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 8, 2024. In attendance from staff were S. Garrison, C. Crovo, D. Kane, S. Firmin, J. Wallace, C. Cogan, G. Pellerin, A. Weaver, and D. Katsiaficas.

All Trustees were present except Trustee Siviski. President Lunt opened the workshop meeting at 6:30 p.m.

1. Water and Wastewater Operations Update

James Wallace, Director of Operations - Water, and Scott Firmin, Director of Operations - Wastewater provided updates on the current operational situations in water and wastewater, respectively.

Jim Wallace started the presentation by giving an overview of water operations since the pandemic. He provided details to the Board about the number of employees in his department, their length of tenure, and in general, the amount of experience of his staff. He noted that license requirements are a big issue.

For the most part, the people hired in water operations have no water experience. Currently, they need to have both a Treatment 4 and a Distribution 4 license.

Scott Firmin then took over and provided an overview of wastewater operations.

The following areas and topics were covered:

- A changing workforce due to retirements, movement within PWD, and employees leaving for jobs outside of PWD.
- Focus on training, broaden knowledge and exposure.
- Wastewater has an apprentice program that is working well.

Mr. Firmin noted that newer employees have a different view of technology. His department is also dealing with more stringent regulations in the areas of wet weather and CSOs, disinfection, water quality, and PFAS.

Mr. Firmin went on to cover:

- Aging infrastructure
- Expanding maintenance training to wastewater operators.
- He noted that there is more public awareness of what PWD does, and the public is very interested in what PWD is doing. In addition, there is an Increase public visibility, communication, and interface with environmental partners.

2. North Windham Wastewater System Project Update

Greg Pellerin, Senior Project Engineer, and Andrew Weaver, Associate Engineer, provided an update on the North Windham wastewater project. The update included what has been accomplished to date, the future components of the project, the current proposed budget, and the project timeline.

The PowerPoint presentation is attached as part of the minutes.

3. Other Business

President Lunt announced the Scholarship Committee met earlier this evening and Abigail Ouellette of Gorham was chosen for this year's award. Carrie Cote will be reaching out to her this week to ask her to come to the April business meeting for the presentation of the scholarship.

4. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by,

Carrie E. Cote Assistant Clerk





















































