



## **Town of Casco**

### **Water Quality Committee Minutes**

**August 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM**

**Casco Community Center**

---

## **Committee Members Present**

- Tom McCarthy
- Sarah Monarch
- Levi Thornton
- Jim Arsham
- Diane Cormier

## **Regular Meeting**

1. Review and approval of the meeting agenda

**Approved**

2. Approval of minutes from July 23, 2025

**Approved**

3. Public participation for non-agenda items

**Welcome from Scott Avery, selectboard member**

## **Old Business**

1. Review of action items from the previous meeting

- Sarah reached out to Camp Cedar on Coffee Pond, response was that there is interest in an association and that they do test the water quality (confirmed with LSM data). Further follow-up from Jim to Jeff Hacker after camp is out of session.
- Cheryl Kurtz has reached out to the town as the steward of water quality for Coffee Pond. Tom, Sarah, and Jim will pursue contact.
- Suggestion from Scott that Tom Mulkern may be a good connector for contacts on Coffee Pond
- Sarah found that Crooked River is well-observed by PWD as well as LEA. Notably, Casco and Naples have the largest developed area on the river.

- Diane has completed initial watershed mapping through the LEA resource. Each Casco waterbody other than Sebago lake was mapped.
2. Discussion of Water Quality Plan funding section (20 minutes)
    - Proposal for funding to lake associations be managed by the Water Quality Committee. Consolidate under a single budget line item rather than split into donations
    - Listed high-probability grant opportunities, foundations, and trusts
    - Plan should establish a review cycle for associations' funding and grant requests, to prevent double-work and double-submissions to funding sources
    - Discussion on centralized vs decentralized responsibility for applying for funding. A section will be added to the plan for the committee, once established, to coordinate with lake associations for grant-writing responsibility
  3. Maggie Daigle: Exploration of funding opportunities for education  
**Not in attendance**
  4. Maggie Daigle: Addition of action steps and priorities for executing education and outreach within the plan  
**Not in attendance**
  5. Eileen: Discussion with John Weismann about using drone footage to document shoreline conditions, including requiring before-and-after photos for permitted construction within the shoreland zone  
**Not in attendance**

## New Business

1. Next steps for drafting the Water Quality Plan:
  - a. Formatting considerations
  - b. Level of detail required
  - c. Assigning sections for drafting based on previously discussed outlines
  - Suggestion for the commission, once formed, to assist CEO in reviewing waterfront development proposals
  - Template for each section should follow:
    - Objective summary ("Why are we doing it")
    - Goals ("What will we achieve")
    - Implementation steps ("How will we do it")
      - Each section should identify involved stakeholders
    - Ongoing evaluation & reporting ("How will we know we did it right")
2. Jim: Concern about lake of inspections for Pleasant Lake
  - a. Will be discussed at PLPPA board meeting 8/24
  - b. Reports can be viewed online at <https://bit.ly/CBIDASH2025>

## Action items

1. Sarah to research the process for lake associations to kick off Watershed Surveys
2. Each plan area owner to create a first draft of their plan section using template from

### **New Business item 1**

**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)**

September 17, 2025, at 6:00 PM Water Quality Committee Meeting