

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 April 8, 2019. In attendance from staff were Messrs. Crovo, Kane, Firmin, Wallace, Johnson, Hunt, Rush, Galasyn, Kelley and Meses. Lewis, Katsiaficas, Demers, Sirois, Poulin and Dougherty.

All Trustees were present except Trustee Beck.

President Cote convened the Special Meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Special Meeting

A Special Meeting was held to consider an easement modification at 58 Fore Street, Portland.

The District has an easement for a 33” sewer force main on the property located at 58 Fore Street. The easement dates to 1976. The property is undergoing development by the Owner, CPB2 I LLC, and the Owner has requested that it be allowed to place infrastructure in the District’s easement. The infrastructure includes: concrete encased utility duct banks crossing the 33” sewer force main perpendicularly, containing electrical, water, pressure sanitary sewer, telecommunications, and gasoline and diesel fuel lines; a small diameter diesel fuel line located approximately 10’ from sewer force main running parallel to sewer for approximately ~500lf; precast concrete fuel sumps and pad mounted electrical equipment including grounding rods; gangway connections (which are presumed to be slab on grade concrete construction); and private hydrants and free standing fire department connections.

The District has reviewed the proposed installations and staff believes that they will not interfere with District operations or maintenance of the District’s infrastructure in its easement. An easement modification agreement is needed to allow the developer to place its infrastructure in the District’s easement. The District has negotiated the modification agreement, and it is attached in draft form to this memorandum. The agreement provides that the District will not be responsible for damage to the developer’s infrastructure in the event that PWD must construct, maintain or repair its infrastructure in the easement. The Owner/Developer has agreed to indemnify PWD for any damage done to PWD infrastructure by the Owner/Developer’s actions or operations.

Trustee Willey noted that he will be renting a boat at the new marina.

Trustee Garrison asked if the District needed to make improvements to the main located on the easement. Mr. Crovo said no.

Trustee Siviski asked if proposed infrastructure would interfere with PWD’s ability to maintain the force main. Mr. Crovo explained there should be no problem maintaining our infrastructure.

It was moved by Trustee Lunt and seconded by Trustee Libby.

It was Voted and unanimously,

ORDERED, the General Manager is authorized to execute an Easement Modification Agreement in substantial form as attached hereto related to development at 58 Fore Street, Portland; and further, the General Manager and the Treasurer, each acting singly, are authorized to take such other steps as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

The Special Meeting was closed at 6:45 p.m.

President Cote opened the workshop meeting at 6:45 p.m.

1. Roles of Lab Staff in Compliance Monitoring/ Reporting.

The District's Environmental Laboratory staff were introduced and explained the roles they play in support of Wastewater, Water and IPT compliance and operations.

Paul Hunt, Environmental Services Manager began the presentation introducing the lab staff. He provided a brief history of the lab. Until 2003, two labs operated independently - East End Lab and the SLWTF lab. In 2003 the labs were combined and services both water and wastewater needs. There is one lab staff operating at two locations. Key to making it work is communication.

Mr. Hunt described the responsibilities of lab staff, which include quality control, compliance and support for operations and project management.

Jim Galasyn then addressed the Board. He gave a rundown of the lab staff and their service with the District. DHHS certifies the lab in Standish and the lab at the East End. This means the District lab functions the same as a commercial lab. Both labs do the same types of analyses. Mr. Galasyn then described his job responsibilities. He coordinates the staff. He also goes out to the satellite labs to calibrate the equipment. He is the training lead and trains new wastewater operators in certain sampling procedures.

Peter Rush is an environmental scientist; he has worked for PWD for 28 years. He described the work he does. He analyzes samples and performs tests on the samples collected. PWD has received high marks from the EPA for its work in the lab. He notes that the lab works in a quality control role as opposed to actually part of operations. The lab provides support to the plant operators. The lab also acts as a resource for PWD's education efforts. He noted that everyone he works with cares about the environment.

Alana Dougherty is a lab assistant. She described her responsibilities in the lab. She is involved in sample collection and analysis. She is responsible for glassware prep, and she participates in special projects as assigned.

Trustee Willey asked about new nutrient standards and the process or reporting. Jim Galasyn said last summer PWD was using a commercial lab to do the nutrient analysis. Starting on May 1, the analysis will be done by the lab in-house.

