



Meeting Minutes

Stewardship Councilors in Attendance: Chairman Whitney Hatch, Dennis Smith, Toni Pollak, Elisa Campbell, Heather Clish, Michele Hanss

DCR Staff in Attendance: Commissioner Leo Roy, Andy Backman, Joe Rotondo, Stephen Doody, Nick Connors, Jim Montgomery, Michael Abrahams, Georgia Polemenakos

Public Attendees: Bill Boles, NEMBA

Attachments: RMPs Currently Underway

Chairman Hatch called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

- Chairman Hatch welcomed the Council
- Chairman Hatch reviewed the agenda
- Chairman Hatch asked whether or not there were any questions or comments regarding the agenda

Commissioner's Report –Commissioner Leo Roy

Commissioner Roy informed the Council on/of the following matters:

- Commissioner Roy (LPR) welcomed the Council
- The council was thanked for their patience with LPR's absence from the last stewardship council meeting and was thanked for accepting Priscilla Geigis as the fill-in
- The drought situation for Massachusetts
- Concern about the woodlands
 - 57 wildfires in the last 7 days
 - The duff is extremely dry
 - Fires are going into the duff
- 100 communities have water use restrictions
 - Quabbin and Wachusett are just below average water levels
 - Chelmsford levels are the lowest they have been since 1966
- The 4th of July and its future
- Great Outdoors Month
 - Capital Campout was a success
 - LPR is not allowing Fright Island to take over Castle Island
 - Pools opened on Father's Day
 - As of the 4th of July all of the facilities are opened
- Free Friday flicks this year
- Expansion of the Park and Pedal program
- Tree City USA

- Coffee with the Commissioner
 - LPR went over DCR's goals and priorities to DCR staff
- Coming Up
 - Blue Hills deer management public meeting
 - LPR invited the council to the Myles Standish Celebrations on July 16th
 - The event goes from 10:00-12:00
- Braille Trail opening
- Revere Beach Sandcastle event

Committee Updates

Policy and Planning Committee, Chairwoman Elisa Campbell

Chairwoman Campbell informed the Council on/of the following matters:

- RMPs currently underway include, Blue Hills, Harbor Island, Pittsfield and Myles Standish
- Blue Hills RMP, this will be the first attempt to have a dashboard page for the whole complex
- RMP's biggest challenge
 - G.I.S. person retired
 - This position is not going to be filled

Finance Committee, Councilor Heather Clish

Chairman Clish informed the Council on/of the following matters:

- Some observations:
 - The budget has had another decrease
 - Overall budget for legislation almost 87 million
 - 4 million in earmarks
 - Overall 3% decrease from last year's budget
 - Earmarks having a 6% decrease
 - Retained revenue is decreased

Special Business- Presented by Jim Montgomery, Director of A&F and Michael Abrahams, Special Advisor to A&F

Jim Montgomery and Michael Abrahams informed the Council on/of the following matters:

- The state of the state DCR finances
- FY 17 Operating Budget
 - We got brought down to \$84.6 million, over a 6% decrease
 - The cut of 6% is really more like 8%
 - Hatch: Does the reduction include early retirement?
 - Abrahams: Yes!
- Montgomery: We included capital plans for the next 5 years
 - It is not yet completed
 - We need around \$200 million a year and DCR was brought down to \$170 million
- Deferred projects are zero-funded
- FY 17 is done

- Current staffing levels
 - Very short staffed in planning and engineering
 - Lack of payroll and the challenge of attracting candidates to these positions
- Sea Level Rise Report
 - Looking at our dams and sea walls
- Fleet
 - \$4.8 million has been invested in new vehicles
 - 60% of the vehicles were aged between 2009-2012
- Pay and Display
 - 50 machines
 - 20 machines are installed
 - \$5 if you are a Mass. Resident
 - \$10 if you are out-of-state

New Business

- No New Business

Public Comment

The following constituents expressed their opinions/issues/matters to the Council:

- Bill Boyles: Distressed listening to the budget problems. Partnerships are a good direction for DCR to go in the future.

Closing Comment

- No Closing Comments

Meeting Schedule

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 7th at the Mt. Holyoke Summit House.

Chairman Hatch adjourned the meeting at 2:08p.m.