

As voted by the Board of Trustees and in accordance with the notice of the meeting, the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Portland Water District was held via Zoom, on Monday, April 27, 2026. Attending from staff were S. Firmin, K. Tibbets, J. Wallace, D. Kane, M. Clements, and G. Pellerin, C. Poulin, E. Archibald, C. Brown, and J. Hudak. Attending from the public were Aiden Cahill, Danica Taylor, Joe Piccone, and several members from the Teamsters 340 union.

President Lunt convened the business meeting at 6:02 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by the Clerk. All Trustees were present.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Trustee Shaughnessy made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 23, 2026, seconded by Trustee McCann. It was voted all in favor.

Trustee Shaughnessy made a motion to accept the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of April 13, 2026, seconded by Trustee McCann. It was voted all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 26-005, awarding the DiPietro Scholarship for 2026.

It was moved by Trustee McCann and seconded by Trustee Voltz.

It was Voted and unanimously,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees recognizes the accomplishments and needs of Mr. Cahill and supports his academic endeavors by awarding him the \$1,500 scholarship for 2026 established in tribute to Joseph A. DiPietro.

Resolution 26-006, awarding the DiPietro Scholarship for 2026.

It was moved by Trustee McCann and seconded by Trustee Shattuck-Heidorn.

It was Voted and unanimously,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees recognizes the accomplishments and needs of Ms. Taylor and supports her academic endeavors by awarding her the \$1,500 scholarship for 2026 established in tribute to Joseph A. DiPietro.

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Several union members and employees expressed concerns regarding the ongoing contract negotiations, citing a lack of progress and confidence in the process.

Key issues raised included the need for contract language addressing AI and automation, concerns about employee retention and turnover, and the importance of maintaining a skilled workforce to ensure public safety and reliable operations.

Speakers also noted stagnant wages, rising costs, and staffing challenges, which they indicated are impacting morale and retention. Concerns were raised about employees feeling undervalued and unheard.

Commenters urged the District to return to productive negotiations, improve compensation and retention efforts, and address technology-related protections in the contract.

REPORTS

Operations Committee

Trustee Crockett provided a summary of the Operations Committee meeting on April 13, 2026.

Staff presented a recommendation to change the project delivery method from the Comprehensive Method to the Design Build Method for the construction of the anticipated Combined Sewer Overflow Storage Conduit.

Staff presented a recommendation to award a contract to PC Construction Co., Inc. to replace the plant's original, under-sized finished water pumps, to meet the future water demand of the North Windham and Raymond service area.

Staff provided a couple updates on the Treatment Facility Operations. The new power control module was successfully installed and operating.

Planning Committee

Trustee Douglas provided a summary of the Planning Committee meeting on April 13, 2026.

Committee members elected Louise Douglas as Planning Committee Chair for 2026.

Chad Thompson presented an overview of the District's Watershed Land Conservation program, highlighting its history and its critical role in protecting Sebago Lake water quality and maintaining the Portland Water District's (PWD) filtration waiver.

Carina Brown reviewed the proposal to contribute funds toward the preservation of a 54-acre parcel in Albany Township, ME.

Helen Newman provided a comprehensive update on the Infrastructure Master Planning program.

Administration and Finance Committee

Trustee Willett provided a summary of the Administration and Finance Committee meeting on April 13, 2026.

Committee unanimously voted Dan Willet as Committee Chair for the upcoming year.

Mr. Kane noted the preliminary 2025 financial results for the wastewater funds and presented a recommendation on the disposition of the net income earned in 2025.

Mr. Archibald presented an overview of the various leaves available with emphasis on the new Maine Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML) program that will go into effect on May 1st.

Mr. Kane noted the detail list of vendors paid in 2025 was included in the package, and reviewed a list of financial-related vendors that provided additional information on those relationships.

General Manager's Report

Scott Firmin, General Manager, stated that a written report had been submitted and did not provide additional remarks, inviting questions from the Board.

A Board member raised a question regarding emerging issues related to large-scale data center development and associated water usage, noting potential future implications for the District. The General Manager acknowledged the concern and indicated that such matters would likely be addressed through the Planning Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Order 26-006 authorizing a transfer of the Cape Elizabeth, Portland and Windham Wastewater Fund's 2025 surplus.

All wastewater funds have a positive net income, except for the Westbrook fund. The positive results were due to lower operating expenses and higher interest income. The Westbrook fund had a net 2025 loss due to operational issues at the treatment facilities resulting in significant extra biosolids-related costs.

It was moved by Trustee Willett and seconded by Trustee McCann.

It was Voted and unanimously,

ORDERED, that the Cape Elizabeth, Portland and Windham Wastewater Fund's 2025 surplus in excess of Operating Reserve target be transferred to the respective Renewal and Replacement Fund and;

BE IF FUTHER ORDERED, that the transfer be made from the Westbrook Renewal and Replacement Fund to the Westbrook Operating Reserve in the amount of the Operating Reserve deficit balance.

Order 26-007 authorizing the Design-Build Method for the procurement of engineering services for the Westbrook CSO Storage Facility.

PWD staff, working alongside an engineering consultant and geotechnical engineering firm, are analyzing two potential sites for the future 1-million-gallon-capacity Westbrook Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) structure. The storage structure is required by the 2024 DEP approved Long Term CSO Control Plan.

Currently, the project has used the Comprehensive Method for the procurement of engineering services. Staff requests that future engineering services procurements for this project use the Design-Build Method rather than the Comprehensive Method. This approach will accelerate engineering decisions, sharpen cost visibility during preliminary engineering, and reduce the risk that final design costs will exceed construction budget expectations.

It was moved by Trustee Crockett and seconded by Trustee McCann.

