

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 remotely on Monday, December 7, 2020. In attendance from staff were Messrs. Crovo, Kane, Firmin, Wallace and Mses. Lewis, Katsiaticas and Demers. President Douglas convened the Workshop at 6:36 p.m.

All Trustees were present except Trustee Burns.

1. City of Portland Water Resources Update.

Nancy Gallinaro, Water Resources Manager, presented an update on the City of Portland's Integrated Planning effort, capital improvement plan, and progress toward permit renewal.

Ms. Gallinaro noted it had been 2 years since the last update.

She began with a list of projects and explained each project. The projects included Bedford Street and Warren Avenue storm drain replacement. The Thames Street Extension project included installation of a 60 inch stormwater outfall; the new outfall will be used in the future when there is a separation project on Munjoy Hill. The Deering Corner roundabout is also wrapping up. Riverside Recycling facility also had a wet pond project.

The Back Cove South storage facility installation is underway. It is a 3.5 million gallon storage tank. It will help protect the cove and the bay. Stormwater in the tank goes on to get treated at the plant. Athletic fields on top of the tank will be restored.

The City of Portland is still working under a 6 year old consent order. They are hoping to wrap that up and obtain a new permit. 2021 was their last year of their plan under the consent agreement.

Ms. Gallinaro then explained how many small projects have grown to be bigger projects once the repair was started, in an effort to do the projects correctly. The City has undertaken a process to clear sewer rights of way and assess and inspect conditions of their sewer system. There should be a reduction in flow at the plant once the work has been done to reduce inflow and infiltration into the sewer system.

The City is currently in the process of establishing a dewatering program for construction sites. This program is going to City Council on December 21 for its final approval.

The IPT program administered by PWD is going very well and the City is pleased with the result.

Ms. Gallinaro explained the City's asset management system and explained its relation to the City's integrated plan. The integrated plan is complete. DEP will receive it at the end of December/beginning of January as part of a permit application. The City is optimistic that it will be well received. The overall process of the integrated planning process was described in detail. The process took 2 years, with many participants for many stakeholders. The program highlights are it is balanced, compliant and reflects the interest of stakeholders. The program needs to be sustainable through regular funding mechanisms. It is flexible and adaptable. Ms. Gallinaro also provided general information about the Plan.

Trustee Lunt and Ms. Gallinaro discussed whether a plant should be built to treat stormwater. Ms. Gallinaro noted such a plant would not be in use all the time. Working with the source of the water may be more effective.

Trustee Garrison asked about green infrastructure and its maintenance costs. Ms. Gallinaro said maintenance on green infrastructure is contracted out and not done by City staff. City is trying to recreate nature, the natural process in a contained area. It is a high maintenance effort. It is hoped that for a variety of reasons, green infrastructure will make more sense.

Trustee Levinsky asked about leaf pick up around storm drains. Ms. Gallinaro explained the City's limitations in doing curb to curb cleaning this year. She will investigate the cleaning of Trustee Levinsky's neighborhood.

2. Other Business.

Trustee Levinsky informed the Board regarding the water bottle filling station grants. 14 applications were received. He informed the Board as to which organizations would be receiving the grants. They will be awarded by the Board at its business meeting.

The business meeting will be on December 21.

The District will close at noon on December 24.

The General Manager may extend COVID sick leave and family medical leave into the first quarter of next year if Congress does not act to extend the protections it enacted this Spring.

Performance review of the General Manager is coming up. She requests that it be done beginning at the January workshop. Trustees had a consensus to begin in January.

Trustee Willey asked again about a video for PWD explaining what PWD is all about and suggested to the Trustees that they should support such an effort. He referred to page 13 of the budget where it breaks down what the District does for people and page 20 for governance. He felt it was important to note what PWD doesn't do as well – sewer collection. He felt it would clarify the District's role and efforts for PWD customers. He thought perhaps it could be used as a recruitment tool for people to become interested in PWD and possibly running for the position of PWD Trustee. Trustee Levinsky stated he felt Trustee Willey raised a good point, many people do not understand the role of a Trustee and the fact that they are elected. Trustee Rich said it was a good idea. Prior to running, she reviewed a history of PWD and she found it interesting. President Douglas said she thought it was a great idea. Trustee Willey noted that a video would involve all the Trustees.

3. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Submitted by,

Donna M. Katsiaticas
Clerk