

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:30 PM

Recording: The meeting was videoed.

Commissioners Present: Steve French, Dick Thibodeau, Bethel Shields, Alicia Rea, Joe Grube, Dale Doughty, Tizz Crowley and Camille Parrish

Commissioners Absent: Amy Landry

Others Present: Kevin Gagne, LAWPC Clerk, Sid Hazelton, LAWPC Clerk, Heather Hunter, Michael Broadbent LAWPC Secretary, Erica Kidd, Watershed Manager

Agenda Item 1: Election of new Commission Chair

It was requested by the Commissioners that we re-elect a chair. The position has been vacant since the previous Chair was not re-elected last fall.

Vote 1 – On a motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Thibodeau that Joe Grube will serve as Commission Chair for the rest of the year.

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 2: Approve minutes of regular meeting of November 13, 2019.

Vote 2- Motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Shields to approve the minutes with a correction regarding item 8 open session. There needs to be some clarity regarding Commissioner Crowley's seat on the Commission.

There was discussion regarding agenda item #4, in the November minutes that did not get mentioned in the minutes. The Commissioners discussed developing policies/practices for both the Lake Smart Program and the Drinking Fountain Program. These policies should include information on how these programs will be structured, funded and how our message would be best delivered through these programs. Both of these programs should be presented to the Commissioners for review before implementation.

There are also some corrections needed with the miss-spelling of Alicia Rea's name. So, noted.

The friendly changes were added to the motion for vote.

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 3: Quarterly Financial Update- Heather Hunter

Heather went over two financial reports that were included in the Commission packets. The first report was dated December 31, 2019. The report shows there was a surplus in the operating account of about \$63,000. There was a deficit in the sinking fund due to the depreciation deficit, which is a timing issue. This is only a draft because the audit is set to take place in the coming months.

The second report was dated January 31. This is the quiet time of year for the Commission so there is very little activity this time of year.

Heather reported that the Commission has taken in a total revenue of \$15,260 for water withdrawals from Lake Auburn.

Vote 3- Motion by Commissioner Parish and seconded by Commissioner Shields to accept the financial reports as presented.

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 4: Review of Existing Water Withdrawal Policy- Sid Hazelton

In the Commission's agenda packet was the existing policy that was adopted in 2006. The water withdrawal policy includes a rate of \$.30/1000 gallons of water withdrawn from Lake Auburn. There was a formula that was adopted in 2006 to develop the cost per thousand gallons. Erica has updated the information in the formula and it has re-adjusted the rate to \$1.45/1000.

The Commissioners discussed the existing water withdrawal policy. It was agreed by all that the policy needs to be updated. There was particular concern with the annual inspection of trucks that are permitted to haul water from the lake. It was also discussed that the Rt 4 turnout will be closed in 2020-2021. At this time there is no plan in place to provide a new location for bulk water haulers to withdraw from the lake. There was also discussion of reviewing this policy annually and adjusting the rate as necessary. Discussion continued on whether residential withdrawals should be excluded, defining water bodies were protected by this policy.

Vote 4 – Motion by Commissioner French and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to have Dale Doughty work with staff to revise the existing policy and have that ready for the commissioners at the next meeting.

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 5: Water Quality Update- Erica Kidd

Erica reported to the Commissioners that Lauren Olson the Education and Outreach Coordinator has resigned from her position. Erica has advertised the position and we have accepted several applications. It was agreed that the charge of this position will be to continue to engage the public, work with citizen science projects and to continue to work with schools.

Erica reported that we received three applications for the Water Bottle Station Grant. The three applications were to have fountains installed at public facilities in Lewiston and Auburn. The Edward Little High School, St. Mary's Nutrition Center and the Good Shepherd Food Bank. Erica is requesting \$3,100 to fund all three projects.

Vote 5 – Motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Shields to appropriate the funds for all three projects.

