

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 March 18, 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
 Jim Horn
 Steve Ness

Directors absent: Jeff Beaulé

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.

Jim Horn, the new Lewiston representative board member was welcomed and introduced to everyone in the room.

Kevin Gagne made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 14, 2025, meeting. Mike Broadbent seconded, all others approved, and the minutes were placed on file.

Financial Reports

Travis Peaslee reviewed the financial reports. Second quarter Cost Apportionment was set at 62% Lewiston, 38% Auburn.

Steve Ness made a motion to approve the financial reports. 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

Lewiston reported that they are focusing on I&I projects, and Auburn reported that they are planning to separate a storm drain on Mechanics row, and also plan to line a pipe in front of City Hall.

General Manager Report

Biosolids Deliveries: Travis Peaslee reported that we were able to deliver all 506 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 above 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 February the Authority received 93,500 gallons of septic waste, which is 11,500 gallons or \$1,610 less than budgeted. Year-to-date, we have received 19,450 gallons or \$2,723 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 164 million gallons. DEP is working with us on the HG investigation, and we recently submitted to them good effluent HG results for January and February, which has allowed us to return to a normal 1x year frequency.

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 has spoken with them recently and they indicated that they had everything they needed to finalize the draft order for special waste acceptance, and expects to see the amendment soon.

The DEP has now issued us successful corrective action for the compost facility ground water issue. There were three conditions to the determination 1) update our EMP to include sampling for PFAS, 2) land use controls that will restrict residential use of the site, and 3) measures to permanently prevent water from the facility water supply well from being consumed (Due to PFAS exceedance). This information has been shared with the prospective buyers and they are discussing it with their legal and financial team. Travis met with SME to discuss the determination, and has asked that they perform the requested EMP update, and also evaluate site sampling location and frequencies as part of the EMP update that we owe the Department to see

if any of it warrants reduction. Travis plans to have a meeting with DEP staff to better understand their request for land and well restrictions.

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.

Travis included a biosolids management document in the packet, and after discussion with the Board, Kevin Gagne made a motion to reject the Waste Management offer, and to develop a plan and timeline for advancing design of an onsite dryer project. Steve Ness seconded, all were in favor, and the motion passed.

CSO Project:

The project is picking up speed and the site is getting tight quickly. We are finishing up addressing design comments for the post IFC drawings, which were sent on the 17th, and we are not aware of any real construction or design issues. The sheet piles for the pump station are in and all whalers in-place, so forms and concrete are next. The diversion structure sheets are in and the top whaler welded, but that likely won't be touched again until the pump station structure is complete. The support building walls are in and the roof construction is expected to start any day now. Also, the tank pre-load is being removed and we expect the tank foundation work to begin within the month.

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 2-4 months. Additionally, CO#1 has been submitted to the DEP, and once we have their approval, we will process things on the CA side.

Lewiston Councilor Chittim recently informed Travis of a complaint received regarding work beginning before 7AM, fugitive dust, noise, and vibration from our site, by a resident at 526 Lincoln Street. Travis met with the residents to discuss their concerns on March 7th, along with members of the Sargent team, and feels that all items of concern were addressed.

On the influent pump project, two of the three KSB were factory tested on February 27th in Germany. Travis was able to witness a portion of the testing virtually and both pumps performed well in testing. The third pump will be tested this week, and another virtual opportunity will be provided. The first two pumps are expected to land around the first of May, and the third around the beginning of June. We have not seen a construction schedule yet, but anticipate install, start-up, and testing to take about 3-4 weeks each.

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, at which there were no questions or opposition. The work session had the same results and received unanimous approval from the EUT committee. The bill still needs full legislative approval, but should be approved and would go in to effect 90-days after the end of the session.

Compost Facility

The draft P&S agreement has been presented to TD Wood and they are working through the process with their legal and financial team. They recently indicated that they were hoping to sign the P&S and provide down payment by April. As previously indicated, they now have a sense of the environmental expectations for the site, so we will have to see if any of that impacts their position on the property. If they do elect to move forward, Travis will need to start the closure process with DEP, relinquish site licenses, and also submit and get approval from Auburn for site closure.

New Business

Solar Power: We have been in discussions with Soltec, a solar developer that is the selected firm of Maine Power Options. With the many legislative changes being proposed on the Net Energy Billing (NEB) front, we have decided to put the brakes on this for a couple months while we understand what any changes to the program would mean for a proposed project onsite.

City of Lewiston public toilets

The city has installed five 1,500-gallon, and two 130-gallon public toilets, and recently hired Troiano to have them pumped. They anticipate pumping less than 5,000 gallons total per year from the larger units, and approximately 2,500 gallons total per year from the two smaller units. At our current acceptance rate of \$0.14, this equates to a little over \$1,000. The board decided not to create new administrative structure for the City facilities, and instead simply charge the hauler(s) for any material disposed of at our site.

CSO Masterplan Update: We have historically participated in a 3-party masterplan update submission to the DEP. The City of Lewiston is typically the lead, and has engaged with Tighe & Bond to perform the update required to be submitted by the end of this year. Tighe & Bond submitted a proposed scope of work for all three entities, totaling \$256,970. They estimated a split for each entity, with LACWA proposed cost being \$28,070. We are not certain how they derived that estimate, but it represents 10.9% of the total cost, or 17.5% of the labor cost, as Lewiston would be on the hook for all the reimbursable cost. These % are in-line with what we paid in 2020. Other than putting the CSO Tank online, and doing some post construction monitoring, we don't think we will have much to offer the DEP in the update. We have historically paid for CWAMP updates with RR funds, and recommend doing the same again.

Mike Broadbent made a motion to approve LACWA pay the City of Lewiston for our portion of the CSO master plan update, at a cost of \$28,070.00, to be paid for with reserve for replacement funds. Mark Adams seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Informational Items

Staffing update: Travis Peaslee reported that the Authority is back to 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 informed Travis that they are ready to exercise the \$7,500 option before it expires 3/23/25. Travis will sign and return the easement termination agreement this week.

Adjourn

Mark Adams 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