

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday August 13, 2014

Location: Community Room, Auburn City Building, Auburn, Maine

Time: Meeting began at 3:30PM

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present: Lynne Richard, John Storer, Sid Hazelton, Heather Hunter, Kevin Gagne, Tizz Crowley, K.C. Geiger

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

Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 25, 2014

Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Upton to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on 6/25/14, and place on file.

Passed 8 -0

Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter

The report reflects billing through the month of July. Lewiston's contribution will be reflected on the next report.

Intergovernmental revenue is \$4,250 more than anticipated. This will be used for Lake remediation and boat inspections.

Expenditures are in line with projections. The only line item under a deficit is forestry, which is due to the additional tree plantings on Salmon Point. This account had a surplus last year, so this expenditure balances it out.

Heather explained that Source Protection covers operations to protect the water quality such as the divers who remove milfoil, lake patrols, and boat inspections. She anticipates a total intergovernmental contribution of \$11,000 before the end of the fiscal year.

Vote 2– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau to approve the Quarterly Financial Update.

Passed 8 -0

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

In Mary Jane’s absence, Sid Hazelton relayed that the Lake is generally in good shape, and parameters are currently trending similar to conditions in 2009, when water quality was good:

- Secchi disk readings are good
- Turbidity readings remain low
- Oxygen readings at the deep hole are around 5mg/l
- Gloeotrichia is present in the Lake, but we have not seen much of the blue- green algae

Commissioner Bonneau asked for a status of the consultants’ recommendation to apply alum to the Lake or aerate it.

John Storer explained we have a permit in hand to apply an algaecide to the Lake if warranted. If it is used, they recommend that we follow up the next year with an alum treatment or Lake aeration. They have left it up to us which method to choose.

Agenda Item 4: Lake Auburn Half Marathon – *Kevin Gagne*

The third annual Lake Auburn Half Marathon will be run this year on Sunday September 14. The start and finish will be at Lost Valley. As usual, a portion of the course will be along the Spring Road, Lake Shore Drive, and Rt 4. They have asked permission to use our porta potties, and we have them cleaned prior to the event. Lewiston crews will mow the shoulders of the Spring Road. We will also open the Spring Road gates, and provide traffic cones on the day of the event. Volunteers will provide water stops, and clean up after the event. They have provided us with an insurance certificate.

Agenda Item 5: Review of MDEP 319 Grant – *Lynne Richard*

As a segway to Lynne’s report, John Storer mentioned that phosphorus readings in the lake are currently in the single digits, in the neighborhood of 7 or 8 PPB. Anything under 10 is considered good. Our erosion control efforts have helped to keep this number low.

Lynne mentioned we have an intern who is collecting GPS locations and pictures of existing trails in the watershed. We hope to publish maps next month. Mary Sylvester may be brought

in to facilitate public meetings to address the issue of how people would like to see watershed lands used.

We have submitted a Neighborhood Assistance Grant (non monetary) from the National Park Service. If awarded they will help us to develop a land use management plan to include forestry, trail management, etc. We will find out if we receive the grant in October.

Sue Gammon and Lynne recently submitted a \$250,000 Clean Water Act 319 Grant for consideration. The money would be used for watershed remediation plans to reduce the phosphorus input to the Lake. The grant request is for \$148,439, and a 44% match of 116,472. The match will come from several sources, both public and private. We should know the status of our request by December of this year.

Lynne verified that the calculations estimated that the completed projects would eliminate 37 pounds of phosphorus from entering the Lake each year.

The education and outreach component of the grant could be used to inform residents about responsible landowner practices. The University of Maine has soil test kits that could be used to let them know how to amend their soil without over fertilizing.

There was discussion about using future events such as the half marathon or touch a truck events for watershed education.

Agenda Item 6: Extend Agreement with Sue Gammon of AVSWCD – John Storer

John presented the need to extend Sue Gammons' contract at a cost not to exceed \$4,000. We will need her to help negotiate the 319 grant with the DEP, and help to administer the grant if approved.

Vote 3– Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the order extending the contract with Sue Gammon at a cost not to exceed \$4,000, to be paid from the sinking fund.

Passed 8 -0

Agenda Item 7: Open Session

Tizz Crowley appreciated the support the Commission is giving for upgrading Rt. 4. She was disappointed to see the underutilization of the Lake Grove Park due to City budgetary issues, and would appreciate anything the Commission could do to encourage more use.

John Storer mentioned a water quality issue: Last Fall we had a bloom of Synura Algae in the lake that produced a cucumber smell and taste. Should we experience a similar bloom this fall, we will be introducing hydrogen peroxide to the water at the plant to oxidize and neutralize the taste and odor. We ran a successful pilot test program last fall. Hydrogen peroxide dissipates rather quickly in the water, and its use has been approved by the Maine Drinking Water Program.

Agenda Item 8: Erosion Control Projects & Efforts – Sid Hazelton

In response to a request from Lake Shore Drive resident Harry Walker, a Lake water elevation marker was placed on the westerly abutment of the Basin Brook Bridge on Lake Shore Drive.

A. Holbrook Road Update

The Holbrook Road culvert replacement project was recently completed. The project consisted of the removal of two undersized culverts, and the installation of a 6'X4' concrete box culvert. LAWPC supplied the culvert, and the City of Auburn installed the culvert as part of the Holbrook Road reconstruction project.

This project was rated high on the CEI report priority list, as the old system was contributing a lot of sediment into the Basin.

B. North Auburn Dam Spillway

At the last LAWPC meeting, the Commissioners granted the authority for staff to award a design of the North Auburn Dam Emergency Spillway to an Engineering Consultant.

Dave Jones, Kevin Gagne, and Sid Hazelton reviewed proposals, and awarded the design to Kleinschmidt Associates. They are tasked with designing and permitting an emergency spillway, and providing construction plans for in-house installation. Sid met them on-site this week. We plan on constructing the spillway this Fall.

C. Projects and Permitting

We have received approval from the Maine DEP, Army Corps of Engineers, and Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to undertake a number of erosion control projects on the Spring Road. Our goal is to complete the projects this fall with in-house crews.

These projects were all high on CEI's list of phosphorus contributors.

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

Vote 4 – Motion by Commissioner Bonneau, and seconded by Commissioner Jones to enter into executive session.

Passed 8 -0

Entered executive session at 4:40PM

Vote 5 – Motion by commissioner Shields, and seconded by Commissioner Jones to come out of executive session.

Passed 8 -0

Came out of executive session at 5:04PM

Agenda Item 10: Adjourn Meeting

Vote 6 - Motion by Commissioner Jones, and seconded by Commissioner Thibodeau to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 8 - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 PM

A true record, Attest:

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

Sid Hazelton,

Secretary of the LAWPC