

# Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday June 10, 2015

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

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

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

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Lynne Richard, Michael Broadbent, Sid Hazelton, Mary Jane Dillingham, K.C. Geiger, Kevin Gagne, Heather Hunter, Tizz Crowley

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

### Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 8, 2015

Commissioner Thibodeau started a discussion about the wording of Agenda Item 3. There was confusion on how paragraph A was written. After discussion it was decided to leave the minutes as written.

Lynne Richard pointed out that under Agenda Item 6, in the last paragraph, that the Commission had already approved a logo and that she had been using it for the last few months. It was agreed to remove the last sentence of that paragraph and to correct the minutes to reflect the approved logo.

**Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Grube to remove the last sentence of Agenda Item 6, stating “Lynne will present a revision at the next meeting.”, to replace the word “Preferred” with the word “Approved” and accept the minutes of the regular meeting of April 8, 2015, and place on file.**

**Passed 7 - 0**

## **Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter**

At the time of this report Heather had not received a billing from either utility. After speaking with Tanya from Auburn Water and Sewer Heather learned that the first quarter of the year had not seen a lot of staff activity and that Auburn was going to wait until the end of June to send an invoice.

Heather went over the financial report and noted that the sinking fund has about \$280,000, part of which \$13,600 was set aside for the spillway project. After discussion with Sid Hazelton, Heather noted that the spillway project estimate was around \$65,000. Heather recommended the Board authorize additional appropriations.

Discussion was had about using 319 Grant funds for this project; Lynne did not know if using 319 funds for this project would be acceptable or not but felt that she could seek approval.

**Vote 2– Motion by Commissioner Thibodeau and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the appropriation of \$60,000 in addition to the previous appropriation of \$13,600 from the sinking fund to complete the spillway work on the North Auburn Dam.**

**Passed 7 - 0**

**Vote 3- Motion by Commisioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau to approve the financial reports as written.**

**Passed 7 - 0**

### **New Business (out of order) Items:**

- A. Sid Hazelton reported to the Board that John Storer resigned from his position from the Auburn Water and Sewer District as Superintendent and as clerk of the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission. Sid is now the Acting Superintendent and Mike is the Assistant Superintendent. Sid recommended he be appointed to John's seat as Clerk and that Mike be assigned to the Secretary position.

**Vote 4 - Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner Jones to appoint Sid Hazelton as Clerk and Michael Broadbent as secretary.**

**Passed 7 – 0**

- B. Kevin Gagne introduced Dan Campbell who for the last four years has organized the Lake Auburn ½ marathon. This event is typically hosted at Lost Valley, however, they have outgrown that venue. He has looked into moving the event to the Central Maine Community College for which the Commission has a conservation easement. Dan is here to present the race program to the board for consideration. He is anticipating

around 750 people. Dan has reviewed a copy of our easement and does not believe the event will need to set up on any part of our 300' set back from the edge of the lake. Kevin and MJ confirmed the boundaries of the easement and that this venue would not infringe upon it.

**Vote 4 - Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau to approve the portion of the race route that will cross the conservation easement.**

**Passed 7 - 0**

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

- A. Courtesy Boat Inspections;** MJ reported that inspections are happening. She was able to hire two Lewiston high school students in addition to the intern position covering the gaps. MJ did have a \$2,000 grant to cover the expense of boat inspections.
- B. Invasive Plant Management;** MJ reported that we lost our PHD certified diver. We were able to retain the remaining diver who has solicited a friend to help with the efforts. MJ did report that we received a \$10,000 grant for these efforts and that in the future we may not be able to secure these funds. MJ also reported that she has started lake surveys around the watershed looking for invasive plants.
- C. Sampling Program;** MJ reported that our sampling efforts are well underway. The lab is monitoring 5 tributaries in addition to 5 in lake stations weekly. Both major tributaries into the lake are monitored weekly. The lab has also streamlined their sampling efforts and doing more work in house in an effort to trim costs. She has been working with the AWD GIS department, locating all of the noteworthy points around the lake. The plan is to now attach data to those points that is location specific: picture, sample analyses, etc.

**Other:** Cooperators for Lake Auburn, University of Maine-Farmington has approached MJ about installing additional monitoring devices at the deep hole location. MJ has approached the University of Southern Maine about getting students to work on Land Set Imagery around the lake. This will take historical land imagery at high resolution of the Lake Auburn Watershed. This is an effort that the Portland Water District has found useful to monitor for landscape changes. MJ also reported that Gleotrichia has started to show up but she has not seen much Blue- Green algae.

MJ provided water quality graphs of the lake that showed the lake is on target for the last 10 years.

## **Agenda Item 6: Education & Outreach Update – Lynne Richard**

- A. Activity Report: Lynne has worked with MJ and taken samples from the lake, identifying organisms and sharing that exercise with students. Lynne reported that she had to change the location of where students release trout free. The previous location has been changed because of beavers and is no longer suitable for the release. Lynne reported that since April she and Deb have had 980 contact hours with students.
- B. 319 Grant Status: We have received the green light to start using funds, Lynne has developed the forms necessary for folks to start applying for eligible projects. She met with CEO and Head of Public works in Minot & Turner. Lynne reported that there has been two Public sessions for Lands Management; they met once in Lewiston and once in Auburn. The feedback was positive and folks are happy with our efforts. Lynne and Deb will be putting together a Draft Lands Management Plan after they meet with stake holders and discuss the comments from the public sessions.

Commissioner Bonneau reported that he observed folks attempting to read our signage and they appeared confused. Our signs language is not appropriate and needs to be addressed. Lynne felt there would be a better message for the majority of our signs and their application. Lynne will work on this.

## **Agenda Item 7: Open Session – Public Comments**

Lynne asked the Board to consider having additional meetings/workshops in addition to the regular bi-monthly meetings. She felt that it would be a good opportunity to discuss specific topics in more detail. The idea was discussed by the Commission. They were intrigued but wanted to take steps into this rather than scheduling the 6 additional meetings.

The DOT meeting to discuss the Route 4 roundabout: Sid reported that he planned to attend the meeting.

Tizz Crowley reported that she has heard from folks from both the watershed area and within the City of Auburn expressing a general concern about a lack of transparency. She reported that the web site is not kept up to date, financial reports are not posted and that we do not follow our agendas during meetings.

Tizz invited the commissioners to attend the up-coming City council meeting regarding the Route 4 roundabout meeting

Tizz also asked that the Watershed Commission use a unique e-mail address identifying officials as watershed employees.

Sid reported that he has spoken with Jonathon Labonte about using Auburn City Hall as a meeting location. This would enable the Commission to record the meetings and broadcast them on Great Falls TV. Sid will provide further information on the details of making this happen. Commissioners wanted to make sure there aren't any associated costs and that we wouldn't have to compete for meeting times. Sid will follow up on these issues.

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

**Vote 3 – Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau 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**

**Time: 4:16 PM**

**Vote 4 – Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thibodeau to come out of Executive Session.**

**Passed 7-0**

**Time: 4:27 PM**


**Agenda Item 10: Adjourn Meeting**

**Vote 4 - Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thibodeau to adjourn the meeting.**

**Passed 9 - 0**

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM**

A true record, Attest:

  
Michael Broadbent,

Secretary of the LAWPC