Trustee Siviski asked if other water and sewer districts do sample collection and analysis in-house. Mr. Galasyn said PWD has the most lab expertise than any other water utility in the state. Most use commercial labs to do the analysis. Mr. Rush said PWD SOP's are shared with other labs.

Trustee Lunt thanked the lab staff for coming in and expressed appreciation for what the staff does.

Trustee Libby thanked the staff as well and thanked them for their enthusiasm and dedication.

2. IPT Update.

Staff provided an IPT update and described reorganization in the program to address PWD's new responsibilities for all aspects of the Portland IPT program.

Paul Hunt introduced staff working on the IPT program.

Rebekah Sirois, IPT Supervisor began the actual presentation. She described the purpose of the IPT program. It came about as a result of the Clean Water Act. A goal of the program is to protect the treatment works; to prevent pass through and interference; and protect the treatment plant and workers from potentially hazardous discharges.

PWD identifies industries that might cause issues. It issues permits to these industries. It samples their industrial wastewater and enforces the rules. PWD oversees the Westbrook/Gorham IPT program which has 15 permitted industries, and the Portland program which has 26 permitted industries. PWD has always done all the functions in the Westbrook program. In Portland, PWD took over the complete program in September of 2018.

The City of Portland committed to a one year transition period in handing off the program to PWD. Portland staff visit the IPT site with PWD staff to sample at the permitted industries. Ms. Sirois then gave examples of locations that were sampled. Trustee Garrison asked questions regarding the composition of the discharges of some of the industries. Trustee Willey asked about the sampling and where it was conducted. President Cote asked if random sampling was conducted and whether the industry knew it was being sampled. Ms. Sirois said many knew they were being sampled as for operational reasons they had to be notified.

Trustee Garrison left at 7:35 p.m.

The first permit issued in Portland by PWD was in September 2018 for a facility related to the Portland Jetport operations.

Trustee Siviski asked as to the number of violations and compliance record of permittees. Ms. Sirois said generally compliance was good.

Trustee Rich asked if the industries like breweries pretreat. Ms. Sirois said yes and described the character of their treatment and the waste they discharge.

Charlene Poulin manages the wastewater collection system. There are 3 wastewater samplers in the department. The lab assists in training them. More people will be trained for redundancy in the future. Collaboration with the City and within PWD has made the transition to PWD successful. Ms. Poulin described how samples are scheduled and collected.

Chris Kelley, environmental scientist then addressed the Board. He explained the role of the lab in the sampling process. The lab provides operator support, as well as sampling event preparation. Sample analysis and data review is also performed by lab staff, along with data

entry related to the testing and results. The lab staff also helps put the actual permits together and issues it. Permit cycles are three years.

Ms. Sirois gave a list of new developments in the IPT program administration. A PDF was created that is a fillable form for industries to use as a permit application. Facebook posts highlighting wastewater and IPT treatment are on the Facebook page. Lone Pine Brewing is a new industry in Gorham that has just been permitted. One industry has been removed from the Portland IPT program (Shipyard Brewing).

Trustee Willey asked about metals and if the waste was treated would metals still be there and under PWD jurisdiction. He also asked what would happen if there were no pretreatment, if it would throw the treatment plant off. Ms. Sirois said yes. President Cote asked if a brewer could be out of compliance in Portland. Ms. Sirois said yes. Local limits are legally enforceable and violators fined. Screening limits have expired – those limits are not enforceable.

Trustee Willey asked about violations and how they are enforced. Ms. Sirois said there was an enforcement response plan. Donna Katsiaficas explained the enforcement process.

3. Other Business.

President Cote mentioned the editorial in the Portland Press Herald last week written by the Elders of Future Generations about the Portland Pipeline and the way the District has handled the issue. He noted several things in the editorial were mischaracterized. They have their opinion on how the pipeline issue is being handled. After the Board has reviewed the editorial, the Trustees can talk about how they would like to handle the pipeline issue.

Trustee Libby felt it was an attack on the Board.

The Elders of Future Generations were able to get Trout Unlimited to issue a letter in support of their position.

SMRWC annual meeting is scheduled for June 20.

4. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Donna M. Katsiaficas
Clerk