

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LEWISTON-AUBURN WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

The regular meeting of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority was held on Friday Jan 14, 2022 at 7:30 a.m.

Directors Present:	Norm Lamie Mary Ann Brenchick Dan Goyette Mark Adams Sid Hazelton Jeff Beaulé
Directors Absent:	Steve Ness
General Manager:	Travis Peaslee
Assistant General Manager:	Paula Drouin
Secretary:	Candace Taylor
Treasurer:	Absent

Mark Adams called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

Minutes

Norm Lamie made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 10, 2021 regular meeting. Sid Hazelton seconded, all others approved and the minutes were placed on file.

Consent Agenda

Dan Goyette made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Mary Ann Brenchick seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

Financial Reports

Norm Lamie made a motion to approve the Financial Reports. Mary Anne Brenchick seconded all others approved and the motion passed.

Cost Apportionment

We managed to end the year nearly spot on with a year-end difference of just \$76.00. Cost apportionment for Long Term Debt payment in 2022 will be set at Lewiston 64.25% and Auburn 35.75%.

General Manager Report- Travis updated the Board on the staff changes. Josh Basso is the new Lab & Process control Supervisor and Kyle Burt will be our new Mechanic. Our former Lab & Process Control Supervisor Steve Marcotte has moved into our Compliance Coordinator position. Also, Roger Varney, one of our former Mechanics, has moved into the Industrial Pretreatment position and is working closely with our former Pretreatment Coordinator Edwin Woods who will be retiring mid-February.

## Old Business

**Biosolids & PFAS:** As part of discussions on the dryer basis of design report, Travis expressed concerns with the solid's concentrations being used to size the dryer. After more investigation, BC concluded that we would likely need to upsize a dryer to facilitate our facility solids. Upsizing means adding another module to an already tight footprint, as well as requiring additional input energy, which both impact the bottom line. We spent a good amount of time discussing the operational issues which dictate the solid's we produce and agreed that it would make sense to spend a little more time trying to address the front-end solids management hurdles, that if addressed might allow us to consistently produce a solid dry enough to feed to the original sized dryer. BC had enough money in their scope to provide this evaluation, and given it potential impacts, released them to head down this path. Travis plans to put some time in to this as well and am hopeful that we collectively come up with a solution. These discussions, and some additional follow-up Travis requested with another vendor, have delayed delivery of the preliminary design package by a couple weeks. We anticipate receiving it before the end of January. Once we have it in-hand, Travis would like to schedule a meeting with the Board subcommittee to discuss the report and next steps. It might make sense to also start discussing what, if anything, all of this means for the composting facility.

We received an amendment to our Casella services agreement, extending landfilling one year to 12/31/23. The extension is for the same rate, \$95/ ton, and for the same terms. This extension buys a little breathing room while we digest the dryer design report, but may not cover us until a dryer would likely be up and running. Travis did ask whether or not they would entertain an extension of 3-5 years, and if so at what cost. This information would be helpful when making decisions on the dryer. At this point, there are no great options and as much as we don't like landfilling our material, Travis feels it would be best to extend our agreement to do so.

Dan Goyette made a motion to approve a landfilling service agreement with Casella Organics for the 2023 calendar year, for a rate of \$95/ton. Norm Lamie seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

On the PFAS front, the DEP continues to test farms and abutters. The only data Travis has seen to- date was from the Barker Farm, which has been subject to testing over the past 1.5+ years. The monitoring wells are high, however the one downstream drinking water well that was tested did not show elevated levels of the 6 combined compounds. Travis is not sure if there will be additional abutters tested at this site. Once he has more information on our other farms and their abutters that are being tested, he will pass it along.

Travis received a voicemail from CBS 13 regarding PFAS testing of land application sites and returned the call but was only able to leave a voicemail. Travis believes Dan Goyette also spoke with them so they likely got what they were looking for but don't suspect this will be the end of the inquires.

There are three or four emergency legislation bills being introduced this session targeting PFAS that Travis plans to track and get involved with once the bills are out and he will keep the Board informed.

Regarding LD 1600, Travis sent a letter to all septic haulers and permitted towns informing them of the potential financial impacts from this legislation. He also sent a letter to the DEP making them aware of this letter and also letting them know our official position on the various aspects of the legislation and future rule making.

Travis sent a letter to all the compost facility abutters, recapping our 2021 operations and forecasting plans for 2022. This letter was a requirement of the Auburn planning board as part of the City agreement approval in 2020.

SME prepared and submitted our required annual report for the biofilter closure. This report summarizes the required semi-annual water quality testing results, biofilter inspections, and monthly level checks and pumps. We continue to pump the leachate multiple times per month and have been seeing much lower levels of nitrate within the biofilter, so hopefully we will soon start seeing that translate to steeper drop-offs in the adjacent monitoring wells. PFAS levels are relatively high within and directly adjacent to the biofilter, and are now at levels that exceed the interim drinking water standard at our potable water well (we do not use for drinking). We anticipate the DEP offering PFAS well testing to all abutters within 1/2 of this facility within the next year and we are hopeful that we have not caused any offsite impacts.

