

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 August 11, 2023, at 7:30 a.m. at the Authority offices at 535 Lincoln St Lewiston

Directors Present:            Norm Lamie  
                                     Matt Waite  
                                     Dan Goyette  
                                     Mark Adams  
                                     Mary Ann Brenchick  
                                     Steve Ness

Directors Absent:            Jeff Beale

General Manager:            Travis Peaslee

Assistant General Manager: Paula Drouin

Secretary:                     Paula Drouin

Treasurer:                     absent

Norm Lamie called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Dan Goyette made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2023 meeting. Steve Ness seconded, all others approved, and the minutes were placed on file.

Financial Reports

Travis Peaslee reviewed the financial reports. Dan Goyette made a motion to approve the financial reports. Mary Ann Brenchick seconded, all others approved, and the motion passed.

Cost Apportionment

Travis Peaslee reported on influent BOD/TSS data. Dan Goyette made a motion to set August and September cost apportionment at 60% Lewiston/40% Auburn. 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

Dan Goyette reported that the city of Auburn is dealing with multiple cave-ins and is working to address an inflow issue near City Hall and Mechanic's Row. Matt Waite reported that they are working to identify trunk lines that tie into Miller St., which is nearby.

Mary Ann Brenchick reported that the city of Lewiston has a new sewer pump station currently out to bid and also that Tighe and Bond is working on a rate study.

Matt Waite reported that ~7500 ft. of sewer main has been relined and that the pump station work at Taylor Pond might not be possible this year due to the high-water table.

### General Manager Report

#### Biosolids Delivery

Travis Peaslee reported that LAWPCA produced 594 yds of material in July. Most was delivered directly to Hartland, but some material was stockpiled within the compost facility. Staff is now delivering 5 loads/week to Hartland and Ferreira will continue to haul three large loads of the stockpiled material each week. Staff hopes to have the remaining stockpiled material removed by the end of September.

#### Anaerobic Digestion & Cogeneration

Travis Peaslee reported that things are operating well at the digestion complex. Both co-generation units are operational and fair amounts of gas and power were produced, but feedstocks are down.

#### Septic Receiving

Travis Peaslee reported that 455,850 gallons of septic was discharged in July, which is 155,850 gallons or \$18,702 more than budgeted. Year-to-date: 534,450 gallons or \$64,134 more than budgeted.

#### Effluent Quality

Travis Peaslee reported that effluent quality is good but there were multiple severe wet weather events which delivered a steady amount of rain over the entire month, resulting in four influent bypass events. Travis Peaslee noted that over 30 MG was bypassed during a 6-day stretch at the end of the month with one event totaling 9.578 MG and the other 19.351 MG. Mary Ann Brenchick asked if the new CSO tank would help prevent bypassing in such storm situations. Travis replied that the tank is designed for a one-year storm and not for larger events like we've been experiencing. There was a brief discussion about the treatment plant and staff handling elevated flows well and how the new instrumentation will further help with that. Mark Adams asked how much more flow the treatment plant will capture because of the tank, i.e., is there an estimate of how many million gallons more per year we will be treated as

opposed to bypassed? Travis Peaslee reported that the duration and intensity of a storm heavily influences whether we will bypass or not. There was brief discussion on climate resiliency. Travis Peaslee reported flood is considered during design and that infrastructure will be raised a couple of feet to account for it.

### Old Business

#### Biosolids & PFAS

Travis Peaslee reported that the statewide comprehensive biosolids study, which is focusing on biosolids reduction, is underway and he is representing MEWEA and working with the DEP and Brown & Caldwell. He estimates this effort should wrap up in October-November time frame.

Travis Peaslee reported that LAWPCA staff continue to work on biosolids handling trials, and he should be ready to present findings to the board over the next few months.

Travis Peaslee reported that he has been in discussion with Efficiency Maine regarding potential funding assistance for a heat pump biosolids dryer. They are working to understand whether there would be operational savings enough to justify an award.

Travis Peaslee reported that SME reported the gas study results also showed that a 3:1 ratio of ash to biosolids should work well and provide the necessary stability without too much gas generation. The city of Lewiston will need to develop costs and LAWPCA's responsibility, which Mary Ann Brenchick made note of.

Travis Peaslee reported that the compost facility spring ground water monitoring results were sent to the DEP in June and both SME and he feel there is enough statistical data to justify backing off monitoring and/or stopping the pumping of water from the closed biofilter. A meeting with DEP has been requested to discuss this.

