

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 June 13, 2025, at 7:30 a.m. at the Authority offices at 535 Lincoln St. Lewiston

Directors Present: Dan Goyette
 Mark Adams
 Mike Broadbent
 Jeff Beaulé
 Jim Horn
 Steve Ness

Directors absent: Kevin Gagne

General Manager: Travis Peaslee

Assistant General Manager: Paula Drouin

Secretary: Candace Taylor

Treasurer: Ralph Lenfestey

Dan Goyette called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m. Mike Broadbent made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2025, meeting. Steve Ness seconded, all others approved, and the minutes were placed on file.

Financial Reports

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

Mike Broadbent made a motion to approve the financial reports. Steve Ness seconded, all others approved, and the motion passed.

After a brief discussion on the 2024 audit, it was noted that Lewiston ended the year underpaid for cost apportionment an amount of \$1,566.74. To remove the deficit, we will re-pay Auburn \$1,566.74, which then results in a year end surplus of \$387,410.01.

Mike Broadbent made a motion to move the 2024 budget surplus of \$387,410.01 to the Reserve for Replacement account. 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

Both Cities reported there is a lot of paving being done and that they are continuing cleaning and lining projects.

General Manager Report

Biosolids Deliveries: Travis Peaslee reported that we were able to deliver all 836 yards of material directly to Hartland.

Anaerobic Digestion and Co-Generation: Travis Peaslee reported that things are operating well at the digestion complex. We generated average amounts of gas and power for the month, even though the #1 unit was the only one to operate. 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 May the Authority received 559,350 gallons, which is 159,350 gallons or \$22,309 more than budgeted. Year-to-date, we have received 318,950 gallons or \$44,653 more than budgeted.

Effluent Quality: The effluent continues to look good. We had no violations, two influent bypass events, no use of the secondary bypass, and treated roughly 391 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 court. They indicated that they had everything they need 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 has been working with the DEP and SME on the EMP updates and anticipates submitting the draft update within the next few weeks. We should be able to reduce our sampling frequency to 1x year moving forward. He has also spoke with the solid waste staff, who indicated that they are working on further defining the other two conditions as well as developing a process for relinquishing our compost facility license. With legislative activity slowing down a bit, Travis is hopeful the DEP can jump on this fairly soon.

Farm Licenses: We have submitted our request to relinquish our land application program license, as well as 10 site licenses. Once processed, we will no longer have a requirement to test our material for monthly metals, annual priority pollutants, or semi-annually for PFAS. The only analytical requirement moving forward would be the annual TCLP required by landfills.

Travis presented a biosolids management planning document, and discussed three possible scenarios for moving forward with a dryer project. The board expressed interest in moving forward with scenario #2, which involves pausing future dryer design while waiting on additional funding opportunities, and while further vetting air permit requirements and dried solids management opportunities.

CSO Project:

The project continues to go great. We received our draft air permit and are working through comments. We also worked through planning approval by adding a few evergreen trees on the corner near Lincoln Street and the 551 Lincoln Street property parking lot. We have started paying for the project from SRF funds, and was awarded the remaining \$8M needed from SRF yesterday.

We were informed that some of the major electrical components (switch gear, transfer switch, etc.) have significant lead times, and may not be received until around April 2026. The project was Slated to be substantial in Jan/Feb of 2026, so it's looking like that might get pushed out to June/July 2026, depending on when the gear actually arrives. Our DEP CSO masterplan agreement states that the tank will be operational 7/1/26, however, the DEP is aware of the situation and has already documented that they are understanding of the situation and will allow an extension of that deadline, if needed. There will be a lunch and learn event while Dutchland is placing vertical wall panels on June 26th from 11-1 if any board member would be interested in attending.

Major construction items over the past month:

Pump station vertical wall construction -250-yard pour, getting forms off and prepared to build higher walls the week of June 9th, Ductile iron pipe laid and live tap to water main, Process water piping installation, Floor poured in support building, Masonry wall installation in support building, Exterior door installation, and tank foundation poured-540 yards. Drain manhole placed.

On the influent pump project, we had a kickoff meeting on June 3rd, and have settled on June 23rd to start the project. We anticipate just over 1 month per pump, meaning we could go up to 3 months without high flow emergency back-up pumping. After the meeting, Travis was able to go see the pumps at Damon Mechanical, and we will also be sending staff over within the week to look over the pumps once Damon separates the volute and motor for installation purposes.

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. Travis has spoken with them recently and they

indicated they were having promising conversations with the lenders. Because we don't have the Lewiston landfill amendment in-hand yet, we don't think it's an absolute rush.

