

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 February 14, 2025, at 7:30 a.m. at the Authority offices at 535 Lincoln St. Lewiston

Directors Present: Dan Goyette
 Kevin Gagne
 Mark Adams
 Mike Broadbent
 Jeff Beaulé

Directors absent: William Horn
 Steve Ness

General Manager: Travis Peaslee

Assistant General Manager: Paula Drouin

Secretary: Candace Taylor

Treasurer: Ralph Lenfestey

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

Mike Broadbent made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 10, 2025, meeting. Kevin Gagne seconded, all others approved, and the minutes were placed on file.

Financial Reports

Travis Peaslee reviewed the financial reports. Kevin Gagne made a motion to approve the financial reports. Mike Broadbent seconded, all others approved, and the motion passed.

Annual report on Investments

Ralph Lenfestey gave an update on the 2024 investments. YTD interest income earned from all sources amounted to \$61,947, which represents an increase over the prior year of \$36,851 from \$25,096. Total value of the Authority's investments increased over the year by \$1,244,834. With the need to consider the Authority's cash flow needs pertaining to significant capital expenditures over the next few years, recommendation would be to keep investments at the current level.

Public Comment

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

Report from Cities/Sewer Districts

Auburn reported that they are assessing next steps to address a cross connection on Mechanics Row, and may have identified another area of inflow from their own reservoir. Lewiston reported that they are still waiting on lining contractors to start some work, and most efforts are being put towards preparation for future summer projects.

General Manager Report

Biosolids Deliveries: Travis Peaslee reported that we were able to deliver all 572 yards of material directly to Hartland.

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 average amounts of gas and 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 January the Authority received 132,700 gallons of septic waste, which is 16,950 gallons or \$2,373 more than budgeted.

Effluent Quality: Travis Peaslee reported that the effluent continues to look good. We had no influent bypass events, no use the secondary bypass, and treated roughly 236 million gallons. DEP is working with us on the HG investigation, and we recently submitted to them good effluent HG results, with another test planned for February.

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. It is unclear at the moment how this will all be written in to the final permit amendment, but we are 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. They are working with equipment vendors and a 3rd party cost estimator and hope to have all of this wrapped up by the middle of the month. Travis goal is to have the updated design summarized with possible recommendations for the March board meeting.

Travis Peaslee reported that Waste Management has provided him with their final service agreement to consider and has asked that we provide them with our intent at our March meeting.

With the anticipated WM offer, and 30% dryer design update, Travis has reached out and requested updated proposals from both Casella (Juniper ridge Landfill) and Biogenie (Quebec composting facility). Working to compile all of this information into a comprehensive biosolids management document that he hopes to have ready for the March board meeting.

Travis has signed an NDA with the evolving technology company Honey Shyne. We have sent them a couple different samples to experiment with, the owner has visited our site, and we have since had multiple meetings to further discuss feasibility. Travis has spoken with Brown & Caldwell about this technology a bit, and they have agreed to be part of a future presentation to understand more, while also asking enough questions to be able to make a recommendation to us on whether or not a pilot would make sense. Both sides are currently working through an NDA that could work, so once that is in place, Travis would anticipate a more in-depth meeting with all sides.

DEP has begun reviewing our annual compost facility report, along with our request for them to make a determination on our claim of successful corrective action. We haven't been able to get them to nail down a meeting but we are hopeful we can get them and SME to the table over the next month or so.

BGS & DEP are in receipt of a report about wet waste bulking agent availability that we hope to see as soon as it's finalized. BGS plans to present the finding to ENR, which will have a huge impact on the proposed bill LD 297, which is a 3-year extension on recycling goals that impact availability of oversized bulky waste for landfills. Casella submitted a similar bill asking for a 5-year extension, but until that BGS report is released, we don't think anybody knows how much time is really needed.

Travis had meetings with the DEP to discuss the potential biosolids bond, LD 25, that we are hoping to get on the November referendum. The bill is for \$50M, although there was talk that the Governor may have put \$60M in her bond package. We are working with groups that we hope will support this and are hopeful to convince legislators to pass the bill and get in front of voters.

The EPA released a much-anticipated risk assessment for PFOA & PFOS in biosolids, and the results were a little disappointing in that the model was designed to protect a very unrealistic farm family. The risk assessment was due to go to public comment, and then a future process of risk management in order to determine what, if any, standards would be set. The Trump administration took office a week after the release, and has frozen the process for now, so it's hard to tell where all this may go over the next 4 years. Also, the regulatory freeze was placed on the process underway to establish effluent pfas limits.

The couple other pieces of legislation that we are following are: LD 231 which looks to move waste processing and incineration up the solid waste hierarchy; and LD 235 which would require DEP to evaluate purchasing the Jay mill landfill for biosolids landfiling, for them to make a public determination on JRL, and to establish rule to develop landfill leachate treatment standards.

