

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEWISTON- AUBURN CLEAN WATER AUTHORITY

The regular meeting of the Lewiston-Auburn Clean Water Authority was held on April 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
 Jeff Beaule
 Jim Horn
 Steve Ness

Directors absent: N/A

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. Mike Broadbent made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 18, 2025, meeting. Kevin Gagne seconded, all others approved, and the minutes were placed on file.

Financial Reports

Travis Peaslee reviewed the financial reports. Jeff Beaule made a motion to approve the financial reports. Mike Broadbent 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

Both Cities reported there is a lot of paving being done. Kevin Gagne reported that storm water fees will be going up this year, and that their new administrator starts May 5th.

General Manager Report

Biosolids Deliveries: Travis Peaslee reported that we were able to deliver all 748 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 this year, things remain good on this front.

Septic Receiving: Travis Peaslee reported that in March the Authority received 211,900, which is 59,900 gallons or \$8,386 more than budgeted. Year-to-date, we have received 97,350 gallons or \$13,629 more than budgeted.

Effluent Quality: Travis Peaslee reported that the effluent continues to look good. We had 2 influent bypass events, no use the secondary bypass, and treated roughly 422 million gallons. We did experience one minor effluent settleable solids violation due to the intensity of the wet weather event early in the month, but we believe we have implemented controls to prevent a similar incident in the future.

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 and they indicated that they had everything they needed to finalize the draft order for special waste acceptance.

The DEP has now issued us successful corrective action for the compost facility ground water issue. There were three conditions to the determination. Update our EMP to include sampling for PFAS, Land use controls that will restrict residential use of the site, and measures to permanently preventing water from the facility water supply well from being consumed (Due to PFAS exceedance). Travis had meetings with SME to discuss the EMP requirements, and is hopeful that we can make a case to the DEP to reduce the frequency of site testing to 1x/year. We are trying to schedule a meeting with DEP staff, to have clarity on this soon. He also had a meeting with DEP staff to discuss the stated site restrictions and measures to prevent consumption from the drinking well. They were unable to answer most of his questions, but have committed to getting answers and re-convening soon. DEP internally need to develop a process to relinquish the site, and that they have moved that up their priority list so that we can move forward once we have a P&S agreement. One item that they are also looking into, is what process might look like if the site were to become a VRAP. Travis will keep everyone updated as these discussions evolve.

Travis informed Waste Management of our intentions, and also let Casella and Biogenie know that we are currently only interested in no-volume emergency back-up agreements. He has also been working on developing a project plan, budget, and timeline for the board to consider, and plans to present that at our May 9th board meeting.

CSO Project:

The project is in full gear, and the site is filling up quickly. We finished addressing design comments for the post IFC drawings, have submitted our application for an air permit amendment, and are also working with City planning staff on tree buffering adjacent to the warming shelter.

The sheet piles for the pump station are in and all walers in place, so forms and concrete are next. The diversion structure sheets are in and the top waler 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 complete, so now they are on to utilities installation within the building. The tank pre-load is now removed, tank drains installed, and Dutch land staff are onsite starting the tank foundation work.

We closed on our \$9.98M loan, and have submitted the request for the remaining \$8M needed. CO#1 has been processed and will start showing up in the next pay req. We anticipate swapping over to SRF funds for the CSO project in June or July, but will still hold onto ARPA/Auburn Loan funds to pay for the influent pump station project. Over the next month, Sargent plans to construct the Pump station, install utilities in support building, Continue electrical preparation within the treatment plant and construct tank foundation.

On the influent pump project, all three KSB were factory tested, and should be on a boat making their way over at this point. Coordination meetings are scheduled, but as of now, it looks like Damon will begin that project the first week of June, and would be 3-4 weeks installing and testing out each pump.

Compost Facility Use

The draft P&S agreement has been presented to TD Wood and they are working through the process with their legal and financial team. We have had a few discussions lately and it appears that the successful corrective action will not be enough to satisfy their traditional lenders, so are seeking counsel and alternative means. They have also reached out to the City of Auburn to see what assistance they may be able to provide. Travis has discussed some of this with the DEP, and they indicated that they will dig deeper into the potential site VRAP process, which Travis believes would give the Wood company what they are looking for. We anticipate some back-and-forth negotiations on this front, but did let them know that we have other prospective buyers that have no conditions to their offers. We are hopeful to get this settled over the next month or two.

New Business

None to report.

Informational Items

Staffing update: Travis Peaslee reported our facility tech slipped on some ice back in January and recently had shoulder surgery as a result of this work-related accident. We anticipate bringing him back on modified duty in early May.

Plant updates: We recently completed our bisulfite tank replacement project, which involved installing new tanks, piping, and a bank of windows. We also recently completed a project installing lifting beams in the DEB lower-level building which will allow us to safely remove and work on our large digester mixing pumps. Lastly, we have been working with a vendor on equipment that is designed to remove grit from sludge, which has the potential to save a lot of downstream equipment, as well as reduce the amount of material that fills up and wastes space within our digesters. The equipment is supposed to be left here as part of a no liability or obligation pilot project over the summer.

Auburn Solar Development: Blue Wave moved forward and exercised the option for solar development on the property at 371 Penley Corner Rd., meaning we have released our conservation easement on that roughly 9 acres of property, and will now receive the agreed upon \$7,500 that is in addition to the \$2,500 we initially received.

Executive Session:

Mark Adams made a motion to enter into executive session. Steve Ness seconded, all others approved, and the motion passed. Came out of executive session at 8:16.

Mike Broadbent made a motion to proceed with a salary adjustment for the General Manager, that will be effective January 1, 2025. Steve Ness seconded, all others approved, and the motion passed.

Adjourn

Kevin Gagne made a motion to adjourn. Steve Ness seconded, all others 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