

**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 Friday May 14, 2021 at 7:30 a.m. via zoom.

Directors Present:	Mark Adams Norm Lamie Dan Goyette Denis D'Auteuil Sid Hazelton Steve Ness
--------------------	--

Absent:	Dale Doughty
---------	--------------

General Manager:	Travis Peaslee
------------------	----------------

Assistant General Manager:	Absent
----------------------------	--------

Secretary:	Candace Taylor
------------	----------------

Treasurer:	Ralph Lenfestey
------------	-----------------

Mark Adams called the meeting to order at 7:37 a.m.

Minutes

Norm Lamie made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 9, 2021 regular meeting. Sid Hazelton seconded, and the minutes were placed on file.

Consent Agenda

Denis D'Auteuil made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Norm Lamie seconded, all approved, and the motion passed.

Financial Reports

All reports are in order and accounts are tracking as expected. The draft audit has not been provided but the auditors hope to have it ready so that we can have a surplus intention discussion at the June meeting, and then approve the final audit in July. After a brief discussion about reports, moving forward staff will provide the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual report and remove the Profit & Loss report.

Lewiston cost apportionment remained higher than normal for the fourth month in a row and quite a bit of looking in to why had been done. It was noted that some adjustments to the bar screen cycle levels were causing erratic flows in Auburn during elevated flows, but staff is not certain this could impact things a whole lot. Staff checked flow meters and flow data and both city flows appeared normal. Staff did notice that Auburn BOD is down

15% and TSS 26% for the first four months compared to the last 5 months in 2020. At this point staff recommends waiting another month and then make necessary adjustments.

Steve Ness made a motion to accept the financial reports. Norm Lamie seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

General Manager Report- Mechanic Position(s)- We had to terminate an employee and have since posted the Mechanic position job opportunity. Unfortunately, although the timing is good since the job/position is currently advertised, we have another Mechanic retiring. The posting deadline is May 10th and staff is hopeful to conduct timely interviews and get both positions filled asap.

LD 676, An act to reclassify a portion of the Androscoggin River-Travis provided testimony neither for nor against this legislation, supporting the recognition of water quality improvements but also pointing out the potential impacts on our discharge permit which could result in plant upgrades and/or reduced community growth potential. Travis listed in on the workshop, and it sounds like it will be turned down. At this point it has been pushed forward for at least another year. Waiting on DEP to do its triannual review.

Final top coating of pavement at LAWPCA is scheduled for Monday, May 17th.

LD 1639- State landfill definition of Maine Waste and out of state waste. It's an attempt to prevent/eliminate out of state waste. Bulky waste is what is allowing the solid waste to go to landfill. Could be devastating to pull the bulky waste, would result in cutting off the Biosolids going to landfill. Both LAWPCA and the City of Lewiston submitted testimony in opposition.

Old Business:

PFAS and Biosolids- We are about to begin land application this month with 224 yards going on to the fields behind the Compost Facility and then 84 more to the Barker Pad for material that will be spread on May 17th. After that we will resume landfilling until late Summer, which is when we will deliver to Libby, Shores, and Snow fields.

Board feels ok to continue planned land application at the Barker and Gauthier farms this spring but want staff to keep closely monitoring the PFAS situation going forward and provide information monthly to the Board so they can make decisions about future applications. The Board requested staff contact the Shute and Snowe farms to let them know it is unlikely that material will be spread on those farms this fall.

Travis spoke with the DEP recently and they told him that they have been consumed responding to former KSTD land application sites in Fairfield, Benton, and Unity that all appear to have contaminated area drinking water supplies. These efforts have delayed the work they were doing on sampling and model verification on other long term land application sites. They noted that they are unaware of any changes in department position and that if anything, future (some proposed this session) legislation will likely only ratchet things down. The other news from the department is that the solid waste bureau director Dave Burns is retiring at the end of this month and will be replaced by Sue Miller from the DEPs eastern office.

