

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday February 11, 2015

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:32 PM

Commissioners Present: Steve French, Joe Grube, Dick Thibodeau, John Bonneau, Michael Lachance, Lee Upton

Commissioners Absent: Bob Thompson, Bethel Shields, Dave Jones

Others Present: Lynne Richard, John Storer, Sid Hazelton, Mary Jane Dillingham, K.C. Geiger

Commissioner Grube called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM

Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 10, 2014

Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner French to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on 12/10/14, and place on file.

Passed 6 -0

Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter

In Heathers absence, John Storer noted that the Sinking fund had a year end 2014 balance of \$226,000. In 2014 there were three land purchases totaling \$77,000. An Audit is scheduled for next month.

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

Mary Jane presented three graphs:

Total Phosphorus at Deep station #8 all depths - The trends show an overall improvement in Lake quality.

Lake Auburn Turbidity & 10 YR Average - Turbidity is low compared to historical values

Lake Auburn Tributary TP 2014 – The highest phosphorus readings are coming from the Townsend Brook watershed. We will focus on this area for additional testing.

There may also be a connection between the release of iron from the substrate of the Basin into the Lake. Other surrounding water bodies have an aluminum based substrate. The University of Maine will be taking samples from this area to gain more information. There may be a correlation between damming up the Basin and the release of iron.

Milfoil Management

MJ will be attending a work session at the State House regarding LD70, which is an act to assist towns in eradicating milfoil and invasive plants.

Agenda Item 4: LAWPC Lands Advisory Group – Lynne Richard

One meeting was held, and another is scheduled for February 13. Several local groups will be in attendance. Trail inventory will be the subject of discussion.

With the help of LACC, 125 responses to the trail use survey were received. Lynne hopes to get a broader response to the survey in the future. Wildlife and habitat protection was ranked the highest priority.

We are hoping to host two public meetings in March that will address watershed management. These meetings will be hosted by our National Parks Advisor.

Agenda Item 5: Education & Outreach Update – Lynne Richard

In January Deb Charest was brought on board as a part time educator in classrooms.

As series of eight lessons are being taught at Turner Elementary, Hebron Station School, Auburn Middle School, Lewiston Middle School. Trout tanks are being delivered, followed by eggs. Release of the fry into local streams will take place in May.

A&L laboratories is donating \$1,700 in testing supplies for water quality to the Auburn Middle School.

Trustees were presented with a draft of the next newsletter.

The CCR reports for Lewiston and Auburn are going to print tomorrow.

Lynne presented a new LAWPC logo for consideration.

Agenda Item 6: Open Session – Public Comments

John Storer addressed the recent letter from Auburn Mayor Labonte requesting a presentation from LAWPC to the Auburn City Council.

The Commissioners agreed to attend a meeting before the Auburn City Council in which staff would present information regarding the goals and objectives of the LAWPC. It was also suggested to invite the Lewiston City Council to this meeting, or offer a similar separate presentation to the Lewiston City Council.

John Storer mentioned the Governors' proposal to remove property tax exemptions on non-profits. The concern is how it would impact our land holdings. There will be meetings in the near future at the State House.

Agenda Item 7: Erosion Control Projects & Efforts – Sid Hazelton

The emergency spillway at the North Auburn Dam has been designed, and we expect approval from the DEP soon. Construction will take place this Spring.

We are planning to increase security around the Lake with the use of remote surveillance cameras. We are looking to fund this project through the operational budget, with assistance through a Homeland Security grant.

Agenda Item 8: Update on Land Negotiation – Executive Session regarding negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C)

Not discussed

Agenda Item 9: Adjourn Meeting

Vote 8 - Motion by Commissioner Bonneau, and seconded by Commissioner Lachance to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 6 - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 PM

A true record, Attest:



Sid Hazelton,

Secretary of the LAWPC