

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 December 13, 2024, at 7:30 a.m. at the Authority offices at 535 Lincoln St. Lewiston

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

Directors absent: Jeff Beaulé

General Manager: Travis Peaslee

Assistant General Manager: Paula Drouin

Secretary: Candace Taylor

Treasurer: Absent

Dan Goyette called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

Jamie Belleau, a local attorney contact recommended by Phil Crowell, was present to discuss the PFAS litigations. After much discussion, Travis will email a list of board concerns and an updated retainer agreement for him to review.

Norm Lamie made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 8, 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. Mark Adams seconded, all others approved, and the motion passed.

Mike Broadbent made a motion to set first quarter cost apportionment at 63% Lewiston/37 % Auburn. 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

Auburn – Mike Broadbent reported that a cross-connection error is being fixed for the winter. Catch basins when backed up goes into sewer lines creating overflows. Cleaning lines with Vortex, Ted Berry. And getting ready for 2025.

Lewiston – Kevin Gagnon reported they have new staff on board. Working on upgrades, sewer lining work on Randall Rd.

General Manager Report

Biosolids Deliveries: Travis Peaslee reported that we were able to deliver all 610 yards of material directly to Hartland, but due to the holiday will see higher than normal volume for December due to the extended periods of holding material.

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 generated slightly less than average amounts of gas, but higher than average power for the month. Despite the mechanical repairs we plan to make to CHP #2 in the near future, things remain good on this front.

Septic Receiving: Travis Peaslee reported that in November the Authority received 380,300 gallons of septic waste, which is 1,300 gallons or \$182 more than budgeted. Year-to-date the Authority is 1,098,550 gallons or \$153,797 more than budgeted.

Effluent Quality: Travis Peaslee reported that the effluent continues to look good. There were zero influent bypass events, no use of the secondary bypass, and roughly 184 million gallons were treated. The DEP is working with us on the HG investigation, and we have also been working with the Lewiston staff since we are fairly certain that its side of the river, we are getting it from. We don't have much more to report at the moment, but will share any findings as we continue to look and sample throughout the collection system.

Old Business

Biosolids & PFAS.

Travis Peaslee reported that on the Lewiston landfill license amendment front, we have submitted the required on-site mixing study report, so the ball is back in the Dep court. Travis is hoping to have it written loosely so that we can adjust volumes, as future operations adjust.

Travis Peaslee reported that he continues to work closely with Brown & Caldwell on the 30% dryer design update. Travis was hopeful to have a draft before the end of the year, but there were a few personnel challenges on their end that might push this back into early January.

Travis Peaslee reported that Waste Management continues efforts to finalize their final draft of a services offer for future use of their dryer project, and he anticipates receiving it within the next month or two if they can come to terms with CMP on back-up power.

Travis has signed the NDA with the evolving technology company, and we have sent them a couple different samples to experiment with. The company owner is scheduled to visit on the 7th, and Travis should be able to get more information and sense of feasibility at that time

After discussing emergency back-up agreements with Biogenie, it appears they would require testing beyond what we are currently doing, since they compost and all our other options landfill. Given our recent hits of HG, Travis has elected not to perform the necessary testing at this time, and have removed us as emergency use customers for now. He will re-visit all of this once we have more information about the dryer project and WM dryer offer.

Travis sent off the required annual update letter to compost facility abutters, and am working with SME on our required annual compost facility ground water report. This should wrap up the 4 years of statistically decreasing trends the DEP was looking for before they would make any determination on our request for successful corrective action.

CSO Project:

Construction is well underway, and we have now reviewed and provided comment back on the IFC drawings. Nearly all permits have been obtained, and most of the design comments have been addressed and closed. Pump station modeling is still underway, and a demonstration was provided to the team on December 6th.

We are holding bi-weekly construction meetings every other Thursday at 1pm if anyone is interested in attending. Over the next month, Sargent plans to install new water service at second driveway, install pump station sheeting, excavate pump station cofferdam & install interior support and continue duct bank installation.

The last item rolled in to this comprehensive change order, is a request to replace our 50+ year old plant water strainer, as well as installation of an upstream isolation valve for that equipment. Because of the equipment age, and the addition of fairly large adds to this system for pump station and tank cleaning, we asked for a new strainer to be installed as part of this project.

We have evaluated each individual change order and agree with the proposed cost/reduction. These changes need to be sent to DEP for their approval, but below is where the comprehensive CO#1 stands:

Emergency generator-(\$720,000.00)
Secondary access road-\$28,000.00
Main switchgear PLC upgrade-\$139,818.00
Emergency power auto transfer switch-\$192,323.90
Plant water strainer & isolation valve- \$175,000

(\$184,858.10)

The Plant water strainer and isolation valve need further discussion around changeout sequencing and fine tuning of labor hours; however, Sargent feels the figure provided is conservative and likely go down once they finalize approach.

Norm Lamie made a motion to approve change order #1 with Sargent Corporation for a contract reduction amount of at least \$ 184,858.10. Kevin Gagne seconded, all others approved, and the motion passed. After Sargent provides the final figures, I will send to DEP for their approval, prior to formally approving with Sargent.

Name Change

Travis Peaslee reported that Representative Kristen Cloutier is willing to sponsor the legislative change and has confirmed the bill has been submitted.

Compost Facility

Travis Peaslee reported the draft P&S agreement has been presented to TD Wood and he is awaiting feedback. Travis has recently spoken with Dave Bell, who reiterated his interest in the abutting land, and also provided Jay Brenchick with some facility information for a press release the city would like to publicize when/if we come to an agreement with TD Wood company.

Board appointments:

Norm is able to continue to serve until a successor is found.

New Business

Septic Rules and Regulations: As part of our annual review, we made some fairly minor changes that we would like to get formal approval on before adopting.

Norm Lamie made a motion to adopt the changes made to the septic rules and regulations. Steve Ness seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

2025 Draft Budget: We have provided the budget summary sheet within the packet and public notice was provided.

Norm Lamie made a motion to approve the 2025 budget for an amount of \$4,860,555.00 Mike Broadbent seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

2025 Draft CIP: Steve Ness made a motion to approve the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan. Kevin Broadbent seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Election of Officers: Norm Lamie made a motion to elect Dan Goyette as the LACWA Board Chair, Ralph Lenfestey as the LACWA Treasurer and Travis Peaslee as the LACWA Clerk, to serve in these roles through the year of 2025. Mike Broadbent seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Informational Items

Staffing update: Travis Peaslee reported that the Authority has one additional mechanic position currently advertised.

Norm Lamie: Mark Adams made a nice presentation for Norm's time on the Board, they renamed the Board room and placed a nice plaque on the wall in Norm's honor.

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