



New Hampshire Council on Resources and Development

MINUTES – October 9, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT

Heather Shank, Designee, Department of Business and Economic Affairs, Chair
Shawn N. Jasper, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food
John B. Martin, Designee, Department of Health and Human Services
Tim Carney, Designee, Department of Education
Jack Ruderman, Designee, NH Housing Finance Authority
Jared Nylund, Designee, Department of Administrative Services
Adam Crepeau, Designee, Department of Environmental Services
Patrick Hackley, Designee, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Mark Doyle, Designee, Department of Safety

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Brendan McDowell, Principal Planner, OPD (CORD Staff)
Charlotte Harding, NH Conservation Land Stewardship Program
Chris Aslin, CORD Attorney, Attorney General's Office, Department of Justice
Kathy LaBonte, Department of Fish & Game
Louis Barker, Railroad Planner, Department of Transportation
Nicole Bryant, Department of Transportation
Tim Mallette, Department of Transportation

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was opened at 3:00 PM by Chair Shank.

II. MINUTES

Approval of August 7, 2025 meeting minutes.

August 7, 2025 minutes were reviewed, and no changes were made.

MOTION: *On a motion by Mr. Jasper, seconded by Mr. Crepeau, the August 7, 2025 minutes were approved with 6:1:0 vote with Mr. Doyle abstaining.*

III. SURPLUS LAND REVIEW

A. [SLR 2025-006 Rochester](#) – The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) proposes to dispose by transfer on behalf of the State of New Hampshire to Public Services Company of New Hampshire (d/b/a Eversource Energy) a perpetual utility line easement across a parcel of State land located at 296 Rochester Hill Road in the City of Rochester, NH, accommodate the installation of a new subsurface electrical distribution line to serve the future Rochester Courthouse Facility.

Jared Nylund from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) was there to present the SLR application and answer questions. The proposed easement allows Eversource to install a distribution line from the road to the building.

There were no questions for Mr. Nylund, and no discussion.

MOTION made by Mr. Jasper, seconded by Mr. Doyle to dispose by transfer on behalf of the State of New Hampshire to Public Services Company of New Hampshire a perpetual utility line easement across a parcel of State land located at 296 Rochester Hill Road in the City of Rochester, NH to accommodate the installation of a new subsurface electrical distribution line to serve the future Rochester Courthouse Facility. Motion passed with 6:1:0 vote with Mr. Nylund abstaining.

B. SLR 2025-007 CE Realty Meredith – The Bureau of Rail & Transit proposes to lease approximately 75 feet of water frontage on the state-owned Concord-Lincoln Railroad Corridor in the Town of Meredith to an abutter for installation, use and maintenance of a dock in accordance with RSA 228:57-a.

It was noted that RMAC was unable to review this request, and that RMAC will be reviewing the request on October 16th, 2025. It was discussed that the parcel fell into RMAC's jurisdiction but the site in question did not. LMAC reviewed the property and found di minimis effect, so CORD decided to move forward with hearing the request.

Louis Barker from The Bureau of Rail & Transit presented the application. RSA 228:57-a allows leasing of state-owned railroad waterfront to landowners whose property abuts the railroad property, and for which the proposed use does not adversely impact the use of property by the State or its Railroad Operators.

After presenting the application, Mr. Barker answered questions regarding the use of the term "new development" and that new development was related to the installation of a dock. There was a worry over the paper trail for the record in perpetuity that can be confusing to look back on over the years and parse out intent, so the application should be clear that it was allowing the construction of a new dock and nothing more. Mr. Barker agreed to amend the language in the request to reflect the new development specifying the new development as the construction of a new dock.

MOTION made by Mr. Jasper, seconded by Mr. Martin to recommend approval of leasing approximately 75 feet of water frontage on the state-owned Concord-Lincoln Railroad Corridor in the Town of Meredith to an abutter for the installation, use and maintenance of a dock in accordance with RSA 228:57-a., with the condition that items 3 and 4 of the application be revised to address docks specifically. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. LAND CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM (LCIP)

A. NH Land Conservation Investment Program Annual Report

The Annual Report will be presented to CORD with listings of all lands and interests in lands subject to the monitoring provisions of the statute, summaries of monitoring activities for the protected lands, and a financial accounting summary of the funds in the LCE for FY25.

Ms. Harding from the Conservation Land Stewardship Program (CLSP) summarized the NH Land Conservation Investment Program Annual Report. The report includes detailed information and summarizes all LCIP lands as of fiscal year 2025 and includes monitoring activities as they apply to state acquired conservation easements as well as municipal properties. The status of fee land that was acquired and is managed by the Department of Fish and Game (NH F&G) and Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR). Complete financial accounting of the monitoring endowment aka the Land Conservation Endowment (LCE).

Ms. Harding explained the tables in the appendix sections. They list all properties monitored in the report including State-held Conservation Easements and Preservation Restriction Easements (Appendix A). It was noted there is one property currently in violation of its easement, in red text, that Ms. Harding and Mr. Aslin were working to resolve with the property owners. Appendix B shows LCIP Municipal-Held Conservation Easement and Fee-owned Properties and Appendix C lists State Fee-Owned properties managed by NH F&G while Appendix D lists State Fee-Owned properties managed by DNCR. Appendix E includes an endowment summary for FY25 Accounting of LCE. Appendix F displays Program Charts.