It was Voted and unanimously,

ORDERED, that the Design-Build Method is authorized for the procurement of engineering and construction services for Westbrook CSO Storage facility in Westbrook, Maine, pursuant to the District's Purchasing Policy, and that the General Manager and the Treasurer, each acting singly, are authorized to take such other steps as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Order 26-008 authorizing the General Manager to execute a construction contract with PC Construction Company, Inc. for the Windham 510 Pump Upgrades Project.

The 2026 Capital Improvement Plan approval included the Windham 510 Pump Upgrades project as part of the Design Build effort at the Sebago Lake Water Treatment Facility. The design build team reviewed the previously completed engineering design work, and after additional review and design confirmations, provided a Guaranteed Maximum Price for the work. The project maintains its original

scope - upsizing and replacing two vertical turbine pumps, installing new piping, valves, and electrical supply and control equipment to support the new pumps.

It was moved by Trustee Crockett and seconded by Trustee McCann.

It was Voted and unanimously,

ORDERED, the General Manager is hereby authorized to execute a construction contract in the amount of \$2,192,897 with PC Construction Company, Inc. for the Windham 510 Pump Upgrades Project, as part of the Design Build project at the Sebago Lake Water Treatment Facility; and that the General Manager, and the Treasurer, each acting singly, are authorized to take such steps as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of the vote.

Order 26-009 authorizing the General Manager to contribute up to \$11,250 to the Mahoosuc Land Trust to support land conservation.

The Sebago Lake watershed encompasses 235,000 acres of land which is primarily forested. The long-term water quality of the lake will be determined, in large part, by the conservation of those forests. Our Watershed Land Conservation Policy states our commitment to, and support for, locally-initiated land conservation efforts, since conserved forests naturally filter our customers' drinking water. At present, nearly 17% of the watershed is comprised of conserved land. Working with Sebago Clean Waters partners, we are working to bring that total to 25% by 2032.

The Flint Farm Addition property is 54 acres located in Albany Township. Mahoosuc Land Trust (MLT) will accept the donated conservation easement. It abuts a block of 3 previously conserved parcels and will create 500 acres of contiguous conserved land. The property is completely forested and drains to a tributary of the Crooked River.

The recommended contribution of \$11,250 is the amount requested by MLT and is less than 15% of the appraised value of the property, the maximum amount MLT could request based on PWD's site-specific assessment. The appraised value of the easement is \$81,800. The recommended contribution represents about \$208 per acre of protected land within the watershed. The generous donation of the full easement value by the landowner and contributions from Sebago Clean Waters will help make this acquisition possible. PWD's contribution is to be used for due diligence and stewardship, funds needed to acquire the Flint Farm Addition conservation easement.

It was moved by Trustee Douglas and seconded by Trustee McCann.

It was Voted and unanimously,

ORDERED, the General Manager is authorized to contribute up to \$11,250 to the Mahoosuc Land Trust to support the conservation of land known as Flint Farm Addition located in Albany Township.

Order 26-010 authorizing Attorney John Wall, of Monaghan Leahy to pursue a claim against RWC, Inc. for unauthorized hydrant use.

In December, 2025, the District contacted RWC, Inc. to advise the company that the District had a claim against it for the unauthorized use of a fire hydrant in the vicinity of Rigby Yard in South Portland. The District made a claim for damages sustained to its water mains as a result of the

unauthorized use. To date, RWC has not agreed to accept responsibility for the unauthorized hydrant use and the ensuing damage to the District's infrastructure.

The District has engaged John Wall and the law firm of Monaghan Leahy to represent its interest in this matter.

It was moved by Trustee McCann and seconded by Trustee Shaughnessy.

It was Voted and unanimously,

ORDERED. Attorney John Wall and the law firm of Monaghan Leahy are hereby authorized to pursue a claim against RWC, Inc., including the filing of litigation as needed, for damages incurred by the District in connection with the unauthorized use of a public fire hydrant.

SECOND INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustees expressed appreciation for the scholarship recipients recognized during the meeting and the work of the scholarship committee.

Several trustees acknowledged the public comments shared by employees, expressing appreciation for their input and recognizing the importance of their work to the community. Trustees indicated awareness of employee concerns, including contract negotiations, and affirmed that these matters are taken seriously.

Some trustees also shared personal experiences with unions or labor negotiations and expressed support for fair wages and benefits, while acknowledging the challenges of the current process and a desire to work toward resolution.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice President McCann made a motion to go into executive session at 7:31, pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(D), to discuss labor negotiations, 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 Shattuck-Heidorn. All in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

Resolution 26-007 authorizing the General Manager to implement certain measures while labor negotiation continues with Teamsters' Local 340.

Whereas, the District's labor contract with Teamsters' Local 340 expired in November, 2024 (the "Contract"); and

Whereas, the parties have negotiated in good faith since July 2024 for a new Contract including engaging in dispute resolution processes; and

Whereas, the District's bargaining unit employees have continued to work for the District under the terms of the expired Contract; and

Whereas, the parties have reached a bona fide impasse in their negotiations; and

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Whereas, Management of the District and the Board of Trustees express their concern for the bargaining unit employees and the impact that working under the expired Contract has had upon them; and

Whereas, Management of the District and the Board of Trustees express their appreciation for the bargaining units hard work and commitment to the District's mission to serve the public:

It was moved by Trustee Shaughnessy and seconded by Trustee Voltz.

It was Voted and unanimously,

RESOLVED, the General Manager is authorized to implement all appropriate elements of the last best offer by the district that would be effective as of May 4, 2026, for those on the payroll as of May 4, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Kaitlin Tibbets

Kaitlin Tibbets
Assistant Clerk