

# Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

## Minutes

Wednesday July 25, 2012

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

**Time:** Meeting began at 3:30 PM

**Commissioners Present:** Bruce Rioux, Bethel Shields, Steve French, John Butler, Joe Grube,

Commissioners Absent: Dave Jones, Bob Thompson, Dick Thibodeau, Bob Thompson

### **Others Present:**

Kevin Gagne, Richard Burnham, Mary Jane Dillingham, John Storer, Sid Hazelton, K.C. Geiger, Tizz Crowley, Heather Hunter, Dan Campbell, Jonathan Labonte, Bruce Damon

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

### **Agenda Item 1: Approve minutes of Regular Meeting of May 23, 2012**

**Vote 1**– Motion by Commissioner Butler and seconded by Commissioner Rioux to accept the minutes of May 23, 2012, and place on file.

**Passed 5 -0**

### **Agenda Item 2: Measuring of the Lake, Wednesday, August 15**

John Storer announced that the annual “Measuring of the Lake” event is scheduled to take place on August 15.

In light of the recently distributed e-mail correspondence from Dan Bilodeau, Commissioner Rioux asked if any members of the public had any input on the event.

- Commissioner French supported the event, commenting that he appreciated the recognition for the time that the volunteers put in all year long.
- K.C. Geiger was supportive of the event

- Jonathan Labonte commented that there is always a portion of the public that will be upset with these types of functions, but he was supportive of the event as long as it is conducted within reasonable guidelines.
- Tizz Crowley was supportive of the event, and echoed the comments of Jonathan Labonte.

### **Agenda Item 3: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter**

Heather noted that Auburn’s April through June billing was not reflected in the report; however, all line items are trending normally.

The source protection line item was elevated due to the lake patrols that are being performed by the Auburn Police Department.

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

**Passed 5- 0**

### **Agenda Item 4: Check Signing Authority (back-up?) – Heather Hunter**

Currently Heather is the only individual authorized to sign checks on behalf of the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission. She asked if the Commissioners would choose to authorize a second signer in her absence.

**Vote 3**– Motion by Commissioner Butler and seconded by Commissioner French to authorize the Vice Chair of the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission to sign checks.

**Passed 5- 0**

### **Agenda Item 5: Water Quality Update & Activity Report – Mary Jane Dillingham**

- Algae Monitoring – Gleotrichia is blooming on the Lake, and Bates College students are taking samples to study. Commissioner Rioux asked what can be done to combat it. Mary Jane responded that our best bet is to keep the Lake as clean as possible, and limit the amount of contaminated runoff that enters the Lake. She explained that Gleotrichia stores its own phosphorus that it collects from the bottom sediments during the winter months.

- Milfoil – There is a prolific bloom of milfoil in the Basin, and we have 85 benthic barriers in place, as well as a diver who is pulling it out by hand. Despite these efforts, our overall success is limited due to the sheer volume of milfoil that is present.
- Moosehead Project – Mary Jane is part of a survey team that will meet at Moosehead Lake in August to conclude a five-year project to inspect shoreline for invasive and native plants.
- Forest Management Plan – Weather pending, our Forester may begin harvesting on Johnson/Spring Road, as well as Hardscrabble road later this Summer.

Mary Jane is still hopeful to receive a grant from the State Forest Service to fund a new Forest Management Plan to update our current plan that was done in 2003. We should get more information in a few weeks about grant availability.

On a separate note, John Storer was notified by the City of Auburn that the LAWNA group filed a complaint with the Department of Conservation against the Maine Forest Service concerning the Spring Road Harvest that was conducted in the Winter of 2010.

- Conservation Easements – through meetings with Mike Auger from the Androscoggin Land Trust, most of the conservation easements are now defined, and there are only a handful of minor issues that need to be followed up on with a few homeowners. In addition, we need to record a few exhibits with the registry of deeds.

### **Agenda Item 6: Open Session – Public Comments**

- John Labonte addressed the Commission on behalf of the L/A Community Forest Board to gage interest in forming a partnership with LAWPC to engage the community in creating a true unified community forest that focuses on use of the forest to promote protection, education, and recreation. He felt that money could be leveraged through programs such as Project Canopy to assist with land purchase and educational efforts.

