

# Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday February 12, 2014**

**Location: Community Room – Auburn City Hall**

**Time:** Meeting began at 3:34PM

**Commissioners Present:** Bethel Shields(arrived at 3:37), Steve French, Joe Grube, Michael Lachance, Dave Jones, Bob Thompson, Dick Thibodeau

**Commissioners Absent:** Lee Upton, John Bonneau

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

Commissioner Grube called the meeting to order at 3:34 PM

### **Agenda Item 1: Welcome Michael Lachance, new Lewiston City Council Representative**

Commissioner Jones introduced and welcomed new LAWPC Commissioner Michael Lachance. Mr. Lachance replaces John Butler as the Lewiston City Council representative.

### **Agenda Item 2: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 4, 2013**

**Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thompson to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on 12/4/13, and place on file.**

**Passed 6 -0 (Shields absent)**

### **Agenda Item 3: 2013 Year-end Financial Update – Heather Hunter**

Our 2013 budget will be audited by the Accounting Firm Runyan/Kirsten/ Ouellette, beginning the third week of February.

On the operating side of the 2013 budget, revenues were higher than predicted by over \$27,000, mainly due to the timber harvesting, and reimbursements for source protection work.

On expenditures most items were within budget.

The budget shows a deficit of \$11,319.31, which includes the recording of the depreciation/amortization of \$15,547.05. This is an accounting entry, but does not involve any cash flow. From a cash basis, we made around \$4,000 this year.

The sinking fund reflects the revenue from the sale of Land to the MDOT. The expense side shows the final expenditures for the four erosion control projects. The total cost did not exceed the appropriated money. The balance of \$182,031.61 will get rolled into projects in the coming year.

**Vote 2– Motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the year-end financial update.**

**Passed 7 -0**

#### **Agenda Item 4: Status of Phase 2 Diagnostic Study – John Storer**

We have been collecting Lake data throughout 2013 for our consultants. We hope to have a report from them to present to the Commissioners at the next meeting on April 9. Prior to that meeting we hope to distribute a summary of their findings. We would like to hold the meeting at either the Auburn or Lewiston Council Chambers so the meeting can be broadcast to the public. There was a delay in getting some of the data from Bates College, but it has since been submitted to the consultant team.

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

- Milfoil Summit

A Milfoil Summit will be held on February 28 at the L/A College. If there is interest in attending, MJ can provide details.

- LD 1626 – An Act To Leverage Expert, State-based Resources for Emergent Intervention and Long-term Comprehensive Resource Protection of Lakes

MJ is following this bill through the legislature. It involves raising sticker fees, with the money being used to help groups who are managing invasive plants.

- Lake Patrols

We have received several calls to remove trash/discarded furniture from around the lake. In addition, a deer carcass was removed from the ice in the Salmon Point area by Auburn staff.

- Algae Monitoring

Algae is being monitored at the intake, and the deep hole. Anecdotal data suggests that algae eaters are more predominant than in the past.

- University of Maine Research

Last year we helped to fund the cost of their Lake research, which included sediment testing, and chemical analysis of the water. The goal of their study was to determine how the water releases phosphorus in anoxic conditions. The data showed there is no aluminum in the water or sediment, which indicates there is nothing to bind up the phosphorus. Our sediments are more iron based, which will release phosphorus in anoxic conditions. They will continue their data collection on the Lake, The Basin, Little Wilson Pond, and Mud Pond.

- Meeting with CDM

We met with our consultant CDM in December. They recommended the continuance of an intensive data collection program this year. We have budgeted for this with the help of students from local colleges.

- Phosphorus Sampling

Commissioner Thibodeau asked if it was possible to sample for phosphorus in the winter in the Townsend Brook Watershed? MJ responded we do not test for phosphorus when there is ice cover.

John Storer explained we have hired Summit Engineering to sample the Townsend Brook Watershed for phosphorus inputs. We recently received a 50 page report on their fall sampling program. We anticipate reviewing the results of the report at the April meeting.

- CDM Preliminary Recommendations

John Storer explained we anticipated a recommendation from CDM to go forward with an alum treatment to the lake this year at a cost of \$2 million. Lewiston Water Division and the Auburn Water District have included \$1 million each in their operational budgets in anticipation of this. It looks now like they will recommend another year of study, and may be leaning towards recommending lake aeration in the future.

- Hydrogen Peroxide

In anticipation of future outbreaks of Synura algae, which have caused taste and odor issues in the Auburn system, we are working to get a hydrogen peroxide injection system in place for next year.

MJ noted that last year at this time we were receiving several complaints from people that their home filters were clogging. We have not seen that happen this year.

