

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

A G E N D A

WEDNESDAY April 8, 2020 at 3:30 PM

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Directors of the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission will be held by video conference utilizing the Zoom application. Login information and public access to the meeting will be advertised separately.

1. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 12, 2020.
2. Quarterly Financial Update - *Heather Hunter*
3. Annual Audit - *Heather Hunter*
4. Water Quality Update & Activity Report - *Erica Kidd*
 - Education and Outreach Hire
 - Blanchard Road Pond Investigation
 - Land Use Management Plan Draft
 - Land Acquisition Matrix Draft
 - Forestry BMP's update
 - Water Hauler Policy
5. Open Session - Public Comments
6. Open Session for Commissioners
7. Adjourn Meeting

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

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

Time: Meeting began at 3:30 PM

Recording: The meeting was videoed.

Commissioners Present: Steve French, Dick Thibodeau, Bethel Shields, Alicia Rea, Joe Grube, Dale Doughty, Tizz Crowley and Camille Parrish

Commissioners Absent: Amy Landry

Others Present: Kevin Gagne, LAWPC Clerk, Sid Hazelton, LAWPC Clerk, Heather Hunter, Michael Broadbent LAWPC Secretary, Erica Kidd, Watershed Manager

Agenda Item 1: Election of new Commission Chair

It was requested by the Commissioners that we re-elect a chair. The position has been vacant since the previous Chair was not re-elected last fall.

Vote 1 – On a motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Thibodeau that Joe Grube will serve as Commission Chair for the rest of the year.

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 2: Approve minutes of regular meeting of November 13, 2019.

Vote 2- Motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Shields to approve the minutes with a correction regarding item 8 open session. There needs to be some clarity regarding Commissioner Crowley's seat on the Commission.

There was discussion regarding agenda item #4, in the November minutes that did not get mentioned in the minutes. The Commissioners discussed developing policies/practices for both the Lake Smart Program and the Drinking Fountain Program. These policies should include information on how these programs will be structured, funded and how our message would be best delivered through these programs. Both of these programs should be presented to the Commissioners for review before implementation.

There are also some corrections needed with the miss-spelling of Alicia Rea's name. So, noted.

The friendly changes were added to the motion for vote.

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 3: Quarterly Financial Update- Heather Hunter

Heather went over two financial reports that were included in the Commission packets. The first report was dated December 31, 2019. The report shows there was a surplus in the operating account of about \$63,000. There was a deficit in the sinking fund due to the depreciation deficit, which is a timing issue. This is only a draft because the audit is set to take place in the coming months.

The second report was dated January 31. This is the quiet time of year for the Commission so there is very little activity this time of year.

Heather reported that the Commission has taken in a total revenue of \$15,260 for water withdrawals from Lake Auburn.

Vote 3- Motion by Commissioner Parish and seconded by Commissioner Shields to accept the financial reports as presented.

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 4: Review of Existing Water Withdrawal Policy- Sid Hazelton

In the Commission's agenda packet was the existing policy that was adopted in 2006. The water withdrawal policy includes a rate of \$.30/1000 gallons of water withdrawn from Lake Auburn. There was a formula that was adopted in 2006 to develop the cost per thousand gallons. Erica has updated the information in the formula and it has re-adjusted the rate to \$1.45/1000.

The Commissioners discussed the existing water withdrawal policy. It was agreed by all that the policy needs to be updated. There was particular concern with the annual inspection of trucks that are permitted to haul water from the lake. It was also discussed that the Rt 4 turnout will be closed in 2020-2021. At this time there is no plan in place to provide a new location for bulk water haulers to withdraw from the lake. There was also discussion of reviewing this policy annually and adjusting the rate as necessary. Discussion continued on whether residential withdrawals should be excluded, defining water bodies were protected by this policy.

Vote 4 – Motion by Commissioner French and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to have Dale Doughty work with staff to revise the existing policy and have that ready for the commissioners at the next meeting.

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 5: Water Quality Update- Erica Kidd

Erica reported to the Commissioners that Lauren Olson the Education and Outreach Coordinator has resigned from her position. Erica has advertised the position and we have accepted several applications. It was agreed that the charge of this position will be to continue to engage the public, work with citizen science projects and to continue to work with schools.

Erica reported that we received three applications for the Water Bottle Station Grant. The three applications were to have fountains installed at public facilities in Lewiston and Auburn. The Edward Little High School, St. Mary's Nutrition Center and the Good Shepherd Food Bank. Erica is requesting \$3,100 to fund all three projects.

Vote 5 – Motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Shields to appropriate the funds for all three projects.

Passed 8-0

Blanchard Road Pond Investigation: through recent studies we have found the Blanchard Road Pond to be a significant source of phosphorus. Erica has a proposal from Thigh-Bond to sample and investigate the pond to determine the best way to treat and or remediate the phosphorus so that it no longer negatively effects Lake Auburn.

