

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 December 15, 2023, 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
Mark Adams

Directors Absent: Mary Ann Brenchick

General Manager: Travis Peaslee

Assistant General Manager: Paula Drouin

Secretary: Candace Taylor

Treasurer: Ralph Lenfestey

Norm Lamie called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

Dan Goyette made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 17, 2023, meeting. Steve Ness seconded, all others approved, and the minutes were placed on file.

Financial Reports

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

Dan Goyette made a motion to approve the 2024 budget for an amount of \$4,860,550.00. Steve Ness seconded, all others approved, and the motion passed.

Cost Apportionment

Travis reported that things were a little closer to historical normal this month, Auburn TSS is still on the high side. We have started additional trials with split samples using two separate samplers in different locations, to evaluate what impacts that may have on the sample TSS concentrations. If things remain the same thru December, and we stick with the 60%/40% initial ration, we should end the year pretty close to even.

Mike Broadbent made a motion to set the 2024 first quarter apportionment at 62% Lewiston and 38% Auburn. Dan Goyette 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 sending out RFPs on the Miller St project. Jeff Beale reported that there was nothing new to report.

General Manager Report

Biosolids Deliveries: Travis Peaslee reported that the facility produced 636 yards of material in November, which all was able to be delivered directly to Hartland. We have purchased a 4th roll-off can and a temporary shelter has been installed to help ensure we are able to store and deliver all of our material directly from the treatment plant.

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 decent amounts of gas and power are being produced, but a more stable supply of feedstock could optimize operations long term.

Septic Receiving: Travis Peaslee reported that approximately 430,050 gallons of septic were discharged at the facility in November, which is 155,050 gallons or \$18,606 more than budgeted. Year-to-date, we are 849,700 gallons or \$101,964 more than budgeted.

Effluent Quality: Travis Peaslee reported that effluent continues to look good. We had one influent bypass events, zero effluent violations, no use the secondary bypass, and roughly 240 million gallons were treated.

Old Business

Biosolids & PFAS

Travis Peaslee reported that the statewide comprehensive biosolids study is wrapping up and he is hopeful the information is helpful for the Department and Legislators.

We are still working on material handling trails that may eventually lead to some infrastructure changes that we may be able to handle internally. We need to find the time to do some new piping that would allow us to evaluate feasibility of some of the proposed changes, but have put a placeholder for these changes in our CIP that Travis is proposing we undertake in 2024 using reserve funds.

Travis Peaslee had previously reported that SME provided the final report for the Lewiston Landfill waste mix study as well as the results of the gas generation study and that all reports have been submitted to the DEP. The results from both studies showed that a 3:1 ratio of ash to biosolids should work well and provide the necessary stability without too much gas generation. We had a meeting with DEP on November 20th and it was decided that a special waste application would be the best path forward. The application fee is around \$1,300 and is something the Board already agreed LAWPCA should be paying for. Given that we are only looking to use this in an emergency, we will likely just request a worst-case volume which would be the Lewiston max ash (26,000 tons) divided by 3 (3:1 ration recommended), and then subtract some areas to keep away from the edges of slope construction.

We will be submitting our annual compost facility report this month and will be requesting successful corrective action on the closed biofilter. We are wrapping up the required effluent PFAS sampling program and were asked by the DEP to partake in a phase II voluntary testing program to look at additional areas within the facility, collection system, and possibly even industrial users. The DEP staff lead on this project provided us with a letter of authority to assist with our sampling of industrial users. We are finalizing the list of places to sample and expect to get roughly 30 samples over the next few weeks.

Travis Peaslee reported that he continues to spend a significant amount of time working on biosolids management options and has several key meetings throughout the month that should help develop 2024 assumptions as well as a sense of where we might be sending material over the next 3-5 years. Harland is open to a 5-year contract with a 90 day out and Waste Management has also offered a letter of intent for their future dryer project. After discussion on the possibilities, Dan Goyette made a motion to authorize Travis to negotiate a 5-year contract with Harland and to sign the letter of intent with Waste management. Steve Ness seconded, all were in favor, and the motion passed.

