

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 8, 2015

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:30 PM

Commissioners Present: Steve French, Joe Grube, Dick Thibodeau, John Bonneau, Michael Lachance, Lee Upton, Bob Thompson, Bethel Shields, Dave Jones

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present: Lynne Richard, John Storer, Sid Hazelton, Mary Jane Dillingham, K.C. Geiger, Kevin Gagne, Heather Hunter, Bob Cavanaugh

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

Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 11, 2015

Commissioner Jones noted the misspelling of the word "surveillance".

Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner Jones to correct spelling of the word "surveillance", and accept the minutes of the regular meeting of February 11, 2015, and place on file.

Passed 9 -0

Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter

Given this time of the year there is not much draw-down of the budget. The bulk of the Lewiston subsidy comes in after July 1.

The final 2014 Audit was presented for review. There was a year-end operating surplus of \$18,960, and the sinking fund surplus of \$193,964.

Commissioner Shields questioned the comment on page 11 regarding the operating fund exceedance, which could expose the Commission to custodial credit risk. Heather explained this was a temporary situation, and the balance normally is less than the \$250,000 limit.

Heather noted the Segregation of Duties issue on page 16. With the recent retirement of Commissioner Grube from the City of Lewiston, Heather will utilize Dave Jones to sign off on future bank reconciliations.

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

Passed 9 -0

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

A. U Maine Research

MJ distributed a report titled “Summary of Lake Auburn Research” dated April 6, 2015, which outlined the results of the University of Maine research. Water samples taken from Townsend Brook, and The Basin revealed high concentrations of iron. This iron may be incorporating into the sediments in Lake Auburn, making the lake at risk to internal phosphorus loading. They suggested that a long term solution could include the removal of these wetlands to decrease iron loads into the lake and balance the iron-aluminum ratio in the sediment, preventing internal phosphorus recycling. This process could be complemented with an alum treatment to the Lake.

They have taken a 30cm core sample, and hope to analyze it to notice changes in sediment chemistry over the last 100 years.

MJ will try to get some of the U Maine researchers to the next watershed meeting to present their findings in greater detail.

B. Road Salt – Chloride Monitoring

MJ presented a graph of the historical Chloride level at the entry point to the distribution system. Background chloride levels are generally at 1mg/l. Any amount over that is likely due to the application of road salt. Anything under 20mg/l is not a concern. Chloride in water increases conductivity. Although the trends show an increase over the years, we have remained below 20mg/l. We will continue to monitor chloride, and notify public officials about this issue if warranted.

Agenda Item 4: Update on 2014 Gull Harassment Program – John Storer

John included an executive summary of the gull harassment program into the agenda packet. The program has been effective, and the cost of the program is going down as the Wildlife Biologist is tailoring the program to our specific needs. Under our compliance agreement, we must maintain this program into the future. John offered to have the Wildlife Biologist present his program at a future meeting if the Commissioners would like.

Agenda Item 5: Presentation for Auburn City Council – John Storer

The Auburn Mayor sent an e-mail on February 10 that read: *I would like to formally request that LAWPC attend an upcoming Auburn City Council meeting to present what its current workplan involves, how it is funded, and how the water quality protection needs are held up to economic opportunity and growth of tax base for the taxpayers of my city.*

It was agreed at the last LAWPC meeting in February that staff would prepare a presentation to the Auburn City Council. We were hoping for a list of questions from the Auburn City Council that we could address. Commissioners would be in attendance at the meeting to help answer any questions.

The Auburn Mayor responded that he wanted to hear directly from the Commissioners as opposed to staff. At this time we have not received any questions from the City Council.

Commissioners were reluctant to speak without receiving more information and clarification.

John will speak directly with the Mayor to receive more input.

Agenda Item 6: Education & Outreach Update – Lynne Richard

Lynne distributed a copy of the recent Education and Outreach Activity Report.

Classroom education is underway at the local middle schools.

Lynne has recently been contacted by Little Wilson Pond homeowners regarding assistance with erosion control projects in their yards. The 319 grant money may be available soon to assist them.

Meetings have been scheduled to invite members of the public to discuss trail use around the watershed. One will be held in Auburn at CMCC, Saturday 5/2 from 9:00-11AM. The other will be at USM-Lewiston, Tuesday 4/28 from 6:30-8PM.

The most recent newsletter was well received from the public.

Lynne presented more LAWPC logos for consideration. The Commission approved the drop logo with a circular border.

Agenda Item 7: Open Session – Public Comments

Commissioner Jones noted that the Tree Board has been working with the Arborists from Lewiston and Auburn to develop a tree nursery. The LACC property has been offered for this purpose, and plans are developing.

Agenda Item 8: Erosion Control Projects & Efforts – Sid Hazelton

Sid presented the final plans for the emergency spillway at the North Auburn Dam.

Work this spring and summer will include filling in the eroded channel on the Volock property on the North Auburn Road, and culvert replacement and ditch stabilization on the Spring Road.

Agenda Item 9: Update on Land Negotiation – Executive Session regarding negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C)

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

Passed 9-0

Time: 5:04 PM

Vote 4 – Motion by Commissioner Thibodeau and seconded by Commissioner Shields to come out of executive session.

Passed 9-0

Time: 5:20 PM

Agenda Item 10: Adjourn Meeting

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

Passed 9 - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM

A true record, Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sid Hazelton".

Sid Hazelton,

Secretary of the LAWPC