

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:00 PM

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

Commissioners Present: Alan Holbrook, Amy Landry, Dan Bilodeau, Marry Ann Brenchick, Brad Kowalski, Glen Holmes and Camille Parrish

Commissioners Absent: Heather Hunter and Rick LaChapelle

Others Present: Michael Broadbent Commission Secretary, Erica Kidd Watershed Manager, Tracy Roy Commission Treasurer, Dylan Hertzberg Education and Outreach Coordinator.

Brad Kowalski was welcomed as a newly appointed Auburn Commissioner.

Agenda Item 1. Minutes

Vote 1 **On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Brenchick to accept the minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting of June 14, 2023 as presented.**

Passed **6-0-1** **Commissioner Bilodeau abstained**

Agenda Item 2. Consent Agenda, Financial Report

Vote 2 **On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Brenchick to approve the consent agenda.**

Passed **7-0**

Agenda Item 3. Public Comment

Stephen Beale was in attendance. He reported he was there to listen.

Agenda Item 4. Water Quality Update

Erica Kidd, Watershed Manager, provided the Commissioners with several water quality graphs showing the current conditions in the Lake. Erica reported that the design has started on remediation of First Brook. This site has historically been a high source of phosphorus. Erica continues to work with Ken Wagner on potential alum dosing stations or other methods to treat the external sources of phosphorus that are affecting Lake Auburn.

Erica reported that at this time we are seeing anoxic conditions within the Lake at the deeper locations. This is concerning because it can lead to increased internal release of nutrients. While we have had increased precipitation the water temperatures stayed below average which prevented larger algae blooms from happening.

Agenda Item 5. Staff Update

Mike Broadbent, Commission Secretary, reported that he met with representatives of Fortin Construction to inspect the storm water retention pond at the Little Wilson Pond Development in Turner. During the inspection 4 deficiencies were identified, a fracture in the ledge that serves as a retaining wall for the holding pond, the vegetation around the pond has not been maintained, the pond is filled with sediment and foreign debris that need to be removed in order for the pond to have full capacity and there is erosion that was caused by water exiting the ledge fracture. The Homeowner's Association is responsible for maintaining the pond, however, an association was never formed on the onset of the development. Mike sent a letter to Fortin Construction and copied the Town of Turner outlining the deficiencies and the need to establish an association.

Mr. Broadbent also reported that the Auburn Water District is moving forward with adoption of a new Watershed Boundary Map to include the re-delineation approved by the Maine Drinking Water Program. The District will also amend the By-Laws for Protection of Lake Auburn. This is necessary to ensure the Zone 1 protection area is properly defined given the watershed boundary change.

Erica Kidd, Watershed Manager, reported that there is an Auburn Planning Board meeting scheduled to discuss text amendments to the Watershed Overlay District. All of these amendments are intended to protect water quality.

Additionally, there are proposed zoning changes that will be discussed.

Agenda Item 6. Old Business

- a. **Reports from Ad Hoc Committee.** Commissioner Holbrook reported that they are keeping the vision alive. It has been difficult to make progress given all of the unknowns. Commissioner Bilodeau suggested a walking tour of the area. Commissioner Bilodeau also reported that the Lake Auburn Watershed Neighborhood Association has received \$10,000 in donations so far to establish this trail.
- b. **Watershed Management Plan** Watershed Manager Kidd gave a presentation on the completed Watershed Management Plan update. The last time this plan was updated was in 2013. The purpose is to identify sources of pollution, develop best management practices and to prioritize remediation work.
- c. **AWD Water Quality Ad Hoc Group** The committee has not met in the last month.
- d. **Clerks' discussion** Secretary Broadbent reported that the Trustees of the Auburn Water District have no objection with the Superintendent serving as Clerk to the

Commission as long as Lewiston appoints a co-clerk and the District charges for the Superintendent's time served working for the Commission.

Vote 3 On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Brenchick to appoint Mike Broadbent and Kevin Gagne to the positions of Co-Clerks.

Passed 7-0

Vote 4 On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Bilodeau to appoint Amy Landry to the position of Secretary.

Passed 7-0

Agenda Item 7. New Business

- a. **LAWPC board seat, resident of Auburn** Brad Kowalski was recently appointed by the Auburn Water District.
- b. **2024 Watershed** Commission Treasurer, Tracy Roy went over the 2024 Lake Auburn Watershed Commission Budget. The Budget does include a sizable increase in the contributions from the two entities, Auburn Water and the City of Lewiston. This increase will cover the costs of a full time Education and Outreach Coordinator.

Vote 5 On a motion by Commissioner Brenchick and Seconded by Commissioner Landry to approve the budget as presented.

Passed 6-1

Agenda Item 8. Other Business

Treasurer Roy reported that she spoke with Key Bank regarding \$29,000 that was illegally withdrawn from the Commission's accounts. We did receive an insurance payment of \$10,000 but she is being told we will not be receiving a full refund. At this time, we still have funds in accounts at Key Bank which are currently frozen.

Vote 6 On a motion by Commissioner Brenchick and seconded by Commissioner Landry to authorize the Clerks to work with the Treasurer and legal counsel to send correspondence to Key Bank.

Passed 7-0

- c. **Gracelawn pit watershed work update** Watershed Manager Kidd went over the additional costs presented by CDM Smith to further study the possibility of moving additional property out of the watershed. Gendron is interested in proceeding with the work and to use CDM if the Commission would be willing to allow this.

Vote 7 On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Bilodeau to authorize staff and the Chair to execute any documents needed to create an

agreement between Gendron, CDM Smith and the Commission to complete this work as outlined and to cover the staff time necessary to complete this work.

Passed 7-0

Commissioners discussed having tentative meeting dates for January, March, May and October 2024. These dates will be utilized as necessary.

Agenda Item 9. Adjournment

Vote 8 On a motion by Commissioner Brenchick and seconded by Commissioner LaChapelle to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 7-0

A true record, attest;



Michael Broadbent
LAWPC Secretary