



Town of Casco

Water Quality Committee Minutes

July 23, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Casco Community Center

Regular Meeting

1. Review and approval of the meeting agenda

Approved

2. Approval of Minutes: May 14, 2025

Approved

3. Public Participation for non-Agenda items

Public attendees:

- Sam Brown
- Meredith Sasser
- Amy Brown

Old Business

4. Review Action Items from the last meeting.

1. **Jim will check on what standards for testing in the state are, and will talk with Lake Stewards on testing methods and if they test for Chlorophyll.**

Jim presented the Pleasant Lake oxygen and secchi disk reports from July 2025. Jim presented an updated statement on Water Quality Testing. Chlorophyll is reportedly available on the report from Raymond Waterways, but can be difficult to test for. No readings on chlorophyll were provided on the LEA report provided in May 2025.

2. **Maggie will look into the Maggie Shannon Fund for Education, and will add URL web links to all the resources and partnerships in the Education & Outreach document.**

No progress, will be carried forward to action items for next meeting

3. **Maggie will work on adding action steps and priorities on how to execute on the education and outreach plan.**

No progress, will be carried forward to action items for next meeting

4. **Eileen will talk with John Weisemann about drone footage?**

Awaiting a call back, will be carried forward to action items for next meeting

5. **Committee members will send suggestions for the format (purpose) for our overall plan - and send to Tom before June 25th.**

Tom was absent from the meeting, action item will be carried forward to next meeting

New Business

5. Review of Water Quality Plan outlines for:

Boat Inspections (20 minutes)

Presented by Sarah

CBI coordinated by LEA. Grants from the state make up half the funding for CBI programs. Contacts for both LEA and state grants are documented.

Broken in five phases:

1. Assessment: Document existing conditions on the lake
2. Planning and approval: Present findings and obtain support
3. Funding: Apply for grants
4. Implementation: Source and train inspectors
5. Operation and monitoring: Perform inspections, and report back to DEP, LEA, and town

Comments from Meredith Sasser, who leads CBI for PLPPA

- Pleasant Lake is officially outside of LEA's coverage area
- PLPPA CBI program is 10 hours day on Saturday & Sunday
- PLPPA does apply and receive grants from the DEP, but they cover less than one quarter of the cost of the program for the summer
- Piloting a volunteer program to supplement for high-traffic days that are not covered by paid inspectors
- Interest in partnering with local high schools to provide community service hours for performing boat inspections
- Private boat launches (camp sites, road associations) are not inspected

Prevention, land use ordinances (20 minutes)

Presented by Pam

Overall goal is to ensure that our ordinances are being enforced pro-actively and that they are adequate for protecting our water quality. Initial steps should involve the creation of a task force to gather necessary stakeholders. Ordinances in scope for review are: shoreland zoning, stormwater runoff & erosion control, septic, streams & wetlands, aquifer, non-shoreland canopy maintenance. Each topic would then be subject to a multi-step process of reviewing existing ordinances, identifying shortcomings, identifying enforcement issues, implementing plans, then tracking and monitoring progress.

Comments:

- Casco does not have an ordinance advisory committee.
- Concern about the newly-proposed ADU ordinances in conjunction with shoreland zoning
- Planning board is currently dealing with a high volume of ordinance review

Prevention, Watershed Stewardship (20 minutes)

Presented by Diane

Overall goal is to protect, maintain, and improve the health and function of the town's watersheds. Objectives are preserving water quality, identifying sources of pollution, implementing best stewardship best practices, adapting to changing climate and weather patterns, and engaging collaboratively with stakeholders. The action plan begins with identifying organization representatives for each watershed in Casco. For each watershed, create a multi-year implementation schedule that rotates survey and planning efforts to build a complete protection strategy. Additional attention should be devoted to septic system maintenance inspection, and oversight, including an inventory of shoreline systems.

Comments:

- Open space committee can support watershed mapping initiatives
- To date, there has not been much discussion of rivers and streams. Action item taken to follow up with organizations who currently oversee rivers and streams
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Funding (20 minutes)

To be presented by Tom in next meeting

6. Discussion by Raymond Waterways Association of their organization.

Not attended, to be rescheduled

Action Items

1. Maggie will look into the Maggie Shannon Fund for Education, and will add URL web links to all the resources and partnerships in the Education & Outreach document.
2. Maggie will work on adding action steps and priorities on how to execute on the education and outreach plan.
3. Committee members will send suggestions for the format (purpose) for our overall plan - and send to Tom before June 25th.
4. Eileen to talk with John Weisemann about documenting shoreline conditions with permits to require photos pre-and post-construction within the shoreland zone.
5. Sarah to perform outreach to Coffee Pond residents regarding the formation of a pond association
6. Sarah to reach out to either LEA, Lake Stewards of Maine, and Portland Water District to hear how they address lakes and streams
7. Diane to follow up with Sam Brown regarding open space committee's GIS resource for watershed mapping

Reminders to the Attending Public: Water Quality Committee meetings are open to the public, but the public may not speak unless recognized by the Committee Chair or Vice Chair in their absence. Except during a public hearing, comment time is limited to 2 minutes per speaker during public participation or on agenda items.

Future meeting dates (subject to change)

August 20, 2025, at 6:00 PM Water Quality Committee Meeting