

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 11 FY 94/95
DATE April 25, 1995

AN ORDER CREATING THE MAINE COUNCIL
ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, a sustainably-managed forest is essential, both to the economic well-being of the people of the State of Maine and to the State's ecological integrity; and,

WHEREAS, the management, use and enjoyment of Maine's forest resources are of paramount importance to the State's economy, ecological health, wildlife, recreational resources and quality of life; and,

WHEREAS, the Northern Forest Lands Council, having conducted a four-year study involving extensive participation by State and local governments, forest landowners, conservation organizations and the public, has recommended by consensus that the State assess the adequacy of its forest practices and programs to ensure their ability to achieve a sustainably-managed forest; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Conservation seeks to provide leadership to ensure the successful implementation of the Northern Forest Lands Council's recommendations:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Angus S. King, Jr., Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish the Maine Council on Sustainable Forest Management (MCSFM).

Purpose

The MCSFM's mission is to develop practical, credible benchmarks of sustainability against which forest landowners can assess their forest management practices. These benchmarks shall address the Principles of Sustainability outlined by the Northern Forest Lands Council, which are:

- The maintenance of soil productivity,
- The conservation of water quality, wetlands and riparian zones,
- The maintenance or creation of a healthy balance of forest age classes,
- A continuous flow of timber, pulpwood and other forest products,

- The improvement of the overall quality of the timber resources as a foundation for more value-added opportunities,
- The protection of scenic quality by limiting the adverse aesthetic impacts of forest harvesting, particularly in high elevation areas and vistas,
- The conservation and enhancement of habitats that support a full range of native flora and fauna,
- The protection of unique or fragile natural areas, and,
- The continuation of opportunities for traditional recreation.

Membership

The MCSFM shall be composed of ten members, one of whom shall be the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation, and one of whom shall be the Director of the Maine Forest Service. The Director of the Maine Forest Service shall serve in an ex-officio capacity. The remainder of the membership shall be composed of persons who have practical expertise in at least one of the following areas: forest management, silviculture, timber harvesting, forest mensuration, forest protection, forest ecology, soil science, wildlife biology, inland fisheries biology, plant ecology, forest economics, and forest-based recreation. The role of the members is to serve the best interest of the state as a whole.

Terms of Membership

Members shall be appointed and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The MCSFM shall disband upon the discharge of its duties outlined below or two years from the effective date of this Order, whichever occurs earlier.

The Commissioner of the Department of Conservation shall Chair the MCSFM. The members, once appointed, shall elect a Vice-Chairperson and Secretary and assign their duties as appropriate. All officers shall serve for the term of this Executive Order.

Functions, Duties and Timeline for Deliverables

To carry out the purpose of the MCSFM, the members shall:

- Use the best available information from all sources, including the Maine Forest Service's review and assessment of the pressures on the State's forest resources directed by P & SL 1993 c.98,
- Develop, by July 1, 1996, a definition of forest sustainability in practical terms, feasible for implementation by all landowners,
- Recommend, by July 1, 1996, the establishment of criteria and goals to ensure a sustainably-managed forest,
- Recommend by July 1, 1996, a methodology for the Department of

Conservation to monitor forest landowners' progress toward achievement of forest sustainability goals, and

- Review and assess existing rules and regulations affecting forest management, including, but not limited to, the Forest Practices Act, for their adequacy in achieving the Principles of Sustainability outlined above, and recommend changes where necessary, by October 1, 1996.

The MCSFM shall deliver the aforementioned products to the Governor.

Responsibilities of the Department of Conservation

The Department of Conservation shall be responsible for:

- Identifying policy tools that can guide all types of forest landowners toward sustainable management, including, but not limited to, education, information, taxation, and regulation, by December 1, 1996. The Department shall use the Northern Forest Lands Council's final report, "Finding Common Ground", as the starting point for its discussion, and,
- Ensuring staff support to the Council to carry out the purpose of this Executive Order. Staff shall be responsible for coordinating meetings, developing a public participation program that involves as many affected interests as possible in the work of the Council, and coordinating additional research efforts that may be necessary for carrying out the purpose of this Executive Order.

Meetings

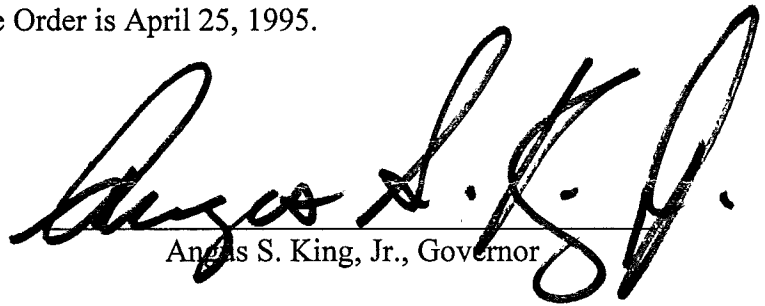
The Council shall meet as often as necessary to complete the assigned duties. All meetings shall be open to the public. At least five meetings shall be held in various geographic regions of the state to ensure the participation of as many citizens as possible. Notice of all meetings shall be mailed to those interested parties who have requested notice at least ten days before each meeting. The public shall also be notified by press advisory at least fourteen days before all meetings.

Compensation

Public members may be compensated for reasonable travel expenses by the Department of Conservation.

Effective Date

The effective date of this Executive Order is April 25, 1995.



Angus S. King, Jr., Governor