Vote 6 – Motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner French to complete the study as proposed by Thigh-Bond with the requirement that there be a “hold harmless agreement” with the property owners before any field work begins.

Passed 8-0

Erica reported that remediation work has been completed on a property off North Auburn Rd. This work armors an entire drainage course that connects North Auburn Rd with the Spring Rd.

Erica is working on a forestry fact sheet; this will provide information to the public of forestry practices. This will explain why we do what we do.

Erica has also been reviewing several applications for timber harvest within the watershed. All of the plans have been reviewed by Erica and approved by our forester.

Sid passed around a couple of sheets showing the update that was given by the Auburn City Manager. He presented a strategy for lake protection to the Auburn City Councilors. This strategy is important as the City looks to move forward with their Strategic plan.

Agenda Item 6: Open Session-Public Comments

Mary Sylvester spoke as a citizen of Auburn. She pointed out that it is important to remember the City of Auburn is currently working on a comprehensive plan. This is critical because it opens the door for changes in policy, practice and potential ordinances.

Mary has been engaging with the community on citizen sciences. She has found several models and resources available to citizen science projects. There are several key factors that need to align to support citizen science projects. Mary is encouraging the Commission and its staff to have an education policy that will support both outreach and education. Mary insisted that there are funds available if we can engage the community and support this effort.

Mary also spoke as President of the Auburn Water District Board of Trustees. Once again, the District is at a critical transition point with two newly elected Trustees. Mary will also be stepping down as Trustee President in March. Mary feels that it is important for the Commissioners to be aware that the Trustees have voted to look through all of the cost sharing arrangements between the Auburn Water District and the City of Lewiston. There are also questions as to why the District Superintendent is also the Clerk of the Watershed Protection Commission. Mary urged the Commissioners to stay tuned and involved as there are a lot of tough decisions to be made in the near future.

Agenda Item 7: Open Session for Commissioners

Tizz Crowley wanted to thank the Commissioners for supporting her over the last 8 years she has served on the Commission and Auburn Water District Boards. Tizz will not be continuing as Auburn Water District Trustee or Auburn Water District Trustee representative to the Commission. Tizz would like to remain on the distribution list for Commissioner information so that she can stay informed and involved.

Tizz will continue to collaborate with the Auburn Conservation Commission. There is an upcoming event at Side by Each brewing that Tizz hopes we get involved with

Lastly Tizz urged Commissioners to pay attention to the business that is happening at the Auburn Water District. There are several developing discussions that concern Tizz and she urges more people to get involved and to stay vigilant.

Bethel Shield asked if there has been any progress with a horse Farm on Maple Hill Rd that is currently over stocking manure. Erica has been meeting with the farmer and providing them with options of places to bring the manure.

Steve French asked about the Pope property and the Conservation Easement that was granted as part of the sale. Steve is concerned about the fact that we gave the easement and urges us to avoid making such arrangements in the future.

Dale Doughty spoke about the fact that many of our plans are out of date. He would like the Commission to look through our plans and develop a list of topics that can be incorporated into a new comprehensive plan.

Dale pointed out that the Commission currently follows general forestry standards. Dale is asking whether the Commission adopt new standards that would be above and beyond general

standards. He would like the Commission to consider discussing this at a future meeting. Alicia Rea agreed with that because it is helpful for Commissioners and citizens that may not have a science background.

Dale would also like the Commission to develop a practice when looking at what properties to purchase.

Agenda Item 8: Update on Land Negotiations – Executive Session regarding negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with M.R.S.A 405(6)(C)

Vote 7 – Motion by Commissioner Parrish and seconded by Commissioner Rea to go into executive session regarding negotiations of potential land transaction in accordance with M.R.S.A 405(6)(C)

Passed 8-0

Agenda Item 8: Adjourn Meeting

Vote 8 – Motion by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Rea to adjourn the meeting

Passed 8-0

A true record, attest;



Michael Broadbent
Secretary of the LAWPC

Forestry and Water Quality

The Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

What are the Forestry Goals for the Lake Auburn Watershed?

- THE AIM IS FOR THE COMMISSION LANDS: TO HAVE MORE SOFTWOOD GROWTH IN THE FOREST. (EX. WHITE PINES ARE IDEAL)
- REMOVE SOME OF THE HARDWOODS AS THEY DROP A LOT OF LEAVES WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO NUTRIENT LOADING INTO THE LAKE
- THE OBJECTIVE FOR THE COMMISSION LANDS IS TO CREATE 'EXTENDED SHELTERWOOD SYSTEMS'. DONE BY MARKING AND REMOVING TREES THAT ARE SHADING OUT THE UNDERSTORY SOFTWOOD GROWTH



WHAT IS A BMP?

FORESTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) ARE A SET OF PREVENTATIVE MEASURES THAT HELP CONTROL SOIL EROSION RESULTING FROM HUMAN DISTURBANCE. THESE SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE PRACTICES HAVE BECOME WIDELY USED AS A MEANS TO DIVERT SURFACE WATER INTO UNDISTURBED AREAS BEFORE IT GAINS SUFFICIENT SPEED FOR LARGE SOIL REMOVAL.

Maine Forest Service BMPs that LAWPC Follows:

- Determine the harvest objectives with the landowner, forester, and logger before cutting.
- Identify streams, lakes or ponds, wetlands, and other features on maps and on the ground.
- Plan to monitor, maintain, and adjust BMPs as needed, especially to deal with seasonal or weather-related changes.
- Protect the natural movement of water through wetlands.
- Leave enough shoreland vegetation to maintain water quality.

Advanced BMPs that LAWPC Follows:

- Forester and Watershed Manager do site inspections before, during, and after cutting and document these inspections.
- Forester and utility managers evaluate when to cut.
- Harvest trees according to a long term forest management plan



STAY UP TO DATE AND CHECK IN AT: www.lakeauburnwater.org

A HEALTHY FOREST = A CLEANER WATER SOURCE = LESS TREATMENT



Next Steps for LAWPC's Forestry Management

PLANS AND GOALS FOR SUMMER 2020

IN 2020, FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE DRY SEASON DURING LATE SUMMER AND EARLY FALL. PARCELS PLANNED FOR HARVESTING ARE LOCATED ON EITHER SIDE OF THE NORTHERN END OF LAKE SHORE DRIVE. APPROXIMATELY 60 ACRES WILL BE MARKED FOR SELECTIVE CUTTING.

FOREST WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROMOTES CLEAN WATER

Recently, I was asked to say a few words concerning forest watershed management. Southern Maine Forestry Incorporated manages forests for both Portland and Auburn Water District, which are the largest and second largest water supplies in the State of Maine. Both Portland and Auburn Water District began working with foresters on their land acquisitions in the 1930's. The primary objective is to provide the highest water quality possible.

High water quality is usually associated with cool temperatures and high dissolved oxygen levels. The solubility of oxygen is higher in cool water than in warm water. The decomposition of organic materials can reduce or eliminate the supply of dissolved oxygen. This is why good watershed management focuses on growing good quality softwoods, such as eastern white pine, red pine, and spruce, and reducing the broadleaf trees. Their cutting cycles are every 10-12 years, targeting the lower quality, diseased or damaged trees for removal. This enables the landowner to capture potential mortality, reduce fuel loads, maintain a year-round canopy cover, release regeneration and promote growth on the better-quality trees. It is a conservative philosophy with an intensive approach. Through the use of whole tree chipping the landowner can also accomplish timber stand improvement (TSI). This is a weeding and thinning of smaller diameter stems which are cut, chipped and sold as biomass.

All skid trails are designated by a licensed professional forester with trees marked for cutting oriented to that trail system. There are benefits from this practice both environmentally and economically. Temporary bridges are used on all pre-designated brook crossings and skid trails are located to minimize soil disturbance and erosion. Timber harvests are scheduled well in advance so heavy equipment works when the ground is either frozen or dry. Today's logging equipment is large, heavy and most of the work is done with hydraulic equipment. Modern skidders remove several trees or bunches at one time. Properly locating where they travel is important to minimize soil and residual stand damage. Successful results require a thorough understanding of forestry, soils, wildlife habitat, local and state codes and a working knowledge of civil and mechanical engineering.

On well-drained, coarse, textured soils with good timber it is not uncommon to grow about 1 cord per acre per year. More on better sites. The majority of the planned harvests are removing 10-12 cords per acre or 20-30% of the stand volume. By growing a cord per acre per year and harvesting every 10-12 years, Portland and Auburn Water Districts never exceed growth and the forests are managed in a sustainable manner, protecting the soils. By-products of these healthy forests are the increased water quality, improved aesthetics and wildlife habitat.

Chip Love - Southern Maine Forestry Services, Inc.



LAWPC WORKS WITH SOUTHERN MAINE FORESTRY SERVICES TO MANAGE WATERSHED LAND

Forestry Activity and BMP Monitoring SOP

1. Watershed Manager meets with Licensed Forester to discuss harvest plan
2. Refer to 2013 Forest Management Plan for parcel ID, acreage, stand information, and harvest recommendations
3. Watershed Manager and Licensed Forester visit harvest location before equipment arrives to assess the site. Watershed Manager documents site visit and takes photos of area before cutting.
4. Watershed Manager and Licensed Forester determine the BMPs to be used during harvesting and document them.
5. Watershed Manager and Licensed Forester meet Harvesting Contractor during cutting. Watershed Manager documents site visit and takes photos of area during cutting.
6. Watershed Manager performs random site visits throughout harvesting and documents the visits.
7. When harvesting is finished, the Watershed Manager and Licensed Forester walk the site to inspect existing BMPs and to determine if additional BMPs are needed. The Watershed Manager will document the visit and take photos.