

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 11, 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, Bruce Damon, Kevin Gagne, Glen Holmes, and Camille Parrish.

Commissioners Evan Cyr and Dan Billodeau were both present at the meeting. They refrained from voting as there were some procedural issues with the appointments made by the Auburn Water District. The District will re-confirm the appointments at its next regularly scheduled Trustee meeting.

Commissioners Absent: David Chittim

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

Before the meeting started, Erica introduced Danielle Olsen. Danielle was hired as Watershed Manager and started at the end of August.

Agenda Item 1, Presentation from the City of Auburn Planning Department on Septic Inspections.

John Blais and Stephen Beale worked together to give an overview of the recently adopted ordinances and a resolve passed by Auburn City council. Handouts were given to all Commissioners and attendees at the meeting.

The Commissioners thanked the presenters for their time and efforts on this. The Commission has formed a sub-committee and this information is helpful for the continued progress. Commissioners would like to determine the costs associated with managing an inspection program. The sub-committee will continue to work on this and report back to all Commissioners as these determinations are made. The Commissioners would like to respond to the resolve adopted July 1, 2024.

Agenda Item 2, Public Comment

Dan Bilodeau reported that there is a real buzz in the watershed regarding septic inspection. Dan reported that he has personal experience with the installation and maintenance of septic systems and that he feels this program would be very beneficial to the Lake Auburn Watershed.

Evan Cyr stated that, in his opinion, the Commission should fund this program. He said more work is needed to determine the logistics of this program.

Agenda Item 3, Approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 14, 2024.

Commissioner Damon pointed out that Commissioner Bilodeau was not present at the August Special Meeting and the draft minutes indicated that he was present. There was consensus on amending the minutes to reflect this.

Vote 1 On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Damon to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 14, 2024 as amended.

Passed 6-0

Agenda Item 4, Consent Agenda

Vote 2 On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Gagne to pass the consent Agenda.

Commissioner Gagne then asked if the Commissioners could hear a brief report from Treasurer Roy.

Treasurer Roy then reported that she, the Commission Clerks and staff have been meeting to understand the costs of septic inspections and to develop the 2025 Commission Budget. The Commission Budget will be ready for the Regular Commission meeting of November. The Commission is doing well for the year and still has \$99k in the operating budget to spend for the year.

Passed 6-0

Agenda Item 5, Water Quality and Watershed Report-Erica Kidd

Erica reported that the lake is in exceptional condition. Clarity is good, algae and phosphorus numbers are low. Erica reported that the Gull Management Program is still active and the USDA has had to work hard to disperse more gulls than normal. Overall, the program is going well and the fecal counts in the lake have been very low this summer as a result.

The Blanchard Pond work is still in permitting. It is likely the work will be pushed off till 2025. The permitting process has been considerably delayed for this project due to staffing shortages at DEP.

Agenda Item 6, Executive Session regarding negotiations of potential land transactions in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A 405 (6) (C).

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

Passed 6-0

The meeting came out of executive session at 4:15pm

Vote 4 On a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Gagne to authorize staff to take action based on the Commission discussions in Executive Session.

Passed 6-0

Agenda Item 7, Clerk and Staff Reports

Watershed Clerk Broadbent reported that the AWD crews will be working to make repairs to the outlet dam on Lake Auburn. The current dam boards are weathered and need replacement.

Mr. Broadbent also thanked the Commissioners for their patience with AWD's appointment process. The Auburn Water District recognized some concerns with the appointments and asked the candidates to refrain from voting until the Board could take the opportunity to re-vote on the appointments to eliminate any concerns.

Erica Kidd asked Commissioners if they would agree to transfer the balance of funds collected from bulk water haulers to the City of Lewiston. Lewiston is working to establish a new publicly accessible location for bulk water haulers to fill up. This has not been possible since the closing of the Route 4 turnout. Auburn Water has researched locations in Auburn and found no suitable sites.

Vote 5 On a motion by Commissioner Damon and seconded by Commissioner Landry to transfer the funds as requested.

Passed 5-0-1 Commissioner Gagne abstained from the vote.

Agenda Item 8, Old Business

Staff will be working to schedule a meeting of the Septic Inspection Sub-Committee soon.

Agenda Item 9, New Business

Agenda Item 10, Other Business

Agenda Item 11, Adjournment

Vote 6 On a motion by Commissioner Landry and seconded by Commissioner Gagne to adjourn the meeting.

Passed 6-0

A true record, attest;

Amy Landry

LAWPC Secretary