximizing how rental facilities could add revenue. Todd agreed to look into how this could be done with limited resources. Michael expressed concern for deferred maintenance and suggested a recovery plan to deal with the issue. Peter explained that DEM does not receive an increase in the operating budget to correspond with the increase in rail trails, land acquisitions, and other responsibilities.

FORESTS & PARKS REPORT

Kristin Karl handed out and discussed the *Bureau of Interpretive Services Update* and the *Seasonal Program Report 2001*.

Todd reported that the final draft of the Strategic Plan is expected to be shared with the public sometime in March. Tom inquired about the process for approving the plan and Peter responded that while comments will be invited, no formal approval is needed. Michael suggested that the Board provide further feedback at the next meeting.

Todd reported that a decision was made to ban snowmobiling on the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail; however, DEM has agreed to work with the snowmobile clubs towards finding an alternative route.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Heidi Roddis handed out copies of a letter written by Gordon Brownell expressing his concern for off trail skiing at Wachusett Mountain. Heidi commented that this problem has occurred since 1998 and she doesn't understand why Wachusett Mountain Associates do not do anything about it. Todd responded that a DEM Ranger will be going back full-time to Wachusett Mt. within the next week or so. Heidi added that preliminary data is confirming additional old growth outside of the administrative boundary.

Mark Bettencourt commented that the Toys for Tots benefits go beyond providing mittens, hats and toys for less fortunate families. According to Mark, the event also exposes ORV riders to the Pilgrim Sands Trailriders and allows for more positive interaction. Mark added that ORV trails should be built into the plans of new acquisitions. Mark suggested that when DEM plans for paving a bikepath such as the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, some design element should be included to accommodate other traditional uses like snowmobiling.

Commissioner Webber informed the Board that DEM is working on publishing volunteer opportunities on the DEM webpage.

Having concluded all business, the meeting adjourned at 1:10PM. The next Board of Environmental Management Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, February 28, 2002.

BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

February 28, 2002
Borderland State Park
North Easton, MA

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Thursday, February 28, 2002 in the Ames Mansion Library at Borderland State Park in North Easton, MA. Those in attendance were Chairman Michael Last, Brendan O'Neill, Whitney Hatch and Tom Sullivan. Absent were Ron Smith, Patricia Karl and Van Johnson. Present from DEM were Commissioner Peter Webber, Director of Forests and Parks Todd Frederick, Chief of Legal Services Mary Griffin, Deputy Commissioner of Resource Conservation Susan Frechette, Director of the Office of Public Information Darrell Pressley, and Correspondence Secretary Anita Wysocki. Others present included Mark Bettencourt (New England Trail Riders), James McCaffrey (Sierra Club), Marilyn Lund (Walden Pond Advisory) and Jacqueline Davison (Walden Pond Advisory). The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by Chairman Michael Last.

Borderland State Park Supervisor Bob Babineau gave a brief overview of the park.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brendan O'Neill moved to approve the January Meeting Minutes. Tom Sullivan seconded.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the January 2002 Meeting Minutes.

All in favor. None opposed.

BOARD PRIORITIES

Michael commented on the correlation between the Strategic Plan and Board priorities. Whitney recommended that the Board maintain consistent agenda items to track progress and weigh in on Strategic Plan, Goal 1: Protection and Management. Michael suggested that a priority for the Board may be to focus on facilities in various categories of integrated planning to be used as model parks. Tom suggested that the Board facilitate a conference where land managers, public and private, present plans that are currently evolving such as the Wachusett plan. Michael added that a forum for open discussion to share ideas on a specific topic may work better than having an agenda. Peter suggested a daylong conference of workshops. Michael agreed that Land Management should be a topic. Brendan suggested that *Doing More with Less* may be a good theme to bring people to the table. Michael asked if a daylong conference could be organized for late spring and Peter responded that late spring would be a good time. Michael recommended inviting key state agencies as well as non-profit organizations.

Whitney suggested that the Board sign on as a supporter of the Environmental Bond Bill. Michael asked if there was any objection from members and there was none.

