

# Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday December 10, 2014**

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

**Time:** Meeting began at 3:35 PM

**Commissioners Present:** Bethel Shields, Steve French, Joe Grube, Dave Jones, Dick Thibodeau, Bob Thompson, John Bonneau, Michael Lachance(arrived at 3:39PM), Lee Upton

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Lynne Richard, John Storer, Sid Hazelton, Heather Hunter, Kevin Gagne, Mary Jane Dillingham, Bob Cavanaugh, K.C. Geiger

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

### **Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 8, 2014**

**Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Shields to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on 10/8/14, and place on file.**

**Passed 8 -0 (Lachance absent)**

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

For revenues, this months' report does not include Auburn's contribution. When received, it will put the numbers in line with projections.

On the expenditure side, Auburn's last quarterly billing has not been received. Forestry is over budget due to the remediation we had to do on Salmon Point. Outside services line item is for the Androscoggin Land Trust bill, which we have not processed yet. Under Property & Equipment, that line item will decrease by about \$1,600 for the purchase of the boat trailer. Under insurance, the number reflects 3 years of payment up front, which saves us 15%.

No more expenditures are anticipated under the sinking fund.

John Storer updated the Commission on the petroleum spill that occurred at the Rt. 4 turnout the previous month. The DEP will cover 100% of the clean-up expense.

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

Passed 9-0

**Agenda Item 3: Finalize 2015 Budget – Heather Hunter**

*(addressed after item 7)*

**Agenda Item 4: Approve MOU w/Androscoggin Land Trust re: Conservation Easement on Pope Property – John Storer**

The recently purchased 29 acre parcel was sold to the Commission with the understanding that it would be put into a conservation easement with the Androscoggin Land Trust. Mike Auger, Executive Director of the Trust, brought the issue to his Board this month, and they seemed receptive to the offer. The Trust would like to walk the land sometime in January. They would be looking for \$5,000 for monitoring, and another \$5,000 for survey work. We hope to have a MOU in place for the Commission to sign in February.

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

Mary Jane distributed 3 Lake Data graphs:

1. Lake Auburn Turbidity Average at Intake, years 2011 to 12/9/14

This graph showed favorable (low) turbidity results for this year.

2. Lake Auburn Mean Cell Counts at all Locations

This graph indicated reduced levels of algae for 2014 vs. 2013.

3. Lake Auburn Ice On-Off Events

This graph showed a trend of later ice-on, and earlier ice-off events.

Phosphorus is trending downward as well. MJ hopes to have a graph of the phosphorus trends for the Commission next month.

The Androscoggin Land Trust has completed their inspections of our Conservation Easement Properties, and has submitted a report for our review.

John Storer reported that AWD/LWD have funded a project to clean the intake line. The project should be completed by the end of next week.

Sid Hazelton reported that in June 2014 the Dams at North Auburn and East Auburn were inspected by the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). The North Auburn Dam is owned by the Commission, and the East Auburn Dam is owned by the Auburn Water District. Emergency action plans for both dams were done by Wright Pierce in 2002. Due to the downstream flood zone on the dam breach maps that were supplied with the plans, the East Auburn Dam's hazard potential was reclassified from low to high. The North Auburn Dam's hazard potential was reclassified from low to significant. At this time, the impacts of the reclassifications are unknown. Working with MEMA, Sid updated the plans for both dams, and distributed copies to emergency response agencies.

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

Lynne taught the Lewiston Middle School – After School program every week for the past 12 weeks. She will continue with the Science teachers to expand the program.

She is also working with 80 students in the Edward Little High School Chemistry and Agriculture class. They have “adopted” land tracts near the Basin where they have taken soil samples. They will be purchasing, growing and transporting plants as buffers in the spring. The 319 Grant, which has been approved, will help to fund this work.

The 319 Grant will cover a quarter of a million dollars in projects. Lynne is working with the DEP, town officials, MDOT, the City of Auburn, and private landowners to secure funding matches. A lot of Lynne's time will be spent administering this grant. The grant includes a 44% local match, which can include cash, or in-kind services. The total amount of the grant is \$150,000, and the match is \$116,000. The Commissions match for the grant will mainly be employee time, which has been estimated at \$6,000 for Lynne (218 hrs.), and \$7,700 for Engineering (137 hrs.).

John Storer updated the Commission on the status of the Rt. 4 upgrade. He contacted Bob Thompson to see if MDOT had any plans for improving Rt. 4 from the Stove Shop to Lake Shore Drive. A meeting with Jennifer Williams from AVCOG ensued, in which she thought there may be ATRC money next year, or the year after, to fund a conceptual design. She thought construction money could be available for 2018/2019. We met with Jen to assure our concerns about lake protection are considered in the design. We would like to get all the flow from the catch basins that currently discharge to the Lake to be redirected to the outlet.

Our application for the National Park Service Assistance Program has been awarded. Lynne is working with them to develop a land management plan. She is looking to work with as many groups as possible to receive their input.

The LAWPC donated a doggy waste station to the LACC.

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

John Storer recommended the following LAWPC meeting dates for 2015.

All meetings to be at AVCOG at 3:30PM

- Feb 11
- April 8
- June 10
- Sept 9
- November 4
- December 2 (as necessary for budget adoption)

### **Agenda Item 3: Finalize 2015 Budget – Heather Hunter**

*(addressed after item 7)*

The only items that have changed since the October presentation are the public education labor, which has decreased, and the GIS digitizing, which has increased.

The total proposed operating expenditures are \$188,552.

The only proposed Capital expenditure is for GIS digitizing at \$11,950.

Each entity (AWD and LWD) will contribute \$87,385 to operations.

Each entity (AWD and LWD) will contribute \$70,000 to land acquisitions.

Total contributions from each entity (operations and land acquisitions) will be \$157,385, which is a 25.94% reduction over last year.

Heather is anticipating having a surplus of approximately \$24,000 in the sinking fund at the end of 2014. The \$200,000 for erosion work/matching 319 will be carried forward to 2015. Another \$100,000 has been added in 2015.

Commissioner Grube asked about installing a dry hydrant at the boat launch for water withdrawal. John Storer recommended addressing the issue after the reconstruction of Rt. 4.

**Vote 3 – Motion by Commissioner Jones, and seconded by Commissioner Shields to enter into executive session to discuss employment compensation for the 2015 budget per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A).**

**Passed 9 – 0**

**Time: 4:40PM**

**Vote 4 – Motion by Commissioner Shields, and seconded by Commissioner Bonneau to come out of executive session to discuss employment compensation for the 2015 Budget per M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A).**

**Passed 9 – 0**

**Time: 5:14PM**

**Vote 5– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Shields to approve the 2015 Budget**

**Passed 9-0**

**Agenda Item 8: Potential Land Purchase – Executive Session regarding negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C)**

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

**Passed 9 – 0**

**Time: 5:15PM**

**Vote 7 – Motion by Commissioner Bonneau, and seconded by Commissioner French to come out of executive session regarding negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C).**

**Passed 9 – 0**

**Time: 5:39PM**

**Agenda Item 9: Adjourn Meeting**

**Vote 8 - Motion by Commissioner Shields, and seconded by Commissioner Jones to adjourn the meeting.**

**Passed 9 - 0**

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 PM**

A true record, Attest:

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

Sid Hazelton,

Secretary of the LAWPC