

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 July 9, 2018. In attendance from staff were Messrs. Kane, Firmin, Wallace, Johnson and Meses. Lewis, Katsiaficas, and Demers. President Lunt convened the Workshop at 6:40 p.m.

All Trustees were present except Trustees Siviski and Grant.

### **1. Cross Connection Control Program.**

Jim Wallace, Director of Water Services, presented proposed changes to the District's Cross Connection Control Program.

Mr. Wallace began his presentation by explaining that PWD joined the Partnership for Safe Water 2 years ago. PWD had to look at its water processes from a safety perspective. As a result, the cross connection control was examined.

Cross connection control is all about backflow or backsiphonage. The intention is for PWD to connect a customer and have its water flow from the distribution system to the customer. Backflow can occur when there is a water main break as a result of the reduced pressure in the water main. Cross connection control is about stopping backflow into customers' facilities.

Mr. Wallace provided photos of various main breaks and showed a pressure chart of the conditions which existed on Munjoy Hill during a major main break. In the past, the District has been successful in collecting clean samples after a main break; however, main breaks put PWD at risk.

The cross connection control program was rewritten to comply with present EPA standards, providing clarity. For new residential construction or substantial renovation, a non-testable dual check will be required. This policy will slowly increase protection in the system over time.

The District will perform evaluations or inspections during times of redevelopment or if the owner requests a change in the quantity or type of service provided.

Trustee Cote asked if condo developments are required to have a backflow preventer. Mr. Wallace indicated it depended on the number of units in the development, and if PWD knew about it.

Mr. Wallace explained the definition used by PWD of the term "substantial renovation". Renovations need not involve major structural changes.

The new program also addresses grandfathered sprinkler systems, many of which use unlined pipe. Unprotected fire sprinkler systems undergoing substantial renovations will require a backflow preventer.

Mr. Wallace presented the outreach and education plan to the Board, explaining how PWD will work with municipalities as well as sprinkler companies to educate them as to what PWD's program requires. He noted that making the industry aware of what needed to be installed may

be most important. Implementation is planned for January 1, 2019 in order to give PWD time to successfully implement the program. The new program is substantially different from the old program.

Trustee Garrison asked about cross connections and fire hydrant use. Mr. Wallace explained PWD's process for using hydrant meters and what uses are allowed. Just over 40% of PWD's system does not have RPZ's. Eighty-Seven percent of those are small commercial sites that were designated as low risk by PWD's initial program.

Trustee Rich asked about Maine Medical Center's construction project. Mr. Johnson explained Maine Med is already protected by multiple check valves, and explained how structures are protected during construction.

Building permits do not currently trigger notification to the builder of PWD's requirements.

The goal of the program is to protect public health.

## **2. Executive Session Regarding Labor Negotiations.**

Peter Bennett, the District's labor counsel, led a discussion with the Board on upcoming labor union negotiations. This agenda item was held in executive session.

Trustee Libby made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405 (6)(D), seconded by Trustee Garrison. It was voted unanimously to go into executive session at 7:10 p.m.

Trustee Libby made a motion to come out of executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405 (6)(D), seconded by Trustee Garrison. It was voted unanimously to come out of executive session.

## **3. Other Business.**

None

## **4. Adjourn.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

Donna Katsiaficas  
Clerk