

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 at the East End Wastewater Treatment Facility, 500 Marginal Way, Portland, Maine on Monday, August 14, 2023. In attendance from staff were S. Garrison, C. Crovo, D. Kane, S. Firmin, J. Wallace, D. Price, C. Cogan, M. Demers, and D. Katsiaficas.

All Trustees were present except Trustee Willett.

1. East End Wastewater Treatment Facility

The Board of Trustees met at the East End Wastewater Treatment Facility and were led on a tour starting at 5:30 p.m. by Scott Firmin and Dustin Price. At the conclusion of the tour, the Trustees gathered at the conference room at the East End Wastewater Treatment Facility (EEWTF) to finish the rest of the workshop.

President Lunt reconvened the workshop at 6:45 p.m.

2. Wastewater Biosolids Master Plan

Chris Cogan gave a brief overview of asset management at the treatment facilities. He has taken on the task of creating a robust preventative maintenance program. In the last 10 months the following has happened:

- WW Treatment – 3047 assets
 - WW operations and maintenance maintains 2605 of these assets
- WW Systems – 2489 assets
 - WW systems maintains 1665 of these assets
- Inventory of Assets
 - Manufacturer, Model / Serial #'s, Installation Date, Life Expectancy, Etc.
- Preventive & Predictive Maintenance
 - Maintenance scheduled in EAM for each asset
- Asset Criticality Review
 - Rating assets with condition and consequence of failure values
 - Objective analysis of asset risk
- WW Maintenance Philosophy
 - Documentation, Quality Repairs, Preventive Maintenance, Resiliency, Safe and Efficient
- 306 new Treatment PMs created on 1246 assets – 40% of active PMs
- 89 new Systems PMs created – 13% of active PMs

The summer engineering interns have assisted in the creation of the PM program. Each asset takes 19 minutes to analyze. EAM has played a critical part, without it we would not have the history of the asset.

Scott Firmin gave a brief update on the Biosolids Master Plan.

Work on the Biosolids Master Plan and plant dewatering upgrades continue. We have seen initial layouts of a possible upgrade at East End that could significantly improve our ability to dewater solids more quickly and produce a higher solids content. As part of our regional master planning efforts, a Request for Information (RFI) was issued. A two-day technology summit was held that drew 25 supplier presentations and 45 attendees. Twenty-nine (29) responses to the RFI were received and are being evaluated. The final report summarizing possible configurations, capacity, siting needs, and expected costs will be completed by the end of this year.

3. Sebago Lake Levels

Paul Hunt, Environmental Services Manager, explained how recent weather and other environmental factors impact the lake level and those responsible for monitoring levels.

Sebago Lake has been the water supply for the District since 1869. SAPPI has control of the Eel Weir Dam and the outflow to Sebago Lake and has a Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) license to do so. The District has nothing to do with the dam. The weather ultimately controls the lake level. The dam, the way it is opened and closed, can be used to manipulate the level up and down if necessary. The District monitors the quality of the water, not the level of the lake.

The Trustees voted more than 25 years ago to not get involved in lake levels, to remain neutral, and take no position on how the lake levels are managed.

Paul provided a handout to the Trustees noting historical lake levels and transparency readings in Lower Bay. A copy is attached to the minutes.

4. Other Business

Seth reminded the Board of the discussion a few months ago regarding main breaks and the protections from liability under the Maine Tort Claims Act for damages caused. He discussed offering limited restoration allowance in certain circumstances. President Lunt asked what the legal risk would be if we offered compensation for restoration work. Donna Katsiaficas explained there would be less risk to the District if it paid for restoration and clean-up costs than if the District did nothing. If the District does nothing and stands on the defense of immunity under the Maine Tort Claims Act, the District could run the risk of a party going to the legislature and having the law amended such that the District would lose immunity in water main break situations. If the District pays for limited restoration or clean-up costs, PWD would require a release to be signed before any relief was given to a claimant. The general consensus was claimants still need to follow the policy of submitting claims and they will be processed through the District's insurance but also reviewed on a case-by-case basis by District staff regarding restoration work, if necessary.

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Carrie E. Cote
Assistant Clerk