

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:30 PM

Recording: The meeting was recorded.

Commissioners Present: Camille Parrish, Mary Ann Brenchick, Dan Dube, Amy Landry, Dan Bilodeau, Alan Holbrook and Steve French

Dan Dube was appointed as the City of Lewiston Commissioner- at-Large.

Commissioners Absent: Evan Cyr, Caleb Roebuck

Others Present: Sid Hazelton and Kevin Gagne, LAWPC Clerks, Michael Broadbent LAWPC Secretary, Erica Kidd Watershed Manager, Carolyn Houtz Education and Outreach Coordinator and Heather Hunter Commission Treasurer.

Agenda Item 1: Approve minutes of the regular meeting of September 8, 2021

Vote-1 On a motion by Commissioner Brenchick and seconded by Commissioner Parrish to approve the minutes as presented.

Passed 7-0

Agenda Item 2: Quarterly Financial Update – Heather Hunter

Heather went over a quarterly financial report that was last updated November 3, 2021. There have been a few fluctuations particularly in source protection. Overall, the Commission is in good financial shape.

Vote-2 On a motion by Commissioner Landry and seconded by Commissioner Brenchick to accept the quarterly financial report that was presented.

Passed 7-0

Agenda Item 3: 2022 Budget Approval

Heather went over the 2022 proposed Commission Budget. She explained all changes made to the budget and how they affect the operation of the Commission. There are no big changes from 2021 to 2022. There was a small increase in the contributions from both Lewiston and the Auburn Water District.

Vote-3 On a motion by Commissioner Brenchick and seconded by Commissioner Landry to accept the 2022 Budget as presented.

Passed 6-1

Heather reported that she will no longer be able to serve as Treasurer to the Commission. Heather has been with the Commission since its inception. Heather suggested that she stay on until the Audit. She asked how the Commissioners would like to replace her. Heather will look to see if there are any other staff members in Lewiston that could fill the role and Sid will check with the Auburn Water District staff.

Agenda Item 4: Future Agenda Packets

Before discussion on this item was started the Commission did introductions as there was a new Lewiston Commissioner- at-Large present. Dan Dube was introduced and welcomed to the group.

Commissioner Brenchick presented a sample agenda that is similar to what is used by the Water Pollution Control Authority. This style of agenda may help the Commission meetings flow better. This agenda is typically sent with a memo from the Manager which explains the expectation of Commissioners prior to the meeting.

The Commissioners liked the layout and would like to discuss it more at the workshop in December.

Agenda Item 5: Water Quality & Activity Report- Erica Kidd

Erica went over water quality graphs that were included in the agenda packet. She pointed out that currently the lake is slightly warmer than normal for this time of year. She reported that turnover of the lake should occur sometime in the coming week. In conjunction with the lake temperature the clarity of the lake is also up. Staff has been working with partners to identify the algae that is currently in the lake.

Erica also went over phosphorus, secci disk readings and fecal/total coliform sampling results from within the lake and its tributaries.

Erica presented on several timber harvests that are on-going on private property within the Watershed. She reviews harvest plans when they are sent to her by the City. There have been instances when she does not get that information so she reaches out to the owners when needed.

Erica has been working with the owners of the new horse farm on West Auburn Rd. This facility has been approved by the City. Erica has been working with them to make sure they understand their impact within the Watershed. There was some concern that those horses would utilize some of the Commission trails. It is un-clear at this time if they plan to utilize the trails in the area.

Erica reported that drainage improvements along Whitman Spring Road are on-going. Lewiston crews have been working to replace culverts and stabilize drainage areas.

Erica provided an update on the City of Auburn's efforts to amend the strip zones within the Watershed. The proposed changes would increase the developable area within the Watershed. The Planning Board has voted against moving forward with this change. The City is also looking to revise their comp-plan. The proposed changes would again increase the developable area within the Watershed. Erica is going to continue to monitor the progress of this revision.

Lake Auburn Study; Sid forwarded all of the Commissioners a copy of the now completed Lake Auburn Study. He would like to receive feedback from Commissioners which would be helpful to present back to the City. The City plans to go over the Study with the Councilors in the Spring on 2022. At this time the City does not plan to have a public presentation of the study. Commissioner Bilodeau recommended that Commissioners look at page 41 and consider adopting more stringent best management practices as they relate to the Commission logging practices.

There was also discussion on working with our neighboring towns to protect the Watershed in those communities.

Blanchard Pond Remediation; Erica went over a Remediation proposal for the Blanchard Pond watershed. This is work Erica would like to see happen in the Spring of 2022.

Vote-4 On a motion by Commissioner Brenchick and seconded by Commissioner Bilodeau to accept the Tighe-Bond proposal and to proceed with the design and remediation work as presented.

Passed 7-0

Carolyn Houtz introduced herself as the new Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Commission. Carolyn has a background in Environmental Science and Stewardship and also has a degree in Environmental Science and Economics. She is excited to join our team and has been getting acclimated with the Watershed. She has updated our social media pages and wants to increase our activity. Carolyn has also started meeting with stewards of the Watershed to introduce herself and start a working relationship.

Agenda Item 9: Open Session-Public Comments

No comments.

Agenda Item 6: Land Negotiation – Executive Session regarding potential land transactions in accordance with 1 M.S.R.A. § 405(6)(E).

Vote-5 On a motion by Commissioner Brenchick and seconded by Commissioner Landry to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.S.R.A. § 405(6)(E).

Passed 7-0

Executive Session ended at 4:53pm

Agenda Item 7: Executive Session regarding potential litigation in accordance with 1 M.S.R.A. § 405(6)(E).

Vote-6 On a motion by Commissioner Brenchick and seconded by Commissioner Landry to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.S.R.A. § 405(6)(E).

Passed 7-0

Executive Session ended at 5:12 pm

Commissioner French asked Sid if he could send all of the Commissioners a copy of the report submitted to the Board of Professional Engineers by Commission attorney, Jim Pross.

Agenda Item 8: December 1 Workshop – Set agenda

There was discussion by the Commissioners that they would like a review of Robert's Rules. There has been discussion about changing the format of the agendas and frequently asked questions by the Commissioners.

Agenda Item 10: Open Session-Commissioners

Dan updated the Commissioners on the progress of the review of the Bi-Laws for the Protection of Lake Auburn. Dan serves on an Auburn Water District appointed committee assigned to review the existing Bi-laws.

Agenda Item 11: Adjourn Meeting.

Vote-7 On a motion by Commissioner Parrish and seconded by Commissioner Bilodeau to adjourn the meeting

Passed 7-0

A true record, attest;



Michael Broadbent
Secretary of the LAWPC