

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 June 14, 2024, at 7:00 a.m. at the Authority offices at 535 Lincoln St Lewiston

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

Directors Absent: Kevin Gagne

General Manager: Travis Peaslee

Assistant General Manager: Paula Drouin

Secretary: Candace Taylor

Treasurer: Ralph Lenfesty

Dan Goyette called the meeting to order at 7:03 a.m.

Norm Lamie made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2024 meeting. Jeff Beale seconded, all others approved, and the minutes were placed on file.

Financial Reports

Kimberly Beam and Cathy Markavich from RHR Smith were present to go over the 2023 Audit. Cathy provided information regarding typical reserve for replacement metric and noted that most utilities prefer to carry 3 to 6 months of unassigned monies in these types of accounts, but that it all depends on the utility short- and long-term needs.

Norm Lamie made a motion to move the 2023 budget surplus of \$329,136.25 to the Reserve for Replacement account, after repaying Auburn for the Cost Apportionment. Steve Ness seconded, all others approved and the motion passed.

Norm Lamie made a motion to set third quarter cost apportionment to 63% Lewiston, 37% Auburn. Jeff Beale seconded, all others approved and the motion passed.

Travis Peaslee reviewed the financial reports. Norm Lamie made a motion to approve the financial reports. Jeff Beale 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

Jeff Beaulieu shared that they are closer to getting the lining bid out and hope to get that work started soon. Mike Broadbent reported that the report for overflow on Miller St is in, and the cleaning out of the interceptor bid will be awarded in July.

General Manager Report

Biosolids Deliveries: We were able to deliver all 836 yards of material directly to Hartland. Biosolid volumes are still on the high side due to needing to move some mass out of our system, but staff suspect this will slow down as temperatures warm up.

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, but an average amount of power for the month.

Septic Receiving: Travis Peaslee reported that LAWPCA brought in 425,500 gallons, which is 85,500 gallons or \$11,970 more than budgeted. Year-to-date we are 354,800 gallons or \$49,672 more than budgeted.

Effluent Quality: Travis Peaslee reported that effluent continues to look good. We had one influent bypass events, one effluent violations, no use the secondary bypass, and treated roughly 257 million gallons.

Old Business

Biosolids & PFAS

We have been working through a couple of months of elevated mercury levels in our biosolids. We are investigating all possible sources and have had meetings with the DEP, as well as the Hartland landfill manager, and their consultant. We are required to test the material for toxicity characteristic leaching potential to verify that the material is not a hazardous waste. The results should be back within the next couple of weeks.

We have submitted and paid for the application to the DEP for approval of accepting our material on an emergency basis to the Lewiston landfill. Abutters were notified and we are now in the 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 similar to what we experienced last year.

Travis signed a LOI with Waste Management but still waiting to negotiate terms. Travis continues to work on securing no volume commitment disposal approvals with Casella and Waste Management. He met with Englobe recently and will work with them to obtain the same in case of emergency.

We have a statement of understanding with the Hartland Landfill on a 4.5-year agreement, which is still the best deal out there.

Travis has scheduled a meeting with the DEP commissioner in early July to discuss state level biosolids management. He wrapped up his meetings with the state material management task force and helped develop recommendations brought to the climate council.

CSO Project:

30% comments were submitted back to the DB and we have a follow-up meeting on June 20 at 8:30. We anticipate receiving 60% design on September 20th, which is also roughly when mobilization is expected. We continue to work through the stand-by generator and associated PLC upgrade change order, in addition to a few other small items. Permitting is also well underway.

On the process control instrumentation project, we have mostly wrapped up/completed.

On the influent pump project, we received bids on June 4th from only two contractors. The bids were very close and much higher than anticipated, with Damon Mechanical the low bidder by \$67,730.00. (CCB at \$1,745,700.00: Damon \$1,677,970.00)

Norm Lamie made a motion to award the influent pump upgrade project to Damon Mechanical for a price of \$1,677,970.00 to be paid for from the CSO project funds. Jeff Beaulé seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

On the funding side of things, our draft finding of no significant impact has been out for public comment and not aware of any received. We were informed last month that we didn't qualify for any SRF principal forgiveness, but were provided an offer to borrow \$10M from the program. Travis signed the offer and informed the DEP that he plans to obtain bond counsel and submit the MMBB application in the fall or early winter.

Branding/Name Change

We have officially changed our facility name and celebrated our 50th year of operation and both Paula and Black Fly media deserve a lot of credit for the efforts in doing so. Staff is still in the process of installing building signage and addressing a few glitches from moving our website and email domains.

Compost Facility Storage

We developed and sent an RFP out for the sale and repurposing of the composting facility and surrounding acreage on 5/30, with a due date of July 10. Travis posted public notification in the Sun Journal, put the RFP on our website, and sent it directly to the City of Auburn, the wood

pellet company, Roger and Ginny, along with a few of the waste management companies that have shown previous interest. Norm and Travis also met with Roger & Ginny on May 30th to explain the situation, as well as provide them with official documents indicating our intent to sell and their right to provide first offer.

Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)

We were awarded \$10,000 EMA grant in 2022 that we intended to sue on an electrically controlled front access gate. The timing and incorporation of this in to the CSO project made use of the grant challenging. We requested to re-purpose those funds on installation of security fencing along our rear property line near and past the Gendron storage units and are now just waiting on final approval for this. We recently applied for FY2024 HSGP funds toward site security cameras.

New Business

Roofing Project:

Travis provided an overview of the roof issues, repairs, and current needs. Three companies and approaches were explored and discussed with the Board.

Norm Lamie made a motion to approve treatment plant building roof repairs to Industrial Roofing Company for a cost not to exceed \$209,605, to be paid for from reserve for replacement. Steve Ness seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Climate Adaptation Plan: After a brief discussion it was decided to table any action until the next board meeting on July 12th.

Informational Items

Staffing- We recently hired two new mechanics, with one already providing truck driving for us. One of our operators that has been with us for 6 years is leaving the industry and pursuing another career. We hope to have the positions filled soon.

Adjourn

Norm Lamie made a motion to adjourn. Steve Ness 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