Bruce Damon from the L/A Community Forest Board spoke of the importance of maintaining a healthy urban forest, and reviewed their efforts to date.

- Tizz Crowley thanked LAWPC for participating in the opening of the Municipal Beach.

### **Agenda Item 7: New Business**

- **2011 Annual Report, Gull Management on Lake Auburn**

As seen by the annual report that was included in the packet, the program is on-going. Recently we have been working with the Parks Department to discourage geese from congregating on the Municipal Beach. In addition, we have been taking bi-weekly water samples and reporting the results to the Parks & Rec Superintendent.

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

Dan Campbell described the plans for the Lake Auburn Half Marathon, which is scheduled to occur on September 9, 2012. 300 runners are expected to participate. All neighbors along the running route will be notified of the event. Two acoustic bands will be performing. No water stations or porta-potties will be on the Spring Road. Everything will be picked up by the following Monday. Race officials will direct the porta potties at the boat launch, and North Auburn to be emptied, at LAWPC expense. We will be provided a copy of an insurance certificate, naming LAWPC as additional insured.

**Vote 4**– Motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Rioux to approve the issuance of a mass gathering permit to allow the Lake Auburn Half Marathon to occur on LAWPC property.

**Passed 5- 0**

- **Mother’s Run This Town 5K Race – John Storer**

AWD received a letter requesting permission to allow a 5k road race on the Spring Road later this fall.

There was discussion about them needing a permit from the Auburn Police Department, assuring litter pick-up, as well as requiring the provision of a copy of an insurance certificate, naming LAWPC as additional insured.

**Vote 5**– Motion by Commissioner Butler and seconded by Commissioner Rioux to grant conditional approval for the issuance of a mass gathering permit to allow the Mother’s Run This Town 5k Race on the Spring Road.

**Passed 5- 0**

- **Lunn Road Repair – Sid Hazelton**

Auburn Water District personnel completed repairs at the former Lunn Road, where a beaver dam overflowed and caused severe erosion downstream. Wildlife biologist Ben Nugent attempted to trap and relocate the beavers, but found that none were present. The dam was removed, and in two separate areas culverts were taken out, and the areas were graded to form more natural stream channels. Although the former Lunn Road was not a designated snowmobile trail, the area was graded so as not to prohibit the passage of snowmobiles.

- **North Auburn Dam Repair – Sid Hazelton**

Heavy rains in June caused the water to overtop the North Auburn Dam, and wash out some gravel behind the southerly abutment. Auburn Water District personnel accessed the site by the former North Auburn Cash Market, and repaired the damage by replacing the gravel with clay. The site was seeded, and hay mulch was applied.

- **FOA Complaint w/AG's Office (information only)**

Dan Bilodeau filed a complaint with the Attorney Generals' Office over the LAWPC handling of the Rex Rhodes electric utility easement last summer. Our attorney has advised us that the complaint has no merit.

### **Agenda Item 8: Old Business**

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

There has been no meeting to discuss this issue since that last LAWPC meeting.

Bethel is searching for a video that can be used in schools to educate students.

- **Update on on-going Watershed Patrols – Sid Hazelton**

At the last LAWPC meeting in May, commissioners authorized spending up to 14 hrs/week for the Auburn Police Department to patrol the watershed. Patrols started on June 8. To date, a total of 27 patrols have taken place. They have occurred mostly on weekends when use is anticipated to be the heaviest. Relatively speaking, few violations were noted; however, two separate swimming incidents were noted, as well as some litter issues, and loitering.

Commissioners agreed to continue the patrols for the remainder of the summer.

**Agenda Item 9: Potential Land Issues - Executive Session regarding negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with MRSA § 405(6) (C)**

**Vote 8** - Motion by Commissioner Shields, and seconded by Commissioner Butler to enter into executive session.

Passed 5 - 0

Entered executive session at 5:12PM

Came out of executive session at 5:23PM

**Agenda Item 10: Adjourn Meeting**

**Vote 8** - Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Shields, and seconded by Commissioner French to adjourn the meeting.

**Passed 5 - 0**

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 PM**

A true record, Attest:

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Robert Thompson,  
Secretary of the LAWPC