Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Department of Environmental Management

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Office of the Commissioner

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Mangement was held on Wednesday, January 27, 1993 at 100 Cambridge Street, 19th floor, Boston, MA 02202

Members present - Nan Jenks-Jay, Hugh Davis, Sally Bell, and Michael Last. Absent - John Capone, Carol Lash and Bob Morgan.
Present from the Department were Commissioner Peter C. Webber, Bob Wilber, Karl Honkonen, Warren Archey, and Jim Soper.

Upon the motion of Sally Bell and seconded by Michael Last, the minutes of the December 16, 1992 meeting were unanimously approved.

The agenda was moved around slightly. Item number 5, the discussion of the Pamet River, was taken off the agenda and the first item discussed was item number 3. Andrea Lukens was out sick but a copy of the off-road vehicle criteria review timeline that she devised was passed out to the Board members. Mr. Bill Perry also handed out a copy of three resolutions that were adopted by the Statewide Trails Advisory Committee. They concerned the MDC's Sudbury watershed proposal, Freetown/Fall River land swap proposal, and the ORV criteria. Regarding agenda item number 6, Jack Lash was also out so in his absence prepared written materials summarizing the 1992 wildlands designations were distributed to the Board.

Bob Wilber then updated the Board on land acquisition policy and procedure. He submitted the Department's land acquisition plan to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) for review. He also submitted a list of additional acquisition projects to be funded out of second allocation money. We should hear very soon on both. Bob said that he has reason to believe that the plan will be endorsed, totaling $3.8 million. Bob said that in working with Tom Skinner, EOEA's new Director of Land Policy and Planning, he has found him to be very open minded and recognizes the skills of the people in EOEA and the agencies and is utilizing those talents through the inter-agency lands committee. Bob mentioned that the Department is having some difficulty in getting approval to do a joint land acquisition project with Food and Agriculture along the Connecticut River. The Department of Food and Agriculture is having difficulty

getting approval to spend the money. Board members asked what they can do to help. Bob said he would get them more information on the situation. Commissioner Webber interjected that he had a very good meeting with Commissioner Phillips and his staff to discuss the Connecticut River and future joint acquisitions and projects.

Bob Wilber then handed out a draft copy of legislation that would establish a Commonwealth Land Conservation Trust. This is designed to create an entity for conserving parcels of land that would not otherwise be protected by the Commonwealth. It is intended to augment and enhance existing land acquisition services. One concern that Bob raised involves the funding mechanism. The Commonwealth is responsible for a significant amount of the funding for the first five years. The money, $10 million, would create an endowment that would be a revolving fund. The Commonwealth's portion of the funding is suppose to come out of a new open space bond package but Bob is pessimistic of such a bond package coming out within the next year or two. He is concerned that if this trust is created and the open space bond does not go through, that the funding for the Commonwealth's share will come out of other land funds. The Commissioner raised a concern about capitalizing off of the trust fund source by using the interest. He questions whether the Department can use money from a tax exempt bond. He said that an attorney should look into this. Bob Wilber stated that there are other states across the country that have this type of trust. He said that the Trustees of Reservations, the Massachusetts Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, among others, are the main forces behind this proposal. Nan Jenks-Jay said that Section 7, the funding clause, raises some concerns for her. She said that it would seem that this plan may create problems with cooperation and fragmentation between the non-profits and the state agencies. The Commissioner said that the logic behind the proposal, and what first sold him on the idea, is that there will be something that can be carried through the ups and downs in terms of the economy and state funding. Nan Jenks-Jay stated that the concept is agreeable to all on the Board but now what is needed is some fine tuning. Michael Last commented that since the majority of the money in the fund is public, a majority of the people on this newly created board should come from a public agency. Nan Jenks-Jay said that she would help coordinate comments from the members on the board so that they can be considered before a final draft is completed.

Bob Wilber did say that there was one piece of good news regarding a recent land acquisition. He said that it was the first time, to his knowledge, that a state agency was able to acquire a piece of property through an auction. The parcel in question is next to Nickerson State Park. The Massachusetts Audubon Society represented the Department. A cap was set at $30,000; the last bidder dropped out at $29,500. The land is valued at $120,000 on the open market. The Department will now acquire it from the Massachusetts Audubon at cost.

The next item on the agenda was invited guest speakers Ben Phelps and Ken Crane who spoke on behalf of the motorized trail users. Ben Phelps, representing the Southern New England Trails Council, spoke first. He distributed a hand out regarding the potential impacts of ATV's on the environment. He does not see a significant conflict between the different user groups out on the trails. His hope is that the Department that could bring the different user groups together for "dispute resolution." He feels that motorized recreation is a new activity and it will take a little time to weed out those few who give it a bad name. He referred to this as the maturation process.

Mr. Phelps then listed several items that the Department should be aware of and working on to improve.

1) Noise level of motorcycles. Recommends that state/park personnel inspect the vehicles to measure decibels to ensure that they are within acceptable levels.
2) Lack of trail maps and lack of a state-wide trail plan.
3) Too many DEM coordinators; causes fragmentation.
4) Too much emphasis on bikeways.
5) Too much of an "urban view" or a "Boston" view being applied to what goes on in the woods.
6) Criteria is too focused on the hiker.
7) Unfair financial burden placed on ORV users i.e. sales tax, registration fees.
8) Would like to see a hold on any new fees.
9) ORV use is the only managed trail use through the Department's CMRs. Other user groups are not mentioned in the CMRs.
10) DEM too quick to prohibit an activity as a solution as opposed to enforcing regulations to re-direct behavior.
11) Draft criteria is just one more level of regulation. Would like to see the criteria be the judge of whether an activity is accepted in a particular area.

The second quest speaker was Ken Crane of the New England Trail Riders Association and President of the Pilgrim Sands Trailriders Club. His discussion focused on two-wheel motorized use. He distributed a video of his organizations volunteer efforts on a project they did at Myles Standish State Forest. He and his group are trying to change a misconception about motorized trail users. He says that they are concerned with and about the environment and spend a lot of time hosting clean-ups, working with park supervisors to maintain trails and minimize damage. They are very concerned about the impact their machines makes. If they tear up a trail, then they wont have a place to ride. They provide a lot of volunteer work and the use of their personal equipment. They work together with other user groups and attend other user groups events. They work hard to try to co-exist and cooperate with others. There does exist a communication problem between the state-wide trails committee and the Department. There are too many arbitrary decisions on projects on being made. He believes that concentrating motorized use to a particular area will cause an

increased impact. Feels it would be better to disperse the use. He urges that the amount of trails made available to motorized use not be reduced. He said that they have been reduced enough over the years. He has found that there is not a great amount of abuse by the users but that there is a good amount. Most of these abusers are not involved with a club. He feels that an organized group or club helps reign in the abusers. He says that a small number of people can cause a large amount of the problems.

