

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 May 12, 2023 at 7:30 a.m. at the Authority offices at 535 Lincoln Street Lewiston.

Directors Present: Norm Lamie
 Jeff Beale
 Mark Adams
 Dan Goyette
 Mary Ann Brenchick
 Steve Ness
 Mike Broadbent

Absent: Treasurer

General Manager: Travis Peaslee

Assistant General Manager: Paula Drouin

Secretary: Candace Taylor

Treasurer: Absent

Norm Lamie called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

Minutes

Dan Goyette made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 14, 2023 regular meeting. Jeff Beale seconded, all approved and the minutes were placed on file.

Financial Reports

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

Public Comment - none

Report from Cities/Sewer Districts – nothing new reported

Presentation of the 2022 Draft Financial Audit- Cathy Markavich from RHR Smith presented the 2022 Draft Audit to the Board. Lewiston ended the year underpaid by \$15,773. To remove the deficit, we would re-pay Auburn \$24,617.00. After Auburn is refunded to square away 2022 Cost Apportionment, a surplus of \$322,221.89 remains.

Dan Goyette made a motion to reimburse the City of Lewiston \$206,479.79 and the Auburn Sewerage District \$115,742.10 from the 2022 Budget surplus. Jeff Beale seconded and the motion passed. (Mary Ann Brenchick was not here to vote)

Presentation from Sebago Technics & AECOM on CS0 project updates-The OPM team from Sebago Technics and AECOM provided an update on the project, including site layout, tank and cover options, and RFP specifications. The OPM team was asked to provide the Board a cross section view of what the tanks would look like from Lincoln Street. Sebago is working on the property line discrepancy as well as possible zoning ordinance amendment to address impervious coverage requirements. Once the new deed description and plan is provided to Travis, he will work to get City Council and Planning board approval for the quitclaim deed, then with Ron Bissonnette to put the description into a legal deed that can be registered. The OPM team is aiming for the end of June to have the RFP completed, and feels it can be solicited and awarded by late Fall, with ground breaking likely being Spring 2024.

General Manager Report

Biosolids: We produced 834 yds of material this month. We were able to deliver most of it to Hartland, but had to stockpile some material within the compost facility due to weekends. We are now delivering 7 loads/week to Hartland in a 5-day work week, which is requiring some material to be dumped and then transferred, but allows us to minimize the amount making its way to the Compost Facility.

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 April we brought in 297,000 gallons, which is 3,000 gallons or \$360 less than budgeted. Year-to-date we are 106,750 gallons or \$12,810 more than budgeted.

Effluent Quality: The effluent continues to look good, although it got delivered a good blow with the 3+ inches of rain on the last day of the month. We had the 1 major influent bypass event totaling 9.576 MG, one effluent violation, used the secondary bypass during the wet weather event, and treated roughly 300 million gallons. The violation was due to a BOD test frequency caused by an operator accidentally reading the results after 4 days, vs the 5 required. Relatively minor, however we have discussed internally a few things we can do to prevent this same accident in the future.

Old Business

Biosolids & PFAS: Travis submitted testimony on LD-718, which is an ask for a 2-year stay on the C&D legislations (LD 1639) from last session.

The state wide comprehensive biosolids study has movement as the DEP has elected to contract with B&C directly and fund up to the NTE amount of \$250,000.

Travis had a couple pre-meetings with Brown & Caldwell for the study that was approved last month for the feasibility of obtaining IRA grant funds to do things such as improve our existing AD processes; build a feedstock acceptance station; improve CHP uptime and performance; extend hot water from the digester complex to main treatment buildings, and possibly qualify for E-Rins. These efforts will be done mostly through a full day onsite workshop that was scheduled for May 10th, but will now have to be rescheduled.

SME has taken samples of our biosolids and the landfill ash for the waste mix study. We don't anticipate any results for the next month or so but will keep the Board posted as discoveries are made.

As discussed last month, we are looking to sell and purchase equipment as part of our biosolids handling plan. After discussions with numerous equipment operators, three backhoe loaders were identified as meeting our specifications and quality needs. Proposals were solicited in April 2023 from United Construction & Forestry, Beauregard Equipment, and Milton Cat, with all proposed equipment meeting our specifications. Trade-in of the existing Cat backhoe and the Volvo frontend loader were included with each proposal.

Mark Adams made a motion to approve the award of the treatment plant backhoe loader, to United Construction & Forestry for a 2023 John Deere 310SL for an amount of (-\$9,300) inclusive of trade in of the 2018 Volvo L60H and 2011 Caterpillar 420E Backhoe Loader. The profit from this trade will be placed in the miscellaneous revenue account. Dan Goyette seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

The remaining equipment, roll-off trailer will be put on hold at this moment until further information on structural needs is obtained.

CSO Project: This item was covered during the presentation from the OPM team.

Bar Screen Project: The bar screen windows were removed the last week of April and the new windows are being installed now and should be wrapped early in the week of May 8th. We have a final construction meeting on May 18th and should be able to soon thereafter pay the final requisition and finalize our permanent loan with bond counsel. This item will be removed from the agenda moving forward.

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: We have signed the agreement to work with Black Fly media but haven't really moved on any of the items yet. We anticipate a kickoff meeting at some point soon and will keep the Board posted as things progress. Paula has separately been working with a contractor on overhauling our website. We have seen the draft version and feel it looks much more professional and functional. We will let everyone know once its finalized and ready for viewing.

Auburn Property Solar Request: Travis has worked with Blue Wave regarding their request for a release of a portion of the conservation easement we have on the 371 Penley Corner Road property and released consent for them to work with Pierce Atwood on how to release such an easement. They were hopeful to have this resolved in time for the board meeting, however it looks like we will have to take this up at the June meeting.

New Business

Financial Policy & Internal Controls: After discussions with our Auditor, as well as with Ralph, it has become clear that we need to update our procurement policy to ensure it is federally compliant. As we begin receiving federal ARPA funds from Lewiston, it is imperative that our policies and procedures conform to federal requirements. Also, once we receive more than

\$750,000 of federal funds in any given year, we will be required to have a single audit, which will look closely at our procurement policies and internal controls. So, to stay ahead of this, we specifically updated our procurement policy to reflect the City of Lewiston's (they last updated March 2023), and also added a federal procurement procedure section to our Financial Policy and Internal Controls document. More time is needed by the Board to review these changes, therefore this item will be placed on the June agenda.

Electricity Procurement: Our 2 electrical agreements (Treatment Plant & Compost facility) expire this November. The agreements were for 3-years, and both were at really good prices around \$0.5/kWh. Prices have skyrocketed since and Travis has been in contact with Maine Power Options over the past year watching the market. He has also been in contact with the MPO selected supplier, Constellation Energy, who forecasted the mild winter creating a spring time dip in pricing. Travis's recommendation is to lock in a new electrical agreement, this time for both locations under one agreement.

Dan Goyette made a motion to lock in a 48- month fixed price, capacity pass through electrical agreement with Constellation New Energy, for the treatment plant and compost facility. Steve Ness seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

Other Business

Class B Waters: Travis was informed that Representative Craven was submitting legislation to upgrade the Androscoggin from Lewiston Falls to Lisbon from Class C to Class B. He hasn't seen the bill but was invited to a meeting on May 9th to discuss. He will update the Board once he better understand the details.

Dan Goyette made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Broadbent seconded the motion.

Attest



Travis B. Peaslee, General Manager