Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 13th, 2026

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

Time: The meeting was called to order by Evan Cyr at 3:00 pm.

Recording: This meeting was recorded. The video will be available on the Commission's YouTube channel.

Commissioners Present: Alan Holbrook, Evan Cyr, Bruce Rioux, Phyllis Rand, and Amy Landry.

Commissioners Absent: Kevin Gagne, David Chittim, and Camille Parrish. There is a current vacancy for a representative for the towns of Minot, Hebron, and Buckfield.

Others Present: Michael Broadbent (Commission Clerk), Erica Kidd (Commission Clerk), Pheobe Hopkins (Education and Outreach Coordinator), Tracy Roy (Treasurer), and Steven Beale (Public).

In the absence of Commissioner Parish, Commissioner Cyr was appointed as chair with no objections.

Agenda Item 1, Consent Agenda

Vote 1: On the motion of Commissioner Rand, seconded by Commissioner Holbrook, the consent agenda was approved as presented. Commissioner Landry abstained due to an absence.

Passed: 4-1

The financial report was presented by the Treasurer, Tracy Roy.

Vote 2: On the motion of Commissioner Rioux, seconded by Commissioner Landry, the financial report was approved as presented.
Passed: 5-0

Agenda Item 2, Public Comment

Steven Beale was in attendance and posed a suggestion to the Shore Corps Steward to follow ditching during road construction to monitor water runoff.

Agenda Item 3, Clerk Reports

Auburn Co-Clerk Mike Broadbent and Lewiston Co-Clerk Erica Kidd: Mike Broadbent and Erica Kidd provided brief updates on the Lakeshore Drive MPI Project, the Infrastructure Planning Study being conducted by CDM Smith, and upcoming commissioner appointments. Erica also informed the Commission of recent staff layoffs within the City of Lewiston and noted that their department has not been affected.

Agenda Item 4, Watershed Report

Presented by Mike Broadbent on Behalf of the Watershed Manager, Danielle Olsen:

1. Boat Inspection Program

- Boat inspectors have been hired for the 2026 season, and inspections will run from **May 11th through Labor Day weekend** to help prevent invasive species from entering Lake Auburn.

2. Shore Corps Steward Program

- Lake Auburn received funding for another year of the program (June 2026–June 2027), and **Lilit Mathieu** will return for a second term.
- Work will continue to reduce shoreline erosion, protect water quality, provide community education and outreach, and volunteer involvement.

3. Lake Shore Drive Erosion Project

- Staff will inspect the shoreline along Lake Shore Drive to identify erosion problems. Measurements and photos will be taken, and recommendations will be developed for each area. Natural stabilization methods, such as rocks, plants, and fascines, will be tested and used where appropriate. This work will complement the ongoing Maine DOT study examining flooding, erosion, and future climate-related risks along Lake Shore Drive.

4. Bates College Partnership

- Bates College students studied how winter road maintenance affects the Lake Auburn watershed: Their findings suggest road salt may be impacting water quality, particularly near Route 4. Recommendations include increasing chloride (salt) testing and working with Auburn and Maine DOT to reduce salt use in the watershed. The partnership with Bates College will continue.

5. Climate Resilience Project

- Lake Auburn will participate in the **Envision Resilience 2026 Lewiston-Auburn Challenge**. Universities and local organizations will collaborate on climate resilience planning. The key focus will be on protecting Lake Auburn as an important unfiltered drinking water source.

6. Basin Park Restoration and Education

- Storm damage has caused erosion and fallen trees along the stream entering Lake Auburn. Restoration work is underway to stabilize stream banks using plants and other natural techniques. Volunteers have helped with stabilization projects and invasive plant removal.

- An old walking trail has been restored, and staff are exploring the possibility of reopening another trail. New educational signs will explain erosion-control methods and show property owners how they can use similar techniques on their own land with assistance from watershed staff.

- Some restoration work was damaged by vandalism, with over 50 newly planted live stakes removed and protective barriers torn down. The area has since been replanted and is being monitored.

7. Annual Drinking Water Utilities Meeting

- Maine's Drinking Water Program held its annual meeting for water systems that operate without filtration. The utilities discussed water quality trends, data collection, bacterial monitoring, and successful management practices.

8. Dog Waste Awareness Campaign

- A public education campaign was launched on Whitman Spring Road to address dog waste left on trails. During Earth Day activities, staff marked 183 piles of dog waste with bright yellow flags before running out of flags. Educational signs were installed explaining what the flags represented, how dog waste can harm the drinking water supply, and the importance of Lake Auburn. The campaign also included social media posts and newsletter articles. Volunteers later removed more than 200 piles of dog waste from the area. Additional outreach is planned in conjunction with Drinking Water Week.

Agenda Item 5, Old Business

Lake Auburn Rules Revision – Mike Broadbent on Behalf of the Watershed Manager, Danielle Olsen: Mike Broadbent, on behalf of Watershed Manager Danielle Olsen, presented proposed revisions to the Lake Auburn Rules. The Commission reviewed and discussed amendments to the language contained in the current Rules and Revisions documents.

Vote 3: On the motion of Commissioner Landry, seconded by Commissioner Rand, there was a vote to approve the revised Lake Auburn Rules and Revisions as amended.

Passed: 5-0

Agenda Item 6, New Business

Boating Facilities Fund Grant – Mike Broadbent: Mike requested a vote to allow him to apply for a grant for up to $30,000.00 to repair/replace the docks on Lake Auburn.

Vote 4: On the motion of Commissioner Landry, seconded by Commissioner Rand, there was a vote to authorize Mike Broadbent to apply for a Boating Facilities Fund Grant through Inland Fisheries of $30,000.00.

Passed: 5-0

Agenda Item 8, Public Comment

Steven Beal brought the erosion at Salmon Point back to the commission's attention, and it was relayed that this is an ongoing project.

Agenda Item 7, Executive Session Regarding a Potential Land Transaction in Accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6)(C).

Vote 5: On the motion of Commissioner Landry, seconded by Commissioner Holbrook, there was a vote to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6)(C) to discuss a potential land transaction.

Passed: 5-0

The Meeting was called back to order at 4:55 PM.

Vote 6: On the motion of Commissioner Rand, seconded by Commissioner Holbrook, there was a vote to adjourn the meeting.

Passed: 5-0