



Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Auburn Water District
268 Court St.
Auburn, Me 04210

March 3, 2023

Trustees of the Auburn Water District,

This letter is addressed to you on behalf of the Commissioners of the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission. This Commission was formed in 1993 with the principal purpose to maintain safe and healthful environmental conditions within the Lake Auburn Watershed, to prevent and control water pollution, and to protect and maintain the present quality and volume of potable water supplied from the Lake Auburn Watershed. In fulfillment of this purpose, Commissioners began reviewing changes being proposed by the City of Auburn to regulations within the Lake Auburn watershed last year. This process included conducting a peer review of the environmental studies being used by the City of Auburn in drafting new regulations, consultation with environmental engineers, and discussion at LAWPC meetings to assess the outcomes of these review processes.

Through this review process, Commissioners have concluded that additional regulation should be considered to maintain safe and healthful environmental conditions within the Lake Auburn Watershed, to prevent and control water pollution, and to protect and maintain the present quality and volume of potable water supplied from the Lake Auburn Watershed.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents in developing their recommendations regarding changes to regulations within the Lake Auburn Watershed:

- A Regulatory, Environmental, and Economic Analysis of Water Supply Protection in Auburn, Maine prepared by FB Environmental Associates, Horsely Witten Group and the University of Maine, dated October 2021.
- Lake Auburn Model Technical Memorandum addressed to Eric Cousens, City of Auburn, prepared by Laura Diemer, FB Environmental Associates, dated August 1, 2022.
- Watershed Delineation Rezoning Review – Gravel Pit Parcel Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission prepared by Robert H. Fitzgerald and Anne E. Malenfant, CDM Smith, dated June 22, 2022, and revised October 5, 2022.
- Peer Review of FB Environmental Associates *A Regulatory, Environmental, and Economic Analysis of Water Supply Protection in Auburn, Maine* dated October 2021 and the supplemental Lake Auburn Model Technical Memorandum dated August 1, 2022 prepared by

Rebecca Balke and Eileen Pannetier, Comprehensive Environmental Inc, dated December 5, 2022.

During their January 10, 2023 meeting, Commissions voted to adopt the following recommendation:

The Commissioners of LAWPC recommend that the Trustees of the Auburn Water District develop rules and policies within the watershed of Lake Auburn in order to implement the following regulatory recommendations:

Specific to Auburn

- Moratorium on siting of septic systems within a 400 foot buffer around Lake Auburn.
- Moratorium on new development within the boundaries of the AGRP zone within Auburn.
- Alum treatments be scheduled as needed based on regular monitoring rather than on a predetermined schedule.
- Any future development, based on changes to the watershed boundary on the Gracelawn Rd property, is required to monitor surface and ground water to ensure that water does not flow into the watershed.

Specific to the Entire Watershed

- A system of oversight for the installation of any new mounded wastewater systems be created and implemented to ensure proper installation. This system should include inspection prior to installation, prior to covering, and after final installation.
- An inspection schedule be developed and implemented for current septic systems.
- Ensure there is a responsible entity for the purpose of monitoring septic systems.
- Require using the most stringent standards for new septic systems, as set forth in the Maine Subsurface Disposal Rules chapter 241.
- Failing systems be replaced using the updated standards required for new installations.
- Create requirements for the replacement of older septic systems upon transfer of real estate within the watershed.
- Low Impact Development (LID) standards be implemented.
- Identify areas to be conserved in the upper watershed.
- Prohibit large scale disbursement of organic and synthetic fertilizers.

Respectfully Submitted,



Camille Parrish, Chair
Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission



Rick LaChapelle, Vice Chair
Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission