



Baxter State Park Authority Meeting

10:00 am, Friday, January 16, 2026, Burton Cross Building, Augusta, ME

Approved by Authority Vote (Date): _____ Chair Signature: _____

Attendees:

Baxter State Park Authority: Chair and MFS Director Patty Cormier, ME Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Commissioner Judy Camuso, Attorney General Aaron Frey

Office of the Attorney General: Assistant Attorney General Lauren Parker

BSP Staff: Director Kevin Adam, Chief Ranger Matthew McGuire, Director of Administrative Services, Lori Morrison, Natural Resources Director Nava Tabak, Lands Manager Shane Miller, Office Specialist Georgia Manzo

BSP Advisory: Chair Brant Miller, Vice Chair Rick Bray

BNY Mellon: BSP Senior Portfolio Manager Michael Daley

Baxter Park Wilderness Fund Trustees: John Loyd (Investment Committee Member)

Friends of Baxter State Park: Executive Director Aaron Megquier

Chair Cormier called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with a welcome and introduction, and announced that Georgia Manzo was a recipient of the 2025 Employee of the Year Award.

Consideration of the October 3, 2025, BSPA meeting minutes: AG Frey moved to approve the minutes, and Commissioner Camuso seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion carried, 3-0.

BSP Portfolio Overview (Michael Daley): BSP Portfolio Overview (Michael Daley): The last BSP Investment Committee meeting on December 10, 2025, was well attended remotely and included guests from Neuberger Berman to review a private equity secondary strategy for consideration within the Baxter portfolio. The portfolio currently holds several primary private equity strategies that purchase ownership interests in underlying private firms, whereas a secondary strategy buys existing private equity ownership portions from other investors looking to sell. It's a way to diversify the portfolio and its private equity exposure.

All major asset classes had positive returns in 2025, except for the U.S. Dollar (USD), which was down 10%. Gold (considered a safe haven for investors) performed very well, which speaks to the continued uncertainty around inflation and political and geopolitical issues. Also, with the Fed lowering interest rates, gold becomes more attractive. The Baxter portfolio is not invested in gold or directly in any commodities, but is invested in private and public equities, which performed well. Non-US equities had a very strong year, both developed international (such as Japan and Europe) and emerging markets, earning ~30%. It is the first year since 2017 that non-US markets outperformed the US, even though we generated very strong returns (S&P 500 up 18%). Fixed Income (Corporate Bonds and U.S. Treasuries) generated solid mid to high single-digit returns. Chair Cormier expressed surprise, given the state of the forest products industry and markets,

and the additional disruption of the tariffs. Michael noted that there was certainly a lot of noise around the markets in 2025, and in April, when the tariffs were announced, the markets plummeted. (At one point in April, the S&P was down 20% YTD.) However, markets are forward-looking (12-18 months), and it became increasingly likely in 2025 that the worst-case scenario wasn't going to transpire. Corporate profits are currently soaring due to artificial intelligence and the efficiencies it adds. AI is truly a game-changer. One of BNY Wealth's primary goals is to adopt AI for efficiency and to show that it is being used to become more efficient, cut costs, and make better decisions.

Earnings estimates for the next couple of years (S&P 500) at the midpoint are expected to be \$310, up from \$270 in 2025, reflecting a 15% increase, with another 15% increase expected in 2027. Earnings drive stock prices, consumer and corporate spending, and jobs. It is also expected that markets will move higher. The S&P 500 year-end targets at midpoint 2026 are 7,400, representing a 7% return (6,950 right now), and in 2027 at midpoint, 8,200 (an 8-9% return).

Consolidated assets (the endowment and the Percival Baxter Trust) in the last two calendar years had a combined investment return of \$30M. December 31, 2025, closed at \$132.4M, and, thus far in January 2026, the portfolio is up 2% month to date. This portfolio is positioned to be a slightly overweight risk, so when the markets perform well, this portfolio will perform well. Two important keys are consumer spending and jobs.

Regarding Asset Allocation as of December 31, total equities are ~64% of the portfolio, a bit above the IPS midpoint, fixed income is 22%, and private equity/credit (special opportunities or alternatives) 13%. It's difficult to build allocations in alternatives, which is why it is important to consistently invest in new alternative strategies on an annual basis, and that is why we're looking at the new Neuberger strategy.

