

## 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 August 14, 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  
                                      Kevin Gagne

Directors absent :           Jeff Beaulé  
                                      Mark Adams

General Manager:           Travis Peaslee

Assistant General Manager: Paula Drouin

Secretary:                   Candace Taylor

Treasurer:                   Ralph Lenfesty

Dan Goyette called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Mike Broadbent made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 12, 2024 meeting. Steve Ness 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

Kevin Gagne mentioned the Ballon Festival this weekend, and that the city is soliciting applications for the vacant city manager position, and that they had a meeting with DEP last week about CSO flows. Mike Broadbent reported that they need to do more investigating on the siphon cleaning project, and that they have pinpointed a small area where the flash rain events are affecting the flow on Miller St. They are also still searching for a finance director.

## General Manager Report

Biosolids Deliveries: Travis Peaslee reported that we were able to deliver all 775 yards of material directly to Hartland. Biosolid volumes are still on the high side, but believe some of this is due to the additional volumes of septage we have been receiving. There was a slight scare with an overnight fire at the Hartland Landfill that caused us to hold back deliveries for a few days. We have resumed normal deliveries; however, this scare highlights how important it is for us to secure emergency back-up sites.

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 reasonably good amounts of gas and power for the month. We did end up changing out the H<sub>2</sub>S media last month, and have on-going discussions with Lima regarding future CHP repairs and engine replacements. We will be able to hold off on semi-major repairs on unit #2 until 2025.

Septic Receiving: Travis Peaslee reported that LACWA brought in 525,000 gallons, which is 201,000 gallons or \$28,140 more than budgeted. Year-to-date we are 649,150 gallons or \$90,881 more than budgeted.

Effluent Quality: Travis Peaslee reported that effluent continues to look good. We had two influent bypass events, and zero effluent violations, no use the secondary bypass, and treated roughly 2220 million gallons. We are still monitoring and continue testing our effluent for mercury, and it appears that the spike in the spring has newly worked its way through our systems.

## Old Business

### Biosolids & PFAS

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. We anticipate the DEP application review and approval process to take a few months. Once DEP has approved, we will need to have an agreement with the city for use, limitations, and cost. Travis would like to also understand more about the feasibility, economics, and appetite of the city to receive all of our material in the future if we were to install a dryer and produce 75% less volume and material that is roughly 90% dry.

We continue to work on securing no volume commitment disposal approvals with Casella and Waste Management and Englobe. We anticipate getting approval from Waste Management soon, and performed a trial with Englobe the week of August 5<sup>th</sup>, which all appears to have gone well.

Travis had a meeting with the DEP commissioner on August 8<sup>th</sup> to continue discussions on state level biosolids management. He is hopeful to have a better understanding of the state level plan and whether or not any future funding for related projects will be available.

We signed an LOI with Waste Management and had a meeting with them on July 3<sup>rd</sup> to start negotiating terms for their project. Travis has been working with Brown & Caldwell to begin the 30% dryer project design update, which includes updating the economics using the two new vendors they have been working closely with, and having a local contractor provide a higher-level estimate for installation. With the updated information, we could then better compare/evaluate the only other reasonable long-term option Travis is aware of, which is the Waste Management dryer project. His hope is to have a better handle on the potential funding assistance component of this evaluation after his meeting with the DEP so that he can see how that may impact our decisions.

#### CSO Project:

Received approval from local planning board for major site development on August 12th, and Woodard & Curran is working on a few conditions applied to the approval. One item staff is working on in procurement of a crane truck which will be used for removal of the new CSO pumps. To properly layout the pumping station, the design team is requesting tat we provide them with truck specifications. As we started our inquires with vendors, we realized that lead times for such equipment is on the order of 14-18 months. We are planning to develop and send out an RFP for this equipment in the middle of August, so that we can provide the board with a recommendation at the September meeting. This vehicle is planned to be funded from the project funds.

On the influent pump project, received bids from two contractors and awarded the project to Damon Mechanical on June 20<sup>th</sup>, who planned to use Flow Serve for new motors and gear reducers, and EII for the electrical work. We approved a change order to Damon on July 26<sup>th</sup> to install three new KSB dry pit submersible pumps for a deduct of \$236,970. This project is currently expected to take 570 days, and substantial completion around December 2024. Final completion would be a month later in January 2026.

A Project ground breaking is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16.

#### Branding/Name Change

We are going to continue working on finding a path to establish a DBA, but if we end up having to go the legal name change route, we will have to quickly start working to find a sponsor for legislation to do so.

#### Compost Facility

Travis Peaslee provided an overview of the compost facility subcommittee memo which discussed the RFP process, the bids received, and interviews conducted. After discussing the recommendation provided by the subcommittee in the memorandum, Norm Lamie made a motion to authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with T&D wood Energy with the following terms:

1. LACWA will offer an agreement (establishing title, right, or interest) to T&D Wood Energy for the sale of 230 Penley Corner Road.
2. LACWA will relinquish its composting facility license and obtain a closure document from the ME DEP during the first 6-month period following the signing of the agreement.
3. T&D Wood Energy will seek municipal approval concurrently with LACWAs seeking approval of a closure plan with the City of Auburn during the first 6-month period following the signing of the agreement.
4. T&D Wood Energy will accept the conditions established by ME DEP in the site closure document upon closing on the property, and intends to seek a site VRAP approval from the ME DEP.
5. T&D Wood Energy will honor the existing agreement to Mr. Roger Gauthier to farm the agreed upon portion of agricultural fields at 230 Penley Corner Road until its expiration at the end of 2026. T&D will state its intention to negotiate a future farming agreement with Mr. Gauthier outside of this agreement.
6. T&D Wood Energy will close on the property no later than 1 year from the date of signing the agreement.
7. T&D Wood Energy will be responsible for and pay all legal fees associated with the development and recording of property closing documents.
8. An earnest deposit of \$25,000 is required upon signing the terms of the agreement. If the property is not closed in 6-months from the date of signing the agreement, then an additional earnest deposit of \$25,000 is required. The amount would be credited against the purchase price if the property closings are executed within one year from the signing of the agreement. If not, LACWA and T&D may negotiate and agree to an extension or new terms, or the agreement shall terminate. Upon failure of reaching closing, all earnest money shall belong to LACWA, and T&D Wood Energy shall remove any equipment and restore the property to its original condition.
9. T&D Wood Energy will be allowed the use of the property upon execution of the agreement and payment of the \$25,000 earnest deposit. T&D Wood Energy shall acquire and maintain liability insurance listing LACWA and an additional insured.
10. In consideration of items 1-9, T&D wood energy agree to pay LACWA four hundred and ninety thousand dollars (\$490,000) upon closing of said parcel, paid over a 7-year period with terms that include owner financing with zero interest, payments of \$70,000 annually paid each January 1 of each year.”

Travis informed the board that based on recent discussions with the DEP, there may be some pathways to successful corrective action on the groundwater items that may accomplish the same thing a VRAP approval would. Travis plans to work with the various department of the DEP, and the interested parties of T&D Wood Energy to see how best to move forward. The agreement may need to be crafted not so specific to a “VRAP approval”, and maybe something more like an acceptable level of risk as it relates to existing site groundwater conditions. Travis will work with all parties to draft the agreements and will provide it to the board for review. Kevin Gagne seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion passed.

New Business

September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting date: Rescheduled to September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 A.M.

Informational Items

Staffing: We are down a mechanic and are hopeful to fill this position 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