

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 Monday, December 8, 2025. In attendance from staff were D. Kane, S. Firmin, G. Pellerin, C. Poulin, J. Wallace, M. Clements, M. Archibald, D. Katsiaficas, and Brad Roland from the City of Portland.

President Lunt was absent.

Vice President McCann convened the workshop meeting at 6:45 p.m.

1. Combined Sewer Overflows

Charlene Poulin, Director of Operations – Wastewater, presented on combined sewer overflows. The presentation offered an in-depth examination of the management of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in Portland and its neighboring communities.

Charlene explained how flow from sanitary pipes is directed to treatment plants during dry weather, highlighting the impact of rainfall on overflow events. Historical methods for monitoring CSOs relied on manual observations after rainstorms, which often missed overflows between data collection periods. Around 2006, the Portland Water District implemented real-time flow metering at the highest-risk CSO locations, allowing for continuous monitoring and more accurate data collection. These meters, combined with tide gate management and inclinometer measurements, help track both wet and dry weather flows, identify blockages or debris, and verify overflow events.

PWD currently operates 43 flow meters and seven rain gauges, and collaborates closely with the Cities of Portland and Westbrook, as well as the Town of Cape Elizabeth. Over the past two decades, Portland has significantly reduced active CSOs from 43 to 23, thanks to infrastructure improvements, storage conduits, and stormwater separation. The district also coordinates long-term control plans, monitors performance, and reports flow volumes to the DEP, maintaining high uptime on its monitoring systems.

While CSO events still occur, particularly during heavy rain, storage conduits and treatment improvements have reduced the volume of untreated discharges. Trustees asked multiple questions regarding the potential for water conservation during wet weather events and fines related to CSO events, which Charlene and Brad Roland addressed, providing clarification on voluntary public measures and historical enforcement practices. Overall, the discussion highlighted the importance of ongoing monitoring, infrastructure upgrades, and regulatory compliance in maintaining water quality protection across the service area.

2. General Manager's Comments

Scott Firmin, General Manager, reminded the Board that the 2026 meeting schedule will be up for approval at the next business meeting and invited any suggested changes.

So far, no conflicts with the dates have been reported. However, a couple of potential conflicts were highlighted: June 22 coincides with the ACE conference, which is typically attended by staff and at least two trustees, and the current September meeting date of September 28 overlaps with WEFTEC, the annual wastewater conference, also usually attended by trustees and staff. Mr. Firmin noted that attending WEFTEC while a meeting was scheduled this year was not ideal and recommended adjusting the September date to avoid the same issue. Attendees were asked to specifically review these dates and identify any scheduling conflicts.

3. **Executive Session**

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(A), personnel evaluation, the Board went into Executive Session to discuss annual reviews.

Trustee McCann made a motion to go into executive session at 7:20, pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(A), personnel evaluation, to discuss annual reviews, seconded by Trustee Shaughnessy. All in favor.

Trustee Libby made a motion to come out of executive session, pursuant to 1 M.R.S., seconded by Trustee Voltz. All in favor.

4. **Other Business**

None.

5. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Submitted by,

Donna M. Katsiaficas
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Clerk