

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, February 10, 2023, at 7:30 a.m. at the Authority offices at 535 Lincoln St. Lewiston.

Directors Present: Mark Adams
 Jeff Beale
 Norm Lamie
 Mike Broadbent

Directors Absent: Dan Goyette
 Mary Ann Brenchick
 Steve Ness

General Manager: Travis Peaslee

Assistant General Manager: Paula Drouin

Secretary: Candace Taylor

Treasurer: Ralph Lenfestey

Norm Lamie called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

Minutes

Mike Broadbent made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 13, 2023, regular meeting. Mark Adams seconded, all others approved, and the minutes were placed on file.

Financial Reports

Travis Peaslee gave a brief overview of the financials. 2022-year end financials are close to being closed out, still have a few 2022 invoices we are waiting to come in and be posted. Our annual audit by RHR Smith will begin remotely the week of February 13th.

Ralph provided an annual investment report which notes the increase return on our ICS from 0.30% to 1.25%, and that CD rates are attractive and should be considered as a short-term safe investment. We recommend investing at least the FDIC insured amount of \$250,000 into a 1-year CD at Auburn Savings.

Mark Adams made a motion to invest \$250,000 into a six-month CD with Auburn Savings. Mike Broadbent seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

Public Comment- None

Reports from Cities/Sewer Districts- Mike Broadbent mentioned upgrades to pump stations and working on annual CSO Report. Jeff Beale talked about a lining project starting soon and that vortex was on hold for the winter.

General Manager's Report-

Travis gave a brief update on the monthly operating reports and noted that we produced 777 yds of material this month, and all of it was sent to the composting facility to then be transferred by Casella to Landfill. This is still an increase over average volumes due to wet solids (low 5 solids) from poor dewatering, but we have made some adjustments and this number continues to trend in the right direction (down). We have begun re-thickening some already anaerobically digested material which has allowed us to run over screw presses slower and drier.

Things are operating well at the digestion complex. Both Co-generation units are operational and we have been making near average amounts of gas and power. In January we brought in 103,250 gallons of septic, which is 43,250 gallons or \$5,190 more than budgeted. The month was warmer and less snowy than normal which is likely the reason for the additional material this time of year. The effluent continues to look good. We had 1 influent bypass event that totaled 0.580 MG, 1 minor effluent violations due to our contractor leaving the wrong structure B control setpoints during a wet weather event, no use of the secondary bypass, and treated roughly 341 million gallons.

Mark Adams made a motion to accept the Operations Report. Jeff Beale seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

Old Business

Biosolids & PFAS:

Travis continues to work on getting a state wide biosolids study underway and has a scope finalized at this point. LAWPCA may be serving as the lead for the study depending on how the DEP plans to fund it, and he feels we have buy-in from the Department on it. The final version of the study scope is currently being review by the DEP commissioner, who unfortunately is bogged down with legislative response and hasn't been able to give this much attention. Travis is hopeful we can give Brown & Caldwell the green light to proceed within the next month.

Travis continues to monitor legislative activity for biosolids and/or PFAS impacted legislation. The few bills posted so far are to bring the drinking water MCL to 0, change the process for routine technical rule making on solid waste rules, and to require the DEP to pay for all mandated PFAS sampling. The public hearings are just starting so Travis will keep an eye on things and should have a better sense of where any of these bills are going by next month.

On January 27th, the Sun Journal ran an article noting that nearly every land applied site in L/A tested below the PFAS drinking water standards. This is a point Travis has made numerous times and have even asked the DEP to help communicate. The reality is that there are a few known hot spots in the state, which are all very much expected, and the rest of the state is relatively clean of PFAS. Travis made the point already that the largest land applied site in the state was tested for numerous pathways of concern, with all

coming back good and no offsite impacts to abutters. Travis doesn't think we need to run out and start finger pointing at the real problems here, but it's nice to know our program isn't to blame for any of the suspected hot spots.

