

# Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday June 25, 2014**

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

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

**Commissioners Present:** Bethel Shields, Steve French, Joe Grube, Michael Lachance, Dave Jones, Dick Thibodeau, Lee Upton (arrived 3:50PM),

**Commissioners Absent:** Bob Thompson, John Bonneau

**Others Present:** John Storer, Mary Jane Dillingham, Sid Hazelton, Heather Hunter, Kevin Gagne, Tizz Crowley

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

### **Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 22, 2014**

Commissioner Jones noted the misspelling of the word “meeting” on page one.

**Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner French to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on 2/12/14 with spelling correction, and place on file.**

Passed 5 -0 (Commissioner Upton absent)

### **Agenda Item 2: Appointment of Clerk positions**

**Vote 2– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thibodeau to Re-appoint John Storer as one Clerk, and appoint Kevin Gagne as the other Clerk.**

Passed 5 -0 (Commissioner Upton absent)

### **Agenda Item 3: Appointment of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer positions**

The following slate of nominees were presented;

Chairman – Joe Grube

Secretary – Sid Hazelton

Treasurer – Heather Hunter

Commissioner Thibodeau nominated Bethel Shields for Vice Chairman, seconded by Dave Jones. With no other candidates named from the floor, Commissioner Grube called for the nominations to close, seconded by Commissioner Jones.

### **Vote 3 – to install officers**

**Passed 5-0 (Commissioner Upton absent)**

### **Agenda Item 4: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter**

Total revenues at this time total \$85,501.39. After July 1 revenues will be drawn from Lewiston.

We received a \$9,250 State grant for diving and boat inspections.

On the expenditure side, Auburn bills quarterly, so the number reflects billing through March. Lewiston's expenditures include time spent by Rick Burnham and Jeff Beaulé for their lake sampling efforts.

Other line items are tracking normally. The months of July through September are normally the peak activity months.

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

**Passed 5 -0 (Commissioner Upton absent)**

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

We received the DASH boat a few weeks ago, and we should start using it towards the end of next week in The Basin. Instead of removing the plants by the root, the milfoil will be given a "haircut". The plants will be collected in onion bags, and used by one of the divers as garden fertilizer. They will follow up with benthic mats or burlap. We hope to plant native plants over the burlap to re-establish them. It takes three to six months to kill milfoil with a benthic mat. We have more grant money to work with this year, which will enable us to do more work than in the past.

Boat inspections are underway. Two students have been doing them on weekends since Memorial weekend. We have inspected 215 boats, and one boat was found to have milfoil on it. The inspector will write an article about this experience for the Lakes Environmental Association. MJ explained that a one inch piece can regenerate into a new plant.

John Storer mentioned that people are using electric trolling motors in The Basin, and we may need to put up signs or increase education to discourage this from happening.

Lake sampling is underway. We have an intern who is inputting data. The algae biomass in the lake right now is a little lower than it was at this time last year, but the next 4 weeks will be critical. The dissolved oxygen at the deep hole yesterday was 7.9. In 2012 it was 6.0. In 2012 three weeks from now it was down to 3.0. The current Lake biomass is dominated by *Gloeotrichia*. Bates College and the University of Maine are currently performing lake testing. U Maine is looking at phosphorus release from the sediments.

USDA rounded up 18 geese at the CMCC today. Some of them were banded. Ben Nugent will check the bands to determine if they are the same geese from last year. He will keep an eye out if there are more in the future.

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

Tizz Crowley asked if more could be done to deter the geese from coming here in the first place. She thinks the outlet beach is too attractive because the City does not open the Park to the public early enough. Perhaps volunteers could be used to harass them. Other ideas included signs, streamers, etc.

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

On June 17 Sid met with Francis Brautigam from Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to show him the planned erosion control sites on the Spring Road. Francis wanted his staff to follow up to do some stream sampling at a few spots, but had no concerns (from a fisheries standpoint) with the erosion control projects we are proposing.

On June 20, Kevin Gagne, Lynne Richard, Sue Gammon, and Sid met with Mike Mullen from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to address any concerns the DEP may have with our proposed projects. Mr. Mullen indicated that a narrative outlining the projects, along with a site map may suffice for their permitting requirements.

On June 24, Sid contacted Rod Howe from the Army Corps of Engineers to review the projects. Mr. Howe requested to be copied on the correspondence to Mike Mullen.

The requested materials were sent to the DEP and Army Corps of Engineers on June 24, and we are awaiting a response.

An executive order was distributed that outlined the need to hire an Engineering Consultant to permit and design an emergency spillway at the North Auburn Dam. Four consultants have

been contacted, and we are waiting for proposals. The proposals will be reviewed, and a selection made based upon qualifications.

**Vote 4– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Shields to authorize the Commission Clerks to expend monies from the sinking fund to select and hire an Engineering Consulting Firm to permit and design an emergency spillway at the North Auburn Dam, for a price not to exceed \$20,000.**

**Passed 6 -0**

**Agenda Item 8: Education & Outreach Update – John Storer**

An executive order was distributed to authorize the Commission to commit and expend monies from the future 2015 sinking fund to provide a match to the US EPA CWA 319 Grant. Lynne Richard and Sue Gammon are working to assemble the grant request, which is due for submission on August 12, 2014. They are seeking commitments from the towns of Turner and Minot as well.

**Vote 5– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner French to approve an expenditure of up to \$80,000 from the LAWPC 2015 sinking fund as a commitment to match \$150,000 in grant monies from the US EPA CWA 319 Grant.**

**Passed 6 -0**

John Storer reviewed the highlights of the May 22, 2014 presentation of the Phase II report from our consultant CDM Smith. Their recommendation included two in-Lake treatment options: a nutrient binder such as Alum, or Lake oxygenation. John recommended that we further review these options internally and reach consensus on which option will work best for us.

John and Lynne Richard met with Mary Sylvester about the possibility of convening a public process where we could receive feedback on how to best use our property and forests. Lynne will return this Fall, and we hope to hold these meeting in September 2014, perhaps at the East Auburn School, or other location that will be convenient for residents.

As an FYI, the latest round of inspection log sheets from the Auburn Police Lake patrol were included in the packets.

**Agenda Item 9: Potential Land Purchase - Executive Session regarding negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with 1 MRSA § 405(6) (C)**

**Vote 6 – Motion by Commissioner Jones, and seconded by Commissioner Lachance to enter into executive session.**

**Passed 6 -0**

**Entered executive session at 4:42PM**

**Vote 7 – Motion by commissioner Shields, and seconded by Commissioner Thibodeau to come out of executive session.**

**Passed 6 -0**

**Came out of executive session at 4:56PM**

**Vote 8 - Motion by Commissioner Jones, and seconded by Commissioner Shields to move forward to purchase the Schott property on the Skillings Corner Road for a price of \$15,000.**

**Passed 6 - 0**

**Agenda Item 10: Adjourn Meeting**

**Vote 9 - Motion by Commissioner Shields, and seconded by Commissioner Jones to adjourn the meeting.**

**Passed 6 - 0**

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM**

A true record, Attest:

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

Sid Hazelton,

Secretary of the LAWPC