The Baxter Trust is approximately 70% of the portfolio, and the Investment Fund is 30%. The consolidated net return at the end of December was up 13.5%. The important benchmark is the consumer price index + 3%, which is the scorecard used to determine if the portfolio return is keeping up with spending (around 3% or less per year) and inflation. So if the portfolio is earning a net return that can match spending plus inflation, then we're maintaining real value. If it earns a return above that, then we are enhancing value. In 2025, the portfolio outperformed the combination of spending plus inflation by 8%.

AG Frey asked if useful data is coming from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), given the disruptions [the firing of Commissioner Erika McEntarfer after the release of weak job reports]. There's concern that more politically driven data will be coming out to make non-political decisions. Michael added that there's a sense that there's still integrity in the data, but it is being looked at more closely. The jobs data were delayed, and now we're getting regular jobs data. AG Frey also asked if there are collateral data sources that might allow corroboration, to which Michael responded that there are government and private sources. Good government data is much more extensive than private sources. There are arguments that the way data are collected

by the government is not up to current standards - they still call respondents, so collection efforts have not kept up with technology, and some investors do not pay a lot of attention to it. Michael added that the bigger concern is the noise around the independence of the Fed and how independent the next Chair will be when Jerome Powell leaves in June. Will decisions be based on economic data or just the desire of the president to lower rates as quickly as possible? This is not always desirable - lowering short-term rates accelerates inflation and shoots up long-term rates, which really drives the economy.

Baxter Park Wilderness Fund Update: Trustee John Loyd noted that as of the close of markets yesterday, the market value of the Baxter Park Wilderness Fund Trust (BPWFT) was approaching \$43M.

The Trustees met with Kevin Adam and Lori Morrison two weeks ago. There's concern among the Trustees that they are being too conservative in their spending (the distribution to the Park), and while sustainability is key, the Trustees are looking at their spending formula to better meet the needs of the Park and will work on this at their annual meeting on March 18.

Aside from the quarterly distributions to the Park, the Trustees are also discussing with Kevin and Lori the possibility of adding special distributions on an as-needed basis. Historically, they were asked only once to make an irregular distribution, and it was agreed that a distribution would be made for the project (major Togue Pond Gate revisioning and possible relocation in 2019), and subsequently, reduce the quarterly distributions accordingly over the next five years to maintain the market value of the fund. The money was not distributed to the Park (the project was not pursued).

The Trustees will set their spending for our fiscal year, starting July 1, at their March meeting. Trustee Chip Weickert will send a report to the Authority, the Director, and the Director of Administrative Services. Chair Cormier expressed interest in attending their March meeting, and John will send her the Zoom link.

John's term ends August 23, 2027, and he has decided not to be considered for reappointment. The Trustees have a few names for this seat and will make a recommendation to the Authority. They would also benefit from a list of appropriately qualified candidates for other trustee replacements, so they are forming an advisory committee of sorts to help meet that need.

Commercial Use Permit: Kevin Adam introduced the new 'Requirements for Commercial Use in Baxter State Park' (Policy). Changes include:

- General Liability Insurance requirement of \$500K,
- Requirement for completion of a year-end survey to inform Park staff about the numbers and scope of commercial visits and activities (including the number of people they bring into the Park).
- Requirement for the creation and use of a Commercial account in their business name.

A meeting with a few Commercial Use Permit Holders was held on July 15 to discuss the draft language. An annual meeting will be scheduled to address any issues or questions. The Park

typically rolls out the request for renewal of permits or new permits in April, though commercial users can apply year-round. The permit is still free of charge.

More education for Park Rangers and commercial users is needed regarding the Educational Trip Leader activity, as there are times when their activity does not require a commercial permit. There was discussion around camping group size and commercial users bringing in more than 12 people. Aaron Megquier recommended that the wording in Section 10 be changed to “Groups of more than 12 must stay at designated group campsites”, from “Groups of 13 or more must stay at designated group campsites.” **Commissioner Camuso motioned to approve the Commercial Use Policy with the group size change as recommended, if determined by staff to be necessary. AG Frey seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed 3-0.**

SFMA Advisory Member Recommendations: Nava Tabak reminded the Authority that long-standing members Aaron Weiskittel and Rob Bryan retired from the committee, and in the past year, Andy Cutko and Ken Laustsen also stepped off the committee. Rob, Andy, and Ken had stayed on for additional terms to help during our transition three years ago, before Lands Manager Shane Miller came on board.

