

West Gardiner Comprehensive Planning Committee

Water Resources/Natural Resources/Agricultural and Forest Resources

July 25, 2023 at 5:30

Present: Erin Small, Joan Anastasio, Fred Merrill

Discussion: Brief review of Checklist for Water Resources:

1. Analyses – Direct and indirect point sources of pollution – None known
2. Protection of water recharge areas – State regulations
3. Best management practices by town – salt shed
4. Opportunities to partner with local advocacy groups – Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed & Cobbosseeconte Lake Association (both have newsletters)
5. Description of each named water body – Grover Brook, Cold Stream, Cobbossee Stream, Cobbossee Lake, Lily Pond, Horseshoe Pond, Upper Pleasant Pond (aka Mud Pond)
6. Value – fishing, boating, birdwatching and hunting
7. Threats to quality or quantity – fertilizer, manure and dam removal for quantity
8. Invasive species problems – Eurasian milfoil, variable leaf milfoil, frog bit, snails
9. Activities to monitor/mitigate sources – plant survey teams, DASH, DEP
10. Threats to aquifers – DEP map shows contaminated wells on Lewiston and Indiana Rds but no description as to what type of contamination. Only 1 sludge site in town but unknown if tested for PFA's
11. Ordinances – State Inland Shoreland Regulations

Next Meeting tbd

Joan Anastasio, Secretary

The following land use was emailed later by Doug Rooks who has resigned from the committee.

West Gardiner Land Use Types By the Numbers

Based upon the 2019 National Land Cover data set, these are the West Gardiner landcover classifications (in acres):

Barren Land – 39

Cultivated Crops – 1

Deciduous Forest – 1,279

Developed, High Intensity – 70

Developed, Low Intensity – 743

Developed, Medium Intensity – 396

Developed, Open Space – 819

Emergent Herbaceous Wetland – 427

Evergreen Forest – 2,621

Hay/Pasture – 2,081

Herbaceous – 227

Mixed Forest – 5,944

Open Water – 6,821

Shrub/Scrub – 232

Woody Wetlands – 1,745

[From Greg Miller, Maine Forest Service]

Notes: The “cultivated crops” seems quite low. On the other hand, West Gardiner has an awful lot of water within its boundaries – even more than its forested land. Perhaps a clue for the committee going forward.