

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 27, 2013

Location: City of Auburn Community Room

Time: Meeting began at 5:00PM

Commissioners Present: Bruce Rioux, John Butler, Dave Jones (arrived at 5:30PM), Bethel Shields, Dick Thibodeau, Joe Grube, John Bonneau, Bob Thompson, Steve French

Commissioners Absent: none

Others Present: Mary Jane Dillingham, Richard Burnham, Lee Upton, John Storer, Sid Hazelton, Scott Hatch, Heather Hunter, Kevin Gagne, Lynne Richard, KC Geiger, Bob Cavanaugh, Tizz Crowley, Dan Bisson, Scott Taylor, Bill Mcgonagle, Ken Wagner

Commissioner Grube called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Special Meeting of February 13, 2013

John Storer noted the following revision to be made to the minutes:

Original page 6 of 7: With an algaecide treatment we could get three times the detention time of the lake, or about 12 years of benefit.

Revised page 6 of 7: With an alum treatment we could get three times the detention time of the lake, or about 12 years of benefit.

Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner Shields to accept (with revision) the minutes of the special meeting on 2/13/13, and place on file.

Passed 8 -0 (Commissioner Jones Absent)

Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter

Heather distributed a copy of the annual financial report. It will be discussed at the next LAWPC meeting.

Reviewing the quarterly financial report, on the revenue side, LWD is on a July 1 fiscal year, and LAWPC will receive no more revenue from them until after July 1.

Timber harvesting revenue is over budget, and another check was received after the report was run.

On the expenditure side, the money taken from the Outside Services line item was for the Androscoggin Land Trust.

The \$1,000 under Public Education is for the VLMP.

All the remaining Public Education line items are for Lynne Richards' programs.

Under Audit/Financial Services the \$3,500 paid for this years' audit.

Property taxes from towns are due this time of year, which accounts for the expenses under the Property taxes line item.

In the sinking fund line item, the \$6,382.50 paid for the swimmability study.

The final interest expense payment to the Bond bank for the Holbrook property purchase matures on October 1, 2013.

Agenda Item 3: Update on Lake Auburn – John Storer

Recent tests indicate the quality of the water in the lake is quite good. Phosphorus is at historical norms.

We are applying for a permit from the DEP to apply an algaecide to Lake Auburn. Part of that process requires a public meeting which we are going to host after this meeting at 6:00PM.

We are hopeful that we will not need to use the algaecide, but we need to have it permitted in case we do.

In order to get a permit, we need letters of support from the Maine Drinking Water Program, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Board of Pesticide Control.

CDM Smith is working on Phase II of the diagnostic study. They have been working with Mary Jane on a recommended data collection program. The data we collect now will be used in the coming years to help us identify what treatments may be necessary.

On a parallel track, through Lynne Richard we will be doing education and outreach to watershed residents.

Q. Commissioner French is concerned that the proposed algaecide treatment is called a “pesticide”.

A. John Storer- the consultant is recommending low doses 0.05 to 0.1mg/l of copper sulfate. The action level to initiate treatment is 1.3mg/l. At the public meeting Dr. Wagner will explain how quickly the copper dissipates after application. We will also be cautious to stay away from our intake. We will shut down during the application, and test before and after as a precaution.

Q. Commissioner Bonneau asked if the Maine Pesticide Control Boards (MPCB) role is to keep a list or inventory of applicators and chemicals?

A. Sid Hazelton – we need to supply the MPCB with the actual chemical the applicator intends to use, including the EPA registration number that is assigned to the product. There are 4 or 5 brands of copper sulfate that are currently on the MPCB list that our consultant has recommended. The applicator will narrow down that list to just a few.

Q. Commissioner Thibodeau asked if there is a particular part of the lake that is being targeted?

A. John Storer informed him that it would all be explained at the 6:00PM meeting.

Q. Commissioner Thibodeau asked if we will close the lake during the application.

A. John Storer- the process is outlined in the application under the Pesticide Discharge Management Plan (PDMP). In general, we will shut down the launch, and deploy safety boats. In addition, we will shut the intake, and Lewiston and Auburn will run off our reservoirs.

