

# Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, November 4, 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, Evan Cyr, Alicia Rea, Joe Grube, Amy Landry and Dan Bilodeau

Commissioners Absent: Dale Doughty, Camille Parrish, Dick Thibodeau

**Others Present:** Kevin Gagne, LAWPC Clerk, Sid Hazelton, LAWPC Clerk, Heather Hunter, Michael Broadbent LAWPC Secretary, Erica Kidd, Watershed Manager and Sean Seary, Education and Outreach Coordinator.

**Agenda Item 1: Approve minutes of regular meeting of September 9, 2020.**

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

**Vote 6-0 Passed**

**Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update- Heather Hunter**

Heather noted that the heading on the financial report had the wrong date listed. The financial report was up to date. The report showed fund transfers that occurred after the last Commission meeting.

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

**Vote 6-0 Passed**

**Agenda Item 3: 2021 Budget Approval- Heather Hunter**

The 2021 Budget was included in the Commissioners' packet and has been posted to the Commission website for the past several months. The Budget shows three previous year's figures as well as the figures projected for 2021. Heather pointed out that there have been a few adjustments, Source Protection being the largest. Heather went through all of the line items in the budget and went over the budget summary.

The Commission is budgeting to set aside half of the funds to replace the Commission's pontoon boat. The plan is to set aside \$25,000 in 2021 and budget the remaining balance in 2022.

Dan Bilodeau asked if the Commission had a contingency if the funding mechanism for the Commission were to change. Currently the Commission is funded 50/50 between Lewiston and Auburn. There have been discussions recently at analyzing that arrangement and basing costs on water usage.

**Vote 3- Motion by Commissioner Landry and seconded by Commissioner French to accept the 2021 budget as presented.**

**Vote 6-0 Passed**

**Agenda Item 4: Water Quality Update & Activity Report- Erica Kidd**

Sean Seary gave the Commission an update on his work on the Southern Link Trail. Sean has been reaching out to property owners and stakeholders to gauge their interest to participate and create this trail. This would be a 3.5-mile trail from the Rout 4 Boat Launch to Summer Street. Sean has been working with the City of Auburn as well. Eric Cousens has shown interest in being involved in the process.

Erica and Sean also discussed a couple of community events the Commission has hosted. There was a Trail Day in September which took place on the Salmon Point Trail. In October we hosted a plant and wildlife ID walk. There is an additional trail clean-up day planned for in November on Parcel 4. The Commission also has a Student Art Campaign going on through the week of Thanksgiving. This is part of the imagine a day without water campaign.

Erica discussed the Commission's Timber Harvest SOP. Erica added a steep slope clause to the SOP that was distributed to the Commissioners prior to the meeting. Erica asked for the Commissioners approval of the SOP.

Discussion went back to the Southern Link Trail. Dan Bilodeau has reached out to a couple of Commissioners to start a Southern Link Trail Sub-Committee. Dan has also reached out to a couple of Auburn City Council Members. Sean reported that there was staff from St. Mary's that was also interested in joining a Committee.

Dan made a motion to authorize staff to form a Southern Link Trail Sub-Committee. There was discussion why all Commissioners had not been asked to join the Committee and there was discussion on the charge of the Committee. Commissioner Rea asked if Lewiston could be represented on the committee if one is formed. Commissioner Cyr felt that it would be better to have staff develop a charge and purpose of a Sub-Committee before it is established. Discussion continued about flagging and clearing a winter trail on Commission owned portion of the trail. Sean reported that he planned to mark out the trail before winter.

It was agreed that Sean should work on developing the framework and charge of the Committee. It was agreed that this information should be available at the next Commission meeting which Sid pointed out is not until February.

Evan asked that as staff reaches out to the public or discusses public events that the Commissioners be kept in the loop. Recently he was asked about the trail clean-up day planned for Parcel 4. Evan had no knowledge of the planned event and felt as though he was in the dark. Evan recommended that staff produce a monthly activity report to the Commissioners to keep them informed of events. Erica agreed to set up a monthly activity chart of events to be sent to Commissioners via e-mail. All agreed this would be a good idea.

Timber harvest SOP review from earlier. Again, Erica asked for approval. Joe asked for a motion to approve.

**Vote 4- Motion by Commissioner Bilodeau and seconded by Commissioner Rea to add the approval of the Timber Harvest SOP to a Special Meeting to be held in either December or January.**

There was a discussion before the vote on how and when documents should be sent to Commissioners for review prior to a meeting. It was agreed to send documents out 3 weeks in advance of meetings so that Commissioners have time to discuss them at length.

**Vote 6-0 Passed**

Erica discussed a few watershed projects that are on-going. Lewiston crews have re-graded parts of Spring Rd and have started the repair of a plunge pool between the road and the Lake. The Blanchard Pond Study is in the final phase with the final report to be delivered once Tighe Bond has some phosphorus results back from the lab.

Erica reported that the Lake turned over November 2. Turbidity is up slightly but we are still in good shape. It was suggested that staff give a press release on Lake turnover.

**Agenda Item 5: Rt. 4 Reconstruction- Sid Hazelton**

Sid reported that he has spoken with the MDOT Project Manager Rhobe Moulton. She has sent an e-mail to Sid committing to fund the relocation of our entrance and exit gates and they are open to discussions to increase parking within the Boat launch once the Rt. 4 turnout is closed. This project is scheduled to bid in the Fall of 2021 with construction in 2022. It was suggested that we have an on-site meeting with the Commissioners at the Boat Launch. Erica will look into a time in the near future when this could occur.

**Agenda Item 6: City of Auburn, Lake Auburn Study- Sid Hazelton**

Sid reported that the City assembled a work group to develop the SOP for the Study. The Work group consists of two City Councilors and two Water District Trustees. Sid is also involved as

staff. The current plan is to get the RFPs back from consultants with review and recommendation for consideration to occur in January.

**Agenda Item 7: CMCC Emergency Access- Sid Hazelton**

Sid reported that CMCC would like gated access to our private driveway to the Water Treatment Facility (Pumping Station Rd). This access would only be used by CMCC as an emergency exit if the campus was ever evacuated in the event of an emergency. Sid has reviewed this with staff and is looking for approval from the Commissioners.

**Vote 5- Motion by Commissioner Rea and seconded by Commissioner French to approve the plan to connect the CMCC campus to Pumping Station Rd for the use as an exit during emergencies.**

**Vote 6-0 Passed**

**Agenda Item 8: Open Session- Public**

No Comments.

**Agenda Item 9: Open Session- Commissioners**

Commissioner Rea asked that we look at the meeting schedule for 2021 to ensure we have enough time to discuss items as they come up. These meetings can be on the schedule and canceled in the future if not needed.

It was asked if it would be possible to use the Lewiston Clerk to purchase lands for the Commission in the future. Dan feels it is a conflict for the Auburn Clerk to negotiate land purchases in Auburn.

Evan Cyr commented that he has had trouble understanding or even finding documentation of the structure of the Commission. Evan is willing to assist with putting this documentation together and making it available to Commissioners in the future.

Sid mentioned that the Water Trustees recently used Attorney Jim Pross to go over the make-up of the Board and explain how the By-laws and Charter interact with each other. Sid suggested that this could be done for the Commission as well. There was consensus there is a need for this.

**Agenda Item 10: Adjourn Meeting**

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

**Vote 6-0 Passed**

A true record, attest;

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Broadbent". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a stylized "B".

Michael Broadbent  
Secretary of the LAWPC