



OPERATIONS

The treatment facility continues to perform very well, including weathering a handful of large winter rain and snow melt events. Our assets continue to receive aggressive preventative maintenance, necessary replacement parts, and are managed closely to ensure our operation continues to run without any pause. The 22+ yards of biosolids produced daily are being hauled by our staff to the Hartland landfill, and we continue to explore emergency back-up options as well as onsite volume reduction projects such as a biosolids dryer. We are also working closely with the Maine DEP on studies and planning efforts for local and statewide biosolids management solutions. At the treatment plant, septic volumes from area communities are on the rise, as well as the volumes of high strength materials that we are receiving to send to our anaerobic digesters to make biogas.

LEWISTON LANDFILL EMERGENCY USE APPROVAL

We have worked with the City of Lewiston, and our consultant Sevee & Maher Engineers, to evaluate feasibility of sending a portion of our biosolids to the current Lewiston ash landfill during an emergency. The feasibility study results were positive; therefore, an application for such use was submitted to the Maine DEP in May for consideration. We anticipate working with the Maine DEP and City of Lewiston on this item throughout the summer, and are hopeful to have agreements in place by fall.

COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW (CSO) PROJECT

We have begun moving forward with three phases of a large Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project. The first phase was installation of process control instrumentation and control system to help our operation and equipment facilitate additional wet weather flows. The second phase includes increasing the pumping capacity in to our plant during wet weather from a maximum of 32 million gallons per day to 38 million gallons per day. This project includes increasing the pump motor size and introducing gear reducers, which will be completed by the Auburn company Damon Mechanical. The project is expected to be substantially completed at the

beginning of 2026. The last phase is the largest component, and includes a new diversion structure, a pumping station and pumps, a 2.1-million-gallon storage tank, a support building, large stand-by generator, and ancillary equipment. This is a design-build (DB) project that is intended to capture all wet weather events that exceed a 1-year design storm event, and then allow for that captured flow to be brought in to the treatment facility once elevated flows recede to manageable levels. This project was awarded to the DB team of Woodard & Curran and Sargent Corporation in January, for a cost of \$26,275,000. The team intends to mobilize in September 2024 and wrap up construction during the first quarter of 2026. This project will be funded by a combination of City of Lewiston ARPA funds, an Auburn Sewer District bond, and approximately \$18 million in loans from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRLF).

COMPOSTING FACILITY

Our operational ready and permitted composting facility in Auburn remains mothballed. We have begun a process to publicly solicit proposals for the sale and repurposing of the composting facility infrastructure, and surrounding 98 acres of land. Proposals are due in early July, and it is anticipated that a sub-committee of board members will evaluate proposals and make a recommendation to the full board at a future board meeting.

RE-BRAND AND 50TH ANNIVERSARY

We celebrated our 50th year of operation during “Clean Water Week” in June. We celebrated by offering facility tours to the public, providing general information and a list of achievements over the 50 years on our website, and developed a short video covering who we are, and what we do. The celebration was done in conjunction with re-branding efforts and a facility name change. Effective the first week of June, our facility changed from the “Lewiston Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority” to the “Lewiston Auburn Clean Water Authority”. We are proud of this change and feel it better reflects the amazing work that has been, and continues to be done, in cleaning the residential, commercial, and industrial waste waters to levels that improve the quality of the mighty Androscoggin. As part of the re-brand, we installed new facility signage and moved our email domain and website location. The new website, including the new video and facility information documents are now at www.lacwa.org

MISCELLANEOUS

We secured a Homeland Security grant with the help of Androscoggin EMA for additional security fencing, have applied for a FY2024 HSGP funds for security cameras, obtained a DEP grant for development of a climate adaptation plan, and worked with the local dam operators to develop a dam failure response plan.