Passed 8-0

Blanchard Road Pond Investigation: through recent studies we have found the Blanchard Road Pond to be a significant source of phosphorus. Erica has a proposal from Thigh-Bond to sample and investigate the pond to determine the best way to treat and or remediate the phosphorus so that it no longer negatively effects Lake Auburn.

Vote 6 – Motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner French to complete the study as proposed by Thigh-Bond with the requirement that there be a “hold harmless agreement” with the property owners before any field work begins.

Passed 8-0

Erica reported that remediation work has been completed on a property off North Auburn Rd. This work armors an entire drainage course that connects North Auburn Rd with the Spring Rd.

Erica is working on a forestry fact sheet; this will provide information to the public of forestry practices. This will explain why we do what we do.

Erica has also been reviewing several applications for timber harvest within the watershed. All of the plans have been reviewed by Erica and approved by our forester.

Sid passed around a couple of sheets showing the update that was given by the Auburn City Manager. He presented a strategy for lake protection to the Auburn City Councilors. This strategy is important as the City looks to move forward with their Strategic plan.

Agenda Item 6: Open Session-Public Comments

Mary Sylvester spoke as a citizen of Auburn. She pointed out that it is important to remember the City of Auburn is currently working on a comprehensive plan. This is critical because it opens the door for changes in policy, practice and potential ordinances.

Mary has been engaging with the community on citizen sciences. She has found several models and resources available to citizen science projects. There are several key factors that need to align to support citizen science projects. Mary is encouraging the Commission and its staff to have an education policy that will support both outreach and education. Mary insisted that there are funds available if we can engage the community and support this effort.

Mary also spoke as President of the Auburn Water District Board of Trustees. Once again, the District is at a critical transition point with two newly elected Trustees. Mary will also be stepping down as Trustee President in March. Mary feels that it is important for the Commissioners to be aware that the Trustees have voted to look through all of the cost sharing arrangements between the Auburn Water District and the City of Lewiston. There are also questions as to why the District Superintendent is also the Clerk of the Watershed Protection Commission. Mary urged the Commissioners to stay tuned and involved as there are a lot of tough decisions to be made in the near future.

Agenda Item 7: Open Session for Commissioners

Tizz Crowley wanted to thank the Commissioners for supporting her over the last 8 years she has served on the Commission and Auburn Water District Boards. Tizz will not be continuing as Auburn Water District Trustee or Auburn Water District Trustee representative to the Commission. Tizz would like to remain on the distribution list for Commissioner information so that she can stay informed and involved.

Tizz will continue to collaborate with the Auburn Conservation Commission. There is an upcoming event at Side by Each brewing that Tizz hopes we get involved with

Lastly Tizz urged Commissioners to pay attention to the business that is happening at the Auburn Water District. There are several developing discussions that concern Tizz and she urges more people to get involved and to stay vigilant.

Bethel Shield asked if there has been any progress with a horse Farm on Maple Hill Rd that is currently over stocking manure. Erica has been meeting with the farmer and providing them with options of places to bring the manure.

Steve French asked about the Pope property and the Conservation Easement that was granted as part of the sale. Steve is concerned about the fact that we gave the easement and urges us to avoid making such arrangements in the future.

Dale Doughty spoke about the fact that many of our plans are out of date. He would like the Commission to look through our plans and develop a list of topics that can be incorporated into a new comprehensive plan.

Dale pointed out that the Commission currently follows general forestry standards. Dale is asking whether the Commission adopt new standards that would be above and beyond general

standards. He would like the Commission to consider discussing this at a future meeting. Alicia Rea agreed with that because it is helpful for Commissioners and citizens that may not have a science background.

Dale would also like the Commission to develop a practice when looking at what properties to purchase.

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

Vote 7 – Motion by Commissioner Parrish and seconded by Commissioner Rea to go into executive session regarding negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with M.R.S.A 405(6)(C)

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 8: Adjourn Meeting

Vote 8 – Motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Rea to adjourn the meeting

Passed 8-0

A true record, attest;



Michael Broadbent
Secretary of the LAWPC