Whitney commented that a good constructive role for the Board may be to take a system wide approach in the discussion of management plans. Whitney suggested categorizing facilities and developing a template for plans. Whitney commented that it would be helpful to know what does DEM have where and on what property. Michael added that follow up to assure that the plans are not sitting on a shelf is important. Peter stated that new properties have a master plan that is used as a guide to management. Brendan commented that this may be where the Strategic Plan comes in handy in terms of trying to move towards the objective of having a cookie cutter quality: If the goal is to be resource and scientific based management then DEM could begin to get commonalties on things such as the size of the property, amount of public use, whether it is wetlands, etc. Michael stated that perhaps a couple of sentences as a summary of the implementation section of a plan may be helpful for those responsible for day to day operations.

Whitney suggested that Board members have the list of Board priorities developed at the October Meeting as a reference at every meeting.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Board members discussed the Draft Strategic Plan and Michael summarized the Board's recommendations as follows:

- Mission
 - 1st bullet - add the word "and" to the end of the sentence
 - 2nd bullet - put "recreation" before "education"
- Desired Organizational Values - strike the word "Desired"
- Goal 1: Protection and Management
 - 2nd paragraph, last sentence - *And it must constantly balance the overriding need to protect resources with the demands placed upon those resources for use ...add "and enjoyment, in a manner which leaves these resources unimpaired for future generations."*

Whitney Hatch moved to endorse the Strategic Plan as drafted with recommendations. Tom Sullivan seconded.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the Board endorsed the Strategic Plan as drafted with recommendations.

All in favor. None opposed.

Michael noted that Patricia Karl conveyed her endorsement of the plan.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Webber reported that there has not been any progress towards a new replacement for Berkshire member Ron Smith whose term expired in August 2001.

Legislative/Budget: Peter reported that written testimony is being prepared for a budget hearing on Environmental Affairs scheduled for Monday at which Commissioners are invited to testify in the afternoon. According to Peter, the budget process is moving into a phase where more capital funds will be available for land acquisition and park improvements. Peter noted that a rally in support of the Environmental Bond Bill will take place on March 13 at the State House.

Peter reported that the Dam Safety Bill #2269 has moved out of Senate Ways & Means and is up for debate. Peter explained that the bill will create a system to give DEM a better handle on privately owned dams making the owner responsible for registrations and inspections with oversight by DEM.

Peter concluded that he and Secretary Durand will attend a gathering of friends and advisory group members on March 12 at Lawrence HSP to discuss partnering goals and rally support for the Environmental Bond Bill.

FORESTS & PARKS REPORT

Todd reported that of the 41 probable DEM staff retirements under the Governor's retirement incentive, 88% are within the Forests and Parks Division with the Southeaster Region most significantly hit. According to Todd, the Retirement Bill states that 20% of the positions can be filled statewide; however, this will include all state agencies so it is unclear as to what percentage of DEM positions will be filled. Todd discussed impending challenges in sorting out whether to merge, close or keep open effected facilities while maintaining public safety. Susan added that the hiring freeze since October of 2001 compounds the situation. •Todd reported that there have been several brush fires in Berkshire County including one on February 26 on the Appalachian Trail. According to Todd, there is a drought advisory out now. Todd informed the Board of a controlled burn that took place at Myles Standish SF to lower the fuel load. •Todd reported that the Secretary has directed DEM to develop a management plan to oversee the operations of the Boston Harbor Islands. •Todd updated the Board on the Pay and Display machines to be placed at several facilities this year. According to Todd, the machines will be used to collect day-use fees and issue a ticket to be displayed on the visitor's vehicle. Todd stated that citations would be issued to those vehicles without the ticket displayed. •According to Todd, Massachusetts Forests and Parks is one of several sites being considered by the National Association of State Park Directors site selection committee to host the 2004 NASPD Conference. •Todd handed out a map and discussed the concept of the newly developed EcoRegions. •Todd reported that the mean number of hours worked by ORV trail user groups during the 2001 season was 310 hours with F.G. Hills SF the highest at 545 hours.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marilyn Lund questioned if the EcoRegions concept as well as other current information is being presented to the Joint Natural Resources Committee and Todd responded that the information will be shared with them. Peter added that occasionally, committees hold oversight meetings as a means to convey new information and both Chairs of the committee are invited to attend the DEM Conference.

Mark Bettencourt passed around pictures of ORV riding in other states and suggested placing the new Pay & Display machines at facilities that offer ORV riding trails.

Michael passed around pictures and read excerpts of a letter sent to the Board from Tom Delisle expressing concern for the illegal use of ORVs within Myles Standish SF (MSSF). According to Peter, there is a Resource Management Plan in process focussing on the trails. Peter added that fieldwork necessary for developing a trail network within the forest requires an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) and the MEPA process.

