

# Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

## Minutes

**Tuesday May 23, 2012**

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

**Time:** Meeting began at 3:33 PM

**Commissioners Present:** Bruce Rioux, Dave Jones, Bethel Shields, Dick Thibodeau, Steve French, John Butler, Joe Grube (arrived at 3:34PM), John Bonneau (arrived at 3:35PM)

Commissioners Absent: Bob Thompson

### **Others Present:**

Kevin Gagne, Mary Jane Dillingham, John Storer, Sid Hazelton, Dan Bilodeau, Tizz Crowley, George Buker, Rene Ouellette, Mike Auger

Commissioner Rioux called the meeting to order at 3:33PM

### **Agenda Item 1: Approve minutes of Regular Meeting of January 25, 2012**

**Vote 1**– Motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the minutes of January 25, 2012, and place on file.

**Passed 6 -0 (Commissioners Bonneau, Grube absent)**

### **Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter**

In Heather Hunter's absence, John Storer asked if any commissioners had questions about the report that was in the agenda packet. No questions were raised.

**Vote 2**– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thibodeau to accept the quarterly Financial Update.

**Passed 7- 0 (Commissioner Bonneau Absent)**

### **Agenda Item 3: Water Quality Update & Activity Report – Mary Jane Dillingham**

- There is no forestry activity at this time. Some work may be done this summer pending favorable weather.
- Mary Jane is working on securing grants for a new forestry management plan. An update will be provided at the next meeting.
- Water quality testing will take place this summer as we partner with a graduate student who will be using new technology to observe and study different kinds of algae.
- We received a \$2000 grant for boat inspections, and they continue to be performed.
- The invasive plant management program will start soon. Activities include the placement of benthic barriers, hand pulling, planting native non-invasive plants in areas that were treated with benthic barriers, and obtaining GPS locations of areas where milfoil is present.
- In response to an e-mail received by a concerned St. Doms parent, we investigated the proposed use of a pesticide by St. Doms on their athletic fields to control ticks. Although the particular pesticide they were using can be highly toxic to aquatic life, we discovered the surface water from the athletic fields drain away from Lake Auburn. After meeting with school officials, it appears that they were following required protocol, including a five day public notification. They were sensitive to the issue of water quality, and were using a licensed applicator to apply the pesticide around the perimeter of the playing fields.
- A letter which outlines best management practices for manure is being mailed to all farmers in the Lake Auburn watershed in Auburn. The letter will be revised and sent to farms in neighboring watershed towns as well.

### **Agenda Item 4: Open Session – Public Comments**

No comments from the public were received

### **Agenda Item 5: New Business**

*The following two items were added to the agenda:*

1. **L/A Community Forest Board** - John Storer reported that at the Auburn Council meeting on May 21 Mayor Labonte raised the possibility of the L/A Community Forest Board working with the Commission to manage our watershed forests for recreation and other

purposes. Mr. Storer suggested appointing a few Watershed Commissioners to volunteer to sit with the L/A Community Forest Board to start a dialogue. Commissioner Rioux voiced concern about opening up invitation for non-compatible uses. Commissioner Bonneau was cautious about relinquishing any control over our forests. Commissioners Rioux and Shields volunteered to meet with the L/A Community Forest Board.

2. **City of Auburn Comprehensive Plan Update** – Mayor Labonte has distributed a draft outlining his plan to appoint a seven member committee to implement the Auburn Comprehensive Plan.

- **Lake Auburn Half Marathon - Kevin Gagne**

On September 9, 2012, a half marathon is planned around Lake Auburn, as well as a 5k and bike tour. Kevin has been in contact with event coordinator Dan Campbell to assure that watershed protection concerns are being addressed. Major congregation points for the race are at Tabers, Lost Valley, and CMCC. In lieu of the mass gathering permit, a letter will be sent to Mr. Campbell which will state the Commissions support of the event, and also outline our concerns about litter, etc.

