

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Special Meeting

Minutes

Thursday October 11, 2012

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:38 PM

Commissioners Present: Bruce Rioux, Dave Jones, Bethel Shields, Dick Thibodeau, Joe Grube, John Butler, John Bonneau, Bob Thompson, Steve French

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present:

Kevin Gagne, Richard Burnham, Mary Jane Dillingham, John Storer, Sid Hazelton, Tizz Crowley, Heather Hunter

Commissioner Grube called the meeting to order at 3:38 PM

Agenda Item 1: Request Funding for a Comprehensive Lake Study

Commissioner Jones explained that the Auburn Water District and Lewiston Water Division have been working together with Comprehensive Environmental Inc., (CEI), and CDM Smith to provide a scope of work to provide a short and long term plan for addressing the recent increase in algae blooms and resultant fish kill we are currently experiencing.

CEI provided the watershed management plan for the commission in 2010, and CDM Smith has extensive experience with our lake, including the gull management plan. They are our experts, and are uniquely qualified to provide a plan.

Through several meetings, a scope of work and proposal has been developed.

We are working with other stakeholders, such as Bates College, Maine Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW), the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP), and the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. We plan to hold a kick-off meeting with them as well to keep them involved in the process.

Commissioner Jones has reviewed the costs and scope of work with John Storer. They believe they are reasonable, and we should move forward to get the work done.

Commissioner Jones has spoken with Treasurer Heather Hunter. The LAWPC sinking fund is in place for property acquisition and Lake protection projects. He recommends that the project be funded through that account.

Commissioner Thibodeau recommended adding the Soil Conservation Service and neighboring towns as stakeholders as well. Possibly forming a sub-committee of neighboring stakeholders.

Commissioner Jones explained the proposal is in two phases, with eight total tasks. The first four and one half tasks are short term in nature, and include data gathering and analysis. The second phase may change depending upon what is discovered in phase one. The consultant fees are for time and materials, with a “not to exceed” amount. The costs are a best estimate of the costs of each task. The actual amount spent on each task may go up or down depending upon what is discovered. The consultant will not exceed the total amount without obtaining permission from the Commission.

Mary Jane noted that the increase in the presence of algae is a global issue, and grant opportunities may be available for performing field sampling by some of the stakeholders.

Heather Hunter noted that in December 2011 we had a cash balance of \$222,000 in our sinking fund account. In FY12, each utility contributed \$70,000. Subtracting out bond payments, the first phase of the CDM/CEI study (\$163,901) and other miscellaneous expenses, would leave a balance of \$116,290 in the account at the end of the year. She is recommending a \$125,000 contribution to this account from each utility in 2013. She noted the second phase of the CDM/CEI study is estimated at \$109,754. The 2013 funding would allow for a \$200,000 cushion for land acquisition and/or implementing recommendations from the study. This would leave a projected balance of \$5,500 at the end of 2013.

Vote 1 - Motion by Commissioner Butler, and seconded by Commissioner Shields to authorize the two Clerks of the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission to execute a contract with CDM/CEI to perform a Lake study and commit funds from the LAWPC sinking fund not to exceed \$163,901.

Passed 9 – 0

Agenda Item 2: Adjourn Meeting

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

Passed 9 - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM

A true record, Attest:

Robert Thompson,
Secretary of the LAWPC