A question was asked about the "less disbursements" column in the second chart in Appendix E and if that was related to monitoring fees. Ms. Harding explained the disbursements are the proportional percentages of withdrawals from the account. It was clarified that the account as a whole continues to increase in value, and the growth exceeds the disbursements annually.

There was discussion on the lack of disbursements to DNCR which Mr. Hackley indicated with the Memorandum of Agreement that CORD would be hearing shortly after the current discussion would, if passed, allow DNCR to withdraw monitoring expenses from the LCE which would be reviewed at future CORD meetings.

It was discussed that the State Treasury Department recommends up to 5.5% of the market value can be withdrawn from the endowment and it will not have an adverse effect on the growth of the account. The discussion continued with questions on "book balances" and initial contributions for LICP properties for the perpetual monitoring and stewardship of the endowment continue to grow through reinvestment. The use of these funds is strictly for monitoring the conservation land.

B. Custodial Account Agency Agreement

Review of the custodial account agency agreement between LCE and CORD authorizing the State Treasury to invest and reinvest in legal investments allowable under RSA 6:8.

Ms. Harding presented the Custodial Account Agency Agreement which is an agreement between State Treasury and CORD. The agreement authorizes State Treasury to invest and reinvest in legal investments allowable under RSA 6:8 for the benefit of the Account. The agreement also authorizes various agents to initiate account transactions on behalf of CORD and/or to inquire about account specifics such as account statements and reconciliations. It was discussed to give Chair Shank the authorization to inquire into the account. Attorney Aslin spoke on the investment objectives for CORD and that **Growth/Income as titled in 11:5** has been the objective for the past few years, it was agreed to continue with this investment objective after a brief discussion by members of CORD.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hackley, to accept the Custodial Account Agency Agreement between LCE and CORD authorizing the State Treasury to invest and reinvest in legal investments allowable under RSA 6:8. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Jasper with the addition that the chairperson can sign the agreement.

Discussion - Mr. Nylund suggested clarifying in the signature line under CORD chair "Duly authorized by **CORD** as the Trust Fund Administrator." There was a clarification that Chair Shank would be authorized to inquire. The changes were agreed upon by Mr. Hackley who made the motion and Mr. Jasper who seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. DNCR Endowment Memorandum of Agreement

There exists a Monitoring Endowment with the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) utilized by CORD for limited purposes related to the monitoring and enforcement of certain land conservation interests.

Mr. Hackley from DNCR summarized the MOA, which authorizes DNCR to access funds for the monitoring of LCIP properties.

MOTION was made by Mr. Jasper to enter a MOA, between CORD, and the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for limited purposes related to the monitoring and enforcement of certain land conservation interests. Motion was seconded by Mr. Nylund and passed with 6:1:0 vote with Mr. Hackley abstaining.

D. CLSP – LCE Endowment Disbursement

DNCR is requesting CORD approval for disbursement of funds from the Land Conservation Endowment (LCE) to cover split CLSP and DNCR FY26-FY27 program expenses.

Ms. Harding presented the request to pre-authorize disbursement of up to \$303,582 for CLSP and DNCR's monitoring programs from the Land Conservation Endowment for each fiscal year of 2026 and 2027. The disbursement would be split between CLSP and DNCR for the monitoring of programs of each agency proportionally based on the percentages in the endowment. After questions, Ms. Harding explained actual dollar amounts based on hours worked will be requested from Treasury once monitoring duties are fulfilled.

MOTION was made by Mr. Jasper, seconded by Mr. Carney to authorize disbursement of up to \$303,582 from the Land Conservation Endowment each year for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 to be split between Conservation Land Stewardship Program and the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources based on the proportionate percentage of contributions intended to fund the respective agencies' monitoring programs. Motion passed with 6:1:0 vote with Mr. Hackley abstaining.

E. Wiggin Conservation Easement – Culvert Replacement

The NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT), in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy and NH Department of Environmental Services, is proposing to replace two existing 18" diameter concrete tidal culverts on Squamscott Rd. NHDOT requests that CORD review and preliminarily approve the project as described.

Mr. Mallette gave an overview of the project. The project relates to the proposed construction of two box culverts that would replace the current fair and poor condition culverts located in LCIP conservation easements, with the goal of improving flood resilience.

Members asked questions regarding water flow and fish migration through the adjacent tidal salt marsh. Attorney Aslin clarified the process for amendment of the easement and need for a public hearing to allow expansion of the culvert use since it would be an expansion of what is already

existing. Mr. Nylund asked about adjacent property owners' support for the project and if DOT has received easement grants from the landowner, which Tim indicated the landowners and selectmen have been supportive of the project. Chair Shank recommended the next CORD meeting on December 11th be noticed as a public hearing to review a formal request by DOT for CORD to authorize the easement to be granted by the landowner for the project. Members agreed.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Guidance to LCIP Property Owners Document – Updates on final draft and discussion.

Chair Shank proposed moving this discussion to the December meeting in the interest of time.

B. Adopt 2026 CORD Meeting Schedule and Application Deadlines

***MOTION** was made by Mr. Jasper, seconded by Mr. Martin to adopt the 2026 CORD Meeting Schedule and Application Deadlines.*

C. Next meeting – December 11th, 2025, at 3:00 – 4:00 pm

SLR application deadline is November 7th for the December meeting, and a department staff person must attend to present any requests their agency refers to CORD.

Chair Shank adjourned the meeting at 4:22 PM.