CSO Project:

Project is moving along well; the weather has been fairly cooperative for Sargent. We are finishing up addressing design comments for the IFC drawings, which are expected to be finalized on the 14th, and we are not aware of any real issues. The sheet piles for the pump station gave Sargent some fits and required some contracted equipment/personnel to be brought in, but are now fully installed. We have also issued our public notice of intent to file our air permit amendment for the new generator, and anticipate that process taking at least 3-6 months.

On January 21st, we closed on our \$9.98M loan, although we don't anticipate needing to tap in to those funds until May or June. As noted last month, we will go through the process of obtaining the remaining \$8M needed over the next 3-4 months.

At the last meeting, the board approved change order #1, for a contract reduction amount of at least \$184,858.10. Since, we have been working with Sargent to finalize the figures for the plant water strainer & isolation valve, so that we could have a final figure and complete package to send to the DEP for approval. In the process of doing so, and as a result of finalizing comments on the IFC drawings, three additional small items we requested were identified as PCOs. Those items are:

- Additional paved walkways
- Additional shrubs between existing trees along boat launch
- Additional bollards at Structure B

Because we never finalized CO#1, and now that all additional items have been identified through IFC design, Sargent and Travis thought it made sense to consider consolidating these three new items and updating our approval for CO#1. If approved, Travis will send to DEP for their approval, prior to formally approving with Sargent.

Mike Broadbent made a motion to approve change order #1 with Sargent Corporation for a contract reduction amount of \$150,339.10 Kevin Gagne seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Name Change

Representative Kristen Cloutier and Senator Bickford sponsored this legislative change, and LD 114 "An Act to Amend the Charter of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority" had a hearing scheduled for Thursday, Feb 6th. Paula attended and the public hearing on this bill, and no questions were asked by the committee, and there was no opposition. A meeting was scheduled for February 13th, but got cancelled due to the weather. We are still waiting to when the work session will be held.

Compost Facility

The draft P&S agreement has been presented to TD Wood, and we are awaiting feedback. As noted earlier, We hope to discuss the groundwater component with DEP which will be a huge

component in how we move forward with that property. TD Wood informed us that they are working on all of this, albeit slowly. TD Wood is shooting for April or May to sign the Purchase & Sale agreement, and to provide down payment.

PFAS Litigation: Travis provided Jamie with all the requested information and is now just awaiting responses. Jamie recently indicated that since there is no pending litigation, that he thought we should just pause for now and wait for things to evolve before engaging. The Board agreed to remove this item from future agendas until such time warrants.

New Business

Solar Power: We have been in discussions with Soltec, a solar developer that is the selected firm of Maine Power Options. We discuss three solar opportunities: VRAP at the treatment plant, treatment rooftop units, and the Closed landfill. We are still working through proforma's and discussing feasibility with them, but it generally sounds like rooftops wouldn't make sense, that the VRAP site is roughly a 9-year payback, and that the closed sludge landfill site would probably be a better candidate to just lease the land to a solar developer. Travis was asked to follow up with Soltec, and to evaluate the economics and feasibility of installing PV at the VRAP, and using the power onsite vs. sending it out to the grid.

2024 Utilities Summary: Travis provided 2024 summary sheets for our utilities within the packet to highlight the efforts we put forth to minimize our utility consumption.

CSO Annual Summary: Travis provided a summary report within that packet which shows fairly average results. The year started out wet with some very large storms but then was relatively dry with most storms being very small, and likely not even triggering bypass once we can handle 38MGD into the plant. The other items worth noting here are: Annual CSO report has been submitted to the DEP; CSO Masterplan update is due in late 2025; our current masterplan requirements are to have the CSO tank online before June 2026, and to perform post construction monitoring thru July 2027.

General Manager review: There was no discussion on next steps.

March Meeting: After a brief discussion it was decided to move the meeting to March 18th at 7:30.

Informational Items

Staffing update: Travis Peaslee reported that the Authority is now fully staffed.

Auburn Solar Development: Blue Wave has issued an intent to file permit by rule notification for the property at 371 Penley Corner Rd. and have informed Travis that they believe they are on track to exercise the \$7,500 option before it expires 2/21/25.

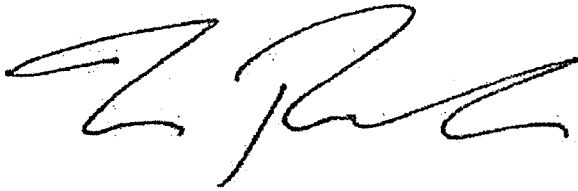
Climate Adaptation Plan: Travis was notified during the loan closing process that our CAP grant was reduced from the originally awarded \$25k to \$20k. DEP stated that \$25K was intended for

coastal communities only. Wright Pierce has confirmed that they can scale back and complete the CAP for the awarded amount of \$20k.

Adjourn

Kevin Gange made a motion to adjourn. Mike Broadbent 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