The next item on the agenda was a briefing on forest cutting plans and thresholds and the recent forestry GEIR decision. Jim Soper and Warren Archey were on hand for this discussion. Regarding the GEIR, Jim Soper drafted the document, it went through an extensive review and was submitted as a draft in October of 1990. In 1980, MEPA asked for an ENF for the GEIR. DEM was asked to prepare an EIR on Forest land management practices. It was completed and submitted but nothing was ever done. In 1987, the MEPA regulations were changed and a threshold was proposed for forestry. There was concern raised by the public over individual cutting practices and Chapter 132. During public hearings, forestry expressed real concern. Negotiations between DEM and MEPA took place MEPA agreed to withdraw the regulations and reserve a place for submission of this document. This took place in 1986. Since then, scope, study and the actual drafting took place. In January of 1995 the Department is scheduled to present an ENF on how effectively the regulations are being implemented. The MEPA certificate that was issued in 1990 asked the Department to look at the effects of clear cutting on water supplies, wetlands, large habitats, and rare and endangered species. They worked with DEP and others to examine these issues.

Also, the Bureau of Forestry Development submitted an application for Sec. 319 nonpoint source funds available from the EPA. DEP coordinated the application process and there is an excellent chance of getting funds in the amount of $50.000. The funds will be used to demonstrate and implement Best Management Practices (BMP), test and evaluate various BMP applications, obtain turbidity data, and correlate changes in turbidity with harvesting activity on representative watersheds across the state. The Forestry Bureau, in cooperation with the state Forestry Committee, is in the process of revising the Chapter 132 Forest Cutting Practices regulations. Future drafts will be shared with many other interested organizations. DEM is also working on MOU's with DEP, Natural Heritage, and MEPA in order to clarify exemption of harvesting from the wetlands regulations, establish procedures for protecting rare and endangered species, and implement the Secretary's Certificate on the GEIR. One last item to note, the Department has initiated a training program for loggers, consultant foresters, agency personnel, conservation commission members, etc. Wetlands workshops geared for loggers and consultant foresters have been set up for this Spring, and plans are being made through a

training committee to provide workshops for the other target groups as recommended in the GEIR.

Agenda items number 8 and 9 were postponed to the next meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15PM.

The date for the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 1993.

Lane A. Lark

Secretary

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The meeting of the Board of Environmental Management scheduled to be held on Wednesday, February 24, 1993 was cancelled due to illness and lack of a quorum.

The next meeting of the Board was scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 1993.

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The meeting of the Board of Environmental Management scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 24, 1993 was cancelled due to bad weather.

The next meeting of the Board was scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, 1993.

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Office of the Commissioner

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Wednesday, April 28, 1993 at the Department's Boston office, 100 Cambridge Street, 19th floor, Boston, MA 02202.

Members present - Nan Jenks-Jay, Sally Bell, Carol Lash, and Hugh Davis. Absent - John Capone and Michael Last. Present from the Department was Commissioner Peter C. Webber, Peter Smith, Stephen Brown, Jack Lash, Bob Wilber, Bill Dunham, Rachel Moore, and Andrea Lukens.

Upon the motion by Sally Bell, seconded by Carol Lash, the minutes from the January 27, 1993 meeting were unanimously approved.

The first item on the agenda was a guest speaker but he was running late so the board began with agenda item number 4 - a presentation by the new project manager, Stephen Brown, on the Greylock Glen project. Nan Jenks-Jay introduced Stephen to the board. He gave a little background about himself. He displayed two maps comparing what Heritage Development had proposed and where the new project is now. He outlined four main changes which are 1) difference in level of scale, 2) education center will be the main focus, 3) environmentally friendly golf course with an educational component, and 4) camping and lodge/hotel facilities. The objective of the Greylock Glen Advisory Committee has been to develop a model of sustainable tourism and rural development. The objective now is to test the reality of these ideas and to move from concept to implementation. This next step will be accomplished by talking to people interested in funding certain aspects of the plan and then coming up with a master plan. Nan Jenks-Jay suggested that the board members should pull together their thoughts and contact Stephen to discuss.

Next, Jack Lash updated the board on the Walden Pond and Nickerson GOALS plans. He passed a hand-out to the board members on the Walden Pond GOALS plan. Three people were appointed to the Walden Pond Board of Directors. A meeting of this group will be scheduled as soon as the

management plan is finalized. He mentioned that they will be re-testing for algae in the pond as a continuation of the Baseline Water Quality Study.

The final public meeting for the Nickerson GOALS plan will be held April 29th. The major issues of discussion are increasing public access to Bay Shore, developing a south entrance to park to relieve congestion, and implementing a day-use fee. The board then discussed the pros and cons of a fee. Jack said that he will give the board a thorough summary of the April 29th meeting at the next board meeting. A vote on the plan will take place at the May meeting.

The next item on the agenda was an update on land acquisition by Bob Wilber. He handed out an overview of the projects/acquisitions he has been working on this year. There are 4 1/2 months left to finalize a lot of transactions. It is a tight time frame. Highlights of on-going projects are properties at Blackstone, Borderland, Holyoke Range/CT River Corridor, Jug End, and Pittsfield State Forest. Over the next month, he will be working with the regions to identify properties for the FY94 acquisition plan. The inter-agency lands committee, headed by Tom Skinner, is being utilized and proving to be very helpful and useful. He also mentioned that the land acquisition department will be purchasing a video camera which will greatly assist in the review and evaluation of the property.

The guest speaker, Dean Zuppio, then gave a presentation on behalf of the Snowmobilers Association of Massachusetts on trails issues. He gave some background information on the group and passed out a trail map that listed their 28 clubs on the back. He said that they have a grooming fund that all members contribute to, a signage program, safety and law enforcement programs, a newspaper, and a "snow show" or exhibit at the Big-E in September. He said their major need is trail grooming and they need groomer machines. A number of clubs are doing grooming on their own but they need the Department's assistance. Most of their trails are on private property and they are looking for a way to protect these trails. They have no easements but have arrangements with the individual land owner on a day-to-day basis. They also are competing with the ATV's for the use of these trails. He suggested that the Department update the maps and make them more available. He listed his groups future needs with the primary one being funding. Their other needs included a program to create long-distance, interconnecting trails within the state, better cooperation, state acquisitions or easements, maps, groomers, and better registration of snowmobiles.

Next, Bill Dunham and Rachel Moore briefed the board on the Conservation Trust Fund. They provided the board with a package of information on the trust. This is the vehicle by which the

Department can receive donations and this money can be targeted to a particular region, park, or project. There are established guidelines and a policy and how to handle these funds. So far, very few donations have come from the general public. It seems to work best where a supervisor has taken the initiative and launched a fundraising campaign. The fund currently has $266,000; with $200,000 from the Walter Wilson estate. These funds are currently in an interest-bearing account. Half of all the interest will always go to Region 5 (where Walter Wilson was from). Examples of the trust fund in use are the MACO map, Myles Standish Monument, filming in parks policy, and the Mass. Electric donation toward a wading pool at Bradley Palmer. The board's role in helping raise funds for the trust was discussed.

Under new business, the draft criteria for trails was discussed. Andrea Lukens gave the board an update on the mailing/distribution list, the date for the public hearings, and deadline date for comments.

The discussion of board development and the briefing on the proposed forests and parks reorganization plan were postponed until the May meeting.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45PM.

