

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 January 12, 2024, at 7:30 a.m. at the Authority offices at 535 Lincoln St Lewiston

Directors Present: Norm Lamie  
Dan Goyette  
Steve Ness  
Mike Broadbent  
Jeff Beaulé  
Mark Adams  
Kevin Gagne

Directors Absent: N/A

General Manager: Travis Peaslee

Assistant General Manager: Paula Drouin

Secretary: Candace Taylor

Treasurer: Absent

Dan Goyette called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

Steve Ness made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 15, 2023 meeting. Norm Lamie seconded, all others approved, and the minutes were placed on file.

Financial Reports

Travis Peaslee reviewed the financial reports. Norm Lamie made a motion to approve the financial reports. Steve Ness seconded, all others approved, and the motion passed.

Public Comment

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

Report from Cities/Sewer Districts

Mike Broadbent reported that their budget was approved for 2024. Jeff Beaulé reported that their Asset Management position was open.

## General Manager Report

Biosolids Deliveries: Travis Peaslee reported that the facility produced 704 yards of material in December, which all was able to be delivered directly to Hartland. LAWPCA recently had a temporary shelter installed that was intended to help ensure we are able to store and deliver all of our material directly from the treatment plant, however the recent storm brought it down and bent some components. Staff is in the process of ordering new parts so that we can attempt to stand it back up. With four cans now and some shuffling around we should still be ok operating directly from the treatment plant.

Anaerobic Digestion and Co-Generation: Travis Peaslee reported that things are operating well at the digestion complex, that both co-generation units are operational, and decent amounts of gas and power are being produced, but a more stable supply of feedstock could optimize operations long term. We ended the year slightly behind 2022 on gas production and electrical generation, but still better than nearly all previous years.

Septic Receiving: Travis Peaslee reported that LAWPCA brought in 256,250 gallons, which is 131,250 gallons or \$15,750 more than budgeted. We ended the year 980,950 gallons or \$117,714 more than budgeted. There will be a rate increase of two cents/gallon as of January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Effluent Quality: Travis Peaslee reported that effluent continues to look good. We had two large influent bypass events that spanned nearly 6 days in which we bypassed over 33 million gallons, zero effluent violations, no use the secondary bypass, and treated roughly 460 million gallons. Our facility, and crew did well to get through the major storm thrown at us last month.

## Old Business

### Biosolids & PFAS

Travis Peaslee reported that the statewide comprehensive biosolids study is now final and posted on the DEP website if anyone is interested in seeing it. Travis is hopeful that these recommendations help shape our next steps, but also that they may help spur some state funding assistance.

We are working internally on solids handling projects as part of a project approved for this year in the CIP. This project will include a fair amount of equipment relocation, new piping and electrical, a new control panel, and some SCADA logic changes. We believe we can handle most of this with our crew, and that the results of the changes will allow us to better handle solids thickening, pumping, feedstock addition, and reduced pump water.

SME had drafted an application for submission to the DEP for approval of accepting our material on an emergency basis to the Lewiston Landfill. The departure of Mary Ann has slowed progress a bit, however we are hoping that we can get the City to jump back on this soon so that we can start what is expected to be a multi month process of getting DEP approval.

Travis has signed the LOI with Waste Management, and continue to negotiate with the Harland Landfill on a long-term agreement. The Waste Management LOI states that they will provide Travis with full agreements terms within the next 90 days, and that we must make a final decision within the next 6 months.

Travis has sent the required annual letters to all abutters of the Compost Facility and hasn't received any comments/feedback. He made note of the temporary storage and that we may start exploring options at the site over the next year.

### CSO Project:

Travis reported he provided Sargent with our intent to award, and submitted all required information to the DEP. He has since had meetings with the DEP, and then separately with Sargent and our OPM team. He has been working with Bernstein Shur for legal counsel on the contract. He anticipates having a draft contract back to Sargent for review and is hopeful we can come to an agreement on the draft within the next week.

It was brought to our attention the other day that the DEP now requires any work done on the support building and electrical generator to utilize Davis Bacon building rates, instead of the heavy rates that were approved as part of the RFP. We are working with Sargent to see what, if any, impacts this may have on the project cost.

At the recent meeting with Sargent, we discussed DEP comments, alternative approaches to the electrical distribution system and stand-by power, landscaping and screening, tank drain valve type, security fencing, and inclusion of the Sargent grounds improvement clarification response to the contract. The stand-by power options are more significant in nature and require Sargent to provide new cost for either a new small or large generator that would be located outside of the existing generator space. During the meeting, the Sargent team requested that we consider awarding the project at this meeting to prevent slowing down a fairly tight project timeline. The OPM team is comfortable with doing so, and Travis now has DEP approval to award.

Mike Broadbent made a motion to award the CSO storage facility project to Sargent Corporation, for a total project cost not to exceed \$26,275,000.00. Jeff Beaulé seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

We awarded the influent pump project to the Sebago/AECOM team, and they are currently working with the pump vendor on motor specifications. They determined that the 200 hp motors originally thought to get us up to 38 MGD, will not be sufficient. We have elected to keep the motor hp the same and install gear reducers. The pump vendor is working with the team to get his information and that should be the last bit of information needed in order to move the design forward.

For the process instrumentation side of things, equipment has been purchased and now just need the installation and integration to happen. Work has been awarded to EII and expect them to complete the install in early spring. Travis is still negotiating with Sargent, but should be able to have a total project budget for the February meeting.

### Branding/Name Change

We continue to work with our consultant on finalizing a communications plan that will likely start out basic, but can then be added upon. Development of a 2-minute brand video, FAQ/key message sheet, a quarterly summary template, and tweaks to the monthly GM report. Paula is developing a timeline and plan for implementation of the new name/logo and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

### Compost Facility Storage

We continue to house LPW equipment while we work with the City of Auburn to understand the best path forward. Travis has a meeting with Auburn officials and is hopeful we can come up with a plan to safely keep the equipment onsite, and not have to approach the planning board for any formal changes. As far as long-term plans, Travis has been in continued conversation with the wood pellet manufacturers who have a lot of interest in the facility. Casella has contacted us as well with interest in our turners. After discussion with the Board, it was decided that we need to wait until after the groundwater issues are resolved to then send out an RFQ/RFP to any party interested in the property.

### Adjourn

Steve Ness made a motion to adjourn. Mike Broadbent seconded, all approved, and the motion passed.

Attest



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Travis B. Peaslee, General Manager