



Long Creek Watershed Management District Board of Director's Meeting

Minutes from February 20, 2024, Meeting

Location: Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District, 35 Main Street, Suite #3, Windham, Maine or [Click here to join the meeting](#) on Microsoft Teams

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Roncarati call the meeting to order at 9:05a.m.
2. **Roll Call:**
 - a. Attendance: Curtis Bohlen, Fred Dillon (joined at 10:04a.m.), Brian Goldberg, Will Haskell (joined at 9:09a.m.), Jason Kenney, Doug Roncarati
 - b. Absent: Angela Blanchette, Peter Connell, Cindy Dionne, Sean Donohue, Eric Dudley, Richard Matthews, Taryn Trefethen-Boileau
 - c. Staff/Guests: Peter Carney (Long Creek Watershed Management District); Jim Katsiaficas, Esq. (Perkins Thompson); Chris Brewer (Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District)
 - d. Mr. Carney advised that Mr. Lessard resigned his position on the Board, effective yesterday, as he is leaving his employment with Diodes Incorporated. This leaves a vacancy for a Participating Landowner seat on the Board to be appointed by the City of South Portland.
 - e. Mr. Carney noted that as a result of Mr. Lessard's resignation a quorum of seven Board members is now needed for the Board to act.
 - f. As a quorum of Board members was not present, Mr. Roncarati proceeded with the agenda items not requiring Board action.
3. **Review of Board Meeting Minutes:** As there was not a quorum of Board members present, this item was deferred for action at the Board's next meeting.
4. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. Mr. Bohlen reviewed the January Financial Report.
 - b. Mr. Bohlen noted that construction funds are moving out for the South Branch Retrofits project with several large invoices having been paid.
 - c. The District received checks to pay off two outstanding assessment matters. The payments of principal, late fees, and interest charges totaled \$403,005. The accounts are now in good standing and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection has received new Notices of Intent to Comply with the Long Creek General Permit for the two properties.
5. **A Partner in Technology, Approve Contract with Revised Insurance Limits:** As there was not a quorum of Board members present, this item was deferred for action at the Board's next meeting.
6. **Long Creek Watershed Management Plan, Status Update:**
 - a. Mr. Carney asked the Board to turn its attention to Attachment C to today's Board packet.
 - b. Mr. Carney advised that the table in Attachment C reflects biomonitoring results for Long Creek since the inception of the Watershed Management Plan.

- c. Biomonitoring results from the August 2023 sampling event were recently received and reflect that the results from all six primary monitoring locations are “nonattainment” status, meaning that water quality at these locations does not meet the water quality standards established by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.
- d. Given the biomonitoring results, and the gravel wetland currently under construction being the final construction project identified in the Watershed Management Plan, Mr. Carney suggested it might be time to have a discussion of next steps.
- e. Mr. Roncarati suggested that the District needs to continue to address the suite of issues affecting water quality in Long Creek including pollutants, hydrology, and habitat.
- f. Mr. Roncarati noted that particular attention should be paid to reducing chlorides and infiltrating clean water, both of which are being discussed as part revisions to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection’s stormwater management rules.
- g. Mr. Katsiaficas noted that the District has collected fifteen years of data, and that data could be used to develop revisions to the Watershed Management Plan during the next permit cycle. Some research could be started now since we do not have a firm schedule for the next cycle of the Long Creek General Permit.
- h. Mr. Goldberg asked whether there are examples of successes in restoring urban streams in other places.
- i. Mr. Carney noted that it is his understanding that watershed restoration efforts in other parts of the county are experiencing similar difficulty in achieving water quality improvements in urban streams, noting that other watershed managers are having conversations similar to those of the District.
- j. Mr. Bohlen noted that documented chloride levels in Long Creek mean that salt application may need to be cut by one-half to one-third of what is currently being applied.
- k. Mr. Roncarati suggested that restoration of predevelopment flow curves should be a focus because not enough clean water is getting into the ground to maintain healthy base flow.
- l. Mr. Bohlen suggested it may not be feasible to return to a predevelopment hydrograph given the potential cost and the unknown length of time that might take.
- m. Mr. Carney suggested that there may need to be a change in the regulatory perspective with respect to the length of time it may take to restore an urban stream, the ten years contemplated in the Watershed Management Plan is not enough.
- n. Mr. Goldberg suggested focusing on developing a reasonable time frame for restoration and reasonable interim goals within that time frame.
- o. Mr. Goldberg further suggested that the Executive Director should begin to outline next steps and potential costs. The district may also want to consider hiring a consultant to have an “outside” set of eyes look at the work that has been done.
- p. Mr. Dillon suggested that the District should also consider small scale interventions as opposed to large construction projects and that a long-term perspective should be considered with respect to redevelopment projects within the watershed.
- q. Mr. Carney agreed to sketch out an outline of next steps for the next Board meeting.

7. Public Comment(s): None.

8. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for March with a “floating” meeting date. Mr. Carney will send a poll to determine the date of the next meeting.

9. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 10:42a.m.

Board attendance and voting record:

Board Member	Attendance
Blanchette	N
Bohlen	Y
Connell	N
Dillon	Y (10:04a.m.)
Dionne	N
Donahue	N
Dudley	N
Goldberg	Y
Haskell	Y (9:09a.m.)
Kenney	Y
Matthews	N
Roncarati	Y
Trefethen-Boileau	N