

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 April 14 at 7:30 a.m. at the Authority offices at 535 Lincoln Street Lewiston.

Directors Present:            Norm Lamie  
   Jeff Beaulé  
   Mark Adams  
   Dan Goyette  
   Mary Ann Brenchick  
   Steve Ness

Absent:                            Mike Broadbent

General Manager:            Travis Peaslee

Assistant General Manager: Paula Drouin

Secretary:                      Candace Taylor

Treasurer:                      Absent

Norm Lamie called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

Minutes

Mary Ann Brenchick made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 17, 2023 regular meeting. Dan Goyette seconded, all approved and the minutes were placed on file.

Financial Reports

Travis Peaslee reviewed the financial reports. Dan Goyette made a motion to accept the financial reports, Jeff Beaulé seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

Public Comment - none

Report from Cities/Sewer Districts

Jeff Beaulé reported that the city is finishing up the process of sewer re-lining.

General Manager Report

*Biosolids:* We produced 704 yds of material this month. We were able to deliver 286 yards to Hartland, but had to stockpile 418 yards within the compost facility. We are now delivering 5 of our 7 loads/week to Hartland while we work on plans to get all of our material sent to them in a 5-day work week. We have 650 yards or so on the floor at the compost facility that we are also

developing plans on for moving when Hartland can accept it. We anticipate not being able to move that material for another 6-8 weeks, which is when C&D deliveries should ramp up.

*Anaerobic Digestion and Co-Generation:* Things are operating well at the digestion complex. We have both co-generation units operational and we have been making near average amounts of gas and power.

*Septic Receiving:* In March we brought in 154,500 gallons, which is 54,500 gallons or \$6,540 more than budgeted. Year-to-date we are 109,750 gallons or \$13,170 more than budgeted.

*Effluent Quality:* The effluent continues to look good. We had no influent bypass events, no effluent violations, no use of the secondary bypass, and treated roughly 360 million gallons.

### Old Business

*Biosolids & PFAS:* Travis has worked with MEWEA stakeholders, and Representative Soboleski directly on a proposal of a 24-month stay on LD 1639. It appears the Governor is open to this idea, so they are pushing it in hopes it provides some short-term relief while the BC study gets underway and regional treatment options get vetted for feasibility.

Hartland is taking our material, but only 5 days/week. We are working with them on a plan to get all of our material to them, in addition to the material we have stockpiled. This is likely going to take a few months and will hinge on the rate of C&D they receive.

We relinquished 13 of our 22 Land application licenses last month.

We submitted a request for and received emergency approval for storage at the compost facility in areas that are under cover. The approval expires Sept 20, 2023 and provides for an additional 920 yards of covered storage, if needed. The only stipulation is that we report to the DEP monthly the volume stored in those areas and volume removed from those areas.

Travis continues to work on getting a state wide biosolids study underway and has a scope finalized at this point, after yet another round of DEP comments. LAWPCA may be serving as the lead for the study depending on how the DEP plans to fund it, and Travis feels we have buy-in from the Department on it considering they have noted this study to the legislature numerous times now. The final version of the study scope is currently back with the DEP commissioner, who hopefully will turn this around pretty quickly considering we accepted all of her latest comments in our final version. Travis anticipates this taking 6-9 months, but could prove very beneficial and help guide the discussion on long term biosolids planning.

Travis signed the proposal from Brown & Caldwell to study the feasibility of obtaining IRA grant funds to build a feedstock acceptance station, extend hot water from the digester complex to the main treatment buildings, and possibly qualify for E-Rins. This project is mostly being driven by the possible 40% grant funds, but could help solve some internal material handling issues, while better utilizing the digesters, making more gas and power, and increasing revenues. These efforts will be done mostly through a full day onsite workshop that we are hoping kicks off soon.

As part of planning around the current and future biosolids planning, Travis met with Lewiston Public Works staff to discuss the possibility of emergency use of their landfill. Currently the landfill is not permitted to do so, therefore we have begun discussions with Sevee & Maher to see what effort it would take in order to obtain such a license amendment. Currently the Lewiston

landfill has approximately 28 years of capacity with just ash and occasional C&D, but disposal of biosolids and the necessary bulking agents could fill it nearly 8x faster if we were to send them all of our material. We don't believe this is realistic, and instead Travis is most interested in having the landfill serve as an emergency relief. Regardless, we need to have feasibility determined before we could proceed to going through the process of having their license amended, and feel these efforts are something LAWPCA should pay for. Below would be the process and rough cost to do so:

- Step 1: Ash/Biosolids Mixing Study with gas testing (\$13,000)
- Step 2: Prepare and submit the above mixing study, a Waste Mixing Plan (5,000-\$7,500), and a Geotechnical Report with analysis supporting our mix ratio (\$10,000) to the MEDEP. The Geotechnical Report may not be required if mixed waste strength characteristics are good enough.
- Step 3: Receive MEDEP Comments
- Step 4: Respond to MEDEP Comments (if any - \$2,000)
- Step 5: Obtain Permit for Disposal of Biosolids

SME expects the Mixing Study will take a month to complete and that a Waste Mixing Plan and Geotechnical Report can be created within another months' time. They would plan on the MEDEP taking 2 months to review and respond with comments then an additional months' time to answer the MEDEP's questions and obtain the permit for disposal of biosolids within the landfill. The gas generation results can be submitted to the MEDEP at a later date as a condition of compliance with the permit.