Two appointments are being offered for the Authority’s consideration, which will help diversify the expertise on the SFMA Committee. They are Dr. Libin T. Louis and Johanna Szillery. Dr. Louis, Assistant Professor of Forestry at the University of Maine at Fort Kent, holds a Ph.D. in Forest Resources and an M.Sc. in Forestry, has considerable applied operations management and inventory expertise and an ecology background, and works with the Collaborative Forestry Research Unit of which BSP is a member. Johanna Szillery is a Maine-licensed soil scientist, wetland scientist, and ecologist, and fills a useful role on the committee as a non-forester natural resource professional. Ken Laustsen’s biometrician skill set will not be entirely filled by Dr. Libin, but there are three more vacancies on the committee, and that skill set will be considered. **AG Frey motioned to approve the appointments of Dr. Libin and Johanna Szillery to the SFMA Advisory Committee, seconded by Commissioner Camuso. All were in favor, motion passed 3-0.**

Overview of Forest Management Tour - Germany: Shane Miller thanked the Authority and the Park leadership team for the opportunity to travel to Germany to tour forestry sites, meet forest researchers and managers, and experience what Percival Baxter did when he was there. The group met at the FVA Department of Forest Growth and spent the next week traveling to various sites to gain a deeper understanding of German forest management as outlined below:

Nov 3 - (am)- Forstdirektion Freiburg (FVA-department of Forest Growth in Freiburg) - Inventory management and planning. Multiple planning horizons: annual plan, 10-year plan, and 30-40 year plan have been utilized since 1833, with inventory data dating back to that time.

Nov 3 - (pm)- Upper Rhine Valley (Graben-Neudorf) - Scots Pine (highly valuable timber species) decline: glacial outwash, good soils, but shallow, otherwise gravelly with a huge aquifer 15 feet down, and the trees can’t reach it. Climate change has shifted rain patterns in this area,

now experiencing summer droughts and record high temperatures, and winters no longer see much snow. The mistletoe population has exploded on the Scots pine, resulting in a fungus. Hundreds of years of management practices are no longer working, so they're changing to enrichment planting and other methods.

Nov 4 - Central Black Forest (Freudenstadt) - Experiment initiated in 1993 on 105-year-old silver fir stands, comparing conversion from age class forest to single tree selection, looking at direct conversion versus a traditional group shelterwood approach. Both are working in different ways, though it will take decades to achieve the desired results for either method.

Nov 5 - (am)- Southern Black Forest (Kandern) - Performing spacing trials on Douglas fir (important commercial species there), looking for optimum compromise between stem quality and planting density, learning that the planting density should be much lower than what is normally done. Additionally, it was learned that, though expensive, pruning has proven to add a significant financial return.

Nov 5 - (pm)- FVA headquarters (Freiburg) - Traveled back to Freiburg, toured the greenhouse (stock for enrichment planting), and the soil lab. Note: They use CT scanners to grade lumber. Visited their soil lab. They have found that a single pass of harvest equipment, regardless of machine type or the use of slash mats, can severely restrict soil gas exchange, even though traditional measures of compaction, such as bulk density, indicate that the soil is not severely compacted. It can take 40-50 years or more to recover, and it is reducing site productivity (creating anaerobic soil conditions).

Nov 6 - (am) -Community Forest (Messkirch) - More focused on timber than the Upper Rhine Valley, which focuses on recreation and aesthetics. They have successfully focused on financial returns. They average 500,000 Euros per year net on every 1000 hectares. This is equivalent to \$202/ac net. At this rate of return, the SFMA would net \$141,400/year while accounting for staff wages and investing in silvicultural treatments such as planting, PCT, and pruning, and would represent a significant increase in revenue for the SFMA.

Nov 6 - (midday) -Long-term experiments with European beech (Mochental)-Toured European beech experiments - unlike our beech, disease-resistant, highly valuable timber species. They're looking at the cost-benefit between loss in diameter growth before thinning versus early thinnings, and the cost of associated pruning if an early thinning was done without first growing the trees in a dense environment. They found the best approach was a two-stage method, using height-based thinning requirements.

Nov 6 - (pm) - Management of state-owned forests (Königsbronn) - Viewed roe deer enclosures and discussed the use of browse surveys to manage levels. Their population has exploded with the loss of predators, and browse is a significant challenge for them. Hunting is a big part of their management and is done by forest professionals and their agents. Hunting is taken seriously and is not treated as a recreational endeavor. State and Community forest management requires the use of 40-meter trail spacing with various equipment and methods. Also discussed their habitat-refuge reserve groups.