The date for the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, 1993.

Joanne P. Lash
Secretary

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Office of the Commissioner

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Wednesday, May 19, 1993 at the Department's Western Mass. Office, Damon Road, Northampton.

Members present - Nan Jenks-Jay, Hugh Davis, John Capone, Sally Bell, and Carol Lash. Absent - Michael Last. Also present from the Department were Commissioner Peter Webber and Jack Lash.

The approval of the minutes from the April 28, 1993 meeting were postponed until the June meeting.

The first item the Board discussed was board development. Nan Jenks-Jay passed out a hand-out that she developed with input from other board members. They discussed the issue and reviewed when each of the current members terms expired. Items discussed were amending the legislation to reflect changes in the members terms, areas of representation and the functions of the board. Nan Jenks-Jay recommended that the board review the proposed recommendations outlined in her hand-out, send them to her so she can pull them all together in time to discuss at the next meeting.

Commissioner Webber stated that the board should consider what kind of role they would like to play. He sees them as being most useful in their guidance and influence on policy issues but stated that we need to establish a better process to bring these matters before the board on a more timely basis. There have been some missed opportunities where the board could have weighed in on major policy decisions but did not. The Commissioner commented that the whole litany of frustrations that the board is experiencing can be traced back to a lack of capacity the current level of staffing can handle.

Sally Bell asked that a copy of her January, 1991 letter to the Commissioner could be sent out to the Board.

Commissioner Webber stated at the end of the board development discussion that Hugh Davis had submitted his resignation and he regretfully accepted on behalf of the Department and the board. Mr. Davis' will be stepping off the board after the June meeting.

The second item on the agenda was a briefing on the proposed Forests and Parks reorganization plan. Commissioner Webber briefed the board on where that proposal, which was put forward by the Director of Forests and Parks Stephen Carpenter, stood at this time. The proposal went through an extensive review by the Department's senior staff. The plan has been approved in concept only. The Commissioner expressed his dissatisfaction with the process Forests and Parks went through to put this plan together and also with a few of the specific changes recommended. Basically, the proposed plan called for regional realignment, consolidation of the bureaus, created the concept of "focus parks," and put in place the concept of employee empowerment.

The Commissioner said that what became apparent was that this effort was going to effect the entire Department as a whole. The Department is now looking at a scaled down version with many aspects of the plan on hold until the spring/summer recreation season. At the end of this discussion the Commissioner announced to the board that Ellen Rothman was leaving to take a job in Maryland. He stated that he was open to re-designing the position to expand the responsibilities and make it stronger. He welcomes thoughts from the board on this position. He said that he will send to them the current job description of the position of Bureau Chief of Interpretive Services.

The third item on the agenda was a final discussion and vote on the Nickerson State Park GOALS plan. Jack Lash reported that the final public meeting was held and was very productive. Changes were made on the plan based on the publics input at that meeting. The two item that were of concern to the Department - day-use fee and the Crosby Mansion - were discussed at the meeting. The institution of the day-use fee was surprisingly endorsed by those at the meeting. Jack said that congratulations were in order for Andy Backman for all of his work on the plan.

Carol Lash moved, Sally Bell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED: to accept the GOALS plan for Nickerson State Park.

Jack Lash then presented to the board a portion of the management plan for Manuel Correllus State Forest. He said that there were 3 committees established to work on specific aspects of the plan. The first committee focused on fire control and forest management i.e. storm damage issues; the second committee dealt with recreation of the sandplain grassland habitat; and the third oversaw the work of the other two and put together the management plan. The third committee converted to studying the recreation and facility improvement aspects or GOALS plan issues. He handed out the latest data from all three committees. Sally Bell recommended that the board take this packet of information home and that it be discussed at the June meeting. All agreed.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion and vote on two wildlands nominations. Before the meeting, members of the board were taken to see the first nomination - the Floodplain Forest at Holyoke Range State Park. The tour was led by Jack Lash and Terry Blunt. Jack handed out a packed of information on both wildlands nominations. He said that Henry Woolsey, from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage program, participated in the evaluation of this area and deemed it a rare eco-system with many rare species evident at the site. The total nomination is seventeen acres but will be further enhanced by pending land acquisitions by the Department. The average age of the old trees was 60 to 80 years. Jack Lash said that Terry Blunt deserves a great of the credit for his work on this nomination. The second nomination is the Fife Brook Old Growth Area at Monroe State Forest. Peter Dunwiddie did the study of the old growth in this area. Jack pointed out to the Board appendix #5 - Northern Hardwood section and mentioned the diversity of species present, especially the sugar maples which are all approximately 300 years old. Jack also mentioned that there is a perceived threat to this parcel because New England Power Company owned the trail head leading to this area. He mentioned that parcel might become a possible future land acquisition.

Sally Bell motioned, Hugh Davis seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED: to designate both the Floodplain Forest and the Fife Brook Old Growth Area as wildlands. They also encouraged Region 5 and Bob Wilber to investigate the possible acquisition of the access point.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the ORV criteria. The board was given a hand-out, drafted by Andrea Lukens, and Jack Lash, on behalf of Andrea, gave the board an update. The public hearings took place across the state on May 13th. Nan Jenks-Jay and Sally Bell stated that they attended Region 5's hearing. Jack said that they received a total of 61 written comments as of May 18th. An intern has been brought on board to help collate the responses. There were two main messages that have emerged and they are 1) the criteria is negative, and 2) mitigation needs to be added. There were some concerns raised that the public was not given enough time to adequately comment on the criteria. All board members agreed that they wanted to make the process as fair as possible and that the criteria should speak to the protection of the resource. It was also mentioned that the board should help provide a better mailing list. It was discussed that the comments would be reviewed and the criteria would be revised accordingly. The newly revised draft would be sent to the board and then to the public for a second round of written comments. No additional public hearings will be scheduled.

Sally Bell moved, John Capone seconded, that the revised draft criteria be sent out for a second round of comments. The motion passed. Hugh Davis, Nan Jenks-Jay, John Capone, and Sally Bell voted yes. Carol Lash voted no.

The last item on the agenda was a report on the Departments revenue initiatives. The Commissioner passed out a hand-out to the board which was prepared by Deputy Commissioner Peter Smith and summarized the Departments activities. The Commissioner quickly mentioned that there is serious discussion within the administration to reduce fees within Forests and Parks. Previously, there was internal discussion to increase revenue and to improve visitors services. The current proposal under discussion is to reduce the day-use fee from $5.00 to $3.00 which would result roughly $400,000 net loss of revenue; which is relatively a small amount. The reduction of fees would not effect the Departments total appropriation and could be used as a good marketing tools. Further discussion of this topic was moved to the June meeting.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10PM.

The date for the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, 1993.

Carol A. Lash
Secretary

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Office of the Commissioner

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Wednesday, June 16, 1993 at The Summit House, Skinner State Park, Hadley, MA.

Members present - Nan Jenks-Jay, Carol Lash, Sally Bell, Hugh Davis and John Capone. Absent - Michael Last. Also present from the Department were Commissioner Peter C. Webber, Bill Rivers, Warren Archey, Gary Briere, Jack Lash, and Supervisor Al Koblinski.

