

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Minutes

Wednesday January 9, 2013

Location: Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG), Auburn, Maine

Time: Meeting began at 3:30PM

Commissioners Present: Bruce Rioux, John Butler, Dave Jones, Bethel Shields, Dick Thibodeau, Joe Grube, John Bonneau, Bob Thompson (arrived at 3:35PM), Steve French

Commissioners Absent: none

Others Present:

Richard Burnham, Mary Jane Dillingham, John Storer, Sid Hazelton, K.C. Geiger, Tizz Crowley, Heather Hunter, Lee Upton, Dan Bisson, Lynne Richard, Bob Cavanaugh, Scott Williams

Commissioner Grube called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM

Agenda Item 1: Introduce and Welcome Lynne Richard, new Public Education & Outreach Coordinator

Commissioner Rioux introduced Lynne Richard as the new Public Education and Outreach Coordinator. He first met Ms. Richard last summer through her involvement in a Sun Journal project in Cumberland County called "Kidville News". He further learned of her association with the Portland Water District, and education efforts throughout Cumberland County.

Commissioners Shields and Rioux spent an afternoon with her, and learned more about the program she offered. Given the success of the Portland program, he thought it would be great to bring this program to the Lewiston/Auburn Area. Commissioner Rioux was pleased to announce that she had agreed to accept this position.

Lynne brings a 20 year background of teaching science to middle school students in Connecticut. When she moved to Maine she worked in the Portland Water District. She worked with Roberta Hill, then continued the program when she left. She has developed the watershed education system as far as it can go, and is looking forward to bringing the program to Lewiston/Auburn. She is also looking forward to providing outreach, and public education, awareness, and communication. She also has some contacts in the Auburn School System which should allow her to hit the ground running.

She will start her new job on Monday January 14, and be working out of Mary Jane Dillinghams' old office at the Auburn Water District. She will eventually move her office to the Lake. Her first job will be to publish a press release, and then develop a newsletter, and begin to make contacts within the school systems.

Agenda Item 2: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 28, 2012

Commissioner Shields noted a typo on page 4 of 7 under "Lake Lowering". The word "to" should be omitted.

Commissioner Thibodeau noted on page 6 of 7 that "Lake Associations" should be changed to "Congress of Lake Associations (COLA)".

Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau to accept the minutes of November 28, 2012, with revisions, and place on file.

Passed 8 -0 (Commissioner Butler abstaining)

Agenda Item 3: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter

Heather distributed the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures as of December 31, 2012.

An audit will be performed on February 1, 2013 based upon these numbers.

Some notable line items:

Revenues:

- Grants received were double what was anticipated (Intergovernmental)
- Timber harvesting exceeded projections by \$15,000

Expenditures:

- Auburn Water District had a surplus, Lewiston broke even
- Outside Services over budget due to additional expenditures for Auburn Land Trust easement issues
- Source Protection – this includes many activities, and the commission may want to consider dividing this line item out in the future. It included \$11,000 for Police patrol, and testing and sampling for the CDM/Smith study. Some of the overage was absorbed under the Repairs to Property and Equipment account.

- Public Education - a lot of it was postponed, and the money will be carried forward to reduce the 2013 budget.
- Liability & D&O Insurance – We have the premium locked in for three years. Our policy renews in July. The budget reflects a charge for one year.
- At year end we have incurred \$64,000 for the Lake Study, which is well within budget.
- The Commission has one loan outstanding with the Municipal Bond Bank. There is one principal payment of \$38,000 that will be made this year.

Vote 2 – Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner Shields to approve the Quarterly Financial Update.

Passed 9-0

Agenda Item 4: Update on Status of Phase I Lake Auburn Diagnostic Study – Dan Bisson, CDM Smith

John Storer provided an overview of the Lake Auburn Study. The commission received a proposal for approximately \$250,000 to provide a Lake Study in two phases. The consultants are planning to make a formal public presentation on February 13 at 5:00PM at Lewiston City Hall. The presentation will be recorded by Great Falls TV.

Dan Bisson, project Manager for CDM Smith reported on the progress of the project. A notice to proceed was given on September 24, 2012; a contract was signed on October 16, 2012. The team was assembled and a kick-off meeting was held at the Lake on October 24, 2012. Since that point a lot of data collection and analysis has taken place. Under the direction of Ken Wagner, sediment samples have been taken and are being analyzed. CDM Smith and CEI have formed a team; CDM Smiths primary expertise is with in-lake issues, and CEI is more familiar with watershed issues.

CEI has done some nutrient and water budget modeling. CDM Smith is analyzing algae data from Bates College, and bathymetry of the lake is being looked at from some University of Maine at Farmington data.

Conclusions from the initial first phase will be presented at the February 13 meeting. Phase two of the study will get into short and long term recommendations for addressing the algae issue.