Travis sent a letter to all of our farmers, letting them know the latest with PFAS, our land application program, and Dryer design status and to let them know we don't plan to hold a Farmer's luncheon this year. Travis would like to have Casella present either at the February or March board meeting to provide their annual update.

CSO Project: Woodard & Curran has been busy and moving forward, they will be:

- Finalizing subsurface evaluation program scope of work and submit to LAWPCA.
- Coordinating survey of selected site (Site A, Treatment Plant Front Yard).
- Advance conceptual design and cost estimate of separation projects for comparison to storage tank sizing.

Travis has not received the final treatment plant optimization memo, but has been having good conversations with Woodard & Curran staff. He was provided with options to increase flow to the plant all the way up to 50 MGD. Regardless of increased plant flow volumes, storage is still needed. Travis needs to spend more time looking at the feasibility and investment cost of each option and should have more thoughts to share over the next month or so. As far as collection system optimization, WC plans to do some cost: benefit analyses on recommended separation projects before they make final recommendations on tank sizing.

It appears a 3.1 MG tank could fit in the front yard if needed. We are hopeful that we can get the tank size reduced significantly, and that the soils check out ok, so that we can avoid cost associated with obtaining property or substantial traffic control. The unfortunate news is that we will require pumping either in or out of a tank. We did discuss possible inline storage on the Auburn side of the river and agreed to hold off on further evaluation of that option until we can better understand final tank sizing.

As far as tank funding, Travis presented the following using one of the alternatives noted by CDM:

Assuming the CSO tank cost = \$30,000,000 (\$10/gallon average of Portland and Bangor projects)

Lawpca bonds (and goes after SRF grant money) = \$16,400,000 or 54.7% of the project  
Lewiston and Auburn front-end fund = \$13,600,000 or 45.3% of the project

If you take the \$13,600,000 and assume an allocation based on historical flow of 70/30, then Auburn would pay \$4,080,000 and Lewiston would pay \$9,520,000 (ARPA allocation amount)

The amount LAWPCA bonds, minus any grant money = annual bond payment from LPW and ASD using a 3-year rolling average of wet incremental flow over the bond 20-year period.

There are still lots of uncertainties on the cost, and what if any grant money might be provided, but we need to know what figure we would want to apply for in order to be eligible for the SRF grant money. If ASD is comfortable bonding the above figure based on a 70/30 split, then LAWPCA could apply for an interim note of \$16,400,000 when the grant applications are available. Once we know the final cost, we could then close on a permanent note. Travis's understanding is that we would need to apply for this money over the winter and in to spring 22'. Everyone present was in favor of this funding model.

#### Closed Landfill Ownership:

CMA had Titcomb out surveying the site and we anticipate some information to review and report on for this project in the next month or so.

Sabattus connection: The City of Lewiston is reviewing data from Tighe Bond and they anticipate the analysis report to be done mid spring of 2022.

Bar Screen Project: We have closed on the interim note and will start drawing funds from that. We have processed the purchase agreement and are now starting the show drawing process. This is expected to take 4-6 weeks. Once approved, Wright Pierce can get electrical, instrumentation, and structural pulled together in to a final design. Equipment delivery is expected to be 16-20 weeks so we anticipate bidding for install in April, with equipment delivery towards the end of May. We are trying to schedule and coordinate around Board meetings and MeDEP reviews so that we get approvals to keep the process moving forward.

Auburn Properties: We have finished this project and closed on the properties. We have informed the City of Auburn and also sent them a copy of the survey for 276 Penley Corner Road. Traivs will work with them to see if we will be assigned a new parcel ID, or if this land will become part of our 230 Penley Corner Road parcel. We have also filed the deed document for Rudy Wing's ¼ parcel.

Norm Lamie made a motion to ratify the amended Auburn property sale agreements, reflecting the sale of 170 and 371 Penley Corner Road parcels to only Mr. Roger Gauthier, and excluding Virginia Beauchene who was included on the original purchase and sale agreements. Dan Goyette seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**New Business**

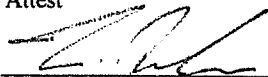
**Capital Improvement Plan:** Travis updated and presented the CIP and associated capital needs and funding analysis spreadsheet. He assumed the CSO funding figures included in the CSO update but did not assume any DEP grant money.

Dan Goyette made a motion to approve the 2022 Capital Improvement Plan as presented. Norm Lamie seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Adjourn**

Norm Lamie made a motion to adjourn, Dan Goyette seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

Attest



Travis B Peaslee, General Manager