

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, July 14, 2025. In attendance from staff were D. Kane, S. Firmin, J. Wallace, M. Clements, K. Tibbets, G. Pellerin, C. Thompson, C. Poulin, M. Archibald, P. Hunt, and D. Katsiaficas.

Trustee Douglas was absent.

President Lunt convened the workshop meeting at 6:46 p.m.

**1. Maple Street Memorandum of Understanding**

Chad Thompson, Source Protection Coordinator, presented a potential partnership between the Portland Water District (PWD) and the Town of Standish concerning a project at the end of Maple Street, adjacent to Sebago Lake. The initiative aims to improve water quality protection and enhance public access by redeveloping a deteriorated fishing pier and surrounding road infrastructure.

The proposal centers on establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would ultimately lead to a 25-year renewable lease the fishing pier and access to it to the Town, allowing them to pursue grant funding for replacing the deteriorating fishing pier. The project also includes removing pavement from the lower end of Maple Street, replacing it with vegetated buffers and an ADA-accessible path to promote stormwater infiltration and reduce pollutant runoff into the lake.

PWD would fund the initial removal and grading work in 2025 using existing capital project funds, while design costs for the buffer, path, and a small parking area with a snowplow turnaround would be shared equally with the Town. The Town would be responsible for vacating the existing road right-of-way, constructing and maintaining the parking lot, and assuming long-term maintenance of the leased area, including all fishing pier improvements.

Trustees asked several questions regarding legal ownership of the land around the present right of way and the right of way itself, ADA compliance, maintenance oversight, and coordination with the Mountain Division Trail. The Board expressed general support for the initiative and recommended bringing the finalized MOU and lease terms to the August business meeting for further review and possible approval. Mr. Thompson is also scheduled to present the proposal to the Standish Town Council in August, and if both parties approve, initial implementation work could begin later this year.

**2. Discussion of Request from the City of Portland for Placement of Public Art on PWD Property**

Michelle Clements, Director of Communications and Public Relations, presented a proposal for the Portland Water District to host a public art installation at the India Street Pump Station property, in partnership with the City of Portland's Public Art Program.

The request originated roughly 18 months ago when the Portland Italian American Heritage Committee expressed interest in placing a statue on the District's India Street pump station site, which is the original location of the Grand Trunk Railroad station and a key part of the city's historic "Little Italy." It is believed that immigrants, including Italian immigrants, passed through the station when coming to Portland.

The proposed statue, depicting an Italian immigrant family, would be approximately 10 feet tall and 8 feet wide. It would be sculpted by what is believed to be the last living Italian immigrant stone carver in the U.S. Working in coordination with his son, the piece must be completed in time for the 100th anniversary of St. Peter's Italian Bazaar next month.

Ms. Clements and Corporation Counsel Donna Katsiaficas addressed several questions from Trustees regarding maintenance on the art installation, permanence, and future site use. The

site has been carefully chosen to avoid interference with wastewater operations, and an easement and maintenance agreement has been drafted, ensuring that the city manages the statue's maintenance and potential relocation with clear terms for emergency and non-emergency access. The artwork will be incorporated into the City's public art collection, providing long-term oversight of the piece.

The Board expressed support for the installation and agreed to move the proposal forward for a vote at the next business meeting, noting overall support and confidence in the City's public art process.

### **3. Other Business**

Scott Firmin, General Manager, shared several updates. He began by confirming that the August 11 committee meetings and workshop will be held at the Sebago Lake Water Resource Center, and revisited a previous request for a trustee boat tour of the lake. The tour, led by Rod Beaulieu, will offer firsthand views of key watershed features such as the end of Maple Street, local beaches, and stormwater entry points. Mr. Firmin and President Lunt emphasized the tour's educational value. A poll of the Trustees indicated that 5-6 Trustees were interested in taking the tour. Mr. Firmin also asked if the Trustees wanted transportation to the Lake for the meeting. Several Trustees indicated interest in the transportation, and it will be arranged. Further details will be provided at the July business meeting.

Mr. Firmin also announced the appointment of Charlene Poulin as Director of Operations—Wastewater, a role he formerly held. Formal confirmation will come at the business meeting.

He shared the sad news of John Emerson's passing. Mr. Emerson was a longtime PWD employee, trustee, and expert in Portland's sewer system, and he will be fondly remembered.

The General Manager closed with IT updates, noting that trustees' iPads have been updated and email service may be briefly interrupted Wednesday evening. He requested that all future staff-related or technical questions be directed through him to ensure clear, timely communication and efficient internal coordination.

### **4. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Submitted by,

*Donna M. Katsiaficas*  
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Clerk