

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 July 14, 2023, at 7:30 a.m. at the Authority offices at 535 Lincoln St Lewiston

Directors Present: Norm Lamie
Mike Broadbent
Dan Goyette
Jeff Beaulé
Mary Ann Brenchick
Steve Ness

Directors Absent: Mark Adams

General Manager: Travis Peaslee

Assistant General Manager: Paula Drouin

Secretary: Paula Drouin

Treasurer: Ralph Lenfesty

Norm Lamie called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

Dan Goyette made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 16, 2023, meeting. Mary Ann Brenchick seconded, all others approved, and the minutes were placed on file.

Financial Reports

Travis Peaslee reviewed the financial reports. Dan Goyette made a motion to approve the financial reports. Mike Broadbent seconded, all others approved, and the motion passed.

Cost Apportionment

No modifications were made to cost apportionment, leaving 3Q 63% Lewiston/ 37% Auburn.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present, and no public comments were received.

Report from Cities/Sewer Districts

Mike Broadbent reported that Auburn is finishing lining projects and had to install multiple new manholes. They are also revising rules and regulations at the sewer department (e.g., pump station and sewer extension policies).

Jeff Beaulé reported that Lewiston is also finishing lining projects. He also reported there is an inflow and infiltration (I/I) study occurring on Randall Rd.

General Manager Report

Biosolids Delivery

Travis Peaslee reported that LAWPCA produced 814 yds of material in June. Most was delivered directly to Hartland, but some material was stockpiled within the compost facility due to weekends/holidays. Four loads per week are currently being delivered to Hartland and Ferreira Trucking is hauling three large loads from the Compost Facility in a 5-day work week.

Anaerobic Digestion & Cogeneration

Travis Peaslee reported that things are operating well at the digestion complex. Both co-generation units are operational and above average amounts of gas and power were produced.

Septic Receiving

Travis Peaslee reported that 442,850 gallons of septic were discharged in June, which is 117,850 gallons or \$14,142 more than budgeted. Year-to-date LAWPCA is 378,600 gallons or \$45,432 more than budgeted.

Effluent Quality

Travis Peaslee reported that effluent quality is good but there were a handful of violations in June, primarily for *E. coli* which was directly related to sampling when the chlorination system was reacting to increased flows. This has been discussed with lab staff. LAWPCA experienced a CSO discharge at < 32mgd due to the gate getting stuck closed, but staff is developing an emergency response plan to be better prepared for a situation like this in the future. Staff are also looking for options to replace the motorized gate with a manually operated gate. LAWPCA had a DEP inspection on July 13 and the inspector did not communicate any major concerns with the violations.

Old Business

Biosolids & PFAS

Travis Peaslee reported that LD-718, which is an ask for a 2-year stay on the C&D legislation (LD 1639) was signed by the Governor on June 23rd.

Travis Peaslee reported he is representing MEWEA and working with the DEP and Brown & Caldwell on the statewide biosolids study.

Brown & Caldwell was onsite on June 13th to evaluate options for improving solids handling processes, which would then allow LAWPCA to accept and process more feedstocks, which would likely then result in more gas and electrical production. It does not appear that these improvements will qualify for IRA funds, as they are being allocated to new projects.

Travis Peaslee reported that SME provided a final report for the Lewiston Landfill waste mix study and the results showed that a 3:1 ratio of ash to biosolids should work well and provide the necessary stability and they have what is needed to start the next steps to obtain DEP approval.

Mike Broadbent made a motion to award biosolids landfill permitting services to Sevee & Maher Engineers for a cost not to exceed \$9,200, to be paid for from the reserve for replacement account. Steve Ness seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

CSO Project

Travis Peaslee reported that he continues to work closely with the OPM and anticipates the subcommittee will need to review the draft RFP throughout this month to get it posted at the beginning of August. The subcommittee drafted scoring criteria. Travis is trying to get DEP involved in the project, but they are looking for assurance, in the form of a letter of intent or interim loan, that an SRF loan will be sought out so that they do not waste staff time on a project that chooses to not go that funding route. Travis is going to obtain a project estimate and communicate with the DEP.

Travis Peaslee reported that there do not seem to be concerns with the property line agreement or zoning amendment needs as both are scheduled to go to Lewiston City Council on July 18th.

Travis Peaslee reported that he is awaiting a proposal from AECOM that will handle the influent pumping upgrade portion of this project.

Public Relations Project

Travis Peaslee reported that LAWPCA is under contract with Black Fly Media and a kick-off call will be scheduled soon. The website overhaul is complete, and we are anticipating a launch date next week.

Auburn Property Solar Request

Travis Peaslee reported that he has been working with Blue Wave regarding their request for a release of a portion of the conservation easement on the 371 Penley Corner Road property and granted consent for them to work with Pierce Atwood on how to release such an easement.

Mary Ann Brenchick motioned to accept the offer from Blue Wave of \$10,000 for release of up to 15 acres of conservation easement at 371 Penley Corner Road in Auburn needed for the

proposed development of a Solar project. Mike Broadbent seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

New Business

There was a brief discussion about the 170 Penley Corner Rd. property. Mary Ann Brenchick made a motion to “not exercise LAWPCA’s right of first offer on 170 Penley Corner Road property, Auburn Maine.”, Steve Ness seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

Informational Items

Travis Peaslee reported a 60” fiberglass gate that isolates one side of the chlorine contact basin failed unexpectedly and staff is working with the manufacturer on replacement options.

Travis Peaslee reported that there was a July 1 price change, the largest on service charge, is on the delivery side of our CMP bill and he is trying to get answers from CMP.

Adjourn

Mary Ann Brenchick made a motion to adjourn at 8:03, Steve Ness seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

Attest



Travis B. Peaslee, General Manager