Jay McCaffrey commented that he is excited and encouraged with the EcoRegions concept, which is supported by the Sierra Club. Jay noted that the Sierra Club is now on board with the Environmental Bond Bill Coalition. Jay added that the Sierra Club supports the Strategic Plan. Jay commented that he is looking forward to a stakeholders conference and the Sierra Club will participate as well as offer assistance. Jay thanked the Board for providing this unique way of allowing public comment.

BOARD CONCERNS

Tom questioned if there is a timetable for MSSF plan and when will the Board be involved in the process. Peter responded that the timetable needs to be revised and he will have more information at the next Board meeting.

Whitney suggested that Mary call Chris Hardy to discuss the Board joining the Coalition for the Environmental Bond Bill.

DIVISION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION UPDATE

Susan Frechette updated the Board on various Division of Resource Conservation improvements and projects. Susan gave a power point presentation depicting before pictures including those of Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Superintendent's House, Lake Dennison parking lot, Manuel Correllus State Forest Headquarters, Nasketucket Bay State Reservation, Gardner Heritage State Park and Maudslay State Park. Susan described the capital improvements underway at these facilities, including building improvements, site work, environmental remediation and utility upgrades.

Having concluded all business, the meeting adjourned at 1:10PM. The next Board of Environmental Management Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, March 25, 2002.

BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

March 25, 2002

DEM Facing Challenges Together Conference

Leominster, MA

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Monday, March 25, 2002 at the DEM *Facing Challenges Together* Conference in Leominster, MA. Those in attendance were Chairman Michael Last, Whitney Hatch, Tom Sullivan and Van Johnson. Absent were Brendan O'Neill, Ron Smith and Patricia Karl. Present from DEM were Director of Forests and Parks Todd Frederick, Chief of Legal Services Mary Griffin, Acting Regional Director Dave O'Neill and Payroll Supervisor Doreen Mulkern. Others present included Donna Brownell, Gordon S. Brownell, Mark Bettencourt and Heidi Roddis.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00AM by Chairman Michael Last.

Director Frederick informed the Board that Commissioner Webber was attending a hearing in Boston and expected to arrive late.

FORESTS & PARKS REPORT

Director Frederick reported that there is still discussion on the final numbers for the FY03 operating budget. Todd stated that the Forests & Parks Division has lost eleven staff persons since December in addition to the forty-one retirees. Todd discussed management challenges brought about with the loss of the Chief Forester as well as many line staff supervisors of large facilities. According to Todd, retired staff may be rehired back for 120-day appointments; however, these appointments would count towards the 20% statewide rehire number. Todd informed the Board that public safety will remain the focus at all facilities. According to Todd, in an effort to bring in revenue at high use facilities, shifting/reassigning staff may be necessary. Todd added that this may result in smaller facilities being closed. Todd reported that the numbers for this spring's seasonal budget are similar to last year. Todd noted that in 1973, Forest & Parks employed 203 full time recreational staff compared to 202 in 2002. Todd concluded that for DEM to provide a good recreational experience for citizens in the Forests & Parks this year, staff may be need to come from other Divisions for a possible 90 to 120 day period within specific skill sets. Michael asked if another increase in camping fees might be considered and Todd responded that with the political climate the way it is now, the timing may be right to take a look at the possibility. Whitney asked if DEM has submitted its 20% priorities for rehire and Todd replied that a F&P list has been submitted through the Secretary's Office but he doesn't know when he'll hear back. Todd added that rangers and firefighters are prioritized but the Chief Forester position will be difficult to fill. Whitney inquired about budget impacts on sister agencies within EOE. According to Todd, MDC lost a greater percentage with approximately 20% and F&W was closer to DEM at approximately 15%. Whitney questioned the possibility of cross-agency management of facilities near each other. Michael suggested partnering with Mass Audubon or other outside organizations. Van asked if the hiring freeze affects seasonals and Todd responded that it does not.

Todd reported that Secretary Durand has embraced the Ecoregions concept and assigned a staff person to sit on the steering committee. According to Todd, the Southeastern and Connecticut River Valley regions are being considered as pilots.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Heidi Roddis updated the Board on the Forests & Parks Partnership. According to Heidi, approximately fifty groups have signed on and the vision statement is final. Heidi noted that Mass Audubon is scheduling regional meetings to increase membership and plan for summer activities. Heidi stated that the group is developing a pledge that they will be asking gubernatorial candidates as well as other political candidates to sign on to.

