

# Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday May 22, 2014

**Location: Council Chambers – Auburn City Hall**

**Time:** Meeting began at 3:30PM

**Commissioners Present:** Bethel Shields, Steve French, Joe Grube, Michael Lachance, Dave Jones, Bob Thompson, Dick Thibodeau, Lee Upton, John Bonneau

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Others Present:** John Storer, Mary Jane Dillingham, Sid Hazelton, Heather Hunter, Lynne Richard, Kevin Gagne, KC Geiger, Dan Bilodeau

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

### **Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 12, 2014**

**Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Thibodeau to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on 2/12/14, and place on file.**

**Passed 8 -0**

### **Agenda Item 2: Review and Approve 2013 Annual Audit – Heather Hunter**

We ended the year with an operating deficit of \$10,321; however, we had planned on using \$100,000 from fund balance, so the deficit is not as great as anticipated. When factoring a depreciation expense of \$14,547, which is not budgeted for (non-cash flow), we end up with a surplus of approximately \$4,000.

We had a surplus of \$182,000 in the sinking fund.

As of the end of 2013, the Commission is free of debt from bonds.

Page 16 of the report mentioned an on-going issue about lack of internal controls over financial matters. The report recognized that we have taken steps to partially mitigate this concern.

**Vote 2– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau to approve the 2013 Audit.**

**Passed 8 -0**

**Agenda Item 3: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter**

For 2014 we have budgeted total revenue of \$184,232, and an expenditure of \$208,682, leaving a deficit of \$24,450 to be covered by fund balance.

Operating accounts are tracking normally at this time.

**Vote 3– Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the Quarterly Financial Update.**

**Passed 8 -0**

**Agenda Item 4: Approve budget transfer & authorize purchase of DASH Boat – Heather Hunter and Mary Jane Dillingham**

The Commission approved \$15,000 in 2013 for the purchase of a Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH) Boat. The money was encumbered for this spring.

Mary Jane described the boat and the need for it. The estimate for the boat came in at \$18,500.

**Vote 4– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Shields to approve a \$3,500 budget transfer from Source Protection and authorize the purchase of a DASH Boat.**

**Passed 8 -0**

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

Our boat inspection program will start this Memorial weekend.

The divers will start work on invasive plants in The Basin soon.

At the current time the algae population in the Lake is normal. Last year at this time we had the algae that produced complaints about cucumber odor.

Evidence of a thermocline started this week, so we are going to start a sampling program at the deep hole to profile nutrient levels.

This year we will be doing stream flow monitoring that will enable us to do an estimate of nutrient loads from the watershed to the Lake.

The data buoy will be deployed tomorrow. The data we receive will be linked to our website.

Mary Jane was asked how bad the milfoil problem is. She reported that is very prevalent in the Basin, and was hopeful that the new DASH boat would make a real difference. The presence of milfoil in the Lake and Basin Brook seems to have diminished somewhat. The DEP gave us permission to use burlap as a cheaper benthic barrier in Lake Auburn, and we will be experimenting with it this summer. MJ applied for a \$5,500 grant to re-plant some of the treated areas.

Commissioner French noted that IFW stocked Lake Auburn with 1000 Togue, and the Basin with 300 Brook Trout this spring, indicating that they have confidence in long term Lake recovery.

### **Agenda Item 6: Open Session – Public Comments**

Dan Bilodeau, President of the Lake Auburn Watershed Neighborhood Association, raised concern about watershed remediation, and was looking for a funding mechanism to pay homeowners who may be affected by current and future regulations.

### **Agenda Item 7: Erosion Control Efforts – Sid Hazelton**

Since the last meeting, we have physically located all the remediation areas identified by the CEI report.

Sue Gammon and Sid met with a DEP Field Inspector and Biologist to review the 2014 priority rehab areas along Spring Road, Lake Shore Drive, and the North Auburn Dam. We plan to meet later to discuss permitting issues.

### **Agenda Item 8: Education & Outreach Update – Lynne Richard**

The school education program is winding down. 900 trout fry were released into Townsend Brook as part of the Fish Kids program.

Two Longley Elementary School classes were sponsored to attend the Southern Maine Childrens Water Festival. Some Lewiston Fire Fighters also assisted at the event.

The Pepsico Company, and Androscoggin Bassmasters had their annual watershed cleanup event this May. The Commission provides bags and disposal. They collected around 1300 lbs of trash.

Between Mike Broadbent, Mary Jane Dillingham, and Lynne, several tours of the UV Facility were offered to students from Bates College, CMCC, and area High Schools.

The Drinking Water Program grant to provide education and outreach, septic system pump outs, buffer plantings, and agricultural outreach was extended through December of this year.

Lynne has been assisting Sue Gammon to identify areas that may be eligible for 319 Grants. The application is available on June 11, and due back on July 22. With assistance from the DEP, they are doing phosphorus calculations on the sites to be included in the grant.

John Storer noted the CEI report identified 74 areas in the watershed needing attention at a cost of \$3.5 million over the next ten years. We have \$200,000 budgeted in the current year to address some of the priority areas. We are asking for \$150,000 with the 319 Grant.

Commissioner Shields complimented Lynne for the newsletter she published.

John Storer informed the Commissioners that we would be starting the Auburn Police Lake Patrols the week of June 1.

John mentioned our Forest Management Plan has been completed. This document is essentially a tree harvest plan. Our next step is to begin a process where we can engage the public, and get their feedback on how they would like to see the forest managed. We are not planning to do any forestry work until this process has been completed. We also need to incorporate a steep slope restriction into our ordinance. Lynne has developed a survey for the public to give input. She will also be utilizing an intern to obtain GPS coordinates of all existing trails within the LAWPC forests.

Dave Jones informed the Commission that at the next meeting he would propose that Kevin Gagne replace Rick Burnham as Secretary.

John Storer addressed the Lake level issue. The maximum allowable elevation is 261.6. We want to be around 260 during the summer. We are currently about .7 higher than that. We must balance the release of water with the potential to scour the banks of the Bobbin Mill Brook, and accidentally release Salmon over the falls. Mary Jane added that maintaining the lake at elevation 260 allows us a buffer if there is a large rainstorm, and also for letting water out if we need to. After the turnover event in the fall we like to release water to get some of the nutrients out of the Lake.

Commissioner Grube asked if we had replanted the Salmon Point landing. Sid Hazelton responded that we have contracted with Gammon Landscaping to replant the area with Red Pine varying in size from three inch caliper to seedlings. The replanting schedule was approved by City Planner Eric Cousens, and work will commence shortly.

**Agenda Item 9: Adjourn Meeting**

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

**Passed 8 - 0**

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 PM**

A true record, Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Robert Thompson,  
Secretary of the LAWPC

**Note:**

At the conclusion of the regular business meeting, a public presentation of the Phase II Diagnostic Study was presented, followed by a question and answer session.