

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 on March 13, 2017. In attendance from staff were Messrs. Crovo, Kane, Firmin, Wallace, Johnson and Meses. Lewis, Katsiaticas, Demers and Walker. Attending from the public was Seth Lockman.

All Trustees were present with the exception of Trustees Lunt and Garrison.

President Cote convened the Public Hearing at 6:32 p.m.

Special Meeting

A Public Hearing was held to receive public input on the proposed average 1.0% increase in water rates effective May 1, 2017.

President Cote noted that 52,000 notices were sent out to customers and area businesses making them aware of the rate increase.

The District did not receive any inquires regarding the rate increase.

There was one member of the public present.

Ms. Lewis' remarks to the public and the Board are noted on the first 7 slides of the attached PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Kane also provided financial remarks from the attached PowerPoint presentation.

President Cote asked if there were any other questions from the public. There were none.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:42 p.m.

President Cote opened the workshop meeting at 6:43 p.m.

1. Water Source Assessment Program. Nate Whalen, Water Resource Specialist, reviewed the results of the recent source water assessment program.

Paul Hunt, Director of Environmental Services gave a brief introduction to the source water assessment presentation. He explained the history of the SWAP (source water assessment program). The first assessment was done in 2003. In 2003, staff did site visits to about 200 properties and turned over their findings to the State for the completion of the assessment. The State found that there was a moderate risk of contamination overall at Sebago Lake.

Mr. Whalen then took over the presentation. As part of the response to the 2003 SWAP, the Standish boat launch was created. The project included defining a paved area and revegetation of a portion of the area.

In 2007, the land conservation program was created as part of the SWAP recommendations. Over 8,000 septic systems have been inspected since the SWAP. PWD has worked with Portland Pipeline to assess the risk and understand the response plan to any possible leak; PWD has a good working relationship with the pipeline.

Mr. Whalen explained the efforts undertaken by staff working with MDOT as part of the Rte. 35 relocation project. He also explained the traffic issues surrounding the intersection of Rte. 237 and Rte. 35, explaining the ramifications to the water source in the event of accidents which occur in the area.

PWD has also assessed the sites of various marinas, gas stations and gravel pits in the area to assess the risk these sites pose to the water supply due to their operations or the contaminants that they store on their property. As an example, Mr. Whalen discussed a gravel pit and gas station that had been specifically assessed by PWD.

PWD has also met with DEP and has requested annual review of the DEP data so that staff can stay on top of developments in the area.

Mr. Whalen was asked about the requirements of certification of the marinas. Mr. Whalen explained the criteria, including BMPs that the marinas would need to be certified - only one marina of the six has been certified. The program is managed by the State, and certification is not legally required. To get the award, the marina must go over and above the regulatory standards. The six marinas identified had the highest risk due to fuel. There are 11 marinas around the lake.

Trustee Willey asked about the relocation of Rte. 35. Chris Crovo, Director of Asset Management and Planning responded and explained the status of the relocation and the cost.

2. Other Business.

Donna Katsiaficas, Corporate Counsel, reviewed LD422 with the Board. This bill imposes a 2 year moratorium, beginning November 1, 2017, on new contracts or agreements by a consumer-owned water utility, municipality, state agency or other governmental entity involving the extraction of more than 750,000 gallons of groundwater during any week or more than 50,000 gallons of groundwater on any day. In addition, the bill instructs a committee created by the bill to make recommendations on placing all groundwater under dominion of the State. The Board was in agreement to file testimony against the bill on behalf of PWD. Trustee Swinton recused herself from the discussion as she wrote the bill in her capacity as a representative of Food and Water Watch.

3. Executive Session.

At 7:25 p.m. Trustee Libby made a motion to go into executive session, pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(E) legal matters, for consultation with the District's attorney regarding pending litigation. Seconded by Trustee Levinsky. All in favor.

4. Adjourn.

The Board came out of executive session and adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Submitted by,

Donna Katsiaficas
Clerk