Upon the motion by Sally Bell, Seconded by Carol Lash, the minutes from the April 28, 1993 and May 19, 1993 meetings were unanimously approved.

The first item the Board discussed was a continuation of previous discussion on board development. It was a brainstorming session with the board referring to Nan Jenks-Jay's memo from the previous meeting. Areas of discussion included communications, building constituency groups, higher profile, policy making vs advisory role, fundraising, subcommittees, testifying before legislative committees, and a new member briefing package. The Commissioner advised the board of changes within the Commissioner's office; specifically, hiring a new person, half of whose responsibility will be to the board. This person is expected to start in September. Jack Lash suggested that the board continue reviewing and approving GOALS and Wildland nominations as well as increasing their involvement on projects with field visits, etc. He also recommended that all 5 Forests and Parks regions be represented on the board with two other at-large positions, with one person representing recreation and the other representing natural resources. It was agreed that Nan Jenks-Jay and Sally Bell will work on the legislative component for the next meeting.

The next item discussed was item number four on the agenda regarding a report on agenda. Commissioner Webber stated that there was no longer the push from Administration and Finance to change DEM's fees for this season so the Department is proceeding with the existing fee structure. He spoke of the revenue and visitors services enhancement project. The fee changes that are recommended from this effort are on hold although the Department is trying to implement the visitors services enhancements. Staff evaluated 40 facilities this past

Spring and made recommendations for capital improvement projects. As a result, a number of "curb appeal" projects (painting) are taking place as well as service related improvements. These involve the pouring of slabs to be used by concession/vendors and slabs at group use sites for pavilions.

The Commissioner handed out the newly published visitors survey that was taken in August, 1992. It was a self-generated project and had a great deal of enthusiasm from staff. It was not done scientifically. The overall results were that people recreating at the parks were very pleased. The Department would like to build on this survey and conduct others. Responsibility for these surveys will be on the newly formed Marketing Coordinating Committee. Gary Briere spoke on the work to date of this committee. This in-house group devised an overall goal, which is to provide, within the limits of the natural and cultural resources, the highest quality recreation experience for the greatest number, as well as objectives to accomplish this goal. The recreation component is highlighted here. Then there was a discussion of surveys. Houston-Effler has offered to help DEM design a survey. Nan Jenks-Jay suggested that it should be done scientifically and the department should utilize the expertise of local universities and the Center for Rural Development. Hugh Davis suggested that a statistically accurate survey can be very helpful and informative. To utilize the services of a university, the initial cost can be a lot but in the future it will not cost as much and it will be a good database. The board felt that it would be a worthwhile capital expense.

The third item discussed was an update on the Division of Forests and Parks. Items discussed were the reorganization of the Bureau of Forestry, the Cohen Bill (Watershed protection on reservoirs), cooperative agreement with University of Massachusetts, co-generation study nearing completion, marketing utilization program, exemption of Chapter 32, Forest Stewardship program, and forest management utilizing computers. Warren Archey spoke of the Forest Legacy Program. The Commonwealth, through the DEM, submitted applications with the National Park Service for five properties. It is expected that we could receive up to $5 million dollars. This program is meant to put aside large tracts of traditional forest lands. Should hear from the park service soon. Warren also spoke of timber bridges. Two grants - Williamstown might get two bridges. He is working with Mass. Highway on these projects. Gary Briere passed out a report from the Director of Forests and Parks. Nan Jenks-Jay stated that she was concerned about the "Adopt-a-Forest" program because it is too narrow in scope. She suggested that it be broadened to include more people and organizations.

Under new business, the Commissioner gave an update on the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board (MARTAB). This board was created in order to carry out make recommendations in regards to the Symms Act. The group consists of 11 members

representing trail user groups and 11 alternates. The first meeting of the group is scheduled for June 30th in Boston. Nan Jenks-Jay briefed the board on Secretary Coxe's trip to the Berkshires May 24 - 26. She congratulated the Commissioner for "stealing the show" and showcasing all the good things DEM is doing in the Berkshires. She highlighted the signing of the bi-state compact between Massachusetts and New York for the Taconic Crest Tail.

The board took a short break and in honor of this being Hugh Davis' last meeting, he was presented a certificate of appreciation, cake and a video presented by Warren Archey. Nan Jenks-Jay and Sally Bell thanked Hugh for his nine years of service to the board and the Department.

The last item was a further discussion of the Manual Correllus Management Plan by Warren Archey and Bill Rivers. Warren passed out a memo from the Ecological Restoration Committee. Bill Rivers did a slide-show presentation on the forest. There are 17 species present, 14 miles of bicycle trails, no swimming, plantations - 4 different types of plantings present, and 32.3 miles of roads and firebreaks. The damage from Hurricane Bob was most severe in the southeast section of the forest, with moderate damage on the west side of the facility. The Department contracted with a logger to cut down the damaged trees. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded the Department $50,000. for the clean-up. The issues that the committee dealt with were 1) Short-term - slash reduction, firebreaks, patrols, detection 2) Long-term - restore and maintain what?, how?, estimate priorities, data needs. With 400 acres of firebreaks to maintain annually, it created a tough management situation for two people. One solution that was discussed was to bring on Island sheep or goats to graze the large firebreaks combined with plantings. But this would require tremendous maintenance and care of the animals. They are looking for sources of funding to maintain the smaller trails. Nan Jenks-Jay suggested that they contact John Rutter, forester for Land Bank. Gary Briere also stated that there are many educational/recreational aspects surfacing. This is a real opportunity to explore some sort of camping facility if there is a market. They passed out a hand-out on the plan.

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00PM.

The date for the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, July 28, 1993.

Leane R. Lash

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Department of Environmental Management

The Board of Environmental Management meeting scheduled for July 28, 1993 was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum.

The next meeting has been scheduled for August 25, 1993.

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Office of the Commissioner

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Wednesday, August 25, 1993 at Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, Princeton, MA.

Members present - Nan Jenks-Jay, Sally Bell, Carol Lash, and John Capone. Absent - Michael Last. Also present from the Department were Commissioner Peter C. Webber, Charles Dane, Doug Poland, Don Stoddard, Dave Hall, Andrea Lukens, Jack Lash, Gary Briere, Warren Archey, and Karl Honkonen.

Upon the motion of Carol Lash, seconded by John Capone, the minutes from the June 16, 1993 meeting were unanimously approved.

The first item the board discussed was the revised ORV criteria. Commissioner gave an overview of what has transpired up until this point. He referred to the June board meeting when it was decided to circulate a revised version of the criteria to the public for further written comment. The DEM staff has incorporated the suggested changes from the first public comment period and had a newly revised version in July. The Board did not meet in July but copies of these draft documents were sent to the Board for their comments. Comments were received and a few changes were made to the draft document. Andrea Lukens passed out the new version. She discussed the new timetable. The Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board has a meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 26, 1993. She will take the revised draft to them, should the board approve of the changes. They will distribute to their members the criteria and we will also place a notice in the Environmental Monitor. It should appear in the September 8th issue. Comments will be due October 15. Hope to put together the final version and distribute it to the Forests and Parks field staff in November. Commissioner Webber remarked that it is important to understand the purpose of the criteria, which it is intended to be a useful guide for staff in the field. It is an evaluation form/survey for facilities and not a policy document. The Board discussed the newest draft.

