

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 8, 2014

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:35PM

Commissioners Present: Bethel Shields, Steve French (arrived at 3:40), Joe Grube, Dave Jones, Dick Thibodeau, Bob Thompson

Commissioners Absent: John Bonneau, Michael Lachance, Lee Upton

Others Present: Lynne Richard, John Storer, Sid Hazelton, Heather Hunter, Kevin Gagne, Mary Jane Dillingham, Tizz Crowley, Dan Bilodeau, Noah Ebel, Bob Kavanaugh

Commissioner Grube called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM

Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of August 13, 2014

Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on 8/13/14, and place on file.

Passed 5 -0 (French absent)

Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter

The report does not include Auburn's third quarter charges. By the end of the fiscal year, all accounts should be within budget. The increase in intergovernmental revenues will be offset by the decrease in timber harvesting. We have yet to receive an invoice from the Androscoggin Land Trust, but expect one by years end. Mary Jane Dillingham is in need of a trailer for the DASH boat. The cost of a trailer is around \$1,500, and Heather is requesting to purchase it from the current budget, as opposed to next year. The current report shows an operating surplus of \$56,812.34, and Heather anticipates a year end surplus of approximately \$30,000.00.

The Sinking Fund has a balance of approximately \$170,000.00

Vote 2– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thompson to approve the Quarterly Financial Update, and purchase a trailer for the DASH boat with

current year funds from the Repairs to Property and Equipment line item not to exceed \$1,600.00.

Passed 6-0

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

Dash Boat – We got a lot of use out of the boat this summer, and we will be using it for a few more days this year. They have been experimenting with installing burlap for benthic barriers.

Courtesy Boat Inspections – The two inspectors logged 318 hours on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day. They inspected 479 boats. One of them was carrying variable leaf milfoil out of the Lake.

Lake Quality – The Lake is doing very well in comparison to previous years. Phosphorus values in the past have been over 20ppm. This year the highest recorded reading was 13 ppm. Algae and zooplankton levels are more normal as well. The Synura algae that caused the cucumber smell last year does not seem to be an issue this year. The turbidity numbers, which reflect water clarity, are at historic normal lows. We will continue to sample the lake until turnover occurs. We hope to pare down the Lake Auburn sampling program next year. At the same time, we hope to use our personnel to gather data from Little Wilson Pond, Mud Pond, and the Basin.

Watershed Inspection – The Drinking Water Program conducted a watershed inspection on September 25. They inspected our treatment processes, our land management, and took a boat tour of the Lake. We have not received the results of their inspection.

Androscoggin Land Trust – Mary Jane is working with them to address a land use issue where an abutter may be encroaching onto property.

Fire - There was a small ground fire on Salmon Point that was extinguished by the Auburn Fire Department. We may need to step up our efforts to educate the public that fires are not allowed on Watershed property.

Speaking – MJ has been invited to speak in Canada along with Ken Wagner and Holly Ewing about the Synura algae issue we experienced last fall.

Commissioner French asked if the Phosphorus readings were elevated after the rains we received this summer. MJ responded that we took some rain event samples, but have not received that data yet. The University of Maine has taken sediment samples, and compared them to other watershed ponds. The other ponds have aluminum based sediments, which do not release phosphorus. Lake Auburn sediment is more iron based, which can release phosphorus under anoxic conditions. The erosion control work we have completed may be

helping to keep the phosphorus numbers low. There seems to be high phosphorus in the ground water from the Townsend Brook. This will require take some further investigation.

Agenda Item 4: Open Session – Public Comments

Dan Bilodeau read several excerpts from a report from the Maine DEP Lake Assessment program, which reviewed the economic impact of recreational lake use. He offered to give the report to Lynne Richard for use in her educational program.

Dan distributed copies of pictures of past forestry harvests along the Spring Road, as well as a letter he wrote from the Lake Auburn Community Center to the Maine Sustainable Forestry Initiative & Maine Forest Service.

Tizz Crowley mentioned she spoke at the last Auburn Water District Trustees meeting about the need to bring forward more information on recreational opportunities around the lake, and educate the public about what is not allowed and why. She also stressed the need to get the Community Forest Board, and the community as a whole, involved in Forest Management Plans.

Agenda Item 5: Education & Outreach Update – Lynne Richard & John Storer

Forestry Workshop – Lynne attended a Forestry Workshop on Friday October 3. Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Maine Forest Service, Lewiston Auburn Community Forest Board, and the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission hosted a workshop titled “Harvesting with Landowner Goals in Mind”. There were around 20 people in attendance. The goal is for the profession to work with landowners to increase communication and establish goals to produce better outcomes. They have trained many people over the years, and this was one in a series of workshops that will be offered. Representing the Commission were Lynne, Dick Thibodeau, and John Storer. Dan Bilodeau attended as well.

