

# Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, September 9, 2020**

**Location:** The Meeting was held and recorded as a Zoom Webinar.

**Time:** Meeting began at 3:30 PM

**Recording:** The meeting was recorded.

**Commissioners Present:** Steve French, Dick Thibodeau, Evan Cyr, Alicia Rea, Joe Grube, Amy Landry, Dan Bilodeau and Camille Parrish

Commissioners Absent: Dale Doughty

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

### **Agenda Item 1: Welcome new LAWPC Commissioner Evan Cyr**

Evan Cyr was welcomed as a new Commissioner. He replaced Bethel Shields as an Auburn representative.

### **Agenda Item 2: Approve minutes of regular meeting of June 10, 2020.**

**Vote 1- Motion by Commissioner Parrish and seconded by Commissioner Rea to approve the minutes as presented.**

**Vote 6-0-1 Passed** Late arrival

### **Agenda Item 3: Quarterly Financial Update- Heather Hunter**

Heather went over the financial report that was provided with the agenda packets. She reported that the sinking fund is in good shape. The Water withdrawal fund has gone up due to the drought and the increased fees. There is a deficit in the forestry account due to the lack of activity. Heather plans to have the 2021 budget wrapped up in a few weeks.

**Vote 2- Motion by Commissioner Landry and seconded by Commissioner Cyr to put the financial update on file.**

**Vote 8-0 Passed**

### **Agenda Item 4: City of Auburn-Lake Auburn Study- Sid Hazelton**

Sid reported that the City of Auburn is moving forward with the development of an RFP to conduct a Study of Lake Auburn. The study will focus on the Economical, Environmental,

Regulatory and community impacts to having Lake Auburn as a water Supply. Two Auburn Water Trustees will work with two City Council members to develop the RFP. Their hope is to have the RFP approved by January.

**Agenda Item 5: Water Quality Update & Activity Report- Erica Kidd**

Erica made a couple of budget requests:

Re-allocate education and outreach, executive and administration funds to the Source Protection account. These funds will then be used to complete remediation work along Spring Road this year, 2020.

**Vote 3- Motion by Commissioner Rea and seconded by Commissioner Bilodeau to transfer the requested funds to Source Protection**

**Vote 8-0 Passed**

Erica's second request was to transfer the balance of the retained earnings account. This account has funds from a project that occurred in 2019 of about \$20,000.

**Vote 4- Motion by Commissioner Landry and seconded by Commissioner French to transfer the requested funds to Source Protection**

**Vote 8-0 Passed**

Erica is working on a compilation of all of the watershed studies that have been conducted over the last decade. This project list includes the Watershed Management Plan from 2010(due for an update). The best approach to update this plan is to meet with stake holders, review recommended projects and compare to work completed to date.

The next document that Erica reviewed was the Forestry Management Plan. Erica would like to update this plan and incorporate Commissioners comments. Erica also wanted to know if the Commissioners felt comfortable resuming logging activities on Commission land. There were concerns from Commissioners in regards to harvesting on steep slopes. The Commission would like to ensure that we have the proper Best Management Practices in place before starting work in those areas. Erica will update our Harvest Plan and list the properties that are scheduled to be harvested for review and consideration at the next meeting. It was agreed that there should be a workshop to review forestry practices and to meet with our forester.

The next document that Erica sent to Commissioners was the Draft Land Management Plan. Lynne Richards had spent time working on this but it had never been approved by the Commissioners. Erica would like to receive input and comments from Commissioners on the plan. Erica will be adding a trail inventory to the plan.

The Blanchard Pond Study is an area currently being studied by Tighe Bond. They have found that while the pond does have high phosphorus the bigger source that was identified through

the study was the outlet stream of the pond. This area may need some stream restoration to limit the phosphorus output.

Watershed activity update- Erica reported that a small unregistered boat capsized in the Lake. The occupants were ok. There have been several boats crossing over the buoy lines this summer. The Jay-Lynne Trailer Park had a sanitary sewer back-up on their service line that needed to be addressed. There has been some excavation around Roy's that needed to be remediated. There was also a property off Lakeshore Drive that was doing some waterfront improvements.

Erica introduced Sean Seary as the new Education and Outreach Coordinator. Sean provided an update on his activities since July. Sean has launched a social media app called Water Reporter. This is an interactive app to engage the public. Sean has been working to start a community science initiative. He has solicited the participation of several partner organizations. Sean has been scheduling several programs to engage the public in Watershed activities. Sean is being trained in the Lakesmart Program; he will be a certified Lakesmart inspector to review potential projects in the watershed. Sean has also started working on the Southern Link Trail which would bring bike and pedestrian traffic to the southern end of the lake.

Water Quality Update- Erica reported that the Lake water quality is looking good. So far this year clarity has been good and phosphorus levels have remained low. This is good considering the current drought. Several similar lakes in Maine have experienced algae blooms this summer while we have not.

**Agenda Item 6: Rt. 4 Reconstruction- Boat Launch Reconfiguration Update- Sid Hazelton**

Sid has been speaking with MDOT regarding this project which is scheduled to bid and construct in 2021. MDOT has agreed to re-locate the existing launch gates and to accommodate additional parking. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

**Agenda Item 7: Open Session-Public**

No Comments

**Agenda Item 8: Open session for Commissioners**

Commissioner Grube pointed out that Commissioner Thibodeau was recently recognized for all of his efforts on Little Wilson Pond.

Dan Bilodeau expressed interest in working with staff on the southern loop trail. Dan suggested given the complexity of this work that we can schedule an extra meeting or form a subcommittee.

**Agenda Item 9: Reschedule November 11 Meeting**

The November meeting is currently scheduled on a recognized Holiday.

**Vote 5- Motion by Commissioner Cyr and seconded by Commissioner Parrish to reschedule the November 11 meeting to November 4, 2020.**

**Vote 8-0 Passed**

**Vote 6- Motion by Commissioner French and seconded by Commissioner Landry to adjourn the meeting.**

**Vote 8-0 Passed**

A true record, attest;



Michael Broadbent  
Secretary of the LAWPC