

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 April 12, 2024, at 7:30 a.m. at the Authority offices at 535 Lincoln St Lewiston

Directors present: Norm Lamie
Dan Goyette
Steve Ness
Mike Broadbent
Jeff Beaulé
Kevin Gagne

Directors absent : Mark Adams

General Manager: Travis Peaslee

Assistant General Manager: Paula Drouin

Secretary: Candace Taylor

Treasurer: Absent

Dan Goyette called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Norm Lamie made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 8, 2024 meeting. Mike Broadbent seconded, all others approved, and the minutes were placed on file.

Financial Reports

Travis Peaslee reviewed the financial reports. Kevin Gagne 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

Jeff Beaulé shared that they discovered and plugged a 12” pipe out in the middle of Garcelon Bog last week that was draining a large portion of the bog directly into the Jepson Brook interceptor sewer. It was not mapped and supposedly abandoned, but was not. They estimate it was flowing about 100,000 gpd this time of year in dry weather and full pipe when raining. They are hoping it has a significant impact on CSO volumes along Jepson Brook, besides the

base flow reduction. Mike Broadbent reported that they discovered an issue on Gamage Ave, where a sewer overflow pipe is connected into a storm drain that may be overflowing stormwater into the sewer pipe during wet weather. They have Vortex coming on the 25th of this month to look into the connection and to also inspect the storm drain pipe.

General Manager Report

Biosolids Deliveries: Travis Peaslee reported that the facility produced 616 yards of material in March, which all was able to be delivered directly to Hartland. LAWPCA is still thin on drivers, but overall, things are decent on this front and we are slowly implementing plans to improve different aspects of this operation.

Anaerobic Digestion and Co-Generation: Travis Peaslee reported that things are operating well at the digestion complex, that both co-generation units are operational, but with lower volumes and strength of feedstocks, we made lower than average amounts of gas and power for the month.

Septic Receiving: Travis Peaslee reported that LAWPCA brought in 206,250 gallons, which is 89,250 gallons or \$12,495 more than budgeted. Year-to-date we are 313,750 gallon or \$46,445 more than budgeted.

Effluent Quality: Travis Peaslee reported that effluent continues to look good, despite an extremely wet month. We average 18.7 MGD (14.2 MGD is our design average) and ended up needing to bypass 32.7MG. Had 4 influent bypass events, 1 effluent violations, 2 uses of the secondary bypass and treated roughly 580 million gallons. The one violation was for settleable solids as a result of our aeration blowers not automatically shutting off during the onset of a high flow event as a result of due to an improper SCADA setpoint. This was quickly addressed and should only get enhanced once we put our new process control instruments online in late April.

Old Business

Biosolids & PFAS

We experienced a screw press gear box failure that has forced us to run on one screw press at a higher speed for the later part of the Month. We have ordered parts that we hope to have installed within the next week or so. The unbudgeted repair cost will likely be around \$15,000, and the faster running press will likely result in wetter solids and more volume needing disposal. We are planning to purchase a spare gear box in the 2025 budget to avoid a similar downtime event in the future.

We continue to work on solids handling projects internally as part of a project approved for this year in the CIP. This project will include a fair amount of equipment relocation, new piping and electrical, a new control panel, and some SCADA logic changes. We believe we can handle most of this with our crew, and that the results of the changes will allow us to better handle solids thickening, pumping, feedstock addition, and reduced pump wear.

SME had drafted an application for submission to the DEP for approval of accepting our material on an emergency basis to the Lewiston landfill. Travis is hopeful that the City can find time to jump back on this soon so that we can start what is expected to be a multi month process of getting DEP approval. Ideally, we could have this approval before relinquishing our Compost Facility license.

LAWPCA has completed collection system and industrial user pfas sampling within both cities, and Travis met with the DEP on March 29th to discuss the results, and they agreed that there were no surprises or concerns and that there isn't much we need to do with the results other than to be aware of the various sources in the event we are ever required to tackle source control.

Travis has signed a LOI with Waste Management, and had a couple meetings over the month to discuss the project. Unfortunately, they are delayed in getting terms pulled together to negotiate due to a variety of reasons, including market noise and uncertainties. One of the big factors was a Casella press release stating that they plan to process 85,000 tons of biosolids at the Brunswick (ME) digester starting in 2026. The specifics of that project are a little unclear, and there have been no DEP communications, however the threat of competition for feedstocks has caused some pause on the Waste Management front. A major concern Travis has is that the Waste Management dryer project does actually move forward, but with little to no Maine biosolids going there. Travis continues to stay close to all of this and will keep the Board updated as things progress.