Heidi asked if the Draft Plan for Manual Correllus SF has been submitted to Natural Heritage.

Todd responded that there have been discussions and he will get back to Heidi with an update.

Donna Brownell commented that there are currently six windmills approximately 100' tall as well as a proposal for a larger one, approximately 230' on an inholding in the Town of Princeton abutting Wachusett Mountain SR. Donna expressed concern for the impact these windmills may have on the reservation.

Donna commented that the Chairman of the Board of Selectman for the Town of Ashby called her to request support for a tower at Mount Watatic. Mary responded that DEM is involved with Joel Lerner's (EOEA) Self Help program to make an offer to private donors to save Mount Watatic; however, DEM can not give a cell tower site as part of a land deal. Mary added that there are other issues as well that need to be considered.

Donna asked if a Notice of Project Change has yet been submitted to make the summit and the down road at Wachusett Mt. SR two separate projects. Todd replied that he will find out.

Mark Bettencourt handed out pictures of DEM trail work parties. Mark informed the Board that at a recent meeting, the New England Trail Riders Association announced that they were starting the New England Trail Maintenance Championship where trail users receive points for hours worked on the trails with prizes awarded to the individual or work group with the highest number of points.

Mark expressed concern for \$100,000 being spent on a wading pool at Freetown SF that now may not open due to lack of sufficient funding for a lifeguard. Todd responded that all DEM swimming pools are expected to open with lifeguards on June 24, as well as ocean beaches on Memorial Day weekend. Todd added that the closing date, usually Labor Day, is subject to change based on budget issues.

BOARD CONCERNS

Michael suggested that the Board consider how the Strategic Plan can be used to create momentum as the agency goes through political transitions. Michael commented that the Board should take a role to assure a smooth transition and focus. Michael suggested making political candidates aware of the services of DEM.

Whitney requested a list of names and positions of recent retirees. Todd responded that he has that available.

Michael suggested that a Strategic Plan update may be appropriate for next month. Todd added that as Whitney suggested at last month's meeting, updates to the Board on agency activities as they relate to the plan may be useful on a regular basis.

Tom requested an update of specific action items brought up at the last meeting and Todd replied that he is working on setting up a conference as discussed.

Whitney requested that the Board be kept informed of how the Forests & Parks Partnership takes shape and how the partnership can help DEM and vice versa.

Having concluded all business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00PM. The next Board of Environmental Management Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2002.

BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

June 14, 2002

Holyoke Range State Park

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Friday, June 14, 2002 at the Holyoke Range State Park Notch Visitor Center in Amherst, MA. Those in attendance were Vice Chairman Brendan O'Neill, Whitney Hatch, and Van Johnson. Absent were Michael Last, Ron Smith, Patricia Karl and Tom Sullivan. Present from DEM were Commissioner Peter Webber, Director of Forests and Parks Todd Frederick, Chief of Legal Services Mary Griffin, Land Use Specialist David McGowan, Land Protection Specialist Christine Berry and Regional Planner Terry Blunt. Others present included Mark Bettencourt, Tory Fletcher (Epsilon), Heidi Roddis, Donna & Gordon Brownell, Gregory Cox and Elisa Campbell. The meeting was called to order at 10AM by Vice Chairman Brendan O'Neill.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Whitney Hatch moved to approve the April Meeting Minutes. Van Johnson seconded.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the April 2002 Meeting Minutes.
All in favor. None opposed.

BOARD PRIORITIES

Strategic Plan: According to Director Frederick, the Strategic Plan Implementation team is charged with developing one or more activities to be delivered within the next fiscal year. Todd discussed the six Goal teams set up to develop and identify action items. Todd explained that the ability to post ideas, updates and exchange information via the computer will be available soon. Todd stated that it is up to the Board to decide what role it will play in the process. Brendan requested that the Board have access to information and updates. Whitney added that the Board needs to be aware of all meeting schedules for possible participation.

Conference: Todd reported that the Board Conference is being discussed by the Strategic Plan Implementation team.

