

## NON-LCIP DISBURSEMENT REQUEST MEMO

**TO:** Council on Resources and Development (CORD)  
Department of Business and Economic Affairs

**FROM:** Charlotte Harding, Conservation Land Stewardship Program Supervisor, NH Fish and Game  
Kathy LaBonte, Business Division Chief, NH Fish and Game

**RE:** Request to disburse additional funds from the Land Conservation Endowment (LCE) for FY 2026

**DATE:** May 7, 2026

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### **Purpose**

This memo provides an overview of currently authorized Monitoring Endowment (also referred to as the Land Conservation Endowment or LCE) disbursements and seeks Council on Resources and Development (CORD) approval for an additional withdrawal of approximately \$8,750 in fiscal year 2026. This supplemental funding would support monitoring responsibilities carried out by the Conservation Land Stewardship Program (CLSP) on behalf of the NH Fish and Game Department (NHFG).

### **Background**

Income disbursed from the LCE supports monitoring activities conducted by CLSP for conservation property interests acquired through the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) as well as State-held, non-LCIP conservation easements for which stewardship funds have been deposited into the endowment. The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) also uses LCE income to monitor conservation easements held by DNCR, where stewardship endowment contributions have been deposited into the fund.

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, CORD authorized CLSP and DNCR to withdraw up to \$303,582 for fiscal years 2026 and 2027. This represents 5.5% of the total market value of the LCE as of June 30, 2025. The annual maximum disbursement is allocated between the two agencies based on the proportional value of contributions intended to support the respective agencies' monitoring programs. Under this allocation, CLSP may withdraw up to \$279,761, and DNCR may withdraw up to \$23,821.

Since 2005, CLSP has maintained a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with NHFG to monitor and steward more than 50 non-LCIP, department-held conservation easements. Under the MOA, CLSP received \$35,000 per fiscal year, funded with 75% federal and 25% NHFG funds. The MOA expired on July 1, 2025, when CLSP was absorbed by NHFG.

### **Request for Additional Disbursement**

RSA 162-C:6 II allows CORD to provide funds from the endowment to cover the costs of monitoring other land conservation interests held by the State of New Hampshire. In accordance with this authority, the NH Fish and Game Department requests an additional disbursement of approximately \$8,750 for fiscal year 2026 – the amount previously funded by NHFG as its 25% share under the former MOA. These funds would support CLSP's monitoring of non-LCIP department-held conservation easements for which no stewardship contributions have been deposited into the endowment. The requested amount

(\$8,750) represents approximately 1.31% of NHFG's endowment contribution book value as of November 30, 2025 (see subaccounts on attachment highlighted).

CLSP's FY26 budget includes \$245,246 in planned withdrawals from the endowment. Adding the requested \$8,750 results in a total withdrawal of approximately \$253,996- an amount that remains well below the previously authorized maximum disbursement of \$279,761.

**Recommended Motion for CORD:** Authorize an additional disbursement of approximately \$8,750 from the Land Conservation Endowment for fiscal year 2026 to support the CLSP's monitoring of non-LCIP, non-endowment properties on behalf of the NH Fish and Game Department.