DRAFT

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 Tuesday, October 13, 2026. In attendance from staff were S. Firmin, D. Kane, G. Pellerin, J. Wallace, M. Clements, E. Archibald, C. Poulin, E. Kane, P. Hunt, C. Brown, K. Bshara, Karen Young, Sebago Clean Waters, Colin Holme, Lakes Environmental Association, and Matt Markot, Loon Echo Land Trust attended from the public.

All trustees but Trustee Scontras, Trustee Douglas, and Trustee Shattuck-Heidorn were in attendance. Trustee McCann attended remotely.

President Lunt convened the workshop meeting at 6:30 p.m.

1. Biosolids Update

   Staff presented an update on the Regional Biosolids Facility Project and the proposed selection for Phase 1A design. They reviewed the project's history, the evaluation process for three submitted proposals, and the selected team's strengths, including its experience, understanding of the project scope, and operational expertise in biosolids processing. Board members asked about ongoing biosolids market conditions and disposal costs, alternative financing and public-private partnership options, EcoMaine's role in site selection, the proposal scoring process, and whether cost was considered, and the potential for community concerns. Staff explained that the selection was based on qualifications rather than cost, that multiple financing and delivery options remain open, and that early priorities include site and equipment selection. Staff also emphasized the importance of a communication plan to help the community understand the facility's role in environmental protection and providing a sustainable, long-term solution for biosolids disposal.

2. Watershed Protection

   Staff presented an overview of Portland Water District's source protection efforts and the evolution of its forest conservation partnerships over the past 25 years, highlighting the importance of protecting the Sebago Lake watershed to maintain drinking water quality and avoid the high cost of filtration. They explained how the District's early focus on lake monitoring, shoreland inspections, public education, and property acquisition expanded to address the broader watershed through partnerships with land trusts and environmental organizations, particularly Sebago Clean Waters. These collaborations have helped conserve nearly 13,000 acres in nine years, increase protected land in the watershed from 10% to 18%, and leverage District investments to secure additional partner and federal funding. During the discussion, trustees asked about opportunities to accelerate conservation efforts and how the District could work with municipalities to strengthen development standards, erosion controls, and setbacks to protect water quality. Staff noted that partners are increasingly working with communities on comprehensive and open-space planning, recognizing that conservation alone cannot protect the entire watershed and that responsible land management and development will also be essential.

3. General Manager's Comments

   Scott Firmin, General Manager, provided an update to the Board of Trustees on the planned installation of a new audiovisual system in December, which will replace the existing camera system and improve recording efficiency. Staff also shared a recap of the well-attended ribbon-cutting for the North Windham Wastewater Treatment Facility, thanking Trustee Lunt for attending and recognizing Senator Collins for helping to secure significant project funding. During the discussion, trustees reflected on their recent trip to WEFTEC in New Orleans, noting that the

conference provided valuable insight into the broader water industry and reinforced Portland Water District's strong reputation and standing among industry peers. They highlighted Scott's professional relationships and the District's increased visibility following the documentary, as well as the opportunity to share the story behind the film and the District's work.

4. Other Business

None.

5. Executive Session

President Lunt made a motion to go into executive session at 7:40 p.m., pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(A), personnel matter, seconded by Trustee Crockett. All in favor.

Trustee Libby made a motion to come out of executive session, pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(A), personnel matter, seconded by Trustee Crockett. All in favor.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Submitted by,

Kaitlin Tibbets
Assistant Clerk