

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:32 PM

Recording: The meeting was video recorded. A link to the video is on the Commission website.

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

Others Present: Michael Broadbent Commission Secretary, Erica Kidd Watershed Manager, Tracy Roy Commission Treasurer.

Agenda Item 1. Minutes

Vote 1 **On a motion by Commissioner LaChapelle and seconded by Commissioner Holbrook to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2023 regular meeting of the Commission.**

Passed **8-0-1 Commissioner Cyr abstained from the vote.**

Consent Agenda Item 2. Financial Report

Treasurer Roy reported that the financial report looks good with the exception of the legal expenses. At this time the Commission is over what was anticipated.

Vote 2 **On a motion by Commissioner LaChapelle and seconded by Commissioner Hunter to approve the May Financial report as presented**

Passed **9-0**

Agenda Item 3. CDM Smith presentation on work on watershed line in Gracelawn Pit.

Anne Malenfant was present to give a presentation on the study CDM is working on to help determine the proper watershed boundary location within the Gracelawn Pit. CDM Smith conducted 3D modeling of all historical data along with more recent topo and Lidar to help determine if the watershed boundary could be modified. After review of the modeling data, CDM feels that the previously proposed boundary line by the Drinking Water Program could be used as an acceptable boundary. This will be outlined in their final report which they suspect will be sent to the Commission in draft form within a week.

Agenda Item 4. Water Quality and Watershed Report

Watershed Manager Kidd gave the Water Quality and Watershed Report. She reported that there have been several massive rain events that have influenced the watershed. These events have caused a water clarity decline in transparency. The month of May saw elevated turbidity levels for the entire month. While the storms' impact has been great, the turbidity in the lake is at or below average at this time. Phosphorus levels are average in the lake but external phosphorus loading has been well above average with the storms.

Erica has been working with MDOT to establish an MPI project to replace a failing culvert on Lakeshore Drive and to re-build a section of that road that has been damaged by the storms.

Commissioner Holbrook reported that he heard that the retention pond that serves Wilson Bluffs has failed because the ledge is fractured. Erica and Kevin will follow up on conducting an inspection and speak with the Town of Turner.

The Commissioners discussed the approval of a farm plan for 833 Summer Street. This property had come up for review a couple of times. The first time it did not have adequate information to approve. They re-submitted showing that they meet all City standards and was approved. There was discussion about having this as a future agenda item.

Agenda Item 5. Public Comment

Stephen Beal had two questions on the watershed boundary definition;

There have been references to recent testing. When was this testing conducted and what did it include for tests?

Back when the Gendron property was walked with the Drinking Water Program in December, none of the ground water wells were found.

Secretary Broadbent responded that the pit owner has been monitoring all wells that are accessible that were installed by Summit Engineering. That data has been made available to the Commission and AWD/LWD staff and it was used as part of the CDM Smith Study.

Agenda Item 6. Staff Report

- a) **Mike Broadbent** No report at this time
- b) **Erica Kidd** Erica reported that she has made an offer to a new prospect for the position of Education and Outreach Coordinator

Erica reported that the LD 1473 was passed and it gives exemption to watersheds specific to the Auburn Lake. This exemption is from LD 2003, an act to increase housing in Maine.

Erica updated the Commissioners of current actions to protect water quality around the Lake Auburn Watershed. Septic standards and septic inspections limiting housing in the AGRP zone are just a few discussions that are occurring at the City.

Agenda Item 7. Old Business

This agenda item was postponed until the next meeting.

Agenda Item 8. New Business

- a) City of Lewiston letter to LAWPCA re LD 2003 *Tabled*
- b) Auburn Water District Letter to LAWPCA re: ad-hoc committee *Tabled*
- c) Executive session regarding negotiations of potential land transactions in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A 405 (6)(C)

Commissioner LaChapelle left the meeting at 5:43 pm

Vote 3 On a motion by Commissioner Billodeau and seconded by Commissioner Cyr to go into executive session in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A 405 (6)(C).

Passed 8-0

Executive session ended at 6:13 pm

Vote 4 On a motion by Commissioner Hunter and seconded by Commissioner Brenchick to do a land swap with Gendron and Gendron for parcels 1 & 2 with Parcel A. This is excluding parcel B. This agreement has the convenience that the easement is included and that the fill from the property swapped is only used for grading.

Passed 8-0

A proposal was made to have a special meeting July 12, 2023 at 3:00 pm.

Agenda Item 9. Adjournment

Vote 4 On a motion by Commissioner Hunter and seconded by Commissioner Parrish to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 8-0

A true record, attest;



Michael Broadbent
LAWPC Secretary