**Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday June 8, 2016**

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

**Time:** Meeting began at 3:30PM

**Commissioners Present:** Bob Thompson, John Bonneau, Bethel Shields, Steve French, Joe Grube, Dave Jones, Dick Thibodeau, Tizz Crowley (arrived 3:45PM),

**Commissioners Absent:** Michael Lachance

**Others Present:** Sid Hazelton, Heather Hunter, Kevin Gagne, Dan Bilodeau, KC Geiger, Lynne Richard

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

**Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 13, 2016**

**Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Bonneau and seconded by Commissioner Thompson to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on 4/13/16, and place on file.**

**Passed 7 -0 (Commissioner Crowley absent)**

**Agenda Item 2: Reappointment of Commissioner Bonneau**

It was noted that the Auburn Water District re-appointed Commissioner Bonneau for another term as Commissioner on the Board effective July 2017-July 2020.

**Agenda Item 3: Quarterly Financial Update –** *Heather Hunter*

All line items are trending well and within budget.

There was a question from Commissioner Bonneau about the investment of fund balances. Heather explained that the sinking fund is invested in two CD’s. One is at the Lewiston Municipal Federal Credit Union , and one at Auburn Savings. The operating money is kept at Key Bank.

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

**Passed 7 -0 (Commissioner Crowley absent)**

**Agenda Item 4: Water Quality Update & Activity Report-**  *Sid Hazelton*

Lake quality is good at this time. Both turbidity and algae counts are trending normally. We experienced a record early ice-out this spring, which is not ideal for water quality, but we are hopeful that the trends will continue. A chart was presented and discussed that compares the current turbidity with 2012. The critical period is normally late summer to early fall.

Phosphorus sampling is occurring at the tributaries, as well as Lake patrols and boat inspections.

The Bates College Buoy has been deployed, and is collecting data.

The long core sampling program is underway as well. We look forward to the results of the analysis.

A summer intern is on board, and has mapped some of the active milfoil areas.

Secci disk readings are between 7 and 8 meters, which is good. More data will be collected throughout the summer.

High School Students who are involved in the Stormwater Management Reasearch Team (SMART) have been sampling water at the Townsend Brook inlet to the Lake. This program is funded by a grant through the University of Maine. They may be able to expand the program this summer, to involve more students and sample further into the Townsend Brook Watershed to help pinpoint the location of phosphorus input.

**Agenda Item 5: Education & Outreach Update –** *Lynne Richard*

School activities are winding down, but a few projects are planned for the summer. Approximately 75 students will be involved in field trips to various locations in the watershed.

Lynne will be attending a project WET Conference in South Carolina in August. She was recently elected to serve on the National Coordinators Advisory Board.

Lynne taught a class at USM Senior college about Lake Auburn’s Natural History, which was well received.

Dave Jones gave a presentation on storm water to Gifted and Talented students as part of the Androscoggin Valley Education Consortium.

Lynne and Kyla presented at the Southern Maine Childrens Water Festival to over 700 students.

Buffer planting was installed by students form ELHS on May 13 as part of community service day.

Lynne is working on new signage to post in the watershed. Examples of good and bad were presented to the commission. The hope is that by the next meeting the new signs will be installed.

The order authorizing the use of motorized wheelchairs on LAWPC trails was discussed. It was generally agreed that the use of other motorized vehicles such as golf carts or other would be discussed in the future on a case by case basis.

**Vote 3– Motion by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to approve the Order allowing the use of motorized wheelchairs on LAWPC trials.**

**Passed 8 -0**

**Agenda Item 6: Open Session – Public Comments**

Dan Bilodeau encourages the commission to contact our insurance carrier to make sure they understand the Maine landowner liability law which gives us a $400,000 liability protection, as well a provision that states people cannot sue owners who open their property for public recreational access.

Dan questioned where the water samples were taken on Townsend brook. It was clarified that they were taken at the culvert prior to entering the lake. He questioned the effect of the decaying vegetation in the swampy area on the presence of phosphorus.

Dan requested clarification on trail ownership around the Land Lab. Lynne Richard provided answers.

Dan reminded the Commissioners about the Upcoming Rt. 4 meeting, and saw it as an opportunity to promote the addition of a bike path from Lake Shore Drive to the boat launch, and a future southern link by the Community College. He mentioned the possible expansion of the boat launch to include a walking path, benches, and signage.

Sid Hazelton added that the meeting will be held at 5:30PM this evening in the council chambers. This will be the third meeting that has been held to discuss the design of the road. He will be there to encourage the elimination of the turnout, as well as the relocation of the catch basin outlets to get them to drain away from the lake, and to the outlet on the eastern side of Rt. 4.

Tizz mentioned that National Trails Day was celebrated on Saturday June 4, and the LAWPC was commended by a group of people who took a self- guided walk on our trails.

Tizz was hoping the Commission could exert some influence on the City of Auburn, as the bathroom facilities are currently not operational at the Park on Rt. 4. The only facility available is the porta-potty at the boat launch. Sid mentioned that he was recently contacted by the Rec Director asking about sampling the water to re-open the beach to swimming. She was directed to contact A&L labs for assistance.

Sid thanked Dan for helping the Neighborhood Association group to coordinate a trash pickup around the area.

**Additional Agenda Item - Future Meeting Times**

There was discussion about moving future meetings to 5:00PM as opposed to the current time of 3:30PM. This was ok with some commissioners, but a problem for others. It was generally agreed that no time seemed to work for everyone. The possibility of making electronic participation available in the future was discussed as well. The idea of moving future meetings to a location where it could be recorded, such as the Auburn or Lewiston Council Chambers, was discussed.

**Vote 9 - Motion by Commissioner French, and seconded by Commissioner Shields to keep the meeting times and dates as-is for the remainder of 2016.**

**Passed 7-1**

**Agenda Item 7: Update on Long Core Sampling Project –** *Sid Hazelton*

Addressed during Water Quality Report

**Agenda Item 8: Update on Rt 4 Improvements**

Addressed during open session

**Agenda Item 9: House Fire 625 North Auburn Road**

The residence at 625 North Auburn Road burned during the winter of 2016. The building was demolished and the site was backfilled. A neighbor contacted us concerning possible groundwater contamination from heating oil. We contacted the DEP, and they tested the area and found no hazard to the environment or their adjacent well.

**Agenda Item 10: Adjourn Meeting**

**Vote 10 - Motion by Commissioner Grube, and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to adjourn the meeting.**

**Passed 8 - 0**

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM**

A true record, Attest:



Sid Hazelton,

Secretary of the LAWPC