

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:32 PM

Recording: The meeting was recorded.

Commissioners Present: Evan Cyr, Alan Holbrook, Mary Ann Brenchick, Amy Landry, Dan Bilodeau, Rick LaChapelle, Glen Holmes and Camille Parrish

Commissioners Absent: Dan Dube

Others Present: Michael Broadbent Commission Secretary, Erica Kidd Watershed Manager, Carolyn Houtz Education and Outreach Coordinator, Heather Hunter Commission Treasurer

In the absence of the Commission Chair, Vice Chair LaChapelle ran the meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Appointment of Tracy Roy as Treasurer

Heather Hunter made a recommendation to the Commissioners to appoint Tracy Roy as Commission Treasurer. Tracy was recently hired as Lewiston's Finance Director and has extensive experience with municipal government.

Vote 1 On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded Commissioner LaChapelle to appoint Tracy Roy to the position of Treasurer.

Passed 8-0

Vote 2 On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner LaChapelle to authorize Michael Broadbent to provide the necessary corporate vote to provide Treasurer Roy with access to the appropriate Commission accounts.

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 2: Minutes

Vote 3 On a motion by Commissioner LaChapelle and seconded by Commissioner Parrish to approve the Minutes of the June 8, 2022 Commission meeting.

Passed 6-0-2 Commissioners Cyr and Holbrook abstained from the vote.

Agenda Item 3: Consent Agenda

Vote 4 On a motion of Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Bilodeau to accept the consent agenda.

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 4: Public Comment

Jim Wellehan spoke on the importance of the proposed peer review prepared by CEI. Jim feels that this is an important study for a very fair rate.

Bonnie Lounsbury from West Auburn Road asked what the procedure is for posting meeting agendas. Bonnie had reached out to a Commissioner to get a copy as the agenda was not posted in advance on the website. Bonnie also urged the Commissioners to conduct a peer review of the FB Environmental Study as presented by CEI.

Agenda Item 5: Staff Report

Mike Broadbent updated the Commissioners on the status of the Route-4 project. MDOT is re-constructing Route 4 in the area of the Lake Auburn Boat Launch. The project is progressing and AWD staff has relocated the gates to the boat launch. However, the new traffic pattern in the launch requires the addition of a couple of traffic bollards to protect the gates. Mike anticipated that this coupled with inflation since the time the work was estimated will drive the re-location cost up by about \$2,000.

Erica Kidd reported that a petition was received and reviewed by the Auburn City Council in regards to the re-zoning of the Gracelawn pit area. The City Council repealed their decision to remove a section of land out of the watershed.

The Commissioners asked about the phosphorus data on the lake and asked that the data be included with the meeting packets.

Agenda Item 6: Old Business

A. Peer review update on the Gracelawn Property

Erica gave an overview of the draft CDM Smith Report. CDM reviewed the watershed boundary recommendations made by FB Environmental. CDM reviewed all of the same data that was provided to FB Environmental. They broke a roughly 150-acre area into quadrants and gave recommendations based on the available data for each. Some of the quadrants they agreed do not currently flow towards the lake under the current conditions. One section had ground water models that showed flow towards the lake and a third section would require further data collection to determine the ground water flow.

The Commissioners agreed that CDM should be asked to delineate a map showing what they recommend remain in the watershed, along with areas of uncertainty based on the available data.

B. Lake Study Recommendations

Erica went over Section 5, key findings of the 2021 FB Environmental report #1-10. Erica concluded that items 1-3 are recommendations that are best addressed by the City of Auburn. #4 recommends collaboration with all stake holders to control development and encourage phosphorus control in the upper Watershed. #5 recommended a gap analysis of all water quality data. Erica felt that this would be better addressed through the AWD, LWD and other partners who actively monitor the lake. The Commissioners would like to be part of the data review. The Commissioners would also like to solidify a formal policy for selecting stakeholders. The Commissioners agreed to have Erica work on drafting a plan to address this item and bring it forward at the next Commission meeting.

Vote 5 On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner LaChapelle to ask staff to put together a proposal to cover item 5, 2021 FB Environmental Report Key findings.

Motion was withdrawn by Commissioner Holmes.

#5 also included a recommendation to create a full-time data management position. This will be looked at with the annual budget review. They also encouraged collaboration with Bates College. #6 and #7 were not relevant to the Commission. #8 suggested coordination with youth groups and acquire permanent recreational trail easements to LAWPC properties. Creating trail easement was discussed and it was urged to workshop this to better understand the pros and cons of permanent easements. #9 The Commissioners feel they are currently working towards satisfying this recommendation. The Commission is currently developing a management plan and once that is complete, they discussed re-visiting this recommendation. # 10 The Commissioners asked staff to provide a property map to review before they take action on this Item. There was some debate of the benefits of having Commission land put into permanent conservation.

Agenda Item 7: New Business

A. CEI Proposal to review FB Environmental studies

Erica gave an overview of a proposal from CEI consultants to review the recent work completed by F.B Environmental. This proposal was originally drafted for the Auburn Water District, however , the District thought that this review would be more appropriate if

conducted by the Commission. The not to exceed price for the review work is \$6,000. There was discussion on whether an RFP is needed for this type of work. There was also discussion on the need for the review. The Commissioners would like the proposal to be addressed to the Commission. A member of the public was aloud to speak on this topic. He encouraged the Commissioners to proceed with the work given the importance.

Vote 6 On a motion by Commissioner Landry and seconded by Commissioner Brenchick to have the CEI proposal re-addressed and to proceed with the work.

Passed 4-3-1

B. Draft Resolution for consideration by LAWPC

Vote 7 On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Bilodeau to table the discussion on a resolution.

Failed 3-4-1

Commissioner Brenchick gave an overview of the resolve as it was presented. The intent of the resolve is to pause any changes until a peer review can be conducted.

Vote 8 On a motion by Commissioner LaChapelle and seconded by Commissioner Brenchick to adopt the resolve with the agreed upon changes and to have Commissioner LaChapelle sign the resolve as the Commission Vice Chair.

Failed 3-4-1

Vote 9 On a motion by Commissioner LaChapelle and seconded by Commissioner Brenchick to adjourn the meeting.

Vote 8-0

A true record, attest;



Michael Broadbent
LAWPC Secretary