

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday September 9, 2015

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:30 PM

Commissioners Present: Joe Grube, Dick Thibodeau, Michael Lachance, Lee Upton, Dave Jones, Bethel Shields, Robert Thompson

Commissioners Absent: John Bonneau, Steve French

Others Present: Lynne Richard, Michael Broadbent, Sid Hazelton, K.C. Geiger, Kevin Gagne, Heather Hunter, Tizz Crowley, Dan Bilodeau, Gary Boulet, Tim Cogle

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

Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 10, 2015

Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Shields to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on 7/10/15, and place on file.

Passed 8 -0

Agenda Item 9: Report on Lake Patrol Program – Officer Gary Boulet

Sid Hazelton asked Gary Boulet and Tim Cogle from the Auburn Police Department to come to the meeting and go over the lake patrols that occur annually from Memorial weekend through Labor Day weekend. Sid passed around a copy of the log sheets that officers fill out while on patrol.

Officer Boulet explained that he coordinates this effort which consists of two separate patrols totaling 14 hours a week. They try to run the patrols on the weekends when activity is high. They make a conscious effort to break the patrols up so that they occur at different hours.

Officer Boulet indicated that the negative behaviors around the Lake have gone down over the last year and a half. Officer Cogle indicated that they see a lot of folks with un-leashed dogs

which is against City ordinance. They added two signs at the entrances to Spring Rd and their patrol officers did issue citations to individuals for having "dogs at large". Officers also interacted with several folks at the Route 4 boat launch who felt that they needed to get in the Lake to load their boats back on the trailer.

Commissioner Thibodeau reported seeing a turnout on the right side of the North Auburn Rd just north of the cemetery. He reported seeing vehicles parked there regularly and questioned their activity. The officers will check it out.

Agenda Item 2: Financial Update- Heather Hunter

Heather confirmed that everyone received a copy of the financial report. She reported that there had not been a lot of activity since the last presentation. Revenues show that Lewiston Water had paid their annual contribution and that the Commission had received another \$500 from Lakes and Environmental group. Heather also reported the interest is trending up.

Heather reported that there are two adjustments that need to occur to the financial reports. There is a \$1,200 charge to the public relations account that will be reversed and charged to the Lewiston and Auburn UV Facility. Heather also reported that she received all of the City of Auburn tax bills today, this will reflect a change in the report.

Heater reported that the property insurance is running over for the year which she feels is due to the recent purchase of property and increased fees for adding those properties to the insurance plan.

Vote 2- Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Lachance to approve the financial report as written.

Passed 8 - 0

Agenda Item 3: Water Quality Update & Activity Report- Sid Hazelton

Sid presented the Water Quality update as Mary Jane is on Vacation.

Courtesy boat inspections wrapped up on Labor Day. There were a total of 330 boat inspections for the year by five separate inspectors. No Invasive plants were found during those inspections.

Milfoil removal efforts have not taken place yet this year. There was a turn over with our dive team and by the time we contacted other divers they were booked for the season.

The Algae Report for the season is favorable. Algae counts are low, water quality is high and phosphorus levels are back to normal. We are still waiting for the latest round of results from phosphorus testing. Most lakes in the State of Maine have similar reports of improved water quality this season.

Sid reported that Dissolved Oxygen levels in the Lake have remained high throughout the season. Sid pointed out that in the Water Quality packets there was a link to a website where the live data for Lake Auburn can be accessed.

Sid went over several water quality graphs which were also provided in the packets with all trends being favorable.

Sid went over a presentation that was prepared by Heather Doolittle from UMO. She conducted a study of the concentrations of Aluminum to Iron and Phosphorus to Aluminum in Lake Auburn. Heather will be presenting this to her peers tomorrow and Sid has asked that they also present their findings to the Commissioners at the next meeting. The Commissioners agreed and asked Sid to schedule the presentation.

Scott Williams, the Executive Director of the VLMP, has offered a Lake Water Quality presentation to the Commissioners next season. Chip Love, our Forester, has also offered to give a Forestry Workshop on the Commission's forest parcels.

Commissioner Thibodeau asked if the water quality staff is continuing to take tributary samples monthly. Richard reported that he takes Secci disc readings every two weeks on Wilson Pond and the readings were extremely high due to lack of precipitation.