Nan Jenks-Jay moved that the Board approve the newest draft of the ORV criteria and direct the staff to move forward. On a voice vote of the board it was approved.

It was also discussed that this is seen as a first in a series of documents evaluating different trail uses. Carol Lash commented that she did not want the Board to be seen as singling out one type of user group. There was a discussion of ideas for future evaluations. There was also a question distribution of the latest version of the criteria that was addressed.

Nan Jenks-Jay moved the the Board approve staff to move forward with the process. On a voice vote, all board members voted in the affirmative.

Upon the motion of Carol Lash, seconded by Sally Bell, it was unanimously voted: to recommend to the Commissioner that this criteria be the first in a series evaluating different uses for forests and parks lands.

Don Stoddard, Regional Supervisor, gave a welcome to the Board and spoke to them about Wachusett Mountain State Reservation.

The next item of discussion was a presentation by Jack Lash on DEM and its efforts in rare species protection. Jack handed out a 3 page summary of DEM's protection activities this past season as well as displaying a few maps. He said that it appears that the Department has had the best year ever in managing rare species - terns and plovers - on eight of its beaches/properties. Jack stated that there was training and staff education that took place at the beginning of the season. Procedures that included 1) ID 2) Monitor 3) Protect. There was a cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Audubon Society, the Lloyd Center and the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement. On August 10, there was a final rap-up session held to tally up the year's results and to list steps for improvement for next year. Jack also pointed out that this year wayside exhibits were placed at the entrances of beach properties where these birds frequented. Jack suggested that for next year, the department needs to do better in public education, more signage, and more brochures. Nan Jenks-Jay stated that she could not be more personally pleased with how things went this year and the DEM is recognized as a leader in rare species protection. She also congratulated Jack for his tremendous efforts. Commissioner Webber said that Secretary Coxe asks that DEM be mindful that we need to get our respective policies on ORV's and rare species protection in line with those of Fisheries and Wildlife. The Commissioner stated that he has met with Commissioner Phillips to discuss this issue and the fact that it is increasingly becoming more of an agency responsibility to manage these protection efforts.

Jack Lash next briefed the board on proposals for upcoming GOALS plans. He handed out a summary of his meeting with DEM staff where they discussed ideas for 1994 GOALS plans. The Regional Supervisors have stated that they do not want to pursue a GOALS plan where trails are a major/primary issue until the criteria issue is settled. Also, neither Carroll Holmes nor Doug Poland liked the idea of a single facility plan. They prefer regional plans. All agreed and they may begin in Region 4. Jack stated that they a good data base on completed GOALS plans now and are constantly updating the information. There was a general discussion that followed Jack's presentation.

At this point, Commissioner Webber presented Governor's Citations to Sally Bell and John Capone, whose terms have officially expired this month. Words of thanks for each of them were offered by Charlie Dane, Doug Poland, Don Stoddard, Jack Lash and Commissioner Webber, to name a few.

The next item on the agenda was board development. Nan Jenks-Jay passed out a newly amended version of the changes discussed previously for the composition of the board. It is proposed to change the number of members from 7 to 9, representation would be by geographic region, terms would be changed from 7 years to 3 three years, and more joint meetings. Sally Bell offered to work these changes into legislative language because these changes would have to be legislatively approved. Other issues regarding board development are policy related and these do not have to be approved by the Legislature.

Carol Lash motioned, Sally Bell seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED: to accept the proposed amendments to the Department of Environmental Management Board composition.

Next, Commissioner Webber gave a report to the Board on Department issues. He spoke of maintenance issues in regard to Forests and Parks facilities. He related comments that Secretary Coxe made to a group of non-profit organizations recently in relation to land acquisition. She spoke of the Open Space Bond Bill and made a strong statement in support of the need for funding to maintain, protect and preserve our existing properties, land and infrastructure. Language to this effect will be included in a fall filing of the Open Space Bond Bill by the Secretary and Governor. He also told the Board that Secretary Coxe recently sent out a letter to all A employees outlining her goals and initiatives. The Secretary has asked each agency to submit their goals and objectives. Copies will be distributed to the Board. These will be used as a guide for our 1994 plans. The Commissioner commented that he is very pleased with the partnership and support DEM has with the Secretary.

The Commissioner then spoke of the department's 1994 budget, which was finalized on July 15, 1993. It is a relatively good budget that represents stability and a beginning of the restoration of services and facilities within the park system. It is $2 million dollars higher than last year but this will be absorbed by the pay increases. There will be no workforce reductions. In the process of developing plans to restore some positions. The budget total is $27.8 million, where a bulk of this is in operations/personnel. $2.7 million is in a Waterways dedicated fund. The allocation of the capital funds has not been finalized. Legal commitments have been established. The Secretary is working to increase the capital appropriation. We have received one million dollars to continue our current "curb appeal" projects. Not out of the woods yet but it looks encouraging. Susan Fairbanks then gave an overview of the seasonal hiring program and outlined the difficulties the Department has experienced this year in getting names from the Governor's office.

Under New Business:
Carol Lash mentioned the need for additional signage coming up to Mt. Wachusett.

Warren Archey gave a brief update on the Forest Legacy program. The Assessment of Need was signed off by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture two weeks ago. This makes Massachusetts the first state in the country to receive funding from this program. It is expected that Massachusetts could get up to $1 million in 1994. Five areas have been chosen and they will move forward to acquire conservation restrictions on these properties. We will get copies of the final document to the board.

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

The date for the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, 1993.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF FORESTS AND PARKS - REGION V
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A Meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Wednesday, September 22, 1993 at the Boston Office, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02202.

Members present - Sally Bell, Carol Lash, and Michael Last. Absent - Nan Jenks-Jay and John Capone. Also present from the Department were Commissioner Peter C. Webber, Director of Forests and Parks Todd Frederick, and Andrea Lukens.

Approval of the minutes from the August 25, 1993 meeting were deferred to the October meeting.

The first item of discussion was a continuation of the discussion of board development. Decided that a board member should be appointed for 3 years rather than 7 years.

Bob Morgan has not technically been reappointed; his term is vacant. Commissioner discussed new length of terms with Secretary.
Why shorten length? 7 years is simply too long. Fortunately, shortening of terms is not interpreted as a power grab.
Do the 9 members of the Board represent different issues?
Trails people are not represented by the Board. The Commissioner appreciates this information but disagreed. He felt that trails interests are represented by the Board and by the staff. Develop the mission statement and incorporate the Board's expertise. It was decided that Todd Frederick, Sally Bell, Mike Last, and Dolores Boogdanian will rework the draft legislation.