Nov 7 - (am) - Management of privately owned forest enterprise (Nietheim)- Discussed crop tree spruce management and height-based thinning guidelines, which eliminate the need for age determination and automatically adjust management intensity to site productivity and environmental changes (instead of relying on rotation-aged prescriptions). They average \$472.00

per acre using this approach, which includes investments such as PCT, etc. This is hundreds of dollars per acre more than the SFMA will net in an average year, even accounting for distance to markets, and clearly shows the value of early investments in mixture control, enrichment planting, and early thinning.

Nov 7 - (pm) - Experiment with potentially "alternative" tree species (Pulverdingen) -

Though in the early stages, they are bringing in heat and drought-tolerant, exotic tree species primarily from the Mediterranean region.

Key takeaways for the SFMA:

- Height-based systems - automatically adapt to a site and environmental conditions
- Economic optimization requires early investments - includes:
 - Mixture control through early (pre-commercial) thinning
 - Crop tree release of the best trees (age 15-25)
 - Enrichment planting to diversify species portfolio
 - Pruning to increase value
- Conversion from even-aged to uneven-staged stands is possible using either a direct conversion or a group-based approach, but requires decades.
- 40-meter trail spacing greatly reduces the impacts of soil compaction, though it requires adjustment in equipment and techniques. They have found that a single pass of harvest equipment, regardless of machine type or the use of slash mats, can severely restrict soil gas exchange, even when traditional measures of compaction, such as bulk density, indicate that the soil is not severely compacted. (Director Cormier mentioned that their research showed that once 7 passes have been done, soil compaction is at its worst.)
- To German foresters, climate adaptation is enrichment planting. While exotic species may not be appropriate for the SFMA, we should consider different species native to the area and well-adapted to climate change in Maine (i.e., pine and oak - both present in the SFMA), and look at seed crops from a southern provenance.

Shane added that Dr. Livingston and Aaron Weiskittel are working with their German counterparts and are looking at a student exchange with graduate students, and BSP may be hosting German foresters and students in the SFMA this September.

AI and its future role were discussed. Nava added that a balance between remote sensing and on-the-ground inventory efforts is necessary, as LiDAR can become outdated as soon as harvesting begins unless it is recreated continually (which is not financially feasible).

Overview of Park Operations:

Finance: In Q1 FY26 (the first budget period projected by the current Director of Administrative Services - Lori Morrison, whose 3rd anniversary with BSP is today), revenue is tracking very close to budget. Personnel expenses showed a positive variance, likely due to position vacancies. All Other tracked to budget. Note: a negative variance is expected by the end of the year due to a

rate increase in SOM Tort Liability and other insurance policies purchased from the State of Maine. There were no Capital expenditures in Q1.

The Park's Capital Reserve Account has not been funded for many years and has a balance of \$27,000. Lori discussed options for funding this account for large or unexpected environmental emergencies with Director Adam. Primarily accrued revenue for distributions received in previous fiscal years that were not recognized until FY25 was directed to the Capital Reserve Account. Additionally, the Baxter Park Wilderness Fund Trustees increased its annual distribution above what was budgeted for FY25. This allowed for an additional \$10,000 to be added to the Capital Reserve account. As of 10/1/2026, the balance in the Capital Reserve account was over 399,000.00. We will continue seeking opportunities to grow this account and will develop a policy for the Authority after reviewing standard budgeting benchmarks for similar accounts.

The Kidney Pond Campground Restoration Project, which includes work on Cabins 6 and 7 and the library over the winter months, was not budgeted for FY26 and required a financial order. We were able to self-fund this project (using a positive fund balance from 2025), which includes two temporary Conservation Aide positions to assist with this phase. The total project budget is \$118,000.

Human Resources: Recruitment in 2025 was successful, and retention efforts showed improvement. There were also fewer vacant positions to fill in 2025 than in 2024. We identified a previously underutilized benefit, whereby when retirees are hired, the state will pay for their Medicare Part B premiums, representing a savings to the employee of ~\$180/month, which is an attractive incentive for retirees. Retirees have proven to be excellent employees and often have experience in the Park. Recruitment is underway for the 2026 season.

Reservations: The winter lottery was typical, with 92 in-person reservation seekers, compared to 89 last year. More mail-in reservations were requested, and more applications were submitted. Commercial user reservations were the same, and revenue was up because the total number of winter reservations was higher.

