

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday August 28, 2013

Location: Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments

Time: Meeting began at 3:35PM

Commissioners Present: Lee Upton, Bethel Shields, Dick Thibodeau, Joe Grube, Steve French, John Bonneau

Commissioners Absent: John Butler, Dave Jones, Bob Thompson

Others Present: John Storer, Mary Jane Dillingham, Sid Hazelton, Heather Hunter, Lynne Richard, Tizz Crowley, KC Geiger, Bob Cavanaugh

Commissioner Grube called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM

Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 26, 2013

There were two revisions to the minutes:

Agenda Item 7 – “Maple Point Road” will be changed to read “Maple Hill Road”
“ She” will be changed to read “Mary Jane”.

Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner Shields to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on 6/26/13 with revisions, and place on file.

Passed 6 -0

Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter

Lewiston finances operate on a July1/June 30 year, and Auburn operates on a calendar year. The next report will include the operating and sinking fund contributions for Lewiston.

The bulk of the billing has occurred over the summer months, and expenditures are within budget limits.

A recent \$5,000 bill for diving services is not reflected in this report, but even with this charge we will still be within budget.

Heather anticipates a slight deficit for general liability insurance.

Legal is close to 100% expended. Policy reviews have tapped this account.

We recently paid our final Maine Municipal bond payment. We have no outstanding bond payments left.

Vote 2– Motion by Commissioner Thibodeau and seconded by Commissioner Shields to accept the quarterly financial update.

Passed 6 -0

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

- Courtesy Boat Inspections

Boat inspections are done for the year, and boat traffic on the Lake was down from previous years. MJ speculates this may be due to the news of the fish kill from last fall. Despite this, MJ heard reports of record togue and salmon being caught this year.

- Milfoil Management

Next year we hope to ramp up our efforts and purchase the suction harvester. Where we have done treatment with our 100 - 10'X20' barriers it has been effective, but there is a lot of milfoil out there.

- Data Buoy

Bates College received a grant, and installed a data buoy on the lake over the deep hole. It takes temperature and dissolved oxygen readings. The data will be available on the website for the public to see.

- University of Maine National Science Foundation Grant

Two Hydrogeologists will be studying the Lake to see the correlation between the geology and what happened to the Lake. We will assist them in supplying data.

- Data collection

MJ presented a graph that charted Secchi disk readings over the last few years. Currently the readings are a little better than this time last year. Dissolved oxygen is a little better at the bottom of the lake as compared to this time last year.

It had been said that a turbidity reading of 1.5 with a predominance of blue green algae would trigger an algaecide application. Recently the turbidity had hovered around 1.5, but there was no predominance of blue green algae. Currently the turbidity seems to be trending down, and there is a mixed bag of algae types in the Lake. The current data encouraged Ken Wagner that we may not need an algaecide treatment this year. We know this can change quickly, and will keep a close eye on the Lake. Gloeotrichia is present, but not as bad as last year.

In a recent e-mail from Ken Wagner he projected that if we have depleted oxygen in the deep hole, it may not occur until late October, which would normally be followed by Lake turn-over in mid-November. This would help to minimize the duration of oxygen depletion.

Agenda Item 4: Forestry Update – John Storer & Mary Jane Dillingham

John reported the Forestry Management update plan that was done by Southern Maine Forestry has been completed. We will review it for content.

Given the amount of time that staff has spent on Lake diagnostics, we are planning to hold off on forestry harvest activities at least until next summer of Fall when the Lake issues are behind us.

Agenda Item 5: Update on Lake – John Storer

- Current Lake Condition

John paraphrased an e-mail from Dr. Ken Wagner.

- ✓ The lake has not gone anoxic, so phosphorus is currently not being released from bottom sediments.
- ✓ The Lake has phosphorus readings of 10- 18 micrograms/l. We would like to see readings under 10. Dr. Wagner thinks this may be “left overs” from last year. With the long Lake detention time (4 years), it may take a few years for it to flush out of the Lake.
- ✓ It is critical that we eliminate sources of phosphorus from entering the Lake.

- ✓ Anoxia would trigger internal recycling of Phosphorus; this could trigger an alum treatment next summer, which could cost 2 million dollars. So far, things look pretty good.
- Status of Phase 2 Diagnostic Study

In order to supplement the study that was done by CEI, staff will be performing field investigations to look for sources of phosphorus input into Townsend Brook. Summit Engineering will be hired to do water sampling.

- Ongoing Supplemental Efforts

Commissioners are encouraged to contact Kevin Gagne or Sid Hazelton if they have any concerns or ideas about phosphorus contributions or other issues in the Townsend Brook Watershed.

Agenda Item 6: Open Session – Public Comments

John noted the Lake Auburn Half Marathon will be held on September 8.

The Commissioners agreed to continue the Auburn Watershed Police Patrols through the Fall until we reach the \$10,000 budget limit.

Agenda Item 7: Education & Outreach Update – Lynne Richard

- Land Access Permit Process

Commissioner Bonneau proposed a new draft of the Land Access Permit. This draft states that water quality and preservation are our number one goal. He felt that once this policy decision is accepted, individual applications could be handled by staff.

John Storer reiterated that this permit will not be pushed through without adequate input from the commissioners and public as well. This would include open meetings with the abutters, trail groups, and other interested parties.

The permit will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

- Little Wilson Pond Association Meeting

John and Lynne had a productive meeting with the Little Wilson Pond Association earlier in the summer. This led to Lynne conducting a few site visits to look at erosion issues. Lynne hopes to use some of the Drinking Water Program Grant money to assist homeowners with remediation efforts.

- Septic Social

A Septic Social will be held at the VLMP on September 7 from 8:00AM to 12:30PM. Speakers will talk about proper design and maintenance of subsurface wastewater disposal systems. Fendersons has agreed to pump out the VLMP septic tank free of charge, and \$75 vouchers will be given to participants to have their septic tanks pumped out. So far 10 have signed up to attend.

- School Education

Lynne is in the process of updating her teacher contact list in anticipation of the upcoming school year. She has a list of around 80 teachers.

- Watershed Survey

Lynne had a Bates College intern this summer that conducted 20 surveys of people who used watershed land. The results indicated that people mostly heard about the land by word of mouth, and they would like to see guided hikes. Connectivity was important as well. Some wanted fewer trails, and most wanted direct access to the Lake.

Agenda Item 8: New Business

- MDOT – Rt. 4 Right-of way

The Maine Department of Transportation has issued a letter to the Commission that indicates a potential land taking in conjunction with the turning lane addition at the intersection of Rt. 4 and Lake Shore Drive. John Storer has asked to be consulted in the planning process so they can adequately address water runoff issues.

- LACC & Beckett School Properties

The permit for the LACC has to be re-submitted for review by the Auburn Planning Board.

The permit for the Beckett School Property (former CP White School) is currently under review by the Auburn Planning Board.

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

Vote 3 – Motion by Commissioner Shields, and seconded by Commissioner French to enter into executive session regarding negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C).

Passed 6 – 0

Entered executive session at 5:00PM

Vote 4 – Motion by Commissioner Thibodeau, and seconded by Commissioner French to come out of executive session.

Passed 6 - 0

Came out of executive session at 5:20PM

Agenda Item 11: Adjourn Meeting

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

Passed 6 - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM

A true record, Attest: _____

Robert Thompson,
Secretary of the LAWPC