LAND ACQUISITION

David McGowan handed out and discussed *FY2002 DEM Land Acquisitions* which included a map and a memorandum to Board members from Chief of Legal Services Mary Griffith and Director of Land Protection Irene Del-Bono Re: *Descriptions from a selection of FY2002 projects*. Christine Berry reported that DEM will have closed on 16,630 acres by the end of June, which is the highest amount ever for the agency. David, Christine and Terry Blunt highlighted a few of the projects including Thompson Island, South Hadley Fire District, Sternagle property, Springfield ALA properties, Lucander property. Mount Watatic and National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) projects.

Commissioner Webber reported that this information will be posted on the DEM website as soon as possible. Peter noted that he has asked the Director of the Office of Public Information Darrell Pressley to work with the Land Acquisition team to determine the best way to make these public lands known for public access. Peter added that he anticipates a busy summer and fall with events for closings across the state. Peter concluded that he will notify Board members of these events for possible participation.

COBBLE MOUNTAIN BIORESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Tory Fletcher of Epsilon Associates presented and discussed a map and summary of the Cobble Mountain Bioreserve Management Plan which according to Tory, is a collaborative plan between the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC), the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and DEM. Tory stated that the main purpose of the plan is to protect the public water supply. Brendan noted that it is indicated within the memorandum of understanding (MOU) a commitment of 75% of revenues to be rolled back into land acquisitions. Brendan recommended utilizing a dedicated fund to insure that it is used for land acquisitions.

Van Johnson moved to endorse the plan, substantiate as presented. Whitney Hatch seconded.

By unanimous vote of all members present, the Board endorsed the Draft Cobble Mountain Management Plan, substantiate as presented.

Noted that Michael last submitted a proxy vote endorsing the plan.

EMINENT DOMAIN

David McGowan discussed the reasons for the friendly eminent domain taking and noted that DEM Attorney Nancy Mitchell is recommending that the Town of Ipswich do the taking. David explained that due to the timeframe, a Board vote of approval is requested just in case it becomes necessary for DEM to do the taking.

On a motion duly made by Van Johnson and seconded by Whitney Hatch, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Environmental Management, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 3 and 3A of Chapter 132A of the General Laws, as amended, approves the exercise of the power of eminent domain, if determined to be the most appropriate method of clearing title, by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Management to acquire 16.9+/-acres southwesterly of Dow Reservoir in the Town of Ipswich, Essex County, being described as follows:

A parcel of land, being pastureland or woodland, situate in said Ipswich in Upper Bull Brook, so called, bounded and described as follows:

NORTHWESTERLY: by land now or formerly on one Alice M. Scotton, Mary M. Scotten, Mary E. Hicken and Albert A. Hicken;
NORTHERLY: by land now or formerly of D. E. Perley and Adams;
SOUTHEASTERLY: by land now or formerly of Lillian H. Bradstreet; and
SOUTHWESTERLY: by land now or formerly of D. T. Perley, and being lot marked "Jos. & D.H. Hale," on a plan recorded with a deed dated August 21, 1907, of Daniel H. Hale et al to Emeline Bishop et alius, in Essex South District Registry of Deeds.

Being all of the same premises described in the deed of Roy Smolenski to the Town of Ipswich, dated August 6, 2001 and recorded February 8, 2002 with the Essex South District Registry of Deeds at Book 18301, Page 309.

All in favor. None opposed. Michael last submitted a proxy vote endorsing the plan.

Noted that it is the preference of the Board that the Town of Ipswich does the taking.

Elisa Cambell questioned the validity of the vote due to lack of quorum and Commissioner Webber clarified that MGL Chapter 21, Section 2C states that three members constitute a quorum.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Webber reported that with respect to the main operating account, the Senate has finished deliberations and approved an amendment to add \$1.4M conditionally. Peter discussed how DEM needs to identify and bring in corresponding revenues on a 2 to 1 ratio. Peter explained how DEM staff are exploring previous dispositions and easements in DEM lands whose compensations never came to the Commonwealth. According to Peter, some of these easements are over a decade old, which would lead to a substantial recovery. Peter added that DEM staff are also looking into the long-term lease held by AT&T for telecommunications. Peter explained that compensation has been received for the first 30 years; however, the lease expired in the early 90s and payments have not been made since. Peter noted that while DEM is exploring renewal of the AT&T lease, he is not looking to expand telecommunications on high ground. Peter added that DEM is also looking at ways to increase revenue through corporate sponsorship. ♦Peter reported that while DEM came out of HWM with a very tough budget recommendations, some funding was restored. Peter acknowledged great advocacy from Chris Hardy of Mass Audubon who energized a coalition of advocates. Peter added that sportsmens groups also showed great support. ♦Peter reported that DEM is still working on identifying key positions such as the Chief Forester and dam safety positions that need to be prioritized for approval to post. ♦Peter concluded that the final budget is subject to conference committee with the House and Senate. ♦Peter informed the Board that on Monday, July 17 in Dedham, Secretary Durand is holding a press conference to announce that the House will be moving on the Environmental Bond Bill. ♦Peter reported that he received encouraging news that the Dam Safety Bill, already approved by the Senate, may move on the House side. ♦Whitney commented that DEM should keep its eyes open and anticipate resistance to collecting compensation for easements in light of tough times for the telecommunications industry. ♦Brendan asked who would negotiate the compensation recovery and Mary replied that it will be a team effort.