Agenda Item 4: Ratify Order Delegating Commission Clerks’ approval of CDM Smith’s Amendment #2 for permitting assistance – John Storer

Vote 2 – Motion by Commissioner Butler, and seconded by Commissioner Rioux to ratify an Order delegating Commission Clerks’ to approve of CDM Smith’s Amendment #2 for Permitting Assistance.

Passed 8 - 0 (Commissioner Jones Absent)

Agenda Item 5: Water Quality Update & Activity Report – Mary Jane Dillingham

Forestry – The harvest off Maple Hill Rd. is complete. We were able to partner with an abutter, which allowed us to take advantage of one log yard, minimizing impact to the environment.

They are currently harvesting on the 25 acre property that was the former Gendron Pit.

Forest Management Plan - Southern Maine Forestry is currently working to supply us with an updated Forestry Management Plan. The plan costs \$15,000. We received a \$10,000 grant from Project Canopy to help pay for the Plan. With the LAWPC matching money, we will pay \$5,000 towards the plan, and supply \$5,000 towards education and outreach.

Conservation Easements - Three outstanding properties have had baselines completed. Property owner signatures are the only remaining items.

Milfoil Management – We have applied for a grant through the DEP for Milfoil Management. We will ask for more than we did last year, as we plan to apply more benthic barriers.

DASH Boat – There was budget approval for a DASH (diver assisted suction harvester) boat this year; however, we will not have time to do the work given the sampling work we must do this summer.

Survey of Public Boat Launch - A diver will look for newly established plants, and remove trash as well. We will also survey the North end, and pump station wetlands, and pull plants and install benthic barriers.

Boat Inspections – We have received another grant to perform boat inspections this year.

Deep hole sampling – we got some water samples at the deep hole, and the results will be shared at the public meeting tonight.

Sampling Program – At the next meeting MJ will brief the Commission about the proposed sampling program.

Q. Commissioner Rioux asked if the samples from the deep hole were different than in the past.

A. MJ – past data is limited, but it did indicate a reduction in phosphorus. The reading is around 9-10 ppm, which is normal

Q. Commissioner Shields – what are the plans for the wood cutting area?

A. MJ – we will look it over this spring and fix as necessary.

Agenda Item 6: Education & Outreach Update – Lynne Richard

Lynne has been reaching out to schools and community groups in the area. She has created an educational brochure and distributed some pictures from when she taught in a Lewiston grade school last week.

She has connected with Jim Chandler in Auburn who teaches a Science curriculum, as well as the Androscoggin Soil and Water Conservation District to get some programs moving. More details will be given next month.

She also met with the Auburn Mayor and talked about ways to build relationships with watershed residents.

Lynne is looking to make the LAWPC the official State sponsor of Project WET.

Agenda Item 7: New Business

The permit to the DEP to apply a pesticide to Lake Auburn includes a Pesticide Discharge Management Plan (PDMP). The PDMP requires that we identify the Applicator. A statement of qualifications (SOQ) package for an algaecide applicator was sent out, and received on March 21.

We received two SOQS; one from Lycott Environmental, and one from Aquatic Control Technology Inc. (ACT).

Upon review by Lewiston and Auburn, there was concurrence that ACT was our preferred applicator.

The price for the application will be dependent upon the depth and area of recommended application. In the SOQ we asked for an order of magnitude cost for applying the algaecide. The ballpark cost ranges were from \$12,000 to \$50,000.

Vote 3 – Motion by Commissioner Jones, and seconded by Commissioner Thibodeau to grant permission for the Secretaries of LAWPC to sign a letter of engagement and negotiate and sign a contract with ACT Inc.; the amount to be determined at a later time.

Passed 9 - 0

Commissioner French asked how the LAWPC fits into the permit process, and do they need to be protected as well?

John Storer responded we will have our attorney review the permit to make sure we have complied with all State statutes, and all parties are covered.

Commissioner Thompson asked what the life of the license would be.

John Storer responded the permit would be good for one year.

Agenda Item 8: Adjourn Meeting

Vote 4 - Motion by Commissioner Bonneau, and seconded by Commissioner Jones to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 9 - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 PM

A true record, Attest:

Robert Thompson,
Secretary of the LAWPC