

NEW HAMPSHIRE  
FOREST LEGACY COMMITTEE MEETING  
June 3, 2022, DNCR Concord Headquarters 172 Pembroke Rd., Concord  
DRAFT minutes

1. Introductions – Review Agenda

DNCR: Susan Francher, Dea Brickner-Wood, Tracey Boisvert, Patrick Hackly

NHA: Carol Foss

DNCR Parks: Craig Rennie

SPNHF: Brian Hotz

TNC: Mark Zankel

NH Timberland Owners: Jason Stock (virtual)

CLSP: Stephen Walker (virtual)

Not attending: Neil Bungard

2. Existing Project Update

- Beebe River Uplands, Sandwich: Completed in 2022 – two tracks, Spencer Brook and Beebe Rivrer
- Dundee Forest, Jackson & Bartlett. In process. September closing planned. The Trust for Public Land is project partner.
- Androscoggin Valley Forest, Shelburne area. Funding received this year. The Conservation Fund project partner. 3 target tracts, 1 match tract.

3. Program Update

- Funding
  - Significant federal funding annual funding from Great American Outdoor Act
  - Increases in project funding for Forest Legacy. 32 years old, 30 years appropriations (1992), \$ spent projects 980 million. Nearly 3 million acres, 270k acres in NH. 3d in # acres.
  - Not seeing administrative increases
  - NH has \$1.665 million AVP, + Division FL Admin grant
  - National Forest Legacy Program has 53 states and territories. Funding level is \$79-85 million annually.
- Project application: timeline, edits
  - Competitive project trends were discussed.
  - Forest Action Plan and Assessment of Need is current.

Discussion: considering State Forest Legacy Fee Acquisition

- Discussion: should the State consider the Fee ownership option for Forest Legacy projects.
- Consideration: cost share; due diligence component expenses
- Project Partners are facilitating fee ownership on other ‘state’ projects
- Private ownership focus is preferred by NH Timberland Owner Association.
- Consideration for criteria, such as properties next to state lands.  
(State owned lands are productive for timber production).  
Worth a conversation to consider conditions to consider fee acquisition.

Project Applications and timelines

Based on FY24 criteria, will need to include DEJI; climate and other criteria

Over next 6 months staff will update the application and criteria to reflect National FLP direction, and will reach out to project partners and others regarding these changes.

Timeline – With the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act the date that the nation review panel meets has changed from early January to mid-November. With this change the deadlines for input of information into the Forest Legacy Information System for review

Currently the state application due date is July 1. Going forward it will likely be mid-May.

#### Project Readiness issues-

Appraisals. How to increase pool of qualified appraisers for Forest Legacy projects, market demand to meet need for services.

- Having a pool of available, qualified appraisers; NHCLT training for appraisers in Yellow Book (State pay for costs)
- Patrick will work with Brian on training and recruitment.

#### Staffing -

- Federal staff

Federal Staffing changes include:

- Neil Bundgard -primary responsibility Community Forest, less FL
- Ron Scott is new Reality Specialist (replace Doreen Urquhart)
- Kirsten Buczak - Program Manager
- Liam Krause – Stewardship

Most of FL staff is in Milwaukee

- State staff

- Susan will be retiring, and position has been posted. Approx 35% of position is dedicated to FL.
- Tracey and Dea will continue on Forest Legacy
- State will be requesting Division staff position to be responsible for Stewardship, landowner relationships, CE monitoring responsibilities, with forestry background.

#### 4. Stewardship

- Remote monitoring pilot. Tracey reviewed the remote monitoring approach
- Imagery – Available imagery includes free publicly-available imagery and funds to purchase commercial imagery for up to 35% of the Forest Legacy acreage in the state during the pilot program. The Forest Service is partnering with Upstream Tech for this project.
- SPNHF is using this company to great effectiveness.

#### 5. 13 Mile Woods re-alignment

- SPNHF, Brian Hotz will not participate in the discussion.  
Dept of Transportation is working on a Route 16 re-alignment project. Moves road away from river and impacts. Title discovered several entities held interest in property. A guardian ad litem was hired to represent the interest-holding entities. In response, the issue cannot be resolved with an acreage ‘swap’, the fee interest will need to be condemned and the easement extinguished for the 8.5 acres of impact.

For other clarifications: DFL Land Surveyor will review and State will evaluate with Title Insurance Company

*DOT is to extinguish rights on 8.8 acres of the 530, 016-acre parcel.*

*The NH Forest Legacy Committee discussed the approach and there was no opposition.*

#### 6. Other

Thank you to Susan and her great success in Forest Legacy program.