FORESTS & PARKS REPORT

Todd reported that to increase revenues DEM staff are looking at when fees are charged. According to Todd, special use permit fees for group day use areas are now \$50. Todd noted that the fees for cottage permits haven't been adjusted in 14 years. Todd discussed possible adjustments to other fees such as mooring/pier fees, timber harvest licenses, etc. that haven't been adjusted in years. Todd stated that DEM is looking into

passing the administrative fee for camping reservations along to the user. Todd added that day-use fees were collected earlier this year; however, while camping visits increased approximately 7% over last year, facilities experienced a 2% drop in day-use that may have been attributed to the weather. ♦According to Todd, the paperwork to fill Chief Forester position is progressing. ♦Todd noted that the DEM Wildfire Crew is expected to go out west the middle of next week to assist with combating the Colorado wildfires. Todd added that DEP is rewriting the prescribed burn regulations to streamline the permitting process and provide a copy of each permit to the Chief Forester. ♦Todd discussed the joint management of three Boston Harbor Islands. According to Todd, monetary transfers from MDC are necessary to manage the islands according to DEM standards. ♦Todd reported on a partnering concept that is being discussed with the National Park Service to bring the parks together. Whitney suggested that to gain more support for teaming up with the NPS, it would be helpful to identify "what benefit."

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Bettencourt commented that while he was happy to hear at the last Board meeting that snowmobile use would be allowed at Cobble Mountain, the handout that he received today states that it is open to passive recreation only. Mary responded that snowmobile use is allowed in certain areas by special use permit only. Heidi Roddis commented that she is happy about the pending Mt. Watatic acquisition. Heidi updated the Board that the Forests and Parks Partnership continues to meet regularly. Heidi clarified that forestry groups have signed on to the partnership including the Massachusetts Community Forest Council and the Forests Stewards Guild. Heidi stated that the partnership has established an e-mail network and a website www.forestsandparks.org. Heidi expressed concern for the use of BTI for mosquito control in Norfolk County. Heidi recommended that DEM charge a fee for the road up Wachusett Mountain. Heidi commented that Wachusett Mountain Associates has a special use permit for a piece of the ski area that is outside of their leased zone. According to Heidi, a land swap plan is underway that may provide an opportunity to revisit the 5-year commitment made by WMA to pay for ecological monitoring. Heidi commented that a recent report by Epsilon Associates regarding a proposed ORV trail corridor confirms that all of the study areas within Myles Standish State Forest (MSSF) are rare species habitat. Heidi urged the Board to rethink priorities such as habitat and fire protection within MSSF and the Manuel Correllus State Forest. Donna Brownell agreed with Heidi on Mt. Watatic and Mt. Wachusett. Donna handed out the Spring 2002 Mass Historical Commission "Preservation Advocate" and read an excerpt on tree ring dating and its relationship to the Wachusett old growth. Donna expressed concern for proposed work projects by WMA to include cutting to widen trail 5. Donna handed out copies of a letter addressed to Jeff Crowley, Wachusett Mountain Associates (WMA) from Director Frederick authorizing WMA to proceed with work projects proposed for the summer of 2002. Donna handed out a copies of a letter addressed to Wachusett Mountain Advisory Council Chair Tom Sullivan and Wachusett Monitoring Board Vice-Chair Sue Manero from Counsel Thomas Bracken expressing concerns for WMA work projects for 2002.

BOARD CONCERNS

Brendan requested an update on the Manuel Correllus SF. Todd reported that work on the development of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was completed about a week ago and there is continued work activity on exterior firebreaks. According to Todd, interviews are expected to take place towards the end of this month to fill a fire warden position that will include an interpretive aspect, whose salary will be funded through a 3-year federal grant.

