

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

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, Heather Hunter, Brad Kowalski, Dan Bilodeau, Glen Holmes and Camille Parrish

Commissioners Absent: David Chittim, Kevin Gagne

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

Commissioner Landry stepped away from the meeting

Agenda Item 1. Election of Officers

After a brief discussion the Commissioners took action on electing officers.

Vote 1 On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Hunter to nominate Camille Parrish, Chair of the Commission.

Passed 5-0-1, Commissioner Parrish abstained.

Vote 2 On a motion by Commissioner Bilodeau and seconded by Commissioner Hunter to nominate Amy Landry to the position of Commission Secretary.

Passed 6-0

Vote 3 On a motion by Commissioner Hunter and seconded by Commissioner Holmes to nominate Tracy Roy to the position of Treasurer to the Commission.

Passed 6-0

Vote 4 On a motion by Commissioner Bilodeau and seconded by Commissioner Hunter to nominate Glen Holmes to the position of Vice Chair.

Passed 5-0-1, Commissioner Holmes abstained.

Agenda Item 2. Approve minutes

- a. 11/08/2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Vote 5 On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Hunter to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2023 Regular Commission meeting.

Passed 6-0

- b. 01/10/2024 Special Meeting Minutes.

Vote 6 On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Parrish to approve the minutes of the January 10,2024 special meeting.

Passed 6-0

Agenda Item 3. Public Comment

Stephen Beale commented on the previously approved minutes of the November 18, 2023 Commission meeting. He found several inconsistencies that he brought to the Commissioners attention.

Agenda Item 4. Water Quality & Watershed Report- Erica Kidd

At the time of the meeting the lake was still frozen, freeze up occurred on January 19, 2024 which was later than normal. Turbidity is typical for this time of year and clarity and temperature graphs are attached to the Commission report.

Watershed Manager Kidd gave an update on the Wilson Bluffs retention pond remediation work. Fortin construction has completed all of the repairs outlined by Commission Clerk Broadbent last fall. Erica plans to conduct a site meeting this Spring to review the work.

Water Resource Services has completed a draft phosphorus assessment of the watershed. The assessment includes many recommendations for remediation work. Watershed Manager Kidd reported that she was meeting with WRI the following day along with staff from both water entities. Commissioner Parrish asked if a map could be added to the report showing sample locations.

Agenda Item 5. Clerk and Staff Reports

- a. Commission Clerk Mike Broadbent

Commission Clerk Broadbent asked the Commissioners if they would accept the amendments to the minutes as outlined by Mr. Beal during open session.

Vote 7 On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Bilodeau to accept the amendments to the minutes of the November 18, 2023 Commission Meeting as outlined by Mr. Beale.

Passed 6-0

Commission Clerk Broadbent then gave a report on the work of the Auburn Water District, Water Quality Ad-Hoc Committee. The Committee has met twice in the last month, topic of discussion includes. Septic system inspections in the watershed, how many should be done annually, who should be doing the inspections and when should they start. The Committee also discussed how best to engage with the upper watershed towns. To be most effective in protecting the Lake Auburn Watershed the recent ordinances passed in Auburn should be considered in the upper watershed towns as well.

Agenda Item 6. Old Business

a. 2024 Commission Budget

Commission Treasurer Roy reported that she worked with Commissioner Hunter and the Watershed manager to amend the budget to reflect a zero percent increase. The amendments were made to the Education and Outreach position in addition to Timber Harvest budget line. Treasurer Roy also reported that the annual Commission audit is underway and on schedule.

Commissioner Landry re-joined the meeting

Vote 8 On a motion by Commissioner Hunter and seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve the 2024 Budget as amended.

Passed 7-0

b. Education and Outreach Coordinator Job Description

Watershed Manager Kidd reported that she will work with Mike and Kevin to review the job description and recommend potential adjustments. This could include septic inspections and watershed control measures. There is potential to get some of the funding for this position through grants.

c. Executive Session

Vote 9 On a motion by Commissioner Hunter and seconded by Commissioner Holmes to go into executive session to discuss a potential land transaction in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (C).

Passed 7-0

The Commission came out of executive session at 4:16pm

Vote 10 On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Hunter to work with the developer's representative as agreed upon during executive session.

Passed 7-0

Agenda Item 7. New Business

- a. Confirm appointment to the Lake Auburn Stakeholders Group created by the City of Auburn.

Vote 11 On a motion by Commissioner Hunter and seconded by Commissioner Landry to affirm appointing Commissioner Parrish and Watershed Manager Kidd to the Stakeholders Group.

Passed 6-0-1 Commissioner Parrish Abstained from the vote.

- b. LAWPC Commissioner appointment renewals

Commissioner Holbrook reported that he is set to attend the Turner select board meeting in the coming week.

Commissioner Holmes reported that he has sent letters to the three towns expressing interest in renewing.

Agenda Item 9. Adjournment

Vote 12 On a motion by Commissioner Landry and seconded by Commissioner Parrish to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 7-0