

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 23, 2013

Location: Auburn City Building – Council Chambers

Time: Meeting began at 3:30PM

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

Commissioners Absent: Steve French

Others Present: John Storer, Mary Jane Dillingham, Sid Hazelton, Heather Hunter, Lynne Richard, Kevin Gagne, Sue Gammon, KC Geiger, Bob Cavanaugh, Dan Bilodeau, Jason Paulina, Scott Hatch, Leroy Walker, Doug Stone

Commissioner Grube called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM

Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of August 28, 2013

There was one revision to the minutes:

Agenda Item 2 - "July1/June 31" will be changed to read "July 1/June 30"

Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on 8/28/13 with revisions, and place on file.

Passed 6 -0 (Butler abstaining and Thompson absent)

Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter

Revenues have remained relatively constant throughout the year.

Installments for AWD and LWD have now been paid in full.

Under expenditures, we have a surplus of \$7,333.65. Heather anticipates finishing the year at a break-even or minor deficit.

Regarding the Sinking Fund there has not been a lot of additional activity other than the Lake study that the Commission had approved. There was a \$16,000 charge for the swimmability study.

Vote 2– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Butler to accept the quarterly financial update.

Passed 8 -0

Vote 3– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau to address agenda Item 8 - DRAFT 2014 budget – Heather Hunter

Passed 8 -0

Agenda Item 8 - DRAFT 2014 budget – Heather Hunter

For FY13 (current year) we budgeted \$206,417 worth of expenditures, and a capital outlay of \$31,000 which included the GIS fly-over, boat lift, Forestry Plan update (encumbered money from 2012), DASH boat. This years' subsidy for Operations (\$62,558) and Land Acquisition (\$125,000) totaled \$187,558.00.

For the FY14 operational budget we are proposing \$208,682.00. Heather reviewed each line item under the budget request. It includes an \$87,500 contribution from each entity, a fund balance carry forward of \$24,450, a timber sale of \$4,000, intergovernmental fees of \$5,000, and interest of \$232.00.

Heather presented a 10 year trend and 5 year projection sheet for contributions by entity. For the FY 2014 sinking fund we are budgeting \$212,500 to cover costs for the Lake Diagnostic Study, land acquisitions, and a local match for a 319 grant which will be used to address erosion issues within the watershed.

Vote 4– Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the 2014 budget as presented.

Passed 8 -0

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

- Boat Inspections

Courtesy boat inspectors worked 168 hours and inspected 164 boats this year. Usage was less than a third of last year. This may have been due to the fallout from the previous years' fish kill, and the rainy weekend weather. Reports of fish caught, however, were very good.

- Boat Launch

The boat launch will be closed on November 30. The public dock will remain in the lake as long as weather permits.

- Milfoil Management

Milfoil in a wetland area near the intake is being closely monitored. Benthic mats and hand pulling have been used effectively.

Work in the Basin will be completed this week for the season. We plan to use a small diver assisted suction harvester next season.

- Lake Condition

The Lake is improving, but it has not recovered. We did not experience the blue green algae conditions or the oxygen depletion problem like last year, but we do have higher than normal algae counts in the Lake. We also have concerns with phosphorus levels in the Lake, and we will continue to monitor it and look at results. Currently there is less than one mg/l of oxygen in the deep hole; however, given the time of year and colder temperatures, the fish can find dissolved oxygen in the upper areas of the Lake. Pending the results of the Phase II report, we anticipate a similar monitoring program next year. The lake is cooling off (15 degrees C) and MJ anticipates Lake turn-over by mid-November.

Agenda Item 4: Ongoing Erosion Control Efforts – Sid Hazelton & John Storer

- Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District Assistance

An order was presented to execute an agreement with the Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (AVSWCD) for assistance in implementing recommendations outlined in the Phase I Lake Auburn Diagnostic Study.

Vote 5– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Butler to execute an agreement with the AVSWCD to assist in implementing recommendations outlined in the Phase I Lake Auburn Diagnostic Study for a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00.