The next topic of discussion was an update on the distribution of the revised ORV criteria by Andrea Lukens. She distributed second draft of ORV criteria. A notice was placed in the Mepa Monitor
but have not received a great deal of feedback. The Blue Ribbon Coalition in Idaho, a proponent of multiple trail use, requested information so we have reached a national level. The MARTAB group expressed concern; they sensed that we were going after trail users. It was explained to them that this was not DEM's intent. October 15 is the last date that public comment will be accepted. The New England Trail Riders Association offered to give a permit to a Riders Club. This way, staff and club would

be able to enforce regulations. This criteria does not address management questions but it is a first step.

The issue of a fire threat at Myles Standish was discussed. There are 120 miles of fire road, 32 miles of paved road. Problems generated- 36 mile loop
1. unsafe for random ORV's that do not know the roads.
2. fire traffic

If given permit:
Club could pull renegades of road. The amount of damage would be greatly reduced. Perhaps the number of entrances accounts for the number of renegades and the sizable amount of damage. There are four primary entrances that are kept open to accommodate the needs of the cottage owners.

As a fire issue:
The National Guard, thanks to Representative Forman, has offered assistance. The Chief Fire Warden is working with the Chief Forester, Warren Archey, to create a list of roads, that need immediate attention. Bill Remes, Assistant Regional Supervisor claims that part of the problem with renegades is that we do not know exactly who is using the trails. He cited the Essex Horseman's Association as a positive example; in this particular association only people with a red badge can use a particular trail.

As part of the Commissioner's report he gave an update on the Myles Standish Cottages. There will be a three year advanced notice issued to cottage owners. The purpose of this would be to let people know we have an objective. We would utilize a reasonable phase out process; the cottages that pose the greatest problem for public access would be phased out first. The revenue from these cottages will be directed toward an ecological fund.

The Commissioner also gave the status of spending plan. We have revenue targets that are high and changing. Most of the rinks have been privatized for one year. We received the anticipated $1 million reduction in revenue. We predict that approximately 80% of incoming revenue will be from camping fees. If we don't meet the revenue targets, we will ultimately have to reduce spending.

UpComing Events:

Cabinet Day on October 8, 1993
    Turners Falls Heritage State Park
    Thomas and Thomas
Big E

Walden Meeting
    Perhaps there will be an event to celebrate the relocation of route 126 away from the pond.
    Don Henley

Todd Frederick, interim Director of Forests and Parks, gave a report to the Board. He has identified three areas that need immediate attention:

1. Regionals desire education and training.
2. Rehabilitation of Parks
3. Overall outreach and education

Weekly bureau staff meetings were instituted. He has received feedback indicating that people were not communicating. He wants a larger scale meeting as well in order to bring in Regionals. He is looking for a staffing plan that includes full timers as well as seasonals.

On October 18, there will be winter camping for the first time at Salisbury Beach State Reservation. Electricity will be available. There is a predicted turn out of 40 or 50 ORV's based upon previous numbers at Scusset. The Camp Store; privatization/ 3 year special use permit was a great success. At Cochituate State Park, fishing tackle and sundry items were sold at the store. $36,000 of new owners money directed toward renovation. The concessionaire also paid DEM a fee.

Privatization update by the Director. On October 1st, the Greenfield and North Adams rinks will be privatized. We are also initiating a privatization effort to restore and maintain our historic buildings that are currently unoccupied and deteriorating. Through Chris Greene, we developed a "Historic Curatorship Program." The Director also spoke of our efforts to restore and maintain the Crosby Mansion.

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

The date for the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, 1993.

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Office of the Commissioner

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Tuesday, October 19, 1993 at the South Mountain Visitors Center, South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Members present - Nan Jenks-Jay and Sally Bell. Absent - Carol Lash, Mike Last, and John Capone. Also present from the Department were Commissioner Peter Webber and Director of Forests and Parks Todd Frederick.

Approval of the August and September minutes were deferred to the November meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

Items 2 and 3 on the agenda were also deferred to November meeting.

The next item on the agenda was a report by Commissioner Webber on Department activities.
Open Space Bond Bill event - 10/27, 1993 at 4:00Pm at the Bayside EXPO. This place was chosen because the MDC recently acquired a piece of property that will allow for a continuous greenway/open space from Downtown Boston to Harbor Point. It is also in the Senate President's district. Counter to traditional setting but significant in a number of ways - urban open space, Governor Weld has articulated interest in urban recreation, and convenient to the power structure. Secretary Coxe is going all out to get a large number of people there. Commissioner Webber stated that he is also following up with letters to DEM constituency groups to get a big turnout. This will be the launching of an all out campaign to get this bond bill past by the end of the year. The Commissioner then handed out the two page summary of the $300 million proposal. He further explained that it does not rescind existing authorizations. Revives the Self Help program, the APR program, $20 million for infrastructure - park facilities and improvements - for DEM and $20 million for the MDC. Half of the money will go towards land acquisition while the rest is for infrastructure improvements, etc. Total of $78 million for infrastructure, which includes equipment, roads, etc. Other areas of interest - GIS, land use planning, funds for assistance to cities and towns, creation of the Commonwealth Land Trust. The Commissioner spoke of the

bills chances for passage and said that we may have problems with Rep. Steve Angelo, but the Secretary has made her mark in RI for open space legislation. Worst Case is that it will make it through one branch and not get to the Governor's desk. If we make significant progress and build momentum to pressure the Legislature to take it up early in 1994. There is no reason for the Legislature to be opposed to this because it is not just the Governor's bill. In the past, these have been embraced by Legislators. Thinks there is a good chance for passage. Sally Bell stated that the Democrats voted to endorse the Commonwealth's Open Space Acquisition plan at their convention. Senator Jane Swift will try to put language in this bill to promote payment in lieu of taxes. The Commissioner encouraged the Board to attend to kick-off event.

Secretary's Interests and initiatives - Handed out a package on information. The Commissioner stated that the Secretary's document reflects feedback from each of the agencies. The Secretary sent it to every EOEA employee as a way to express her particular interests. She followed that memo with another to each of the Commissioners asking for them to develop an agency plan that fits into the Secretary's 5 initiatives. This produced the August 13th memo from Commissioner Webber to the Secretary. We stipulated in the cover memo that most of what we do is covered in these 5 categories but that there are those DEM initiatives that do not fall within these. This set up the process of quarterly reviews, which the Commissioner is scheduled to meet with the Secretary on October 25. Since August we have continued a process of refining and revising our statement of GOALS and Objectives. We are calling it our Integrated Management Plan. A team of DEM staff have been working on this. He handed out a copy of yesterday's most recent draft version. This plan will ultimately become a work plan for the agency. The team has tried to identify objectives within the agency and who is the point person. We are trying to integrate all of these together to have something that is tangible and makes sense. Nan Jenks-Jay commented that this is a wonderful way to bring everyone and everything together. She is only sorry that interpretation and education isn't more highlighted within EOEA's interests and objectives. It should be more upfront, and not added in at the end without conflicting or duplicating what is already being done. She does not think that is DEM's role right now though.