Agenda Item 4: Education & Outreach Update – Lynne Richard

Lynne provided a summary of the activity since the last meeting. She reported that there had not been much activity because she is typically off during the summer months. She did report that she conducted a teacher's workshop in July with teachers from Lewiston, Auburn and Buckfield. The workshop was well received and Lynne looks forward to working with everyone moving forward.

Lynne did start working on the 319 Grant this summer and met with 4 homeowners. She visited their properties and went over best management practices and advised them on how to hire a landscaper to move forward. Lynne met with the Public Works Director from Turner and the Selectmen from Minot and discussed future projects. It is not likely that there will be any work with these folks this year. There is also a family in Minot that owns a private drive with two large culverts between Mud Pond and Little Wilson Pond. Lynne is working with them on some options to get this repaired and hopefully utilize grant funds.

Lynne reported that she attended the Annual Coordinators Conference for Project WET. Lynne was recognized and presented with the PETE Award which is given to folks who “demonstrate energy and enthusiasm and an ability to inspire others in water education. The Commission applauded her.

Lynne also presented an article that was published in the Sun Journal on the Little Wilson Pond’s annual meeting.

Lynne has been working on the first draft of the Lands Management Plan which she hopes to present at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 5: Open Session – Public Comments

Dan Bilodeau noted that he was walking near the North Gate and commented on the Dog leash sign that is posted there. He would like to get a smaller one to post near a dog waste station on his property. He also reported that the dog waste station that was provided to him has been well received. Dan Bilodeau and Dave Jones met at the North Gate and discussed opening the gates once the snow fall has accumulated to the point that there is enough snow to groom. This will help with grooming and also provide safer passage for snowmobilers.

Tizz Crowley had three items. Tizz recommended that when we have meetings where we expect public speakers that the Commission look for a venue that could not only record but broadcast that presentation. Tizz also commented on Lynne’s award and urged the Commission to notify the press to promote recognition for this. Tizz’s last item was that she participated in a “Movie in the Park” at the Lake Grove Area. This was a successful outing and that the Commission should promote more events there.

K.C Geiger commented on the Commission’s new logo. When printed on stationary the logo is not legible. The Commission agreed and will address the size of the logo to make it more legible.

Lynne looked into the Commissioners getting a uniform e-mail address. The Commission does own the @lakeauburn.org and it would be possible for the Commissioners to use this if they choose to.

Agenda Item 6: Memo to Lead Staff Members and/or Chairpersons of Auburn Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Committees-Sid Hazelton

Sid provided the Commissioners with a memo sent by the City of Auburn in October of 2014. This was sent to all organizations requesting information on the activities of the organizations. Sid reported that the Auburn Water and Sewer Districts responded to the Memo saying that

both organizations currently comply with the requests written into the memo. Sid recommends sending a formal reply to the City, and would use similar language as used by AWSO. Commissioner Jones recommended proceeding with putting together a draft letter for the Commissioners to review.

Agenda Item 7: North Auburn Dam Spillway Project-Michael Broadbent

Mike presented photos of the project area pre/post construction and reported that the work was mostly complete and the only punch list item will be to re-seed the area in the Spring. Mike reported that the project came out well below budget mainly because access to west side of the dam was favorable due to the dry weather during the later months of the summer. We expected that accessing the West side would require the construction of a road which was not necessary.

Agenda Item 8: Update on Salmon Point Forestry Restoration Project-Sid Hazelton

Sid reported that there has been an issue with the restoration of the landing area that was used when wood was harvested near Salmon Point. As part of the restoration effort the Commission planted 15 red pines that subsequently died due to the Northern Pine Weevil. Working with Eric Cousins from the City of Auburn we've continued to monitor the site. The recommendation has been to wait a year and see if the native vegetation will take hold.

Agenda Item 10: Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) to discuss personnel issue

Vote 3 – Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Lachance to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D)

Passed 8-0

Time: 4:27pm

Vote 4 – Motion by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Jones to come out of Executive Session.

Passed 8-0

Time: 4:34 PM

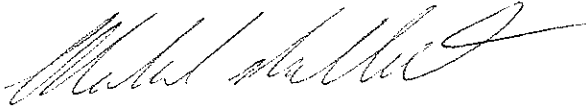
Agenda Item 11: Adjourn Meeting

Vote 4 - Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Shields to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 8 - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM

A true record, Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Broadbent".

Michael Broadbent,

Secretary of the LAWPC