Passed 8 -0

- Aquifer Testing

An order was presented to execute an agreement with Summit Environmental Consultants for Assistance with the Townsend Brook Phosphorus Investigation.

Vote 6– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thompson to execute a service agreement with Summit Environmental Consultants (per their proposal of September 23, 2013) for a cost not to exceed \$7,000 for assistance with Phosphorus Monitoring in the Townsend Brook Watershed.

Passed 7 -0 (Commissioner Upton left the meeting at 4:05PM)

- Erosion Sites

An order was presented to expend monies from the sinking fund to repair erosion sites within the lake Auburn Watershed:

- ✓ MDOT Route 4

Rt. 4 from the causeway to the town line is maintained by the MDOT. An existing culvert on Rt. 4 located near Lake Shore Drive directs water from the East side to the West side, and into Lake Auburn. The culvert outfall has eroded a channel that ultimately dumps sediment into the Lake. Given the urgency to get the issue addressed this fall, we negotiated with MDOT for LAWPC to contribute a not- to- exceed contribution of \$5,000 for materials. MDOT will provide the labor and equipment. MDOT estimates the entire project will cost \$17,000. They plan on beginning work later this week, or early next week.

- ✓ City of Auburn - North Auburn Road

On the North Auburn Road between Hersey Hill Road and Holbrook Road, on the Easterly side there is an eroded drainage channel in a field that is privately owned. We have negotiated with Auburn Public Works to redirect this flow away from the field and down the North Auburn Road. In order to get this work accomplished this fall, we have offered to purchase 500' of 30" diameter ADS pipe. Public Works will supply all other materials, as well as labor and equipment . They plan to begin construction the week of October 28.

✓ Spring Road 0.5 mi from North Terminus

An eroded drainage channel located 0.5 miles from the Northern terminus of the Spring Road is planned to be stabilized by Auburn Water District Personnel. This channel was partially repaired by the Lewiston Water Division two years ago with a \$10,000 grant from the Drinking Water Program. Work is needed above and below the previously repaired section. This work is estimated to cost approximately \$30,000.

Vote 8– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Butler to expend \$5,000.00 from the sinking fund to the MDOT for materials to repair a culvert washout on Rt. 4, and to expend \$10,000 from the sinking fund to purchase pipe for the Auburn Public Works Department for remediation of erosion off North Auburn Road.

Passed 7 -0

Vote 9– Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner Butler to expend \$30,000 from the sinking fund to the Auburn Water District to remediate an eroded drainage channel located off Spring Road approximately ½ mile from the Northern Terminus.

Passed 6 -1 (Commissioner Jones voting against passage)

Agenda Item 5: Open Session – Public Comments

Scott Hatch –Land Owner Relations Consultant brought in a tree log for display and distributed photographs to Commissioners. The photos showed the log, along with some brush that he claims was left in a stream by our Forester on LAWPC property two years ago. He felt that we were aware of this illegal activity and set a poor example for land stewardship, and wonders how we expect landowners to cooperate with us.

Scott asked about the Septic Social that was recently held, and questioned its success.

Dan Bilodeau 207 North Auburn Road discussed the need to share the workload of the LAWPC evenly among its members. Representing LAWNA as its president, he was concerned about the accountability of the LAWPC, and asked what LAWNA and LACC could do to help. He felt that LAWPC members did not do enough outside of the official meetings.

Commissioner Thibodeau took issue with Dan Bilodeaus comments, and felt that a lot of time and effort is spent on watershed issues by himself and other Commissioners.

Scott Hatch wanted to be on record that he felt a crime had been committed by allowing logging slash to be in a stream on LAWPC property for almost two years. He felt that at this point it could be construed that LAWPC is part of a cover-up.

Commissioner Bonneau responded that Mr. Hatch's comments were his opinion. Commissioner Bonneau felt that the tone that Mr. Hatch was using in rendering his opinion in these matters was the subject at hand. Commissioner Bonneau felt it was good of Mr. Hatch to point out the existence of the condition he described, and it needs to be looked into by staff. If a problem exists, it needs to be corrected. Commissioner Bonneau was not aware that such a condition existed, and felt that other Commissioners may not have been aware as well.