Travis was able to enter in to a 5-year statement of understanding with the Hartland landfill for a 5-year term. They anticipate having 6.5 years of capacity remaining. They are currently battling odor issues that they are committed to resolving; however, these are sensitive items that could jeopardize our ability to use that facility. As a result, we are working towards getting pre-approval for no-volume commitment emergency use, at market price, at the Crossroads and Juniper Ridge landfills.

CSO Project:

All Contracts are signed and the project is officially "underway". Travis has submitted the Environmental Review package to the DEP, provided the DEP with copies of all agreements, got set up with the Elation program, and submitted the SRLF solicitation application. We have our project kickoff meeting on April 23rd from 9-12 at LAWPCA for anyone interested in attending. Travis anticipates having discussions around the stand-by generator changes prior to the kickoff meeting.

On the treatment plant optimization portion of this project, we awarded the influent pump project to the Sebago/AECOM team, and they are currently working to wrap up final design.

For the process instrumentation side of things, we have purchased all the equipment and now just need the installation and integration to happen. We awarded that work to EII and expect them to start the install the week of April 8th. We should have everything installed and start-up completed with plenty of time to test the system for chlorination season begins in May.

Branding/Name Change

Staff continues to work with Black Fly Media on the branding video. They began filming last week and will return within the next month to complete the filming portion. Marquis Sign is working on new building signage for the area above front walkway. We also continue to work on other recommended items, including the 50th anniversary and name change tasks.

Compost Facility Storage

We had a scheduled meeting with the DEP on March 22nd to discuss our request for successful corrective action. The main points were that 1) ACA tied to CF license is considered completed, 2) requirements to continue to monitor are part of state law required corrective actions and would apply to the site regardless of having a license or not, 3) successful corrective action determination needs additional rounds of data, especially since changed site conditions, and could take time travel in to considerations, 4) PFAS is also a looming issue, 5) DEP doesn't see anything from their end stopping property transaction and/or licensure relinquishment. If we were to relinquish our CF license, DEP would issue a closure document that requires continued monitoring and a requirement to address any groundwater contamination. They did note that environmental controls such as a new well or POET system would be necessary for the site. SME has a lot of experience with site remediation and specifically the VRAP process, so Travis plans to continue discussions with them to outline possible next steps for the Board to consider.

EMA grant/security gate project: LAWPCA was awarded a \$10,000 EMA grant last year that we intended to use on an electrically controlled front access gate. The timing and incorporation of this in to the CSO project is making use of the grant challenging. We are hoping to re-purpose those funds on installation of security fencing along our rear property line near and past the Gendron storage units. Paula has had conversation with EMA regarding the change, has submitted the required EHP, and is not awaiting review and approval.

CWSRF Project Solicitation: Travis submitted an application at the end of March for the CSO project to see if we would be eligible for any principal forgiveness funds, as well as for a Climate Adaptation Plan up to the \$25,000 offered. Wright Pierce, who has done the vast majority of facility climate adaptation plans in Maine, indicated that nearly all of them are done at or below the \$25,000 allowed in the DEP grant. Travis anticipates hearing soon on whether or not grant funds and/or principal forgiveness will be awarded.

New Business

Procurement Recommendation(s): LAWPCA staff identified a need to construct a concrete pad with storm water drainage for storage of our biosolids roll-off containers. This project was approved in the 2024 budget and involves removal of 2200 ft of pavement, relocating a catch basin and installing 25' of drainage pipe, installation of a 30'x40' concrete pad with curbing on the back side, and gravel and loam & seed as needed.

Norm Lamie made a motion to approve the award of the concrete pad installation project to Dube Gravel for an amount of \$39,650 to be funded from the 2024 quasi-capital account. Steve Ness seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

LAWPCA staff requested quotation from five local equipment vendors for a compact utility tractor. Only three responded. In addition to providing proposals for a new tractor, each were provided with the opportunity to also provide a trade-in proposal for the 2010 John Deere 524K loader we are advertising for sale. LAWPCA staff also publicly advertised the sale of the 2010 John Deere 524K loader, and sent request direct to 10 local companies that we felt may have interest. Despite reaching out and having direct conversations, only one company submitted a proposal for direct purchase. The new compact tractor was not budgeted for, however is part of the biosolids management plan previously presented to the Board. The biosolids management plan involved the sale/trade/purchase of equipment that will result in no overall cost to the Authority. The sale of this loader is also part of the biosolids management plan previously presented to the Board.

After a review of the proposals, Norm Lamie made a motion to approve the trade-in of the 2010 John Deere front end loader and purchase of a compact utility tractor, to Beauregard Equipment for an amount of (-\$19,475) with funds to be placed in the miscellaneous revenue account. Kevin Gagne seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

Informational Items

Staffing- Our Lab & Pretreatment Coordinator recently resigned after 3 months in that position. We have filled that vacancy internally. We will have a vacancy needing to be posted externally as early as this week.

Adjourn

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

Attest



Travis B. Peaslee, General Manager