

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 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
 Kevin Gagne

Directors Absent: Mark Adams

General Manager: Travis Peaslee

Assistant General Manager: Paula Drouin

Secretary: Paula Drouin

Treasurer: Ralph Lenfesty

Dan Goyette called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Mike Broadbent made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 14, 2024, meeting. Steve Ness seconded, all others approved, and the minutes were placed on file.

Financial Report

Travis Peaslee reviewed the financial reports. Mike Broadbent made a motion to approve the financial reports. Steve Ness seconded, all others approved, and the report was placed on file. Norm Lamie made a motion to accept the 2023 financial audit, Kevin Gagne 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 he has a meeting with Wright Pierce to discuss the inflow study at Miller St. where they are obtaining valuable storm data.

Kevin Gagne reported Erica Kidd was hired as Deputy Director of Utilities. He also reported there were multiple SSOs last year and illicit connections were identified and fixed. Kevin also reported that Riverfest is July 19-20th

General Manager Report

Biosolids Deliveries: Travis Peaslee reported that 682 yards of material were disposed of at the Hartland landfill in June.

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 made higher than average amounts of gas and power in June.

Septic Receiving: Travis Peaslee reported that LAWPCA brought in brought in 468,350 gallons, which is 93,350 gallons or \$13,069 more than budgeted. Year-to-date this equates to 448,150 gallons or \$62,741 more than budgeted.

Effluent Quality: Travis Peaslee reported that effluent quality continues to be good and the facility treated 227 million gallons in June. There were two effluent violations, the most notable being effluent mercury. An increase was previously detected in biosolids, and staff are conducting an ongoing investigation as well as maintaining close communication with DEP.

Norm Lamie made a motion to approve the operations report, Mike Broadbent seconded, all others approved, and the report was placed on file.

Old Business

Biosolids & PFAS

Travis Peaslee reported that staff continue to work through understanding the elevated mercury levels in the biosolids. Toxicity characteristic leaching procedure (TCLP) testing, as required annually by the landfill, passed and will be the only biosolids testing continuing unless beneficial reuse becomes a feasible outlet again. Staff are also working on back-up biosolids disposal options.

Travis Peaslee reported that an application was submitted to the DEP for approval of accepting our material on an emergency basis to the Lewiston landfill. Abutters were notified and given a 30-day comment period. Travis anticipates the DEP application review and approval process to take a few months. If approved by the DEP, we will also need to have an agreement with the city for use, limitations, and cost. Travis has also asked SME to explore regulations surrounding the ability to use the landfill as a temporary storage/transfer site in case of an emergency like what was experienced last year. Travis would also like to understand the feasibility, economics, and appetite of the city to receive all facility biosolids in the future if a dryer was installed that produced material that is roughly 90% dry (~75% volume reduction).

Travis Peaslee reported that he continues to work on securing no volume commitment disposal approvals with Casella and Waste Management and Englobe.

Travis Peaslee reported that he had a meeting with the DEP commissioner on July 11 to discuss state level biosolids management. Unfortunately, there is little movement at DEP and the discussion is now about how to get in front of the ENR committee and the Governor to get legislative movement. Another meeting with the DEP is scheduled in August.

Travis Peaslee reported that he had a meeting with Brown and Caldwell to discuss any changes/updates to the feasibility of an on-site dryer. They seem to think the Authority could get the equipment for less money and have more outlets for the drier biosolids material. Travis also mentioned there will likely be a \$50 million bond that would provide an 80:20 match for up to \$2 million. Norm Lamie made a **“motion to authorize Travis Peaslee to work with Brown and Caldwell to update the 2022 30% dryer design for an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to be funded out of reserve for replacement account”**. Steve Ness seconded, all others approved, and the motion passed.

Travis Peaslee reviewed information about current PFAS litigation. The largest claim is the increased cost to dispose of biosolids. The Board doesn't feel the Authority needs to sign on currently but will wait to see if it becomes a class action lawsuit.

CSO Project:

Travis Peaslee reported that 30% comments were submitted back to the DB, there was a follow-up meeting on June 20, and 60% design is expected to be received on September 20th. Items still being worked on include the stand-by generator and associated PLC upgrade change order. Permitting is also well underway. The influent pump project was awarded to Damon Mechanical, and they are exploring both upgrading the current pumps and the option of purchasing new dry pit submersible pumps. Once the pump information is received Travis will forward it to the board for review and a meeting can be scheduled if need be. An RFP for a crane truck will go out mid-July and hopefully a recommendation can be made at the August or September board meeting. Dan Goyette asked whether a groundbreaking event for the project will be planned, and Travis indicated that he will work with Sargent and the OPM to develop one.

Branding/Name Change

Travis Peaslee reported that staff are working to gather information on Doing Business As (DBA) instead of a legal name change. It appears this would require a charter amendment that could be handled via a unanimous vote of the Board and proof of such submitted to the EUT committee to be included with their annual omnibus legislation. The Board confirmed they would like the Authority management to get information from the EUT on how to proceed with this.

Compost Facility Storage

Travis Peaslee reported that public notice was posted, and the RFPs were due July 10 and recommends that the Board develop a subcommittee to evaluate proposals, consider conducting interviews, and returning to the full board a recommendation at the August meeting. Kevin Gagne, Norn Lamie and Dan Goyette volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)

Travis Peaslee reported that the Authority was awarded a \$10,000 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), managed through Androscoggin County EMA, in 2022 that is intended to be used for installation of security fencing along the rear property line. The Authority also recently applied for FY2024 HSGP funds toward site security cameras.

New Business

Climate Adaptation Plan:

Travis Peaslee reported that the Authority was awarded \$25,000 of principal forgiveness from the DEP to be used towards a Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP). After discussion, Kevin Gagne made a **“motion to accept \$25,000 of State Revolving Loan Fund (SRLF) principal forgiveness, and to apply for a stand-alone Climate Adaptation Plan project with the Maine Municipal Bond Bank”**. Steve Ness seconded, all approved and the motion passed. Kevin Gagne made a **“motion to award the Climate Adaptation Plan project to Wright Pierce, for an amount not to exceed \$25,000, to be paid from SRF principal forgiveness funds”**. Mike Broadbent seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

CMP Rate Increase:

Travis Peaslee reported that he was provided notice on June 28th that the Authority would be receiving another significant price increase (25%) on July 1 due to incurred significant storm costs (2022 and 2023) that necessitated increased investment in infrastructure and restoration efforts, as well as an increase in stranded cost, which is a mechanism to recoup public policy expenses such as Net Energy Billing program cost and mandated purchase power agreements. Travis has requested a meeting to better understand the increase.

SCADA and Electrical Services:

Travis Peaslee discussed the increase in electrical equipment and instrumentation and thus the increased need for service. Travis proposes the Authority, City of Lewiston, and AWS D meet to discuss how best to meet the collective needs moving forward. Kevin Gagne and Mike Broadbent agreed and stated they would include Erica Kidd when she has availability.

August 9th meeting date:

After a brief discussion of scheduling availabilities, it was decided the August board meeting be rescheduled to Wednesday August 14th at 7:30 a.m.

Informational Items

Staffing:

Travis Peaslee reported that the Authority recently filled a vacant mechanic and vacant operator position and are now fully staffed. Travis also reported that he has a mediation to attend on August 1 regarding an employee who has an ongoing workers' compensation case.

Adjourn

Mike Broadbent made a motion to adjourn. Kevin Gagne seconded, all approved, and the motion passed.

Attest

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Peaslee', written in a cursive style.

Travis B. Peaslee, General Manager