Travis Peaslee reported that the DEP has identified 10 facilities where they would like to do additional PFAS sampling, both within the facilities and in the collection system. LAWPCA is one of these facilities and has agreed to participate. Mark Adams asked whether LAWPCA should look at a threshold or standard for new industries that might move in to the area. Travis Peaslee replied that LAWPCA could go through a local limits exercise and calculations, but the hope is the DEP will use the data they are collecting to determine whether there might be limits enforced and what the limits might be, which would allow facilities to make more informed decisions. Mark Adams added that he feels the development sides of both cities should be on alert about this issue. Travis Peaslee made note of this request.

### CSO Project

Travis Peaslee reported that DEP had a handful of minor comments which have already been responded to and the RFP will go out Monday, August 14. There will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting two weeks later and then a mandatory pre-bid presentation session roughly four weeks after that. Bid responses are due back the first week of November at which time the

subcommittee will need to review and rank/assign points to determine which DB (design build) team to enter into negotiations with. The goal is to have agreements in place before the end of the year and for construction to start by the spring of 2024. Mark Adams requested that councils and trustees are informed of the timeline. Travis Peaslee made note of this request.

Travis Peaslee reported that the zoning amendment and property line agreements were approved by the planning board and the City Council. Mary Ann Brenchick will confirm the status of the property line transfer agreement signature and registration.

Travis Peaslee reported that a letter of intent to borrow SRF funds was sent to the DEP, was accepted, and they assigned staff to the project. The required environmental review was also submitted. After DEP approval of the RFP, the project will be ready to move forward.

Travis Peaslee reported that a proposal from the Sebago team to design and provide bidding and construction services on the influent pump upgrade project was received. This project is anticipated to be conventional design-bid-build and hopefully would be completed well before the CSO tank project is complete. Given the interconnection of the design to the CSO tank project, he recommends awarding to the Sebago Technics/AECOM team. Mary Ann Brenchick made a motion to **“approve award of influent pump upgrade project professional services to the Sebago Technics and AECOM team for a time & material not to exceed price of \$123,588.67, to be paid for from the CSO tank project funds”**. Steve Ness seconded. Mark Adams abstained, all others approved and the motion passed. Mary Ann Brenchick requested the schedule be emailed to both cities. Travis Peaslee made note of this request.

Travis Peaslee reported the process control instrumentation is onsite and the plan is to sole source and work with EII (Electrical Installations, LLC). Tentatively, the scope and work for installation and integration will be ready for the September Board meeting, and new equipment operational by late October/early November.

#### Public Relations Project

Travis Peaslee reported that the website overhaul is complete. The subcommittee will continue to work with Black Fly Media on messaging, a possible name change, minor logo modification, a communication plan, and eventual video.

#### Auburn Property Solar Request

Travis Peaslee reported that Blue Wave is waiting for formal letter from the Attorney General's office allowing for the conservation easement to be released. Once received, Blue Wave will begin drafting execution documents and these are anticipated to be ready before the September board meeting.

#### New Business

Union Negotiations: Travis Peaslee reported that the union has sent notification of their request to enter in to negotiations for the contract that expires at the end of this year. Dan Goyette and Mary Ann Brenchick were identified as the board representatives.

Industrial Pretreatment

Travis Peaslee reported that Mizkan sold out to Ready Seafood who is planning to take Lobster that is processed in Saco to make a variety of packaged lobster dishes and were issued a permit effective August 1<sup>st</sup>. LAWPCA has also been informed that Total Clean/Heniff in Auburn has stopped its operation and is in the process of shutting down.

Travis Peaslee reported that LAWPCA was required to develop local limits for aluminum. All industrial users were informed and a public notice went out. The comment period ends in the middle of August, at which time the limits will take effect providing comments do not lead to a public hearing. It appears Auburn Manufacturing would be the only current industry impacted by the proposed limit.

Wastewater Surveillance Testing

Travis Peaslee reported that he was contacted by the Maine Center for Disease Control (CDC) recently requesting LAWPCA reconsider participation in volunteer wastewater testing. Travis was informed that the CDC work closely with the group conducting the sampling and testing and are part of the process of identifying what gets tested. Dan Goyette questioned if there is any known negative feedback from participating facilities. Travis Peaslee replied that the other POTWs in this program seem to be satisfied, and given that the CDC is wanting LAWPCA's participation for a current local issue (influenza A), he is in favor of participating. Norm Lamie asked whether sampling is only at the plant. Travis Peaslee replied that is. It was confirmed that LAWPCA can terminate participation at any time. Norm Lamie stated he supports participating. No board opposition was voiced.

Adjourn

Mary Ann Brenchick made a motion to adjourn at 8:34, Steve Ness seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

Attest



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Travis B. Peaslee, General Manager