Travis finally had a meeting with the DEP VRAP staff regarding the site on May 21st, and the summary is: due to solid waste and licensure involvement a VRAP would be clunky and not preferred from their perspective; they do not believe a VRAP would provide any additional liability protection that a clearly defined and written closure order from the Solid waste department wouldn't provide; the same site controls would exist with a VRAP as a solid waste closure order. Their recommendation is that the TD Wood team define exactly what they are looking for, and then we pass that along to the DEP solid waste folks who would be issuing the yet to be defined closure process and order to see if they can address any or all concerns to give them what you need in order to proceed.

One site related item that has come up a few times, and seems to be the only remaining concern for the DEP, is PWI. As part of the EMP update, we will be allowed to reduce testing frequency to 1x year, but will need to note the DEP will re-assess if it becomes more active than historical use. The DEP, and SME, have both noted that closing that well and drilling a new one upstream could lessen liability and reduce future monitoring cost. While we agree fully with their assessment, this seems like a prudent step for a future land owner, and not necessarily action we want to take on the property at this time given that we are looking to sell the property "as-is".

New Business

Security camera project. The facility currently relies on perimeter fencing and locked doors for site security, and has never had a camera surveillance system. With the addition of CSO infrastructure close to Lincoln Street, and a warming center next door that is likely to become a homeless shelter, we feel it is time to install a site camera system to enhance security. The amount approved in the CIP in 2025 for this project is \$30,000; however, we were awarded \$20,000 from the Androscoggin County Emergency Management Agency towards this project. We have recently submitted the required environmental and historic prevention screening form, and anticipate no issues receiving approval back since we are not disturbing the site. LACWA staff worked directly with the security camera vendor that installed a similar system in Auburn to scope and price the project. Cunningham Security Systems out of Falmouth, Maine. The scope for Cunningham would be to install a NDAA-compliant CCTV system using (8) Hanwha cameras, configuring and integrating the cameras, and providing all shielded Cat 6 cabling. Their proposed cost for this scope is \$23,456.29. LACWA will provide and install all necessary conduit and strut and those costs, excluding labor, total \$3,833.10.

Mark Adams made a motion to approve the security camera project, and to award the purchase of all required security camera equipment, system integration, and training to Cunningham Security Systems, to be paid for from a \$20,000 Androscoggin County Emergency Management Agency grant, with the remaining amount, inclusive of required installation hardware, of \$7,339.39, to be paid for from the reserve for replacement account. Steve Ness seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

371 Penley Corner Road: The 109.8-acre Libson Farm was sold to Roger Gauthier in May 2021, as part of a property transaction that included multiple parcel acquisitions, and a release of life tenancy on our compost facility parcel. Roger is now interested in selling 64.9 acres of the property to a local farmer. The parcel also offers a right of first offer to the Authority. Because we are no longer land applying biosolids, are in the process of selling the compost parcel, and will still retain the full conservation easement of the property, we don't see why we wouldn't reject our right of first offer, and provide written approval for the 64.9 acres to be sold.

Steve Ness made a motion to allow Travis to draft a letter to reject our right of first offer and allow Roger to sell the 64.9 acres. Mike Broadbent seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Informational Items

Slope failure project: In the late fall of 2024, we hired Dube Gravel to remove a significant amount of sediment that had accumulated in our drainage area that captures flow from the upper Gendron properties. As part of the project, some vegetation was stripped and then re-seeded and mulched right before snow hit. This spring, with the heavy amount of rain and no new vegetation, we had pockets of material slough off the steeper portions of the hill and deposit back into the drainage channel. At this point, we believe the use of rip rap to stabilize those compromised areas is necessary, and have authorized Dube Gravel to come back and perform the necessary repairs before we experience further failure. This work was unbudgeted, yet necessary, and we plan to keep an eye on the total budget to ensure we stay on track with year-end.

Equipment pilot: We are planning to perform a pilot with a piece of Hydro International equipment designed to remove grit from primary sludge. The plan is to utilize the equipment, free of charge, throughout the summer, to see if it would be effective at not only what it is designed for, but also as a possible grit removal system for the digesters.

DEP Triennial review: The DEP is performing their 3-year review, and has been the case the past few reviews, there are requests to reclassify the Androscoggin River from Class C to Class B. The approval would ultimately be a legislative decision next session, but the public comment process has started now. We have read the associated report, and also plan to attend a public meeting on June 25th to better understand what impacts might exist for us. Because the DEP is proposing an approach to "meet in the middle", it is hard to know where this will fall, and how it will impact us at the moment, but we will continue to follow closely and provide updates when they exist.

Adjourn

Mike Broadbent 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