The first draft of the report for Phase one is due Jan. 30.

They are undergoing a scientific and systematic process to come up with the best solutions. Dan noted that the issue is very complex, and doesn't think the solution will be a single step; rather it will be a series of recommendations.

Dan assured the Commission that the team will be ready for the presentation on February 13.

The Council Chambers are reserved for two hours, but it can the meeting can go longer if needed.

Agenda Item 5: Approve Order Delegating Authority to Commission Clerks to approve and execute Phase 2 of the Lake Auburn Diagnostic Study – Dave Jones

Dave Jones noted that the phase 1 study involved data collection and short term recommendations, and phase 2 scope included more long-term recommendations. An order for approving Phase 2 of the study was prepared and put into the agenda packet for consideration by the Commission. Commissioner Jones recommended its approval.

Vote 3 – Motion by Commissioner Butler and seconded by Commissioner Rioux to approve the order delegating authority to Commission Clerks to approve and execute Phase 2 of the Lake Auburn Diagnostic Study.

Passed 9-0

Agenda Item 6: Water Quality Update & Activity Report – Mary Jane Dillingham

- Forestry – The next scheduled harvest is on the 25 acre parcel adjacent to the Gendron Pit. The trees are marked, and harvest may take place later this winter.

The lot behind Tabors is marked as well, along with a lot off Maple Hill Rd. A neighboring private landowner may come on board as well.

Commissioner Thibodeau asked if the timber harvesting was limited to selective cutting. MJ explained that we follow our Forestry management plan, and each parcel is cut in accordance with the recommendation. The soil conditions and tree type dictates how

the parcel is cut. The goal is to maintain a healthy forest, and favor softwood growth over hardwoods. We try to leave trees that will promote tree regeneration.

Commissioner Rioux asked if an abutter wishes to partner with us on forestry can they piggy back on our plan? MJ responded that they have to have their own plan, and the State issues a separate harvest plan number to them. When we mark a parcel for harvest, our Forester will send a letter to all abutters to make sure they are aware of our activities. If they wish to partner, we usually share a log yard, which minimizes the disruption to the land.

John Storer noted that Portland Water District has a 10 minute video that demonstrates the benefits of good forestry management practices. He will send the link to the Commissioners.

- MJ and her staff have been working closely with CDM Smith and CEI to provide them with lake data for the study.
- MJ's background is in Microbiology, and she will be spending much more time working with the consultants and studying the algae that is present in the lake.
- Surveyor Bob Gagnon finished his work on the Central Maine Community College conservation easement. We need the deed description recreated with the new easement by our Attorney.

Agenda Item 7: Project Canopy Grant – Status Update – Sid Hazelton

We have been notified by Project Canopy that our \$10,000 grant request to update our forestry management plan has been approved. The grant includes a \$10,000 local match for education, which is included in the 2013 LAWPC budget.

Agenda Item 8: Open Session – Public Comments

John Storer offered the following meeting dates for the Commission in 2013:

April 24, June 26, August 28, October 23, December 4. The Commission adopted these dates.

John Storer met with Dan Bilodeau and some of his LAWNA Associates on Monday night January 7 to discuss the proposed Lake Auburn Community Center (LACC). Conceptually, there are some interesting ideas, and he needs to meet with the Auburn City Planner Eric Cousens to make sure the ideas mesh with what planning and permitting will allow. It looks like some uses

could be beneficial and consistent with protecting the Lake, and we will need to monitor it as it moves forward.

Tizz Crowley spoke about the Lake Auburn Community Center (Pronounced “Lake”) becoming a functioning organization with a mission focused on an integration of use, conservation, preservation, land owners rights, and assisting the Water District by bringing environmental and resource conservation messages to a broad spectrum of people. She encourages the Commission, and all interested parties to come to work together on this great recreation opportunity. The land was transferred by a private owner to LAWNA on Christmas Day. They have not finalized their 501C3 status, but it will be a place to give charitable, tax deductible donations. She feels this is a way to assure water quality, and protection of the Lake, while still providing some recreation resources for those of us who do not physically live in the watershed.

Agenda Item 9: Old Business

- “Swimmability Study” – John Storer

There is a meeting on January 17 with the consultant CEI, Parks & Rec Superintendent Ravi Sharma, Public Works Director Dennis D’Auteuil, and John Storer to give an update to the work done to date. So far, they have inspected the immediate drainage area, the Rt. 4 culvert restriction, the dam and spillway, and the banks downstream. They have taken sediment samples in the beach area, and have taken water quality data. Dave Jones expressed interest in attending the meeting as well.

Agenda Item 10: Adjourn Meeting

Vote 4 - Motion by Commissioner French, and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 9 - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 PM

A true record, Attest:

Robert Thompson,
Secretary of the LAWPC