Mr. Hatch stated he brought the problem to the attention of Staff in March of this year. He offered to organize and train volunteers and address the problem at his own expense. He felt we have a landowner relations nightmare on our hands, and stated his tone of voice is often perceived as being more aggressive than his intent. Mr. Hatch offered to walk the site with someone to show them what the issue is.

Mr. Hatch was interested in working with LAWPC to make it more effective at reaching a broad spectrum of landowners. He stated his expertise is in creating a toolbox to engage landowners with diversified interests.

Agenda Item 6: Education & Outreach Update – Lynne Richard

School is now in session, and Lynne has started working with schools in the area, including Hebron, Lewiston, Auburn, and Turner.

The Lewiston Sun Journal published an article covering River Day that was held at the Edward Little High School, as well as coverage of the Septic Social. We will host another Septic Social in the spring.

Lynne is working with Sue Gammon to identify issues in the watershed and develop responses.

Lynne is working on the next newsletter which will come out in a month.

Agenda Item 7: New Business – Sid Hazelton & John Storer

- MDOT – eminent domain taking, Gracelawn Road

The commission purchased the Berry Farm as a life estate. The property is located on Mt. Auburn Avenue across from the intersection of Park Avenue. The MDOT is proposing intersection improvements which will require the taking of a small sliver of the Berry property. MDOT has offered the Commission \$5,000.00 for the property taking. The taking would involve 875 square feet of paved driveway, 2,200' of temporary construction rights, and 7,000 square feet of lawn.

Vote 10– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau to accept payment of \$5,000 from the MDOT for land taking and construction rights associated with the ParkAve/Gracelawn Road intersection improvements, with the \$5,000 to be deposited into the sinking fund account.

Passed 7 -0

- Route 4 – Design of Roundabouts

The Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center (ATRC) is coordinating the design of traffic improvements on Rt. 4. Short term improvements include re-striping and the addition of turning lanes at Lake Shore Drive. Long term plans include the installation of rotaries near the boat launch, and Lake Shore Drive.

Commissioner Thompson noted the re-striping and turning lanes would be completed next year (2014); the rotaries could be six years out.

There are a few items we would like to see addressed in the long term build-out:

- ✓ Elimination of direct storm water outfalls to Lake Auburn

There are four culverts under Rt. 4 in the proposed construction area that discharge directly to the Lake. We encourage the installation of a pipe system to run along the Easterly side of Rt. 4 from Hathaway St to the Lake outlet. This would improve Lake water quality by providing a buffer against spill events.

- ✓ Elimination of the Rt. 4 Turnout

We would like to see the Rt. 4 turnout abandoned in conjunction with expanded parking at the adjacent boat launch. This could be used as the start point for the eventual development of a recreational trail along the south side of the Lake.

Agenda Item 8: 2014 DRAFT Budget – Heather Hunter

(Addressed under Item 2)

Agenda Item 9: Potential Land Issues – Executive Session regarding negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C)

Vote 11 – Motion by Commissioner Shields, and seconded by Commissioner Thibodeau to enter into executive session regarding negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C).

Passed 7 – 0

Entered executive session at 5:05PM

Vote 12 – Motion by Commissioner Bonneau, and seconded by Commissioner Shields to come out of executive session.

Passed 7 - 0

Came out of executive session at 5:20PM

Vote 13 – Motion by Commissioner Jones, and seconded by Commissioner Shields to purchase the Pope Property (map/lot 277-020) off Summer St. for \$25,000. Also, to enter into a conservation easement (agreement) on said property with the Androscoggin Land Trust not to exceed \$10,000.

Passed 7 - 0

Agenda Item 10: Adjourn Meeting

Vote 14 - Motion by Commissioner Shields, and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 7 - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 PM

A true record, Attest: _____

Robert Thompson,
Secretary of the LAWPC