

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 May 9, 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
Mark Adams

Directors Absent: N/A

General Manager: Travis Peaslee

Assistant General Manager: Paula Drouin

Secretary: Candace Taylor

Treasurer: Ralph Lenfesty

Dan Goyette called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

Kevin Gagne made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 12, 2024 meeting. Mike Broadbent seconded, all others approved, and the minutes were placed on file.

Financial Reports

Travis Peaslee reviewed the financial reports. Norm Lamie made a motion to approve the financial reports. Kevin Gagne 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 met with the DEP to update them on CSO abatement progress. Mike Broadbent reported they had a watermain break on Center Street and that a significant amount of road fill material went directly into the sewer. He also noted they are starting their CSO overflow investigation work around Miller St.

General Manager Report

Biosolids Deliveries: Travis Peaslee reported that the facility produced 814 yards of material in April, which all was able to be delivered directly to Hartland. LAWPCA has hired a couple new drivers, which will help on this front. Biosolid volumes are a little on the high side due to a very wet spring and needing to move some mass out of our system, but he suspects this will slow down as we approach the middle to end of May.

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

Septic Receiving: Travis Peaslee reported that LAWPCA brought in 318,800 gallons, which is 26,800 gallons or \$3,752 more than budgeted. Year-to-date we are 269,300 gallons or \$37,702 more than budgeted.

Effluent Quality: Travis Peaslee reported that effluent continues to look good. We had two influent bypass events, zero effluent violations, no use the secondary bypass, and treated roughly 478 million gallons.

Old Business

Biosolids & PFAS

SME drafted an application for submission to the DEP for approval of accepting our material on an emergency basis to the Lewiston landfill. We have scheduled a meeting with the city and SME to discuss the application and next steps in the process. We anticipate the DEP application review and approval process to take a few months. If approved by the DEP, we will also need to have an agreement with the city for use, limitations, and cost.

Travis signed an LOI with waste Management but is still waiting to negotiate terms. He is hopeful to see something from them in the next month or so. We are also working with them to get our material approved for landfill so that we could use it on an emergency basis.

EPA recently designated PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA. Under Maine law, these substances also are automatically deemed a Maine hazardous substance regulated under the Maine Uncontrolled Hazardous Substance Sites Law. There are required reports for releases exceeding reportable quantities, but those levels are much higher than we should ever have to report. Landfills can be recipients of PFAS-containing waste without knowing it. Similarly, wastewater treatment plant operators fear liability and increased costs from the EPA designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances. Unfortunately, EPA didn't exempt landfills or wastewater treatment from the ruling but did establish a CERCLA enforcement discretion policy that states the EPA will focus enforcement on parties that significantly contributed to the release of PFAS into the environment. The policy states that the

EPA does not intend to pursue certain publicly-owned facilities such as solid waste landfills, wastewater treatment plants, or farms where biosolids are applied to the land.

CSO Project:

We advertised the influent pump project on April 23rd, and have a return date of May 29th. We will work with the Sebago team to review proposals in order to have a recommendation of award ready for the June meeting. There is no pre-bid meeting, so Travis will be showing contractors the site and project components upon request.

On the process control instrumentation project, the equipment was installed and started up last week. The contractor is still finishing up a few SCADA screens, but for the most part this project is complete.

On the tank project, we held a kickoff meeting on April 23rd and covered most pre-construction items, including schedule and long lead time item procurement. The longest lead time item is the stand-by generator, which we requested alternatives be provided for. There are still a few outstanding questions regarding the actual electrical configuration and need for a load bank that we are awaiting answers on, but it appears that the deduct change order for going with a 750kW generator outside of the building vs. what was proposed, would be around \$720,000. In addition to getting answers on the ancillary items, we have also requested a cost for new PLC hardware and software in order to make the system work. Travis thinks a lot of this will get cleaned up through the 30% design review (anticipated to receive on 5/15) and thinks we will have a change order to consider approving at the June meeting.

Following the kickoff meeting, most of us then attended a permitting meeting with the City of Lewiston that went well and clarified any lingering questions the team had. There was a little discussion about screening and types of trees, but those aren't items we need to nail down at this point.

Branding/Name Change

We continue to work hard in preparation for the launching of our new name and recognition of our 50th anniversary. We should be getting the last of the videos and interviews done next week and anticipate having that video ready as part of our re-branding launch.

Paula has done an awesome job at coordinating and keeping all of these efforts moving forward, and has the following remaining items before launch: Draft press release, notify relevant parties of the name change, building signage install, send press release which includes the opportunity for site tours, video launch, employee luncheon and presentation, distribution of new apparel, update the website.

As part of clean water week, we will be offering tours on June 5th starting at 9:00, 11:00 and 1:00, each lasting roughly one hour with a table out front with swag and information.

Compost Facility Storage

Travis Peaslee provided a summary of information related to the property deed, environmental monitoring and remediation, farming agreement, right to first offer, and future use interest. It was decided that a proper public procedure would be to publicly solicit request for proposals for sale and reuse of the building and land.

Mark Adams made a motion to provide notice of intent to sell the property to Roger Gauthier and Virginia Beauchesne, and to also publicly solicit a request for proposals for the sale and reuse of the property at 230 Penley Corner Rd. Norm Lamie seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

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 now 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

Roofing Project: Travis went over the information he provided in the board packet and everyone agreed to an approach proposed by IRC for addressing any remaining bad spots, using a really solid tie-down system, and then coating the entire membrane to get us another 20 years.

June Meeting Date: After a brief discussion about a conflict with the 7:30 board time on June 14th, it was agreed to move that meeting to 7:00 a.m.

Informational Items

Staffing- We have hired two new mechanics that will start in another week, both have CDL licenses, meaning immediate relief to our truck driving strains.

Adjourn

Kevin Gagne made a motion to adjourn. Steve Ness seconded, all approved, and the motion passed.

Attest

Travis B. Peaslee, General Manager