

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday December 4, 2013

Location: Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments

Time: Meeting began at 3:30PM

Commissioners Present: Lee Upton, Bethel Shields, Steve French, Joe Grube, John Bonneau, John Butler, Dave Jones (arrived at 3:50PM), Bob Thompson

Commissioners Absent: Dick Thibodeau

Others Present: John Storer, Mary Jane Dillingham, Sid Hazelton, Heather Hunter, Lynne Richard, Kevin Gagne, KC Geiger, Dan Bilodeau, Tizz Crowley (arrived at 4:10PM)

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

Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 23, 2013

Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Butler and seconded by Commissioner Shields to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on 10/23/13, and place on file.

Passed 7 -0 (Jones absent)

Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter

We received another check from the Lake Environmental Federation (milfoil management), which brings the Intergovernmental account up to \$7,740.00.

We have received \$5,000 from the MDOT for the Berry Farm land sale.

Under expenditures, the Auburn billing is through August; Lynnes' billing is through September, so some line items will increase by year end.

We have closed on the Pope property. The total so far, including legal fees is \$27,680. A few more legal fee bills may be forthcoming.

Overall, the budget is on track.

Vote 2– Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner Shields to accept the quarterly financial update.

Passed 7 -0 (Jones absent)

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

- Update on Lake Auburn

We are done with our Lake sampling program until the Lake freezes over. We collected over 6000 water samples this season. All sample results are in, and the data has been given to our consultants.

We had problems with a golden algae called Synura. This particular algae does not create health problems, but does create taste and odor issues. We received several calls about this from Auburn customers, but not Lewiston. Lewiston is not yet on the Turner Street chloramination system. They have a longer contact time with free chlorine, which seemed to help. Auburn temporarily moved the ammonia injection to the Court Street location. Poland Spring Bottling donated cases of water for residents who had sensitivity to the algae.

We did not experience the blue-green algae blooms this year like we did in 2011, and 2012. We are hoping this is a positive sign that the lake is getting better.

Algae levels have now dropped off. We are experimenting with ways to prevent taste and odor issues by pre-oxidizing with the use of hydrogen peroxide. We may get a full scale set up for next year.

All milfoil management grant monies have been submitted. MJ will apply for more money next year as well to do more work around the Basin.

- Timeframe for Phase 2 Diagnostic Study Results

John Storer explained that we expect a report from our consultants in January. We anticipate they will recommend an in-lake treatment to bind up the phosphorus. It may cost 2 million

dollars to accomplish this. We may schedule a mid-February meeting with the Commission to discuss the recommendations.

The following Commission meeting dates were picked for 2014 :

February 12

April 9

June 11

August 13

October 8

December 10

Agenda Item 4: Erosion Control Projects – Sid Hazelton

Sid Hazelton provided construction photos for the three recently completed erosion control projects that were funded by the LAWPC at the October meeting:

- ✓ MDOT Route 4 - LAWPC contributed \$5,000 for materials to the Maine Department of Transportation for them to fix an eroded culvert outfall on Rt. 4 near Lake Shore Drive.
- ✓ City of Auburn - North Auburn Road - LAWPC purchased \$10,000 of 30" ADS pipe for the Auburn Public Works Department to install along the shoulder of the North Auburn Road near the Northern end of Spring Road. This project diverted storm water flow away from private property where it was carving a deep gully. Public Works will follow up with loam and seed next Spring.
- ✓ Spring Road 0.5 mi from North Terminus – Auburn Water District was appropriated \$30,000 to stabilize a severely eroded channel on the Spring Road. District crews completed the work in November.

Agenda Item 5: Open Session – Public Comments

Dan Bilodeau, representing the Perkins Ridge Snow Travellers, offered an alternate snowmobile trail to be located along the Holbrook Road. This would get the existing trail off the Basin and Lake Auburn.

The Commissioners agreed that this would be a good idea. We would need to move one sign and doggie bag station. The snowmobile club could put a rock near the gate to keep cars out.

Commissioner Jones will follow up with the Snowmobile Club with a letter reflecting permission for the changes.

Tizz Crowley invited the Commissioners to Auburns' inauguration set for Monday December 9.

Agenda Item 6: Education & Outreach Update – Lynne Richard

Lynne recently taught at the Central Maine Christian Academy.

She is working with schools to introduce the “Trout in the Classroom” program. She will be delivering trout eggs and equipment in January. Students raise them, and release them into streams in May.

Lynnes workload has increased to the point where she soon may be getting an educator to work with her.

Lynne has been getting out into the watershed a lot with Sue Gammon; most recently on the Holbrook Road, which the City will be reconstructing next year. Input was given on culvert replacement, and how to maintain water quality in the Basin.

Lynne introduced a software program called Fulcrum. This program can be used with your smart phone to take points, put them on a map, and input data. Lynne and Sue have been using this program to record points in the watershed that CEI identified as problem areas. Lynne hopes to use this data to assist in applying for a 319 grant next spring.

Agenda Item 7: Forestry Management Plan Update – Lynne Richard & Sid

Hazelton

- DRAFT Plan is available – John Storer explained that we now have a draft Forestry Management Plan that was completed by Southern Maine Forestry. We received a grant from Project Canopy to help fund it. The Plan is a technical document that includes tree inventory for our parcels and how to best manage them and plan for future harvests.
- Discuss public input – coordination w/Community Forest Board – John mentioned that last Spring we had conversations with the Community Forest Board, and wanted to bring forward the idea of expanding the plan to include public outreach, education, trail development, etc.

Lynne reviewed a proposed LAWPC Trails Management Plan Process. She had previously introduced an access permit, which she requested be tabled for now.

A National Parks Service employee advised Lynne to inventory existing trails, and put them on a map. The next steps would be to get public input, review the information, create a management plan, get Commission acceptance, and implement the plan. She gave examples of three other Water Utilities public access strategies. By next October she hoped to have the process in place.

John Storer recommended that after we have read and understood the Forestry Plan, we should contact the Community Forest Board to meet with them sometime in the Spring to get the process going, then follow up with a workshop with the Commission. The Phase II report may shed some light on recommended forestry practices as well.

Agenda Item 8: New Business

- **Update on land acquisition** – John Storer mentioned that the purchase of the Pope Property has been finalized. Details were given in the financial report.
- **Salmon Point Forestry Issue** – Our forester started cutting trees on Salmon Point last Spring. The activity was stopped a few days after they began, as we had concerns about the harvest. The landing was expanded beyond what is allowed under shore land zoning rules. John met with City Planner Eric Cousins, and State Forester Shane Duigan to inventory the trees that had been cut. The City of Auburn would like us to replant some trees in the landing in lieu of a fine. This will be done next Spring.
- **John Butler** – Dave Jones acknowledged that this was John Butlers' last meeting as he will no longer be Lewistons Counsel representative to the Commission. He thanked him for his service, and noted that a new Lewiston representative will be appointed in January.
- **Potential Land Issues – Executive Session regarding negotiations of potential land transactions in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C)**

Vote 3 – Motion by Commissioner Jones, and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau to enter into executive session regarding negotiations of potential land transactions in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C).

Passed 8 – 0

Entered executive session at 4:40PM

Vote 4 – Motion by Commissioner Jones, and seconded by Commissioner Butler to come out of executive session.

Passed 8 - 0

Came out of executive session at 4:57PM

Agenda Item 10: Adjourn Meeting

Vote 5 - Motion by Commissioner Shields, and seconded by Commissioner Upton to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 8 - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 PM

A true record, Attest: _____

Robert Thompson,
Secretary of the LAWPC