CSO Project:

Travis reported that we received proposals from both DB teams on November 17th. The proposals, minus the project cost, were individually evaluated by each member of the subcommittee. The OPM team and Subcommittee meant on November 29th to collectively discuss the proposals, as well as open the proposed cost from each bidder. The individuals scores from the subcommittee members for the non-cost factors was averaged. The remaining 35 points for cost were assigned by giving Sargent (\$26,275,000.00) the full 35 points and MWH (\$36,772,930.83) 21 points, since their cost was about 40% higher than Sargent's cost. The subcommittee was very happy with the response from both DB teams and would be very happy with the selection of either team and their approach. The cost difference of over \$10 Million was significant though, and is the reason why the subcommittee is recommending to award the project to Sargent.

Dan Goyette made a motion to inform Sargent of our intent to award the CSO storage facility project to them, for the total project fixed price cost of \$26,275,000.00. Mike Broadbent seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Project award is anticipated on January 12, 2024 and official award will be subject to Maine DEP approval..

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 with the pump vendor on motor specifications. We elected to keep the motor hp the same and install gear reducers. The pump vendor is working with the tam to get this information and that should be the last bit of information needed in order to move the design forward.

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 complete the install in December or January. Travis plans to develop a total project budget for the January meeting and get a draft construction services proposal and an estimate on the pump upgrade project.

Branding/Name Change

We continue to work with our consultant on finalizing a communications plan that will likely start out basic, but can then be added upon. We are starting to discuss the development of a 2-minute brand video, FAQ/key message sheet, a quarterly summary template, and tweaks to the monthly GM report. Paula is developing a timeline and plan for implementation of the new name/logo and 50th anniversary celebration. Since Mary Ann is leaving, Mark Adams said he would be happy to fill in if needed.

Auburn Property Solar Request

Travis reported that he signed the option agreement with Blue Wave and that we would be receiving the deposit shortly. Blue wave has up to one year to figure out next steps and then approach LAWPCA for final agreement.

Compost Facility Storage: Lewiston Public Works starting moving equipment for winter storage, however local resident had issue with them doing so and contacted City officials. Travis is currently working with the Auburn planning department on a written request to allow both Lewiston and Auburn public work departments to store seasonal equipment until spring. We did move our pumper skid and John Deere front loader to the treatment plant and only plan to visit the site a couple times per month to do an inspection of the facilities. Travis intends to continue evaluating options for the facility, he has recently provided tours and facility information to a Canadian composting firm, and a Southern Maine wood pellet manufacturer who are both very interested in the facility, as well as Dube gravel who will be providing us with a ball park cost to raze the building.

New Business:

Capital Improvement Plan: Travis included the draft 2024 CIP with the packet material. This draft was updated from the draft provided in November. The changes were made to reflect a need to fund in-house solids handling changes in 2024, and to remove the solids bay expansion project and replace with future hook truck replacements as part of our future biosolids transportation plan. Also updated the anticipated future cost (SRF bond portion) of the CSO tank project to be \$14,500,000.

Dan Goyette made a motion to approve the 2024 Capital Improvement Plan. Jeff Beale seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

General Manager Employment Agreement: Travis included a new proposed 3-year employment agreement for consideration. The agreement is identical to the previous agreement with the exception of updated employment dates and salary.

Dan Goyette made a motion to approve the new employment agreement. Mike Broadbent seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Election of officers: The board is required to annually elect a board chair, treasurer, and clerk for the upcoming year. Mike Broadbent made a motion to elect Dan Goyette as the LAWPCA Board Chair, Ralph Lenfestey as the LAWPCA Treasurer, and Travis Peaslee as the LAWPCA Clerk to serve in the roles through the year of 2024. Mark Adams seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Adjourn

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

Attest



Travis B. Peaslee, General Manager