

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Minutes

Wednesday March 28, 2012

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:31 PM

Commissioners Present: Bruce Rioux, Dave Jones, Bethel Shields, Dick Thibodeau, Steve French, Joe Grube, John Bonneau (arrived at 3:34PM), Bob Thompson, John Butler

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present:

Mary Jane Dillingham, John Storer, Sid Hazelton, Dan Bilodeau, Tizz Crowley, Heather Hunter, Mike Auger

Commissioner Grube called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM

Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 25, 2012

Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Rioux and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the minutes of January 25, 2012, and place on file.

Passed 8 -0 (Commissioner Bonneau absent)

Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter

Annual Auditors Report

Heather distributed and reviewed the highlights of the annual Financial Statements and Auditors report that was completed by the accounting firm Runyon Kersteen Ouellette.

The report covers the calendar year 2011. Among the highlights:

- Assets of the LAWPC exceeded liabilities by \$4,658,468
- Assets increased this year by \$187,477

- Of the \$187,477 total, \$14,699 came from the operating fund, and \$172,778 from the maintenance and land acquisitions fund
- The report stated that the Commission does not have a deposit policy for interest rate risk. Heather explained the concept of interest rate risk, and noted that current interest rates are very low, which limits exposure.
- The bond on the Berry property matured in 2011; the White property bond will mature in 2012
- The report stated that we may want to modify internal control so one individual does not handle a transaction completely from beginning to end. On the plus side, the Board reviews monthly financial reports, and a Commissioner reviews the check register activity and bank statements and signs off on bank reconciliations prepared by the Treasurer.

Vote 2– Motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau to accept the Annual Auditors Report.

Passed 9-0

Quarterly Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

With the exception of Minot property taxes that were due on March 15, there was not a lot of activity in the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures. More charges are expected in coming months as Spring and Summer approach.

Vote 3 – Motion by Commissioner Thompson and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the quarterly Financial Update.

Passed 9- 0

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

Ice Out

Official Ice Out date for Lake Auburn this year was March 23, which is the second earliest date since records have been kept.

Boat Launch

The boat dock has been installed in the Lake and is ready for use, as well as the porta-potty. At the last meeting it was reported that the dock would need to be replaced. Mary Jane contacted George Powell from the Department of Conservation. After inspecting the dock, he decided that his department could repair it, as opposed to replacing it, thereby saving a lot of money.

Open fishing season starts on April 1, and we will be prepared to perform boat inspections, mostly on Fridays and weekends, when boat traffic is heaviest.

Forestry

Due to the unusually warm winter, we were unable to go forward with our planned harvest activities. If relatively dry weather continues, we may be able to conduct some tree harvesting this Spring/Summer. Our Forester will monitor conditions, and contact us.

Invasive Plants

This summer we will experiment with transplanting native plants into areas where benthic barriers were placed last year. Commissioner Rioux inquired if the early ice out will warm up the water sooner and increase the threat of milfoil. Mary Jane answered that many factors contribute to the growth of milfoil, and it is hard to predict. We will continue to monitor its growth this year.

We plan to partner with others who will be doing research on the Lake this summer, including Bates College (Gleotrichia study), the DEP, and a company that has an optical device that can be used to determine water quality.

Agenda Item 4: Open Session – Public Comments

For informational purposes, Dan Bilodeau presented a slideshow that included excerpts from the current City of Auburn Comprehensive Plan; what he termed a win-win-win scenario. He is looking to strike a balance between allowing responsible land development, and maintaining

water quality so we do not jeopardize the waiver of filtration. Among the many recommendations in the Comp Plan, he highlighted seven, which included:

- Promotion of low-impact development
- Updating of the City's Phosphorus Ordinance
- Establishing a technical review committee to review the provisions of the design of subsurface wastewater disposal systems
- Establishing an entity to oversee the on-going maintenance of subsurface wastewater disposal systems in the watershed
- Development of an educational program to inform property owners and residents about the use of fertilizers and pesticides
- The consideration of an inspection of subsurface wastewater systems at the time of the transfer of property ownership
- Maintaining water quality to avoid filtration

When asked about the status of the implementation of the comp plan recommendations, Tiz Crowley mentioned that there are currently four active members. They may be looking to solicit more people to form sub-committees to move comp plan suggestions forward.

Commissioner Butler commented that any recommendations for the Lake should include input from Lewiston.

Agenda Item 5: New Business

- Public Education & Outreach

Commissioners Rioux and Shields volunteered to head up an Education Committee, and bring ideas to the next Commission meeting on May 23.

- Outlet Beach, City request for assistance with lifeguards

Last year Commissioner Farrell (now ex) and City Councilor Bob Hayes brought forward the idea of the Commission helping to fund lifeguards at the Municipal Beach.

Recently, Interim City Manager Don Gerrish, Mayor Jonathan Labonte, and Councilor Leroy Walker brought the issue forward again.

Parks & Rec. Director Ravi Sharma distributed an e-mail that indicated it would cost \$16,000 to fund lifeguards for the Summer. Although it was not stated, it was presumed that LAWPC would be asked for half.

After internal discussion, the Commission reached consensus that we would continue to provide goose harassment, as it relates directly to water quality; however, funding of lifeguards is outside of the LAWPC core mission of watershed protection.

- **Monitoring Conservation Easements – Agreement w/Androscoggin Land Trust – *Mary Jane Dillingham***

The Androscoggin Land Trust has a three year contract with the Commission to monitor our conservation easements . The current contract expires on July 1, 2012.

Commissioner Jones noted that the provision in the contract about extra expenses was unclear. He requested that ALT notify LAWPC if they are near exceeding expenses so we can plan for any overages.

Commissioner Thompson asked if it is a flat rate contract, or hourly for determining the extra work.

Mike Auger from ALT will revise the new contract to make the language clear, and get back to LAWPC at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 6: Old Business

There was no old business to report at this time.

Agenda Item 7: Greclawn Road Land Issue – Executive Session regarding negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C).

Vote 4 - Motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Jones to enter executive session at 4:53PM to discuss possible land purchase in accordance with MRSA § 405 (6) (c).

Commissioners came out of Executive Session at 5:20PM

Agenda Item 8: Adjourn Meeting

Vote 5 - Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Jones, and seconded by Commissioner Shields to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Rioux left at 5:17PM

Passed 8 - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 PM

A true record, Attest:

Robert Thompson,
Secretary of the LAWPC