Following a comprehensive review by the Reservation Subcommittee beginning in 2024, and subsequent approval by the Authority, changes in the reservation process resulted in a new Katahdin Trailhead Pass (KTP), which was approved by the Authority in 2025 and has successfully achieved the objectives of:

- Reducing the limit of KTPs from three per account per month to two
 - helped curb overpurchasing and lowered the no-show rate by 7%
- Starting April 1, non-resident visitors can purchase KTPs along with Maine residents.
 - Non-residents did not purchase more than the set cap of 30%
 - ME residents did not purchase the 70%, though they had the opportunity to do so

More education is needed in 2026 to ensure visitors know they must select a vehicle to view KTP

availability. KTP Sales declined in 2025, though the fee increase from \$5 to \$10 per pass did not negatively impact revenue. The total was higher than in 2024.

The Authority also approved changes to the Reservations process/system that were announced on December 5th. They include:

- Visitors can use the online reservation portal to reserve their initial night plus three (3) consecutive nights beyond the 4-month rolling window at the same campground
- The reservation portal is open at 6:00 a.m., changed from 12:00 a.m.

There was an increase of 316 reserved campsites in 2025 as compared to 2024 (when Daicey Pond was closed), accounting for 67% of total nights available. Overall, in 2025, 500 fewer people visited the Park as compared to 2024, with 1,300 fewer day users and 850 more overnight users. Total number of visitors - 57,500.

Information & Education: Interpretive Specialist Cassandra Knudsen and Nava Tabak have been facilitating communications around the Reservations policy changes (website and social media). Winter signage has been distributed in the Park, and they've been working with Shane on the Forest Interpretive Trail, which is part of the demonstration and education efforts in the SFMA. I&E staff also continue to collaborate with Friends of Baxter on the annual calendar (with photo selections and authoring captions) and a series of educational winter webinars, including one on geology in the Park. The printed Park map is being updated, which is a stand-alone map, but is also included in the BSP Guidebook, which is also due to be updated. Two interns will be hired this summer to assist with updating the BSP website and updating the trail descriptions for the BSP guidebook.

Upcoming winter outreach events include the sportsman's show in Orono, the 4,000-Footer Club's annual meeting, and local events. BSP is also collaborating with Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument for educational outreach in local classrooms. A new Visiting Writer pilot program is planned for 2026 (in June), separate from the Visitor Artist Program (in September). Both will be based out of Kidney Pond Campground, with the hope that each art form will inspire visitors in different ways.

Natural Resources and Research: Charlene Donahue, entomologist and long-time Research Committee member, is stepping down from the committee. Late-season research projects have been wrapped up. Park Advisory Committee members joined staff on October 4 to pull invasive bristly locust plants from one of four sites in the Park in a multi-year effort to eradicate this shrub. The Park recently received data from angler survey boxes analyzed by IF&W. This very successful survey revealed interesting patterns, including much more stream fishing (versus ponds) than realized. The catch rate is very good in the Park. We will continue to encourage visitors to participate in this survey in the coming year.

It was a great mountain patrol season, again exceeding the number of patrols of the prior year. The Park instituted a revised weather class system for areas above treeline, and we've received

positive feedback on it. Our iNaturalist project received ~4,500 submissions (~900 species), which were more diverse (included many fungi and insects), and ~50% have attained research grade. Shane Miller has been building a Park-wide GIS system for field applications for Rangers and other field staff, including, most recently, the collection of fire plan-related data.

Scientific Forest Management Area (SFMA): Staff have been focusing on conducting stand inventories and creating a forest cover type map for the SFMA. This will help determine options for managing hardwoods, especially in the currently depressed markets. A small winter harvest was initiated for approximately 2,500 cords of mostly spruce/fir stands. The current Annual Allowable Cut is ~9,000 cords/year, and net growth for spruce/fir is ~3,000 cords/year (so the harvest is slightly under our net growth for this forest type). The harvest will be completed as quickly as possible to minimize costs. Any incidental hardwood in the stands will be used for firewood in the Park. A harvest of Norway spruce is planned on the Mount Chase lot and will likely take place this summer. The SFMA Advisory Committee met on-site in the fall and had a good discussion about the challenges in the SFMA. Our long-time processor, Clint Morrow, received the Certified Logging Professional Mechanical Logger of the Year award in October.

