

**KENNEBEC WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
THURSDAY – NOVEMBER 2, 2023 at 7:30 AM**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by President Stabins.

Trustees present: Amy Stabins, President; Frank Richards, Vice-President; J. Michael Talbot, Treasurer; Jeff Earickson, Assistant Treasurer; Sarah Whateley, Clerk; Allan Fuller, Trustee; Denise Bruesewitz, Trustee (Remote Access); Mark McCluskey, Trustee; Bruce Williams, Trustee; Ben Murray, Trustee

Trustees absent: None

Denise Bruesewitz, Trustee, joined the meeting at 7:35 a.m. and left the meeting at 8:11 a.m.

Also present: Roger Crouse, KWD General Manager; Amy Dyer, KWD Finance Manager; Jeff Longfellow, KWD Engineering Manager; Matt Zetterman, KWD Technology Manager; Jared Bragdon, KWD Distribution Manager; Benny LaPlante, KWD Service Manager (Remote Access); Robbie Bickford, KWD Water Quality Manager; Sue Markatine, KWD Recording Secretary

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Nick Poulin, KWD's recently employed Distribution Technician, was introduced and welcomed by the Board members.

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2023

Motion by Trustee Talbot, "to accept the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees' meeting of October 19, 2023," seconded by Trustee Earickson.

Vote: 8 in favor, Trustee Stabins abstained, motion carried.

ITEM 3: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ACCOUNT WARRANT

Motion by Trustee Talbot, "to ratify the November 2, 2023, total warrant of checks released for \$578,457.60," seconded by Trustee Earickson.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 4: REVIEW OF 2023 CAPITAL BUDGET SPENDING AND PROPOSED 2024 CAPITAL BUDGET

The Trustees were provided with the 2023 Year-to-Date Capital Budget Expenditures Report up to October 31, 2023. Mr. Crouse reviewed this report and answered questions from the Board members.

The Trustees were provided with a draft of the proposed 2024 Capital Budget. Mr. Crouse and the respective managers reviewed in detail the planned 2024 capital equipment purchases and improvement

projects, the funding sources for the items, and answered questions from the Board members. Mr. Crouse noted the specifics of a few modifications being made to this budget before it is presented for final approval.

The proposed 2024 Operating Budget, proposed 2024 Cash Reserves Budget, and proposed 2024 rate increase percentage are anticipated to be presented at the December 7, 2023, Board meeting.

ITEM 5: APPROVALS/MOTIONS NEEDED

A. Other

None

ITEM 6: GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The Trustees were provided with the General Manager's report, and a brief review was conducted by Mr. Crouse.

In addition to his report, Mr. Crouse stated proposed changes to the Personnel Manual will be presented at the November 16, 2023, meeting.

The Board members were provided with and approved the proof of the commemorative bronze plaque in dedication of the new KWD Administration and Operations Facilities.

As has been noted in previous meetings, 3M and Dupont have entered into a national settlement agreement to resolve all PFAS-related drinking water claims. KWD will soon be provided with a good-faith settlement amount estimate. Water systems must decide to accept the settlement or to opt out to pursue an individual lawsuit no later than December 11, 2023.

Mr. Crouse and Mr. Bickford will be conducting a presentation (rescheduled from the original date of June 21, 2023) to the Seabasticook Region Land Trust on November 15, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Benton Grange Hall.

Motion by Trustee Talbot, "to accept the General Manager's Report as presented," seconded by Trustee Richards.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 7: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

As part of their Board packet, the Trustees were provided with the Monthly Department Reports prepared by the respective managers.

The Board members briefly discussed the Fieldstone Meadows subdivision in Waterville, which is currently served by wells but has opted to changeover to be serviced by KWD. The homeowners' association has hired a contractor to construct the water main extension and the utilization of KWD water should begin early 2024.

Motion by Trustee Richards, "to accept the Department Reports as presented," seconded by Trustee Williams.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 8: TRUSTEE COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND/OR IDEAS

In response to a question by Trustee McCluskey, Mr. Crouse answered he surmises the geothermal heating system at the KWD Administration and Operations Facilities is operating efficiently.

Trustee Richards noted that KWD has had success in hiring for the couple of Distribution Technician positions which opened up in the past several months and asked if recruitment for these positions is easier than in the past. Mr. Crouse affirmed that KWD has been fortunate to receive several applications for these positions within a brief timeframe.

ITEM 9: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

**ITEM 10: AS NEEDED: EXECUTIVE SESSION – MRS TITLE 1, §405:
EXECUTIVE SESSIONS SECTION 6.**

None

Motion by Trustee Talbot, “to adjourn the meeting,” seconded by Trustee Richards.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Sue Markatine, Recording Secretary