

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday September 14, 2016

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:30 PM

Commissioners Present: Tizz Crowley, Joe Grube, Bethel Shields, Dick Thibodeau, John Bonneau, Robert Thompson and Steve French

Commissioners Absent: David Jones, Michael Lachance

Others Present: Lynne Richard, Michael Broadbent, Sid Hazelton, Kevin Gagne, Mary Jane Dillingham and members of the public

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

Agenda Item 1: Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 8, 2016

Vote 1– Motion by Commissioner Bonneau , seconded by Commissioner Crowley to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of 6/8/16 and place on file.

Sid Hazelton provided a one page amendment that was accepted as part of the minutes .

Passed 6 - 0

Agenda Item 2: Financial Update- Heather Hunter

Heather Hunter was absent. The financial reports were mailed out to all of the Commissioners along with the agenda packets for the meeting. After the motion by Commissioner Crowley there was discussion about the drawdown of funds from Lewiston. No one could answer the question so it will be brought up at the next meeting.

Commissioner Crowley also asked why the Commission runs all of its finances through the Auburn Water District's books and recommended that the Commission handle its own accounting.

Vote 2 - Motion by Commissioner Crowley, seconded by Commissioner Bonneau to approve the financial report as presented.

Passed 6 - 0

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

MJ recently prepared a presentation on Cyanotoxins in Drinking Water and presented her report along with Bates College at a convention in Canada.

MJ gave the same presentation to the Commissioners and the Audience.

Agenda Item 4: Education & Outreach Update – *Lynne Richard*

Lynne handed out an Education and Outreach Report that summarized her activities for the past couple of months. She reported that she participated in the Project WET Conference in Greenville, SC. She received training in early childhood water education activities.

Lynne also reported that the quarter mile markers had been installed along Whitman Spring Road. Lynne worked with a group of local runners to have the markers installed. Lynne also reported that a new bridge had been installed on Merrick's Way, a trail that connects to the Witham Spring Road. The bridge was graciously donated by Webster Tree Services and installed with the help of Dan Bilodeau.

Lynne reported that she has been working with some cost share agreements for the 319 Grant. She reported that the Grant will be expiring soon and that she will need to get an extension of the Grant to continue to utilize the funds.

Agenda Item 5: Open Session – Public Comments

There were several members of the Little Wilson Pond Improvement Association present at the meeting. Chuck Buikema introduced himself along with Julia Jozniak and Denise McCourt. They wanted to discuss the Wilson Bluff Bi-Annual Report that Richard Thibodeau presented at their last meeting. They had several concerns based on the report in that it was evident that there are some deficiencies as noted in the report. The major concern is that the retention pond has shown signs of exfiltration and they are concerned that if the pond has a catastrophic failure it will negatively impact Little Wilson Pond.

Kevin Gagne reported that he had conducted several of these inspections and that his findings showed that the retention pond is retaining sediments and has no signs of blow outs. He reported that the pond has been inspected during both dry and wet conditions and that he sees no signs of an impending catastrophic failure.

The Commissioners agreed to share copies of the report with the Little Wilson Pond Association in the future.

Agenda Item 6: Algaecide Application Refresher Training Exercise-Sid Hazelton

Sid reported that both the City of Lewiston staff and the Auburn Water District staff participated in an Algaecide Application table top exercise. We do not expect to apply an algaecide but we trained critical staff so that in the event we need to treat the lake that we are up to speed with the current regulations.

Agenda Item 7: RT. 4 Diesel Fuel Spill-Sid Hazelton

Sid reported that 70 gallons of diesel fuel had been spilt onto RT. 4 as a result of a traffic accident. The spill was contained by the curbing on RT. 4 and no fuel made it off the highway. Auburn Public works were quick to respond and took the appropriate actions to properly clean up the spill.

Agenda Item 8: East Auburn Dam Breach Exercise- Sid Hazelton

Sid reported that both he and Mike Broadbent participated in a State Emergency Preparedness Exercise. This exercise focused on the East Auburn Dam and what would happen if that dam failed.

Agenda Item 9: Skillings Corner Road Property- Sid Hazelton

Sid showed the Commissioners an aerial photo showing a piece of property that is owned by the Commission. The Auburn police recently reported loitering issues at this location. The Auburn Water District removed the paved apron onto Skillings Corner Road and blocked off the parking with boulders.

Agenda Item 10: Lake Auburn Half Marathon- Kevin Gagne

The Marathon went off without a hitch this year. It was held September 11 at the Central Maine Community College.

Tizz asked that in the future this event be added to the Commission's agenda for discussion prior to the event taking place.

Added Agenda Items: - Sid Hazelton

Amendments to the resource protection zones - Sid handed out a packet that included newspaper clippings and correspondence that he has had with City of Auburn staff regarding

the sensitivity of the Resource Protection Zones. Discussion was had to potentially bring the Commission together with the Conservation Commission.

Jonathan Labonte's e-mail outlines his concerns with the purchase of properties around Lake Auburn and taking those properties off the tax rolls. Sid wanted to meet with the Commissioners to formulate a unified response to the e-mail.

Agenda Item 11: Potential Land Purchase- Executive Session regarding negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with M.R.S.A 405 (6) (C)

Vote 3- Motion by Commissioner Bonneau, seconded by Commissioner Crowley to go into executive session to discuss negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with M.R.S.A 405 (6) (C)

Passed 6 - 0

Vote 4- Motion by Commissioner Bonneau, seconded by Commissioner Crowley to come out of executive session to discuss negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with M.R.S.A 405 (6) (C)

Passed 6 - 0

Vote 5- Motion by Commissioner Bonneau, seconded by Commissioner Crowley to authorize Sid Hazelton to pursue negotiations for 7 acres with the property owners of 949 Summer Street under the following conditions:

The Commission is willing to offer \$10,000 for the property.

The Commission will pay for a survey as part of a sales agreement.

If the sellers would like to hire an appraiser, the Commission would work with the sellers to secure a better price.

Passed 6 - 0

Vote 6 - Motion by Commissioner Crowley, seconded by Commissioner French to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 6 - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 PM

A true record, Attest:

Michael Broadbent,

Secretary of the LAWPC