Governor's visit to Western Mass - There were 4 events on the schedule that day that DEM was involved with the Governor. Terry Blunt organized a canoe event on the Connecticut River, which focused on the Rivers Bill and the Open Space Bond Bill. This event also gave Terry and Rich Hubbard an opportunity to highlight recent protection and acquisitions along the river. He handed out a brochure that Terry developed related to the Connecticut River Watertrail. The next event was with Secretary Coxe at the Greenfield Rink for the opening of the rink under new management - Chip Ainsworth. Then onto Turner's Falls for a grand opening ceremony of Thomas and Thomas Flyrod makers new office/manufacturing place. This event involved the Governor, Secretary Coxe, and Secretary Gloria Larson of Economic Affairs. The Department renovated this old mill building and Thomas and Thomas have a three special use permit. The plan is to turn this into the Great Falls Discovery Center. There is space currently within the building for it be used as a small visitor information center. The benefits is that the building has been saved, they needed a new home and they are paying rent to the Commonwealth. At the cabinet meeting, Stephen Brown and Jim Leach briefed the Governor on the Greylock Center Concept and they got good support from the Governor. Then on Saturday, the Governor was present for the opening of the North Adams Rink, which will be managed by North Adams State College.

Status of position of Director of F&P - The Commissioner indicated a need to formalize the interim Director by formal vote. This will be on next month's agenda and with a meeting notice to be sent certified mail. The position has not been posted yet. Right now the Commissioner said that he is still focusing on other positions that are about to be filled. Utmost is the position of the Chief of Legal Services. Martin Suuberg is the top candidate. Currently in Washington and interested in relocating. Incredibly qualified and the Commissioner has met with him and likes him. He will be formally offered the position today. Then the Assistant to the Commissioner position. The interview team will begin first interviews this week.

The next item on the agenda is a report from the interim Director of Forests and Parks, Todd Frederick. He has been on board for about 5 months. He thanked the board for his interim appointment. He met with Stephen Carpenter for several hours to help with the transition. He met with the 5 regionals and the bureau chiefs to get a sense of what is happening, what are the issues as they see them, etc. He stated that he is making himself very accessible to the staff to help restore communication - he has a pager and a car phone and they should know where he is at all times. Continues to meet with the bureau chiefs and regionals on a monthly basis at what is called Director's meetings which are day long meetings and they are bringing in people from other divisions to attend these meetings too. Tries to check in with the regionals once a day.

Has seen that communication is being restored. He has reinstituted the weekly bureau chief meetings - in Boston, Mondays at 10:00AM. Trying to develop some team building within forests and parks and bureau chiefs. Has been making a point to go through the mail.

Mr. Frederick commented on where he thinks Forests and Parks should be headed. Broad goals 1) Training/education. Reaching out beyond DEM to bring in professionals to train our staff to help them better do their jobs. 2) Recruiting and boosting advocacy groups 3) Improving the infrastructure through the clean state initiative, etc.

He listed items that were underway within the Division.
*Recreation services - need a firm plan that each region can follow and apply; staffing plans for each park within the region; focus parks initiative; and developing seasonal staffing plans.
*Forestry - broadening forest restoration initiatives
*Fire Control - aid and assist communities is their broad directive, they receive the most training because of their outreach efforts such as the Smokey Bear program; also have a program that is becoming very popular - Excess property program - military equipment from hand tools to vehicles that is made available through the Federal Government. Smaller communities are very interested. A lot more material will become available because of base closings. This program needs to be strengthen.
*Shade tree and insect pest - Recent changes to pesticide regulations. Charlie Burnham, acting Bureau Chief, will be developing a policy and program for pesticide application.

In the larger sense, regional realignment will occur on November 1. No equipment is to move just personnel. Don Stoddard was somewhat concerned because he inherits 2 facilities that are poorly staffed but pretty much everyone is happy about it. Staffing study should be completed by Todd Lafleur and Ollie Pierce by December 1 and handed to Gary Briere, Bureau Chief of Recreation. It will then go to the Director. This is being approached very openly.

Phase 2 of the Comfort Station projects. Opening and improving communication between DRC and F&P/facility supervisors to work together to get these done properly. New process - the F&P supervisor is part of the development team on the project and continues to be involved throughout the project. We have many supervisors who have engineering/construction so their expertise will be incorporated into the project.

Public health and safety of F&P employees - There is no current policy regarding hepatitis so staff is developing a policy.

Needs some direction and trying to get F&P back on track. He has set high goals.

Looking into privatizing services within F&P such as lawn mowing, snow grooming, pool maintenance, custodial duties, etc.

High ground management - how we manage applications, decentralizing the process to involve F&P supervisors and regionals. Using highground as a model to begin to empower supervisors to be more programmatic and managing those that are within their region/area. An inventory was completed of the existing towers. They are revenue generators so they are reviewing permit fees because there is an increasing demand by the public to use space on the towers. He is also working on formalizing documents to ensure that the paperwork on a request is processed correctly and efficiently and the regional supervisor has had an opportunity to evaluate the application.

The next item that was discussed was board development. Copies of the re-worked version of the legislation were passed out. This draft was taken from Sally Bell's version and re-done by Nick Vontzalides and Todd Frederick. This draft was given to David Lutes in EOEA for submission. There was a discussion of including the mission statement into the language or some aspect of that into the wording. Suggested change to number 2, third paragraph - demonstration of commitment and expertise as it relates to the Department's mission statement. Commissioner Webber also mentioned the need to update and clean up the rest of the legislation that relates to the Department. Todd Frederick and the Commissioner will try to re-work and incorporate the mission statement.

New business: Nan Jenks-Jay told the Commissioner that a group of former employees and concerned citizens have met twice to discuss their concerns about the Department. She wanted to make him aware of this before it goes too far. They basically want to be supportive of and helpful to the Department.

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50PM.

The date for the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, November 17, 1993.

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Office of the Commissioner

A meeting of the Board of Environmental Management was held on Thursday, November 18, 1993 at the Daniel S. Horgan Memorial Skating Rink, Oxford Street, Auburn MA 01501.

Members present- Nan Jenks-Jay, Sally Bell, C. John Capone. Also present were Commissioner Peter Webber, Chief of Staff Susan Frechette, Director of Forests and Parks Todd Frederick, Natural Resources Prog. Dir. Andrea Lukens, Peter Brandenburg, Karl Honkonan, Peter Dunwiddie, Jack Lash and Bob Leverett.

Items 1 and 2 on the agenda were deferred to 11:45; at this time Carol Lash was available for a phone vote. Item 3 was deferred until Nan Jenks-Jay arrived.

The next item on the agenda was a privatization update given by Susan Frechette, Chief of Staff. She reported on the skating rinks as well as the historic curatorship. Eighteen skating rinks have been privatized thus far. In addition to providing better service to the users, the rinks can now operate 11 months per year. Although there are three different phases, the term of each permit is 3 years. Phase 1 lessees assume the cost up to $7,500 of the rinks' expenses, where as, phase 2&3 lessees assume the cost up to $10,000 of the rinks' expenses. The department assumes the additional costs. In terms of evaluation, one regional is sent to the rinks monthly. Periodic meetings with the rink operators also take place. Rink operators are required to submit monthly as well as annual reports to the Department.