Total time from LAWPCA's notice to proceed to permit receipt is likely to be approximately 5 months, maybe a little sooner or later depending how quickly the MEDEP can review and process the application. At this time, we have a proposal to perform step 1, which is the mix study to see how the ash and biosolids interact, and to determine what additional, if any, bulking agents may be required. The cost to perform the study is \$13,000.

Mary Ann Brenchick made a motion to approve Sevee & Maher Engineers to perform a waste mixing study to evaluate the geotechnical and gas generating characteristics of the ash/biosolids mixtures with respect to biosolids content and time at the City of Lewiston landfill, for a cost not to exceed \$13,000, utilizing reserve for replacement funds. Steve Ness seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

*CSO Project:* Travis has had multiple meetings and discussions and feels we have provided good guidance to the OPM team. We plan to have one more meeting to wrap up some loose ends and then the OPM team will schedule a meeting with the entire subcommittee to summarize status and to allow an opportunity for questions and concerns to be addressed.

As far as the property line discrepancy, we believe the most appropriate path forward would be to ask the City of Lewiston to provide a quitclaim deed for the area that we believe was originally intended to be LAWPCA land. We asked Sebago to have their surveyors draft a deed description and prepare a plan showing the conveyance. They intend to get a description and plan to Travis in the next week or two and we are hopeful they don't have to complete any additional fieldwork. Once they are done, we will need to get our lawyer to put the description into a legal deed format. Travis plans to reach out to Ron Bissonnette for this. After that we will need to approach the Lewiston City Council and Planning Board for approval.

On the treatment plant optimization portion, AECOM was onsite to evaluate our existing pumping as well as electrical & generator equipment. We have provided follow-up information and am now waiting to hear back on next steps. As far as the instrumentation component, Travis has been working with three vendors on equipment needs and proposals. He has a meeting with our instrumentation integrator to make sure we understand the needs and efforts to integrate, and we will then develop a recommendation for purchasing this equipment at the May meeting.

Travis has submitted an SRF application for \$8.5M in hopes of obtaining principal forgiveness funds. He anticipates hearing back in late May whether or not we qualify for these grant funds.

*Bar Screen Project:* Everything continues to run great and we are on a construction hold while we wait for the windows to be manufactured and delivered, which is scheduled for May 1st. The abatement team will be onsite the week of April 24<sup>th</sup> to have everything ready for the installer. Once that component is complete, Travis will work with bond counsel to make our temporary note permanent. We did issue partial substantial completion with a date of January 19<sup>th</sup>.

*Charter Change:* Our bill LD 640, was unanimously voted ought to pass in committee last month and is now in the process of getting a final read prepared. Once we have that Travis will review and will work with legislative staff through final approval and will send the board the final version.

*Branding:* The subcommittee had a meeting with Black Fly Media and recommended moving forward with them. Staff is separately working with a contractor to refresh our website and provide training so that we can manage content once the re-branding/refreshing efforts get underway. We believe a name change will be part of these efforts, but don't anticipate needing to change our logo or mission statement.

Dan Goyette made a motion to approve Black Fly Media to perform marketing efforts for a cost not to exceed \$12,700.00. Mary Ann Brenchick seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

### New Business

*Auburn Property Solar Request:* Travis presented a request from Blue Wave Energy to release 13.7 Acre of land from the conservation easement on 371 Penley Corner Road. The Board requested Travis get a dollar value for the area of property where the conservation easement would be released, and tabled the item for now.

*Septic Receiving Rates:* LAWPCA's current septage disposal fee is \$0.12/gal, which was implemented in 2022. We estimate the current cost to treat septage is \$0.076/gal, and with anticipated cost increases that could grow to \$0.09/gal by next year. These costs are based on total expenses, but do not take in to account future capital replacement expenses. While exact future expense impacts are unknown, we feel a net revenue of approximately \$.05/gal. is a reasonable safeguard to have.

Dan Goyette made a motion to increase septic receiving rate of \$.02/gal to bring our rate to \$0.14/gal., effective January 1, 2024. Steve Ness seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

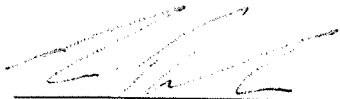
Other Business

Mark Adams made a motion to enter Executive Session- pursuant to Title 1, Chapter 13: subchapter 1, Section 405, Subsection 6 of Maine State Law. Mary Ann Brenchick seconded the motion.

Motion by Mary Ann Brenchick to accept the new proposed conforming boundary lines for two parcels at 276 Penley Corner Rd, resulting in LAWPCA releasing 2.5 acres of land while gaining ownership of the entire access road to the compost facility parcel, with the stipulation that conservation easements and first right of refusal stay on both parcels, and that all legal and surveying efforts are handled and paid for by the current property owner(s)". Steve Ness seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Norm Lamie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 a.m. Mark Adams seconded the motion.

Attest



---

Travis B. Peaslee, General Manager