

**MINUTES OF THE May 20, 2021 MEETING OF THE MEMBERS  
OF THE FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

Chair Daigler called the May 20, 2021 meeting of the Finance Authority of Maine to order at 9:04 a.m. This meeting was conducted virtually through Zoom. Provisions were made for the public to attend. This method was deemed necessary and appropriate due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and were determined authorized by PL 2020 ch 617, section G (1 MRSA §403-A).

Legal Assistant, Summer Knowlton, noted for the record that the members had received an Agenda and Notice of Meeting (*see Certificate of Mailing attached as Appendix 1*), and that notices of the meeting had been published in certain newspapers throughout the state (*see Affidavits of Publication attached as Appendix 2*).

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Knowlton called the roll of the members and noted that there were sufficient members present for the purpose of beginning the meeting.

Those members present were as follows:

David Daigler, Chair  
Richard Trafton, Vice Chair  
Dustin Brooks, Treasurer  
Rebecca Asen  
Greg Olson, in place of Henry Beck  
Amanda Beal  
Renee Ouellette  
Bettyann Sheats  
Tim Nightingale  
Blue Keim  
James Violette

Those members absent:

Omar Andrews  
Heather Johnson  
James Howard  
Lee Webb

Staff present:

Carlos Mello, Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Christopher Roney, General Counsel  
Shelly Desiderio, Chief Accounting Officer

Martha Johnston, Director of Education  
Elizabeth Vanderweide, Director of Business Development  
Jennifer Cummings, Director of Business Programs  
Scott Weber, Senior Credit Officer  
Jeff Murch, Credit Analyst II  
Kim Getchell, Commercial Loan Officer  
Karen Kunesh, Workout Officer  
Summer Knowlton, Legal/HR Assistant

Guests:

Daniel Wallace- CEI

Fred Horton- Standard BioCarbon

John Contas- Standard BioCarbon

**A: CALL TO ORDER**

**A1: Ascertainment of Quorum** 9:01 a.m.

**A2: Approval of April 15, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**

**A3: Approval of the minutes of May 13, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting**

**A4: Approval of the minutes of May 4, 2021 Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting**

A motion was made by Mr. Trafton and seconded by Mr. Brooks to approve/accept (1) the minutes of the April 15, 2021 Board Meeting; (2) the minutes of the May 13, 2021 Executive Committee; (3) the minutes of the May 4, 2021 Risk Management and Audit Committee Meeting. The motion was approved by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions

*Blue Keim entered the meeting at 9:30 a.m.*

*Jay Violette entered the meeting at 9:41 a.m.*

**B: CHAIR'S REPORT** 9:08 am.

Mr. Daigler began updating the Board on the Executive Committee's May 13, 2021 meeting.

**A motion to enter Executive Session No. 1 under (1 MRSA §405(6)(F); 1 MRSA §402(3)(A)) to discuss confidential matters relating to the servicing of NextGen 529 was made by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Trafton, and approved unanimously.**

**Members entered Executive Session No. 1 at 9:09 a.m.**

**Members exited Executive Session No. 1 at 9:36 a.m.**

Mr. Trafton updated the Board on the status of the Ad Hoc HAF Steering Committee, where the members have prepared a draft report of a plan for cooperation between FAME and HAF/ASF. The report will be ready to present to the Board in June or July.

Mr. Brooks updated the Board on the CEO Search Committee, where he reported that the members of the Committee met with the governor and have consequently paused the search in order for a strategic review of the position to take place.

Mr. Mello gave his Acting CEO report, in which he reviewed the updates to the NextGen 529 plan, an update on the Maine Education Loan Authority 2021 Bond issuance, where rates obtained were beneficial for borrowers and very competitive with other sources of private loans. FAFSA filing rates are still below 2020 rates.

Mr. Roney went over the FAME Identity Theft Prevention Program, as required annually. Mr. Trafton recommended that the Risk Management and Audit Committee review the policy at their next meeting.

*Mr. Daigler left the meeting at 9:50 a.m.*

## **C: ACTION ITEMS**

### **C1: Approval of Loan Request- Standard BioCarbon (Economic Recovery Loan Program) 10:29 a.m.**

Ms. Getchell introduced guests Fred Horton, John Contas from Standard BioCarbon and Daniel Wallace from CEI. Ms. Getchell reported that the loan request is for a \$800,000 FAME Direct Loan in order to support the project, which will take place in the former East Millinocket Great Northern Paper Company Mill. Ms. Cummings reported that this loan request was presented to the Business Committee at the May 12, 2021 meeting and that the Business Committee recommends approval of the loan.

Mr. Horton went over the project, where carbon will be sequestered from the forest and turned into BioChar, a carbon negative material that will then be sold for livestock feed, on the carbon market, as fertilizer, or a number of other purposes. The site location in East Millinocket will be optimal for the

harvesting of raw material in a sustainable way, create jobs, allow for growth, and potentially the sale of BioChar's by-product, thermal energy.

**A motion to approve the loan request was made by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Ms. Sheats and approved by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.**

**D: Staff Reports** *10:45 a.m.*

Mr. Mello gave the Legislative Update, specifying several legislative actions that pertain to FAME programs.

Mr Weber reported that FAME Business programs are performing well and that the CLI portfolio has gone down due to pay-offs.

Ms. Kunesh began the Watch Desk report.

**A motion to enter Executive Session No. 2 under (10 MRSA §975-A(2)(D)) to discuss specific Watch Desk accounts' financials was made by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Ms. Sheats, and approved unanimously.**

Members entered Executive Session No. 2 at 11:18 a.m.

Members existed Executive Session No. 2 at 11:26 a.m.

Ms, Johnston gave an update on Education Programs, reiterating the reduced number of FAFSA filings for the 2021-2022 school year and proposing an Extended Maine Grant, which would include students who did not file their FAFSA before the May 1 deadline in addition to rolling over funds to next year's round of Maine State Grant. Ms. Johnston also noted the Governor's supplemental budget, which could potentially bring in more funds for FAME Education.

**A motion was made by Mr. Violette and seconded by Mr. Brooks to adjourn and was approved unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Daigler, Chair