Maintenance: A significant amount of gravel was hauled from the Nesowadnehunk Pit (which produces the best road gravel) to the Roaring Brook Road to stage it for erosion events. Culvert work was performed, adding six cross-drainage culverts on the Roaring Brook Road and replacing five aging culverts (three on the Roaring Brook Road and two on the Tote Road).

Repairs at Kidney Pond are ongoing (Library and Cabins 6 & 7). Logs were sourced from the SFMA and were milled and peeled locally. Two Conservation Aides were hired to help with the project, and both hold summer season jobs with the Park. Two additional cabins were opened at Daicey Pond to accommodate the temporary closing of the two winter cabins at Kidney.

A concrete spill containment basin under an above-ground diesel tank at the North Camps was constructed. The Maintenance crew performed small engine repair and maintenance, and prepared the snowmobile fleet for a busy winter season. Two half-ton trucks were received, and a new Case 890SN backhoe was purchased through a financial order.

The Maintenance staff had been responsible for plowing at Park Headquarters, with a contractor plowing the Abol area. Due to a significant increase in contractor pricing and other logistical factors, the BSP Maintenance staff will assume snowplowing responsibilities at Abol. A local contractor will continue to plow the winter lot at Matagamom.

Trails: This past fall, the Maine Air National Guard was scheduled for a large-scale volunteer trails project (How Brook Trail and South Branch Falls Trail), but due to the government shutdown and downsizing, they had to pull out of the project. Trail Supervisor Brennan Turner utilized the time to combine the South Branch Falls project with a highline rigging training for the Trail crew. The shutdown also prevented the National Guard from a planned flight to deliver three spruce logs to the Katahdin Stream Falls area of the Hunt Trail for a bridge rebuild there. Brennan located three spruce

trees in the vicinity for use as alternative bridge stringers. Work continues on the Baxter Peak summit sign and various trail signs.

Field Operations and Law Enforcement: The staff performed a variety of projects (as listed in the full Operations report) before conducting seasonal winterization of Park buildings and water systems. A considerable amount of firewood was delivered to Abol and East Branch pits for the 2026 season. Winter wood for camper use was also delivered to Kidney and Daicey Ponds.

In late fall, the Mitchel Scholars (~70 volunteers) spent one Sunday morning in October spreading gravel at Daicey Pond, stacking firewood at Kidney Pond, and organizing children's books at the Kidney Pond library.

Enforcement Rangers completed various state-mandated training. The Park received 10 new Glock sidearms, and Enforcement Rangers completed annual firearms qualifications and training in conjunction with the Maine Warden Service. The persistence and professionalism of BSP Rangers were noted by MWS personnel.

Position changes were made after identifying needs at Nesowadnehunk Campground and the SFMA by transferring the third Chimney Pond Ranger to Nesowadnehunk and transferring the 12-week Nesowadnehunk/Trout Brook Farm Ranger position, along with the vacant 13-week Forest Tech position, to create a 25-week SFMA/Trout Brook Farm Campground Ranger position.

Appalachian Trail: BSP hosted an end-of-season meeting with the ATC and the MATC. Late-season weather conditions for northbound hikers were discussed. Messaging included suggesting flip-flopping from Monson to Katahdin to reduce the chance that hikers might not finish due to a weather closure on the mountain, which closed on October 17. October 16 was designated as a Class 4 day, with potentially dangerous conditions. There were nine search and rescue incidents late in the fall that involved AT hikers aged 70+. Preventive Search and Rescue (PSAR) messaging continues to be important. The season finished with a total of 2012 AT hikers.

Search and Rescue (SAR): Park staff responded to 75 SAR incidents, a 40% increase over 2024. The preponderance of incidents continues to be falls, lower extremity injuries, dehydration, exhaustion, and exceeding ability. Seven MASAR teams provided 2,409 standby hours and 463 active SAR hours in 2025.

YTD at Chimney Pond, there was 48" of snowfall accumulation, with current depth at 27". At Abol, 15.5" for the season, with 8" depth currently.

Executive Session (Austin Cary Lot): **AG Frey moved pursuant to Title 1 Section 405(6)(C) of the Maine Revised Statutes to go into executive session to discuss the status of the Austin Cary Lot and prevent premature disclosure of information that would prejudice the Authority's competitive or bargaining position. Commissioner Camuso seconded, and the motion passed 3-0. Authority, staff, and counsel emerged from the Executive Session. They did not take any votes and only spoke of the matter at hand (Austin Cary Lot).**

Meeting Adjourned at 12:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Georgia Manzo, Office Specialist