Having concluded all business, the meeting adjourned at 1PM. The next Board of Environmental Management Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 31, 2002.

BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

July 31, 2002

Walden Pond State Reservation

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Wednesday, July 31, 2002 at the Walden Pond State Reservation. Those in attendance were Chairman Michael Last, Vice Chairman Brendan O'Neill, Whitney Hatch, and Patricia Karl. Absent were Ron Smith, Van Johnson and Tom Sullivan. Present from DEM was Director of Forests and Parks Todd Frederick. Others present included Mark Bettencourt, Marilyn Lund, Donna & Gordon Brownell and Neil Curri. The meeting was called to order at 10:15AM by Chairman Michael Last.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deferred until the August Meeting.

BOARD PRIORITIES

Strategic Plan:

The Board has received a copy of the Strategic plan and posters will be handed out at the August meeting.

Director Frederick discussed that there are six goal teams of the strategic plan that meet on a regular basis. The goal teams discuss long term and short term goals. The short-term goals require short money types of things including organizational changes, data access, etc. Director Frederick described the goal team that he sits on which discusses ways to generate revenue. He explained that DEM is considering changing rates at eight facilities and charging where they do not charge currently.

Whitney Hatch has requested that the Board receive a bullet summary of each team's goals. He also requested that Board Members be informed of the individual goal meetings in the event that a board member would like to attend.

CONFERENCE: Michael Last asked Director Frederick if he sees the conference evolving due to changing administrations? Director Frederick said that yes we are going to try to do it and rely on partners to make this happen. He believes the Five Star Forests and Parks petition will be a great launch for the conference.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT & FORESTS & PARKS REPORT:

Director Frederick filled in for Commissioner Webber.

Director Frederick explained that on August 3rd at 11-14 facilities, there will be a petition circulated to visitors and citizens of DEM state parks having them support goals to protect our state park system, Five Star Forests and Parks. Donna Brownell mentioned that each volunteer has received a packet of information on this from Amy McNamara. Donna also mentioned that 60 and more groups have signed up to participate. For more information please visit www.forestsandparks.org.

Brendan O'Neill stated that the petition is an excellent idea and pointed out that the people who sign the petition are actual users of the facility- not just anyone and should be pointed out to the legislators.

Beaver Issue: Director Frederick discussed that with the passage of the Beaver Trapping Bill changing authority to the DPH (Department of Public Health), that DEM has been bombarded with this problem. Now, we have to go through DPH. Director Frederick explains that this has become a massive expense. Director Frederick stated that beavers are creating potential flood and dam problems. Director Frederick recently met with DPH to discuss a state management plan.

Michael Last asked why is there a beaver problem? Todd explained that with the passing of the authority to the DPH under the legislation. The Sporting Community, which was the only predator of the beaver, has stepped away from doing anything with this and thus causing the beaver problem with no resolution.

Budget Update- Director Frederick explained that the budget has been approved and signed as of July 29, 2002. There is a 4.6 million decrease from last year's budget. There has been a series of meetings about how DEM will live with these numbers. One possibility, will allow certain salaries to be drawn from the Environmental Bond Bill (which was passed 7/31/02)

The reductions in our workforce over the past year (59 employees), due to early retirement and attrition, have been factored into this number.

Measures taken last year to reduce our costs are being maintained indefinitely, including prohibitions on the use of operating funds for out-of-state travel, reduced hours of operation at some facilities and restrictions on overtime. In addition, the department does not plan to use operating budget funds for the purchase of new equipment in this fiscal year; the current Devens office will be closed; and 30 vehicles have been removed from our lease contract.

These steps, and more, are being taken to find as much savings as possible in non-personnel budget items. However, since payroll is approximately 74% of the DEM operating budget, we are left with no alternative but to find a significant portion of our savings in this area. As a result, we have put together several voluntary options in a payroll reduction plan designed to reduce our payroll costs. DEM is seeking volunteers to either contribute 20 days of pay to this effort - 10 by January 2003 and 10 between January and July 2003, or accept a cash incentive to take a voluntary layoff or retirement.

The greater the number of employees who participate, the greater our ability to save a significant portion of the \$4 million we need in order to avoid or minimize involuntary layoffs. All 25 DEM managers will contribute twenty days of pay to this program - all in this calendar year.