Travis has summed up most of the biosolids information into a biosolids management planning document accompanying the board packet, and has:

- Requested a 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.
- Requested a proposal from Wright Pierce for a conceptual design and cost estimate to make the necessary equipment and structural modifications to our existing solids handling bays in order to facilitate two 50-yard dump trailers. This would be a necessary first step before doing anything with the Compost Facility, it would improve our operation, save us some money, and likely set us up for most future biosolids handling options on the plate.
- Spoke with the DEP to understand the requirements in order for consideration of Casella using the CF as a transfer station, as well as requirements of us if we were to raze, sell, or lease the Compost Facility. These questions are being discussed at the AG's office and it may be another week or two before we get feedback.

Travis will follow up with the three items above at next month's Board meeting with recommendations on these items.

CSO Project: Alternative site locations were explored and discussed at the meeting. It was determined that the best location is still the front yard and that we will ask the design build teams to provide a 2.1 MG tank, as well as a reserved spot for a 1 MG tank on the front yard site. The Board discussed being generally ok with an above ground tank on this site as long as site buffers are installed. It was requested that the OPM team explores the cost saving of allowing the tank to be raised and using that savings to install a building atop or aside the tank(s). Additionally, it was noted that the DB response should include a view of the proposed facilities for the LAWPCA Board to assess.

Because we have decided to internally handle the process control instrumentation portion of treatment plant optimization, Travis believes the only other component would be replacing the influent pumps. If this is the case, the question would then be whether or not we want to handle the purchase and install outside of the DB process given it's not really connected to the construction of the tanks. That project may be better suited for a design-bid-build approach. The Board was comfortable with this approach.

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 we believe will happen in late March or early April. Travis plans to provide a tour of this project to interested board members immediately following the meeting.

Charter Change: Representative Margaret Craven agreed to sponsor the charter change legislation and it is listed as LR 220, but no LD yet. Travis will keep an eye out for it and will stay on top of it once it makes its way through the process.

Insurance Coverage: As noted last month, our commercial insurance package provide through Cross Insurance expires in the middle of March. As requested, Travis updated our schedule of values to increase

the overall value up to just over \$45 Million, which will become our package blanket limit on real property & business personal property. This blanket coverage would be sufficient in most insurable situations, but wouldn't be sufficient for a total loss situation. Travis spoke with Cross and confirmed that they bid our insurance coverage every 2-3 years, and provide us with the results. They didn't feel it was necessary to solicit multiple quotes this year, but anticipate doing so next year. Travis did reach out and have a few discussions with Maine Municipal about them providing a quote for coverage. They had serious reservations providing blanket coverage on only \$45 Million, and feel the actual schedule of values is 2x-3x more. After much deliberation, they didn't feel that they could ethically offer us insurance, but noted that they would be happy to in the future if we were to increase our schedule of values closer to total loss values. We are now waiting on Cross Insurance to provide us the cost for \$445 Million coverage.

New Business:

Branding/Marketing: We continue to work on this task and more recently met and obtained a proposal from a company called Funkhouse. At this point we have service proposals from this firm, along with Pivotal. We have reached out and hope to discuss possibly getting a proposal from Blackfly media, who we recently supported for MEWEA/industry PR efforts. Once we have all three proposals, we think it would make sense to form a subcommittee to evaluate all three options, to layout a path forward, and return with recommendations to the Board. The Board agreed to form a subcommittee for this task with Mary Ann Brenchick serving as the Board representative.

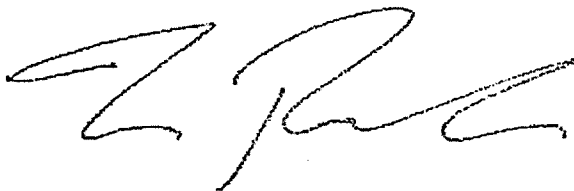
Other Business:

Maine DEP Staff Updates: We were informed that our long- term DEP inspector Stuart Rose retired on January 31st. No permanent replacement has been identified. Travis was also informed that Paula Clark retired on the same date, and that her replacement has also not been identified.

Adjourn:

Mike Broadbent made a motion to adjourn. Mark Adams seconded. All approved and the motion passed.

Attest



Travis B. Peaslee, General Manager