

As voted by the Board of Trustees and in accordance with the notice of the meeting, the monthly Workshop Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Portland Water District was held remotely on Monday, August 10, 2020. In attendance from staff were Messrs. Crovo, Kane, Wallace, Firmin, Hunt and Meses. Lewis, Katsiaticas, Demers and Jackson. President Douglas convened the Workshop at 6:35 p.m.

All Trustees were present.

1. **Shoreland Zone in the Sebago Lake Watershed.** Paul Hunt, Environmental Services Manager, and Laurel Jackson, Water Resource Specialist, described the lands in the watershed that fall under Maine's Shoreland zoning regulations and what that means for protection of water quality.

Mr. Hunt provided an overview of the District's land conservation program, which was formally adopted in 2007. The purpose of the program is to preserve forest in the watershed because it preserves water quality; this helps the District maintain its exemption from filtration.

Sebago Clean Waters was established in 2017 to help efforts at preserving and conserving land in the watershed. Sebago Clean Waters does the bulk of the work. The goal is to conserve 35,000 acres in 15 years.

Ms. Jackson then took over the presentation. She provided information about the amount of acreage preserved over the last 17 years. The goal is to conserve 25% of the watershed in the next 15 years. Land that is in the Shoreland zone is already protected by virtue of the zoning protections.

Shoreland zoning is state law, but is administered at the local level. It was enacted in the 1970's. Municipalities may enact more stringent regulations and standards than provided for by state law. Shoreland zoning regulates the planting of vegetation and clearing in the Shoreland zone, the amount of building and pavement allowed and other development criteria. Shoreland zoning provides different levels of protection within the Shoreland zone.

Resource protection is the most restrictive in the zone, and a commercial designation is the least protective in the zone. Each Town makes its own Shoreland zoning map and submits it to the State for approval.

In the District's watershed, there are 6,011 acres of land within 100 feet of great ponds and rivers. Some of this land was developed prior to the creation of Shoreland zoning and is not preserved.

Mr. Hunt asked if Trustees had any questions or comments.

Trustee Willey asked about an assessment of the land in the 250 foot setback from the rivers and great ponds. An estimate could be procured, but the staff did not have the number of acres within the 250 feet. Trustee Willey asked about what could be done in this area, and what types of activities might be allowed in this area. He asked whether this land could be considered stable forest cover. Mr. Hunt said the area behind the 100 foot area is the area that is most likely to be developed over the next 50 years, and should not be considered protected.

Trustee Rich asked about PWD's role in protecting land from being deforested and grass planted by residential activity. Ms. Jackson explained PWD worked with the Towns in reviewing the development and controlling erosion.

Trustee Lunt asked about developers who are willing to pay a fine for overdevelopment and consider it a cost of doing business. Ms. Jackson explained the enforcement process, and noted that what is supposed to happen is that the violation is "undone" and the property restored, as well as a fine being paid.

PWD has no authority to enforce Shoreland zoning restrictions, although it does have the ability to influence enforcement actions and have input.

Trustee Willey commented that the area around the lake has become more and more forested. Even if we don't meet the acreage goal of conservation, there is still a lot out there protecting PWD. He would like to see some benchmarking. He believes the multiple barrier approach will help.

Trustee Siviski asked about the formula used by PWD to determine its level of financial contribution to acquisition of property interests for conservation. He noted that the areas behind the 100 foot buffer around the water body is the area most likely to be developed. Ms. Jackson explained the zones (1 through 3) that are used by PWD when it was reviewing the impact on water quality. Zone 3 is the lowest priority.

2. Other Business.

The General Manager's annual review for 2019 and pay increase will be on the business meeting agenda at the end of August. The District's financial situation is better than it was in the spring when it was postponed.

The General Manager will be on vacation the week of August 16.

The August Business meeting will be live streamed.

3. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Submitted by,

Donna M. Katsiaficas
Clerk