- **Lunn Road Beaver Dam & Erosion – Sid Hazelton**

A beaver dam on Commission property has caused severe erosion across the discontinued Lunn Road, washing a few hundred yards of gravel into a stream that flows into the Basin. The beavers are no longer present. To remedy the situation, the dam will be removed, and the eroded area re-graded to form a more natural stream channel. Commissioners were receptive to placing culverts to allow base flow, and rip rap placed over them so as to not limit future access for snowmobilers or utility companies that need to access the overhead lines that run through the area. The issue of designating a formal snowmobile trail would need to be addressed in the future, as one half of the land is privately owned by another individual.

- **Revised Agreement, Androscoggin Land Trust, Monitoring Conservation Easements – Mary Jane Dillingham**

The Commission was presented the revised MOU from the Androscoggin Land trust to monitor our seven conservation easements for a three year period.

**Vote 3**– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau to execute the MOU from the Androscoggin Land Trust to monitor our seven conservation easements for a three year period.

**Passed 8- 0**

Our attorney presented language for a second amended change to the CMCC easement. It needed legal review to ensure it met State of Maine requirements.

**Vote 4**– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Butler to authorize execution of the second easement amended for the Central Maine Community College.

**Passed 7- 0 (Commissioner Bonneau abstaining)**

**Agenda Item 6: Old Business**

- **Public Education & Outreach - Bruce, Bethel & Dick organized sub-group to discuss ideas**

Commissioner Rioux held a meeting to discuss public education and outreach, and highlighted the following ideas:

- Develop a website exclusively for LAWPC, including links to other organizations, possibly utilize a High School student for this purpose
- Write a letter to homeowners in the watershed to check septic systems
- Make a Lake Auburn newsletter similar to the one for Taylor Pond
- Distribute best management practices letter on manure utilization
- Meet & greet in the Summer and Fall with watershed residents
- Develop a logo to brand the watershed and help recognition

Bethel Shields noted that Dick Gleason may be willing to do PSA's on the radio. It was suggested to use Karen Bernier to develop the PSA. Ideas could come directly from the CEI report.

Tizz Crowley noted that there will be an Auburn beach opening ceremony for Ward 1 on the Saturday before Fathers Day, and inquired about LAWPC participation.

**Vote 5**– Motion by Commissioner Rioux and seconded by Commissioner Shields to reimburse up to \$100 towards Auburn Beach Opening Ceremony expenses.

**Passed 8 -0**

- **Watershed Patrols/Lake Shore Drive Parking – John Storer & Sid Hazelton**

At the October 2011 LAWPC meeting the concept of watershed patrols by the Auburn Police Department was introduced and tabled until the Spring of 2012.

\$22,000 was appropriated in the 2012 budget for this service. We are proposing to meet with the Auburn Police Department to review the list of duties, educate them on Watershed Protection Commission rules, and begin the patrols. They will occur mostly on weekends, but may be scheduled randomly throughout the week.

Commissioner Thibodeau asked about the ability to cite individuals who violate the rules. John Storer explained that law violations such as littering would be enforceable, but civil violations such as swimming would be up to the Commission to pursue.

**Vote 6**– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau to allocate up to 14 hours/week through June and July for the Auburn Police Department to patrol the watershed, and possibly beyond pending review of results at the next Commissioner meeting.

**Passed 8 -0**

Erosion of the gravel road shoulder on Lake Shore Drive is occurring due to vehicles parking in undesignated areas. We will approach the Auburn City Council to request the installation of no-parking signs in undesignated areas.

**Agenda Item 7: Gracelawn Road Land Issue - Executive Session regarding negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with MRSA § 405(6) (C)**

**Vote 7** – Motion by commissioner Bonneau, and seconded by Commissioner Jones to enter into executive session.

Entered executive session at 4:55PM

Out of executive session at 5:01PM

**Vote 8** – Motion by Commissioner Butler, and seconded by Commissioner French to obtain an appraisal of the Robinson property off the Old Turner Road, abutting Townsend Brook.

**Passed 8-0**

**Agenda Item 8: Adjourn Meeting**

**Vote 9** - Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Jones, and seconded by Commissioner Butler to adjourn the meeting.

**Passed 8 - 0**

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM**

A true record, Attest:

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Robert Thompson,  
Secretary of the LAWPC