As far as current proposed legislation, there are numerous bills going after PFAS. Two competing items/thoughts on establishing drinking water MCLs are to make the 6-task force recommended compounds have a combined limit of 20 PPT, where the other is to make PFOA + PFOS limit 20 PPT with a combined limit for the total of the 6 compounds

to be at the EPA advisory level of 70 PPT. At this point we are not certain what any of the proposed changes will mean because we are all still waiting to have a model discussion to determine the most appropriate before we start applying different end points. Regardless, we don't see a whole lot changing anytime soon, nor do we see any possible changes in position that would alter our current thinking about solids drying.

Another PFAS bill, LD 1600, is proposing to charge \$10/ton on wastewater sludge disposal to pay for PFAS testing in soils and groundwater. While we support additional testing, we don't believe this is the proper funding mechanism. Travis provided testimony opposing this legislation for the public hearing on 5/7. At \$10/ton, this has the potential of costing our already heavily impacted biosolids budget another \$62,250 annually. This legislation would however be another driver to reduce the volume/weight of material needing disposal via solids drying.

Brown and Caldwell wrapped up the Solids Dryer feasibility study report which was forwarded along to the board. Last month Travis provided a summary of the report as well as the subcommittee recommended next steps which was to advance the project to 30% design. Travis has worked with Brown and Caldwell on an agreeable scope and they have provided a draft agreement to provide the services for a cost of \$137,782. The 30% point would allow for a refined design and updated cost estimate that the board could use to make a go/no-go decision on the project. By advancing the project, it would be well positioned for any potential federal funds if we decided to proceed. As can be seen in the financial summary projections Travis provided in the packet, this project would be funded from reserve for replacement funds.

Norm Lamie made a motion to approve Brown & Caldwell to provide 30% design on the solids dryer project for a cost not to exceed \$137,782. Steve Ness seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Lastly, Travis developed a document titled "biogas and electrical generation evaluation" that was included in the packet and discussed at the meeting. It highlights that there is a lot of untapped potential in our existing infrastructure; that potential energy from the digestion/CHP process may impact dryer selection; and shows a need for engagement with Brown & Caldwell on a task to evaluate CHP potential and impacts on dryer selection prior to proceeding to 30% design so that the basis of design can be better defined. Travis requested approval to work with Brown & Caldwell to develop a scope and will also discuss with Lima Company and Efficiency Maine to understand what, if any, involvement they would have. Travis does not anticipate this being a large task but felt there is tremendous value towards the 30% design if we could get some of these items addressed and a clearer path established. Travis recommendation was to complete this task before releasing the work on 30% design. The Board agreed with Travis' recommendation and requested that he obtain a scope and cost for board consideration.

CSO-Clean Water Act Master Plan- CDM Smith sent along their final memo on April 6th highlighting their recommended method for allocating the CSO tank cost based on a wet weather flow only model. Travis believes that Dale, Sid, and Dan were communicating the memo recommendations with their respective entities. Once everyone is ok with the approach, Travis will bring the final memo/recommendation back to the LAWPCA Board for consideration of cost model acceptance. We don't anticipate related expense until late Summer or early Fall so we have a little time to get this settled.

The CSO tank conceptual design RFP was sent to Tighe & Bond, Wright Pierce, Woodard & Curran, CDM Smith, and AECOM. The proposals are due back on May 14th. The proposals are due electronically so Travis will forward them along to Jeff, Sid, Dan,

and Norm along with the evaluation form. It is Travis' intention to compile evaluations and have a recommendation for award at the June Board meeting.

Closed Landfill Ownership- Nothing new to report. Waiting to see how the City of Lewiston would like to proceed.

Solar Update- The PUC investigation wrapped up and most of the additional CMP expenses were warranted and necessary, therefore an amendment to the contract for a rate of \$0.077/kW is necessary to pay for the additional expenses. The current contract rate is \$0.071/kW. Even at \$0.077/kw, Travis was told this is still by far the best rate and deal going. If things get settled quickly then there is still a chance of getting power flowing by the beginning of 2022

Norm Lamie made a motion to amend the solar contract for a rate increase from \$0.071/KW to \$0.078/KW. Sid Hazelton Seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Norm Lamie made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Sid Hazelton seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Adjourn

Norm Lamie made a motion to adjourn, Sid Hazelton seconded, all approved, and the motion passed.

Attest: _____
Travis B Peaslee, General Manager