

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 October 13, 2023, at 8:15 a.m. at the Authority offices at 535 Lincoln St
Lewiston

Directors Present: Norm Lamie
Dan Goyette
Mary Ann Brenchick
Steve Ness
Mike Broadbent

Directors Absent: Jeff Beaulé
Mark Adams

General Manager: Travis Peaslee

Assistant General Manager: Paula Drouin

Secretary: Paula Drouin

Treasurer: absent

Prior to the meeting, the board took a tour of the compost facility on Penley Corner Rd. then traveled to LAWPCA for the regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Norm Lamie called the meeting to order at 8:16 a.m.

Dan Goyette made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 8, 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. Mary Ann Brenchick seconded, all others approved, and the motion passed.

Cost Apportionment

Travis Peaslee reported that the facility continues to see elevated grit on the Auburn side, which elevates total suspended solids, but has not indicated an elevated amount of organic loading. Cost apportionment will remain at 60% Lewiston /40% Auburn.

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 entering budget season, and that the city is looking at cleaning all siphons. Dan Goyette reported the city is providing ARPA funds to determine what it is happening at the Miller St. connection during severe wet weather events (causes severe slug loading to the sewer). Mary Ann reported that Lewiston is likely looking at a sewer rate increase.

General Manager Report

Biosolids Deliveries: Travis Peaslee reported that the facility produced 885 yards of material in September, with most being delivered directly to Hartland, but a small amount was put on the floor at the compost facility.

Anaerobic Digestion and Co-Generation: Travis Peaslee reported that things are operating ok 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.

Septic Receiving: Travis Peaslee reported that approximately 390,750 gallons of septic were discharged at the facility in September, which is 7,250 gallons or \$870 more than budgeted. Year-to-date, septic is 613,650 gallons or \$73,638 more than budgeted.

Effluent Quality: Travis Peaslee reported that effluent continues to look good. There was one influent bypass, zero effluent violations, no use the secondary bypass, and roughly 259 million gallons were treated.

Old Business

Biosolids & PFAS

Travis Peaslee reported that the statewide comprehensive biosolids study is underway and he is representing MEWEA and working with the DEP and Brown & Caldwell, and the hope is to complete by the end of the year. Travis reported that staff are still working on biosolids handling trials that may eventually lead to some infrastructure changes. This will be reflected by a placeholder in the CIP.

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. A pre-application meeting has been requested, but no meeting date has been set.

Travis Peaslee previously reported that the compost facility spring ground water monitoring results were submitted to the DEP and Authority staff does not need to pump the biofilter any longer unless bi-annual test data show increases in groundwater nitrate. He added that the fall sampling has since be done and staff are awaiting results. If results are favorable, staff would be able to make the case to DEP for achieving successful corrective action as part of the annual report, which would likely be required before sale of the property could be considered.

Travis Peaslee reported that the required effluent PFAS sampling program is nearly completed, and the Authority is now participating in phase II and has a meeting on 10/17 to finalize plans and a start date. This effort will involve some sampling in the collection systems.

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.

CSO Project:

Travis Peaslee reported that Sargent/Woodard and Curran and MWH/Tighe Bond provided initial concept presentations on October 12 and proposals are due November 16, at which point the subcommittee will evaluate and score and hopefully have a recommendation by the December board meeting.

Travis Peaslee reported that Sebago/AECOM are working with the influent pump vendor on motor upgrade specifications.

Travis Peaslee reported that EII was onsite September 7th to scope and price out the installation of the process control instrumentation and they have proposed to do the work for \$28,250. Following an established procurement policy regarding waiver of competition, the Board is allowed to grant approval if they feel an existing contractor provides added value due to their familiarity with existing systems/operations. Electrical Installations, Inc currently, and historically, has served as the facilities systems service provider and has intimate knowledge of facility control and network systems. Dan Goyette made a motion to “to award EII the process control instrument installation and integration project for a cost not to exceed \$28,250, paid for from CSO tank project funds.”. Steve Ness seconded. All others approved and the motion passed.

Branding/Name Change

The was a discussion of the name change and logo options which have been provided in the packet this month and last month. The Board was in favor of including funds in the 2024 budget request to continue these efforts as well as for 50th anniversary related items, but they decided to wait until the November Board meeting to vote on the name and logo change.

Auburn Property Solar Request

Travis Peaslee reported that Blue Wave received a letter from the AG's office stating that we could release the easement on the Libby parcel (or a portion of). In a meeting with Blue Wave, they informed Travis that the 13 to 15-acre site originally agreed to was not a suitable location due to a soils/wetland evaluation and they provided a draft alternative proposal which involves the Authority releasing the easement on the entire parcel, then agreeing to put the same restrictions on the land without inclusion of the 5.5 acres they are proposing to utilize. Since the proposed site is in an area where the Authority stockpiles biosolids, it would affect future land spreading operations, which are very unclear and uncertain at this time. For this reason, the Board decided to reject the alternative proposal.

New Business

OptimaBiome: Travis Peaslee reported that staff have been working with a biocatalyst vendor on a product we are considering trialing over the next couple months. The product would be added daily, in addition to some recommended process changes, with the promise of reducing biosolids by 2.5 to 4 wet tons/day. The material is free of charge for the 60-day trial, however if it works and staff want to continue, then the cost would be \$180/day. Staff are open to trying this, and Travis will report back as soon as there is more information.

2024 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan: Travis Peaslee reported that staff are currently drafting the 2024 budget and Capital Improvement Plan and he will present them at the November Board meeting. If the Board determines at the November meeting that a budget workshop meeting is warranted, one will be scheduled.

November meeting date: Travis Peaslee reported that the regularly scheduled meeting date in November is a holiday (Veterans Day recognized). The meeting was rescheduled to the following week, November 17.

Mike Broadbent made a motion to enter executive session at 8:55 a.m. Mary Ann Brenchick seconded, all others approved, and the Board entered Executive session.

Dan Goyette made a motion to exit the executive session at 9:09 a.m. Mary Ann Brenchick seconded, all others approved, and the Board exited executive session.

Adjourn

Dan Goyette made a motion to adjourn at 9:09 a.m., Steve Ness seconded, all approved, and the motion passed.

Attest



Travis B. Peaslee, General Manager