Below are the voluntary payroll reduction options that DEM is authorized to present to all full-time employees in accordance with the understandings between the Human Resources Division and affected bargaining units.

1. Voluntary Layoff/Retirement - Cash Incentive

Employees who decide to conclude their employment with the state will receive a \$2,500 incentive payment.

2. Work at Reduced Salary for Deferred Vacation Days

Employees receive one vacation day for every day of reduced salary, for a total of 20. Employees work five days, get paid for four, and are credited with a vacation day, which cannot be utilized until after June 30, 2003.

3. Voluntary Reduction in Hours and Pay

All full-time employees can choose between a leave of absence or reduced work schedules. There is no pay for hours not worked. Long-term seasonal employees are asked to contribute a pro-rated equivalent of 4 days before the end of calendar year 2002.

4. WorkShare

Under a plan offered by the state's Department of Employment and Training, eligible employees receive unemployment benefits for days off the DEM payroll.

Meetings were held in all regions regarding these options. Director Frederick informed the Board that we will know more next week and what the participation level is.

Also, Contracted Employees will have their contracts cut by twenty days. This is for all contract employees including federal employees. The extra money (which was used for salaries) from federal employees will not be lost –it will be used on other things.

Mike Last asked if all agencies were suffering. Director Frederick explained that all agencies are feeling the impact of the budget cuts. He also stated that each employee at EOEA is taking 4 furlough days, and DEP is handing out pink slips to 80-100 people.

Director Frederick stated that we have not entered into negotiations for lay-offs at this point.

Director Frederick said on the bright side, we are collecting \$400,000 a week from gate receipts including camping and day use monies. This is up significantly from last year.

Patricia Karl stated her concern of the amount of land we are acquiring with no one to manage the land. Michael Last stated we will have to rely on public-private partnerships including land trusts, boards and advisory committees. Brendan suggested that the DEM Lands Committee come up with a plan on how to manage the land once it is acquired. Mike Last suggested we try partnering with schools having shops produce signs and students maintain the trails.

The Board made the official recommendation to have the Lands Committee develop a plan when making acquisition transactions.

Fire Crew: Director Frederick explained that Fire Crews did go out west for two weeks and have returned home to deal with possible fires due to the heat. A meeting took place to discuss the removal of the fire tower at MT. Everett and ironically, the next day a fire began. There have been fires in Western MA due to the dryness.

Green Certification: Secretary Durand is looking at all forestry practices of all EOEA agencies and is going for green certification. SCS is a firm in Maine that is assisting EOEA with this process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marilyn Lund voiced her concerns employment cuts. Todd assured her that all managers including the Commissioner are participating in the pay-cuts. She also expressed that we need to highlight our parks. The Board expressed that the petition is a good beginning to get the word out about the importance of our parks.

Donna Brownell believes that this petition will bring attention to the Massachusetts park system. She has contacted the media and hopes that this will draw attention and would like the maintenance of our forests and parks to become a gubernatorial campaign issue.

Donna Brownell applauded the Board and DEM for the Mt. Watatic acquisition. She also expressed concern the proposed Wind Towers in Princeton on Mt. Wachusett. There would be 3 at 348 ft Tall. She is concerned of the closeness to the Summit. She doesn't think this is an appropriate location to place the towers. She asked that DEM take interest in this project and what impact it would have on Mt. Wachusett State Reservation. (See handout) Director Frederick will look into this.

Patricia Karl added that the petition could help bring forth questions that could be submitted to gubernatorial debates.

Marc Bettencourt expressed his concerns over increased sex and drug activity including arrests at Myles Standish SF since the ORV trails were closed.

Neil Curri asked about maintenance issues and what are some of the maintenance issues at Walden Pond. Director Frederick explained that we have 200 M backlogged of maintenance issues. This includes, building issues, potholes, trail repairs, roof repairs, road, bridges, water and sewer lines, this comes from the Park Supervisor. The operational day to day things there are 150 fewer seasonal employees this year than past years. Things like picking up litter, teaching education programs, mowing, cleaning of beaches are not happening as frequently. Many employees are working extra hard to get these things done. He asked who the signatures would go to- and they will go to legislators, gubernatorial candidates. Also, expressed that many people that he knows of would be glad to help out.

Having concluded all business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30PM. The next Board of Environmental Management Meeting has been scheduled for August 27, 2002 at Salisbury State Reservation.

