

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 May 9, 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
 Jim Horn
 Steve Ness

Directors absent: N/A

General Manager: Travis Peaslee

Assistant General Manager: Paula Drouin

Secretary: Paula Drouin

Treasurer: Ralph Lenfesty

Dan Goyette called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m. Kevin Gagne made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 18, 2025, meeting. Steve Ness seconded, all others approved, and the minutes were placed on file.

Financial Reports

Travis Peaslee reviewed the financial reports. He included that the auditors intend to have a draft by the end of the month, a summary of the findings will be presented at the June board meeting and the auditors can present at the July board meeting. Jeff Beaulé 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

Mike Broadbent reported that Auburn is working on paving and manhole projects, including installing 6-8 new manholes. Mike has been monitoring the plug put in at Mechanic Row during wet weather events and it seems to have helped significantly.

Jeff Beaulieu reported that Lewiston is putting in manholes and wrapping up CCTV work and will be installing liners soon. Kevin Gagne reported the new city administrator started yesterday and he met with them.

General Manager Report

Biosolids Deliveries: Travis Peaslee reported that we were able to deliver all 770 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 this year, things remain good on this front.

Septic Receiving: Travis Peaslee reported that in April the Authority received 367,250 gallons, which is 62,250 gallons or \$8,715 more than budgeted. Year-to-date, we have received 159,600 gallons or \$22,344 more than budgeted.

Effluent Quality: Travis Peaslee reported that the effluent continues to look good. There were no effluent violations and no use of influent or secondary bypass. The facility treated roughly 354 million gallons.

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's court. They indicated that they had everything they needed to finalize the draft order for special waste acceptance..

Travis Peaslee reported that he was hoping to have a recommended biosolids management plan and timeline to consider; however, he is still waiting on information and is in the middle of negotiations with Brown and Caldwell on a biosolids dryer scope and design cost. Travis also reported that we will have to wait to determine what will be available for funding, which will likely be clearer this time next year. Travis reported that even if the dryer project was approved today, there is an approximate start time of three years, which is longer than the current timeline LACWA has at the Hartland Landfill. Travis reported that in the meantime, there are needed

items that staff can start working on now, such as sludge bay extension scope and cost, and conducting a waste mix study with dried biosolids to determine feasibility of disposal at the Lewiston landfill or disposal by incineration. There were discussions regarding financing, process control and the potential to bring in outside wastes. Travis responded that he is considering all options operationally and financially, but there are too many unknown variables. There were discussions regarding other potential treatment options and disposal options as well as other projects happening throughout the state.

Farm Licenses: Travis Peaslee reported that the Authority has not land applied biosolids in 5+ years and have no prospects of resuming. The DEP has stated if it was to be allowed again in the future that the program would undergo a major overhaul, likely with additional requirements and definite liability to land appliers. The Authority has 10 farms and program license annual costs of ~\$7,500 plus CPI increases, which is an unnecessary expense to carry. Holding land application licenses can also draw negative attention to the Authority. Kevin Gagne made a **“motion to relinquish LACWA land application program and farm licenses”**. Mike Broadbent seconded, all others approved and the motion passed.

Travis Peaslee reported that staff are tracking legislation at the state-level on:

- LD 25: \$50 million general fund bond for planning and construction of infrastructure projects facilitating proper management and disposal of wastewater sludge or biosolids. Submitted testimony in favor.
- LD 297: emergency preamble - an act regarding the management of oversized bulky waste from wastewater treatment plants. Submitted testimony in favor of extending the use of bulky waste for 3-years (July 2028) and allow our industry and the DEP time to develop sustainable and environmentally sound solutions to biosolids disposal that limit the amount of material needing landfilling and/or reducing the necessary volumes of bulky waste.
- LD 1604 an act to protect groundwater and surface waters from PFAS from landfill leachate. This bill, which leaves many questions, seems to take a swipe at wastewater plants and could lead to PFAS effluent limits. While good intentioned, it would put itself wrongly out front of the work already being done, resulting in significant financial impacts to our ratepayers. We submitted testimony in opposition and asked the committee to allow PFAS source elimination efforts to continue and to allow our industry, the EPA, and DEP the time to develop sustainable and environmentally sound solutions to the problems this legislation is attempting to address.

Federal level – There are toxicology groups taking PFAS rules to court.

CSO Project:

Travis Peaslee reported that the project is moving along nicely in part due to the favorable weather. Current activities include: vertical construction of the pump station, inner walls for the

tank were poured, in ground plumbing and electrical for the support building completed and floor to be poured soon, process and city water piping was installed. Within the next month they will start to install the CSO tank wall panels and they will host a lunch and learn event for interested parties. They are in the process of installing the doghouse manhole on top of the Lewiston influent line. Damon Mechanical should be starting the influent pump project the first week of June.

Travis anticipates hearing back from DEP on \$8 million award and whether LACWA is eligible for grant funding by the middle of the month.

Compost Facility Use

Travis Peaslee reported that the draft P&S agreement has been presented to TD Wood and they are working through the process with their legal and financial team. Travis has 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. 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 TD Wood company what they are looking for. Travis anticipates 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.

New Business

Travis Peaslee reviewed the window recommendation which was included in the board packet. Mike Broadbent made a **“motion to award the asbestos removal project to Acadia Contractors for an amount of \$10,455 to be paid from the Reserve for Replacement account”**. Steve Ness seconded, all others approved and the motion passed. Mike Broadbent made a **“motion to award the window replacement project to Granite State Glass for an amount of \$43,060 to be paid for from the Reserve for Replacement account”**. Steve Ness seconded, all others approved and the motion passed.

Informational Items

Staffing update: Travis Peaslee reported that the employee out on workers comp will be returning to work on modified duty next week.

Auburn Solar Development: Travis Peaslee reported that 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 (this week) that is in addition to the \$2,500 we initially received.

Travis Peaslee reported that a top end overhaul of the #2 CHP unit was approved as part of the CIP. Staff are watching oil test results and hope the work can be done later in the year after other

projects are completed. In case oil results indicate action needs to be taken sooner, LACWA would like approval for this project now. Kevin Gagne made a **“motion to approve a CHP top end overhaul for an amount not to exceed \$85,000, paid for from the Reserve for Replacement account”**. Steve Ness seconded, all others approved and the motion passed.

Travis Peaslee reported that Paula Drouin will be leading the June Board meeting and he will join remotely.

Adjourn

Mike Broadbent made a motion to adjourn. Steve Ness seconded, all others approved, and the meeting adjourned.

Attest,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Peaslee', written in a cursive style.

Travis B. Peaslee, General Manager