National Park Service Grant – In August Lynne submitted a grant application to the National Parks Service who has a Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program. She recently received notification that we were awarded the grant. This non-monetary grant helps community groups develop and manage plans for their public lands. She will contact the Park Service tomorrow to start the process. She received several letters of support from local groups, and we hope to engage them in the process.

Agenda Item 6: Presentation by Lynne Richard and Noah Ebel (Summer Intern) regarding documented trails and land use

Summer Intern Noah Ebel presented a video slide show of the results of his inventory of existing trails on Watershed property. He took several photos, as well as GPS coordinates of trails and significant features. Properties on the Eastern side of Lake Auburn have been completed. The Western Side will be done at a later time.

Maps of his findings will be produced, and used as a base for planning purposes.

Agenda Item 7: Erosion Control Projects & Efforts – Sid Hazelton

(This item was addressed immediately prior to adjournment)

North Auburn Dam Emergency Spillway - Kleinschmidt Associates has been hired to design an emergency spillway at the North Auburn Dam. After considering alternative designs, we have chosen the option of building up both sides of the dam approximately 3' to impound the water during large rain events and utilizing the existing spillway to handle the extra flow. We have not yet received the final design. Given the time of the year, we will wait until next Spring for construction with in-house crews. Commissioner Thibodeau recommended notifying property abutters about the potential for water back-up. Sid will mention this concern to the consultants.

Salmon Point Forestry Restoration – Some of the Red Pine Trees that were planted as part of the Salmon Point Forest Restoration Project did not survive this summer. They will be replaced by the Landscaper next spring at no charge.

Algaecide Application – A staff meeting was held recently to review the protocol to follow in the event of the need to apply the algaecide to Lake Auburn.

Spring Road Culverts - Given the limited construction time available this season, the culvert work and ditching on the Spring Road will be undertaken next Spring/Summer.

Agenda Item 8: Update on Land Negotiations – John Storer

John Storer noted we have successfully closed on the Hayes property, which is approximately 22 acres off Summer St. extension. John has written a letter to the City of Auburn expressing the Commissions interest in the acquisition and discontinuance of Summer Street Extension, and possibly converting it to a pedestrian path. John expressed that we would like to be a partner in a public process to gage interest and receive input prior to taking action.

Agenda Item 9: Review of Draft 2015 Budget – Heather Hunter

There is a cash flow carry forward to the 2015 budget of \$24,500.

\$200,000 which was earmarked for the 319 grant match and erosion control is being carried forward to the 2015 budget as well.

\$70,000 is being requested from each entity for the sinking fund for 2015. This will give us approximately \$100,000 to use toward land purchases or other projects the commission may want to undertake.

Line Items – Source Protection Management – decrease is due to fish bars in 2013

Forestry – Line item has decreased due to anticipated lack of activity

Outside Services – decrease in billing from Androscoggin Land Trust

Insurances – slight increase - we are locked into a three year rate

Legal – reduced due to recent trends

Audit/Financial Services - \$200 increase anticipated from Auditors

Public Education – most items were flat funded, except labor (21% increase).

Lynne Richard noted that the majority of the requested increase in Public Ed. –Labor was due to the anticipated administration of the 319 grant.

Commissioner Jones expressed concern that he would not be successful presenting a 20% labor increase to the Lewiston City Council.

Kevin Gagne noted there was an overall decrease in the budget.

Heather noted the only proposed capital expenditure is the GIS Digitizing, and that number may change. Once the actual number is known, the Commission will be notified for authorization.

Total operational contributions from each entity is proposed at \$96,695.

Comparing the previous year, the operations budget from each entity has increased from \$87,500 to \$96,695, and land acquisition has decreased from 125,000 to \$70,000. This amounts to an overall decrease of 21.56%.

Water withdrawal revenue has been tracked separately. That fund has almost \$8,000, which was planned to be used for installing a dry hydrant at the Rt. 4 boat launch.

Given the overall budget decrease, John Storer believed the Auburn Water Trustees would approve the 2015 LAWPC budget as presented.

The Budget will be reviewed again at the December 10 meeting. The Public Ed –Labor line item will be expanded to provide greater detail.

Agenda Item 10: Adjourn Meeting

Vote 3 - Motion by Commissioner Jones, and seconded by Commissioner French to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 6 - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 PM

A true record, Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sid Hazelton".

Sid Hazelton,

Secretary of the LAWPC