### **Agenda Item 6: Erosion Control Efforts – Sid Hazelton & John Storer**

- Update on DEP Inspection

Sid Hazelton Reviewed: Sometime after the October 23, 2013 LAWPC meeting, Scott Hatch filed a complaint with the DEP concerning logging activities in the watershed, which prompted a site visit a few days later by Shane Duigan, who is the Regional Forester with the Maine Forest Service.

*Note: Shane was familiar with our Forestry program, as he had previously conducted a site visit in September 2012 with MJ Dillingham and Sid Hazelton at our request following the most recent timber harvest. He did not note any violations at that time.*

In a phone conversation the next day with Mr. Duigan, he reported that he did not note any serious forestry violations. We did not receive a written response from Mr. Duigan or the DEP.

On January 16, 2014 Kevin Gagne and Sid met on-site with Jared Woolston, Environmental Specialist with the DEP, to review the same issue. At this time we have received no feedback or correspondence from the DEP, or Maine Forest Service.

- Salmon Point – Tree Planting

Sid Hazelton explained that as a result of the expansion of the existing landing area on Salmon Point by our Forester, City Planner Eric Cousens is requiring LAWPC to replant the newly cleared area, and replant some of the legally existing clearing with groundcover and saplings to improve the pre-existing condition. In addition, he would like an agreement that if harvesting is done in the future, the landing will be further away from the Lake.

We are in the process of receiving quotes from nurseries to move forward with this work in the Spring of this year.

Lewiston Water Division employees stabilized the area with seed and mulch immediately after the harvest equipment left. In April 2013, Jared Woolston from the DEP was invited to inspect

the area, and he found that the area was stabilized, and no erosion was occurring that would transport sediments to the Lake.

- Prioritizing 2014 Projects

John Storer confirmed with Heather Hunter that the 2014 budget includes \$200,000 for erosion work in the watershed. Once we obtain the results of the diagnostic study, we will prioritize work projects that meet the goals of the study.

Commissioner Thibodeau wanted to know if the funding could cover some work to be done in neighboring watershed towns. John responded that the funding is meant to be used throughout the watershed; not just in Auburn.

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

No comments

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

At this time, Lynne has conducted classes for every Auburn 7<sup>th</sup> grade class except for two. She also has been in one Lewiston elementary school every month, as well as a Turner School, and Hebron Station school. She hopes to make a connection in Minot.

She has received press coverage on the trout egg hatching program, which has been put into five schools. More press coverage will be done as the program unfolds.

- Agricultural Outreach – Zoning Issues

John Storer and Lynne met with City Planner Eric Cousens to create a way to collaborate with the City when there is a zoning violation or other code violation. Lynne also has contacts that may be used to help either with advice or financial assistance through the U.S. Farm Bill. The goal will be for watershed occupants to look upon the LAWPC as a resource as opposed to a regulatory entity.

- 2014 Projects – Fish Bars, Parcel Signs

Lynne is looking into fabricating and installing fish bars or some sort of screening device at the outlet culvert at Rt. 4. Hopefully this will prevent salmon from migrating out of the Lake when large volumes of water are being let out. She is working with Francis Brautigam from IFW to work through design and permitting issues.

Lynne is looking into fabricating some signs to be used in the watershed, as well as some for landowners, to be installed this summer.

### **Agenda Item 9: New Business -Lynne Richard & John Storer**

- **Forest Management**

John Storer explained we have taken a break from forestry activities as we are catching up on Lake monitoring activities. We have the new updated forestry plan which is really a harvest report as opposed to a forestry management report. John was looking for input from the Commission on how to proceed with future forestry activities; do we manage for recreation, public access, education, wildlife accommodation, and how do we balance these with profitability? We are also waiting for recommendations from the Phase II Study for further guidance.

John and Lynne will meet with the Community Forest Board on Thursday February 20th to see what thoughts they may have on the issue.

Commissioner Jones would like to see staff develop more alternatives for consideration.

Commissioner Thompson recommended contacting the Nature Conservancy for ideas.

There will be more to present at the next LAWPC meeting.

### **Agenda Item 10: Potential Land Purchase – 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 Thibodeau to enter into executive session regarding negotiations of potential land transactions in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C).**

**Passed 7 – 0**

**Entered executive session at 4:28PM**

**Vote 4 – Motion by Commissioner Jones, and seconded by Commissioner Shields to come out of executive session.**

**Passed 7 - 0**

**Came out of executive session at 4:50PM**

**Agenda Item 11: Adjourn Meeting**

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

**Passed 7 - 0**

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM**

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

Robert Thompson,  
Secretary of the LAWPC