

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Location: This meeting was conducted remotely as a zoom webinar

Time: Meeting began at 3:33 PM

Recording: The meeting was recorded.

Commissioners Present: Steve French, Dick Thibodeau, Bethel Shields, Alicia Rea, Joe Grube, Dale Doughty and Camille Parrish. Dan Bilodeau joined the meeting at 3:40pm

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: Approve minutes of regular meeting of April 8, 2020.

Vote 1 – On a motion by Commissioner Rea and seconded by Commissioner Doughty to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2020 meeting.

Passed 7-0

Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update- Heather Hunter.

Heather went over the revenue statement which runs through May 31, 2020. We do have excess funds in source protection, this excess is due to the grant the Commission received from DEP. All accounts are trending normal as expected this time of year.

Commissioner Bilodeau asked which account represents the Commission's cash on hand. Heather explained the Commission's cash status and assets.

Vote 2 – On a motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Parrish to accept the financial report as presented by Heather Hunter.

Passed 8-0

Dan Bilodeau was welcomed to the Commission by Joe Grube as the new Auburn Water Trustee appointment. Dan replaced Commissioner Crowley.

Agenda Item 3: Water Quality Update & Activity Report- Erica Kidd

Erica gave an update on the Commission's Land Use Management Plan. The Plan is out of date. Erica is currently reviewing with Sid and Kevin to update the document. Erica hopes to get this to the Commissioners prior to the September meeting.

Forestry Update - The Commission does not currently have any active cutting occurring. Erica has been working with our Forester who recommends that we flag several of our property boundaries that have not been marked in several years or ever. Erica is working with the Choates who own an abutting property that they are currently harvesting on. In the past when they harvested from their property, they used Commission land to stage on and they would like to do that again. The Commissioners felt that allowing this to occur without the Commission first adopting a plan would be a bad idea. Erica has been working to re-define our Forestry BMPs.

Vote 3 – On a motion by Commissioner Doughty and seconded by Commissioner French to fund the property line blazing from the sinking fund account.

Passed 7-0-1

Watershed Projects - The Blanchard Rd. investigation with Thigh & Bond is underway. Spring samples were collected and drainage courses are being studied currently with follow up samples scheduled for later this month. Erica is working with Lewiston Public Works to address ditching issues along Spring Rd. and to repair a stream outlet at the North end of the road.

The Courtesy Boat Inspection Program is in full swing with one inspector stationed at the Rt 4 Launch.

Water Fountain Project - The Good Shepherd Food bank in Lewiston was able to install their fountain and Erica is working on Education with them.

Current Lake water quality is good with temp, clarity and phosphorus levels all looking good to this point.

Discussion was had on having a Forestry Workshop for later this Summer into early Fall. This would be a smaller group of Commissioners who could meet with our forester onsite. Kevin will send out an e-mail to try and coordinate a date.

Vote 4 - On a motion by Commissioner French and seconded by Commissioner Thibodeau to accept the Water Quality Update as presented.

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 4: Rt. 4 Reconstruction- Boat Launch Reconfiguration.

Sid went over a map that was presented at the meeting. The Map shows the proposed traffic changes to RT 4. To accommodate the work the Maine Department of Transportation has requested that the Watershed Commission gift land that is near the entrance to the Lake

Auburn Boat Launch. The Commissioners felt that they did not have enough information available to them to make the decision at the meeting. Sid was asked to discuss the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding regarding this land transfer. Once the MOU is developed then the Commissioners will approve the land transfer. The Commissioners also wanted a better map showing the proposed changes.

Agenda Item 5: Open Session- Public Comments.

No comments.

Agenda Item 6: Open Session for Commissioners.

Dan Bilodeau mentioned that the Auburn Water District will be reviewing its Lake Auburn By-laws. Dan invited the Commissioners to be part of that process.

Dale Doughty urged the Commission to come together to review its priorities and evaluate the risks within the watershed.

Vote 5 - On a motion by Commissioner Doughty and seconded by Commissioner Bilodeau to put onto the September Agenda for discussion: Where are the risks in the watershed, what are the Commission's priorities, modern review of By-laws and forestry BMPs.

Passed 8-0

Bethel Shields thanked the Commissioners for serving with her over the years, this being her last meeting.

Vote 6 – On a motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner French to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 8-0

A true record, attest;



Michael Broadbent
Secretary of the LAWPC