

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, January 13, 2023, at 7:30 a.m. at the Authority offices at 535 Lincoln St. Lewiston.

Directors Present:	Mark Adams Jeff Beaulé Norm Lamie Mary Ann Brenchick Mike Broadbent Steve Ness
Directors Absent:	Dan Goyette
General Manager:	Travis Peaslee
Assistant General Manager:	Paula Drouin
Secretary:	Candace Taylor
Treasurer:	Absent

Norm Lamie called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Minutes

Steve Ness made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 9, 2022, regular meeting. Mary Anne Brenchick seconded, all others approved, and the minutes were placed on file.

Financial Reports

Travis Peaslee gave a brief overview of the financials. Mark Adams made a motion to accept the financial reports. Steve Ness seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

Cost Apportionment- Lewiston took a huge swing in December. Travis believes some of it is the result of a very wet month of rain and snow melt which elevated Lewiston flows, but likely a bigger piece is a result of staff relocating the Auburn sample location. Moving forward staff will relocate the Lewiston sample location to a similar location as Auburn's and monitor the results closely. We have first quarter apportionment set at 64/36 and Travis recommended leaving it there until we can get another month or two of data.

Public Comment- None

Report from Cities/Sewer Districts- Auburn is still looking to fill the vacant District Engineer position and is working on plan preparation for upcoming collection system work.

General Manager's Report-

Travis gave a brief update on the monthly operating reports and noted that we produced 916 yds of material this month, and all of it was sent to the composting facility to then be transferred by Casella to

Landfill. This was a significant increase over average volumes due to wet solids from poor dewatering. Both Co-generation units are operational and we have been making average amounts of gas and power. In December we brought in 234,500 gallons which is \$14,640 more than budgeted. We ended the year with a total of 3,975,050 gallons, which was 1,701,321 gallons or 4204,158 more than budgeted. Effluent continues to look good; we had 1 large influent bypass event that totaled 14.334 MG, 0 effluent violations, no use of the secondary bypass, and treated roughly 387 million gallons.

Old Business

Biosolids & PFAS:

Travis continues to have discussions with vendors, regulators, and Brown & Caldwell on biosolids management options. He anticipates deeper discussions with Casella and Waste Management in the first quarter as he tries to figure out a plan beyond 2023.

Travis continues to work on getting a state wide biosolids study underway and believes we have a scope finalized at this point. LAWPCA is serving as the lead for the study and Travis feels we have buy-in from the Department for not only doing it, but for them funding it. The final version of the study scope is currently being review by the DEP commissioner.

We assume we will see multiple legislative bills related to PFAS this session, but from the limited release of bills to-date, we see that LD 75 is looking to establish a drinking water MCL of 0.

Travis is spending some time looking closer at the Compost Facility and our options with it short and long term. A major connection to this evaluation is how we currently manage the handling of our biosolids. Therefore, as he digs deeper, he is concurrently evaluating options for handling our material differently, likely here at the treatment plant and without use of the Compost Facility. He has performed a facility/equipment condition assessment, has scheduled a structural assessment, and has a meeting with SME after the board meeting to discuss environmental factors with any site future use. Moving forward, he needs to review our DEP license, Chapter 410 rules, and the Auburn Agreement to see what requirements and limitations there may be with future use. Once all of that is complete, we may want to get a value assessment before making any recommendations to the Board.

CSO Project

Travis met with the OPM team on January 4th and had a very productive conversation. They will be following up with meeting notes and a copy of the slides, which he plans to discuss further with the subcommittee once he has received them. Most of the discussion was around explaining our options for tank types, future capacity, and equipment to get a sense of what items we want to be prescriptive in when developing the RFP. One major consideration is whether or not we would be open to an above ground tank, and if so, one with an open cover. There are significant savings in some of the options but the OPM doesn't want to give latitude to build something we don't want so these initial decisions will be critical in how the RFP is written.

Aside from getting the meeting information and discussing with the subcommittee, the next step is to coordinate a meeting with the OPM and Woodard & Curran, which we hope to do in the next couple weeks. Once Travis has the meeting date, he can forward it along to subcommittee members.

A couple of items we need to put some thought in to are: Is there a way to get creative with project financing to avoid paying Davis Bacon wages on some or all of the project; and would it make sense for us to take on the process control improvements necessary for the treatment plant optimization portion of

the project instead of involving the OPM and DB team? Travis will try to put some more thought in to both and bring back something for us to consider in the next month or two.

Bar Screen Project: We started up the second unit on Jan 5th and everything tested out fine. We are currently in the process of repairing the wash press that the screening material drops in to so have elected to not continue running the new bar screen until that unit is repaired in the next week or so. There is no more planned work until the new windows arrive in late March or early April. Once completed, Travis will work with bond counsel to make our temporary note permanent.

Charter Change: Representative Margaret Craven agreed to sponsor the charter change legislation and filed the bill in the middle of November, but Travis has yet to see it on the list of LDs released. He will keep an eye out for it.

New Business:

Insurance Coverage: Our commercial insurance package provided through Cross Insurance expires in the middle of March, annually. Each year Travis is asked to review our schedule of values to ensure all of the buildings and equipment are accounted for, despite not having accurate individual values. He is told that we are not held to the individual values, as long as we don't exceed our package blanket limit of \$40,057,619 on real property & business personal property. This blanket coverage would be sufficient in most insurable situations but wouldn't be sufficient for a total loss situation. Travis is being asked to update the values prior to soliciting quotes for coverage so he wanted to get input from the board on whether or not the current blanket limit is sufficient and an acceptable amount risk. It should be noted that the compost facility falls under this limit, and makes up roughly \$8M of it. We paid \$85,000 for this coverage last year and anticipate a 10-15% increase this year. The Board recommended increasing our blanket limit an additional \$5 Million, plus soliciting quotes from Maine Municipal Association. Additionally, the Board would like Cross insurance to solicit multiple quotes for our insurance, as well as share those results.

Annual Performance Report: Travis included our annual performance report in the packet and discussed. He noted that performance was slightly better than 2021, despite overcoming a process upset through the first couple months of the year. We did experience 8 more CSO events and discharged more than double the amount we did the previous year, although more in line with expectations.

Other Business:

Mary Ann Brenchick made a motion to enter into Executive session. Mark Adams seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

Mary Ann Brenchick made a motion to exit Executive session. Steve Ness seconded, all approved and the motion passed.

Adjourn:

Steve Ness made a motion to adjourn. Mark Adams seconded. All approved and the motion passed.

Attest



Travis B. Peaslee, General Manager