The department, under the leadership of Chris Greene, Director of Historic Resources, and Patrice Kish, Project Manager has initiated the Historic Curatorship program. This proposal would secure private funding for the preservation and restoration of state-owned historic structures. Under this program, the Department will solicit proposals, designate curators/tenants and enter into a lease in exchange for restoring the properties and bringing the structures up to code. DEM has chosen ten priority structures out of a possible 50 historic structures:

Barton House, Foxborough
Bradley Palmer Mansion, Topsfield
Gatekeeper's House, Lowell
Lichfield House, Carlisle
Park Superintendent's House, Princeton
Anna Lee Cottage, Mt. Washington
Inteman House, Mt. Washington
Superintendent's House, Monterey
Swann Lodge, Monterey
Crosby Mansion, Brewster

Additional privatization efforts include concession stand trailers.

The next item on the agenda was an ORV criteria update by Andrea Lukens. The Board determined where off road vehicle use could occur. Ms. Lukens advertised in the MEPA Monitor, went through MARTAB, and distributed copies of criteria to Board Members and made changes based on the feedback. The committee recommended that we move ahead. Ms. Lukens distributed copies of the DEM Trails Location Criteria: Off Road Vehicles Introduction to the Board Members. Ms. Lukens indicated the changes that were made. On page two, three questions were added due to MARTAB's feedback. On page eight, the bold type was added. Additional changes were made on page thirteen. A complete list of resources that may be called upon by the park staff was also added.
The committee proposes five areas for evaluation:

Myles Standish
Georgetown
Otter River
Brimfield
Pittsfield

The chain of command was discussed next. One idea was to get a team together in order to present changes to the Commissioner, then to the Board, and finally to a public hearing. An important suggestion was to create some type of time table in order to keep things moving. Ms. Lukens reiterates that the committee is following a Commission hearing type of progression. Nan Jenks- Jay suggested an informational question sheet be utilized.

The Board was able to reach Carol Lash for phone vote. Upon the motion of Nan Jenks-Jay, seconded by Sally Bell, the minutes from the 25 August 1993, 22 September 1993, and 19 October 1993 minutes were unanimously approved.

Upon the motion of Sally Bell, seconded by Carol Lash, it was unanimously voted: to confirm Todd Frederick as the interim Director of the Division of Forests and Parks.

Item three on the agenda was a discussion of non-legislative aspects of Board Development, led by Nan Jenks-Jay. Nan Jenks-Jay distributed a Proposed Policy For DEM Board Development. She advised the Board Members to review policy and be ready to discuss

at the December meeting. She thanked Ms. Lukens for her great efforts re: ORV program.

The next presentation was by Peter Dunwiddie and Bob Leverett on their Old Growth Study and a briefing on Old Growth Forests and management issues by Jack Lash. Peter and Bob formed an informal alliance in order to study old growth. In 1987, Bob discovered a piece of forest, the Cole River area, near Mohawk State Forest, that had never been cut. They decided to find out how much of this forest existed. They found 25-30 isolated stands. Peter studied 13 stands. Among their findings were 400 yr old hemlocks and black gums, 200 yr old oaks, sugar maples, and beach trees. These areas are, for the most part, out of reach to the casual hiker.
It is important to be very careful with truly old growth stands. They estimate that there is approximately 500 acres of old growth.

Old growth areas are areas of 4-5 hectares (10 acres), areas free of human disturbances, areas of low catastrophic disturbance. General characteristics of sites include hemlock dominated stands, generally on very steep slopes which tend to be north facing slopes.

In terms of protection, it is vital that we protect areas that extend beyond the cores that have been identified. If these sites have unique species, it is important that the surrounding areas are protected so that these species can migrate back toward the sites. The first conference in the east held to discuss old growth was held at the University of North Carolina. This conference was a tremendous success. Next years conference will hopefully take place in Massachusetts. Additionally Friends of Mowhawk State Forest was formed.

The seventh item on the agenda was a briefing on Areas of Critical Environmental Concern -- the ACEC program by Leslie Luchonok. Mr. Luchonok distributed an ACEC Program Update. Under Current ACEC Stewardship Initiative he covered five areas Consolidation of ACEC Program under DEM, the June 1993 Program Guide, the ACEC Newsletter, Multifaceted approach to ACEC Stewardship, and Outreach to ACEC communities and state agencies. Mr. Luchonok's second item was the Statewide Interagency Identification of Critical Areas. He states that there has never been a comprehensive proactive identification of these areas. 1. Survey professionals in state agencies. 2. Develop GIS database to explore information as it is pulled together. Mr. Luchonok explained the purpose of the ACEC summit scheduled for 19 November 1993. The purpose is to get proactive identification underway. Along with Commissioner Webber and Secretary Coxe there will be approximately 45-50 people from state EOEA agencies at the event.

In terms of potential changes to the nomination/review process, Mr. Luchonok is now interested in receiving new initiatives, his focus is on becoming more proactive. Potential nominations on the

horizon, Mr. Luchonok received a letter from Massachusetts Historic who is in the stage of preparing a draft nomination. Nan Jenks-Jay notes that one objective is to allow certain lands to remain in private ownership. Secretary Coxe has a keen interest in this program; she is also very interested in the proactive approach.

The next item on the agenda was the Commissioner's report. There has been an intensive effort put forth by EOEA to gain support for the Open Space Bond Bill. The hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, 23 November 1993, at 10:30am in Room A2 of the State House. An intensive effort has been put forth by EOEA to gain support from environmental activists. Right now the Commissioner is working the phones to gain legislators' support for this critical bill. The Commissioner urged the Board to come and support this bill. It is essential that DEM obtain this funding in order to acquire new land and protect existing land.

The Commissioner also reports that the DEM is working on a new Integrated Management Plan. The plan stresses a new holistic approach rather than a capitalistic v.s. an operating budget.
The FY 95 hearing is scheduled for 6 December 1993. Upcoming personnel changes include: Martin Suuberg as Chief of Legal Services, Susan Fairbanks as Director of Communications, Leo Roy, Undersecretary of EOEA, and Peg Brady, Director of Coastal Zone Management.

New Business- A report by Todd Frederick, Interim Director.
He stated that the spring/summer seasonal plan would be ready for his review 1 December 1993. Mr. Frederick distributed a Needs Survey to the Board as an example of what is being done to improve organizational effectiveness within the department. Mr. Frederick indicated that he will continue to contribute to the finalization of Capital Budget Plans. The Clean State Initiative has been drafted as the department's first response for developing a plan. To improve the communication network, Regional Supervisors have been assigned car phones. The Director will continue weekly as well as monthly Bureau Chiefs Meetings. At the last meeting regional realignment was discussed. The request by the Regional Supervisors to have more meetings in addition to the meetings scheduled for the last Friday of each month is only one indication of the success, productivity, and effectiveness of these meetings. The Director mentioned that EOEA is formalizing a task force to review the roads at Myles Standish State Forest.

Nan Jenks-Jay told the board about a piece of legislation that has been filed. It creates a special commission on forests & parks and was filed by Representative Pamela Resor.

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned. The date for the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, 15 December 1993.