

As voted by the Board of Trustees and in accordance with the notice of the meeting, the monthly Workshop Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Portland Water District was held in the Nixon Training Center at the general offices of the District, 225 Douglass Street, Portland, Maine and via Zoom on Monday, April 10, 2023. In attendance from staff were S. Garrison, C. Crovo, D. Kane, S. Firmin, G. Pellerin, D. Katsiaficas, M. Demers, and C. Cote.

All Trustees were present except Trustee Siviski. Trustee Cote attended remotely.

President Lunt convened the workshop at 6:37 p.m.

## **1. Wastewater is Changing at PWD to Meet Evolving Needs**

Scott Firmin, Director of Wastewater – Operations, explained the changes that have occurred, and that are occurring, in wastewater, interlinking the operating culture, evolving regulations, increasing public awareness, and asset lifecycles.

Mr. Firmin noted that wastewater is changing in many ways – a changing workforce, changes in regulations, aging infrastructure, and increased public awareness and expectations.

Many long-time PWD wastewater employees have retired. Mr. Firmin presented a graph showing the demographics of his department’s employees. There has been movement of employees within PWD, as well as job changes outside PWD. PWD wants to build the most capable employees that it can through training opportunities, including an apprenticeship program.

Regulations are changing; these regulations affect wet weather and CSOs, nutrients, disinfection, PFAS, and biosolids.

PWD is also dealing with the effects of aging infrastructure. A master planning effort is underway to assess PWD’s assets and the maintenance and replacement of infrastructure that is at the end of its life. The level of investment will need to accelerate in order to meet demands and assure that PWD can fulfill its treatment obligations.

The public also has certain expectations, including that odor control needs to improve. The public has more access to areas around PWD facilities due to recreational trails that have been built on PWD property. PWD has more visibility than it has in the past, and the public is more aware of our operations. PWD needs to engage with the public, and interfacing with environmental partners can be beneficial to PWD’s message and communication with the public.

## **2. North Windham Sewer Project Update**

Greg Pellerin, Senior Project Engineer, provided an update on the project.

Mr. Pellerin noted that the design phase for this project has been underway since November of 2022. Major tasks which are underway include permitting, SRF funding approval process, collection system design, wastewater treatment facility design and effluent disposal system design. The first Guaranteed Maximum Process (GMP #1) contract is expected in June.

Mr. Pellerin provided a map showing the Windham sewer collection system. The plan is that the treatment facility that will be built can be scaled up in the future to handle waste generated by future development in the Town.

Most of the design will take place between April and August.

This summer, the effluent disposal system will be installed underneath sports fields around Manchester School. Well-filtered sands are beneath the fields, which is good for filtering the effluent. The fields will be built by PWD through its contract with the contractor, and PWD will be reimbursed by the Town.

The new plant will be 100% automated. Daily checks will occur; it will be staffed, but not full-time.

GMP #1 will come to the Board for approval in June.

A schedule of the project was provided to the Board, with a description of tasks.

Mr. Pellerin described the CMAR contract (Construction Manager at Risk), which is a new process for procurement for PWD, and explained the benefits of the process to PWD for this project.

### **3. Other Business**

President Lunt updated the Board on the Scholarship Committee award, which will take place at PWD's May meeting.

He also advised the Board about the use of the scenic overlook on Route 35. An issue has arisen about the use of the area, which is different from what is contemplated by the agreement among the State DOT, Standish, and PWD. President Lunt will convene the Standish Steering Committee to discuss this.

Standish has also asked to have its fire boat parked at the PWD dock. The Planning Committee approved. It will be brought to the Board for approval.

### **4. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Submitted by,

Donna M. Katsiaticas  
Clerk