

Administration

Phil Crowell, City Manager
City of Auburn
60 Court Street
Auburn, Maine 04210

September 18, 2023

Manager Crowell,

Last week, the Auburn Water District and the Lewiston Water Division received a letter from the Maine Drinking Water Program. I am pleased, as I am sure you were, that the Drinking Water Program approved the "DWP Potential Boundary," after CDM Smith determined that the DWP Potential Boundary is a conservative boundary that could be established with available data, in the technical memorandum entitled *Watershed Delineation Rezoning Review – Gracelawn Pit "Area of Uncertainty"*.

In 2022, the City of Auburn City Council amended the Lake Auburn Watershed Overlay District, as it affected the Gracelawn Parcel. Lewiston consents to an amendment of the Lake Auburn Watershed Overlay District, provided that the Auburn Water District first amend its bylaws to exclude the portion of the Gracelawn parcel that is between the DWP Potential Boundary line and the nearest roadway and that, second, the Auburn Water District, Lewiston and the Town of Turner execute a memorandum of understanding memorializing that the term "Watershed," as used in the Basic Agreement, excludes the portion of the Gracelawn parcel that is between the DWP Potential Boundary line and the nearest roadway.

The Drinking Water Program's process to approve the DWP Potential Boundary confirms the success of a consensus-building approach premised on relying on peer-reviewed science. The Auburn Water District has created an ad hoc committee to consider other zoning and land use ordinance or bylaw changes in the Lake Auburn Watershed. Lewiston remains optimistic that the committee can reach consensus on any other proposed changes based on peer-reviewed science, that these consensus changes will meet with regulators' approval, and that in this way the remaining issues in the present lawsuit, *City of Lewiston v. Auburn Water District, et al.*, can be settled.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Heather Hunter