

**KENNEBEC WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
THURSDAY – JUNE 20, 2024 at 7:30 AM**

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

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

Trustees absent: Amy Stabins, Trustee

Denise Bruesewitz, Trustee, left the meeting at 8:15 a.m.

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

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

None

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING OF JUNE 6, 2024.

Motion by Trustee Talbot, "to accept the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees' meeting of June 6, 2024," seconded by Trustee Fuller.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Earickson – Yea, Trustee Bruesewitz – Yea, Trustee Talbot – Yea, Trustee Richards – Yea, Trustee McCluskey – Yea, Trustee Murray – Yea, Trustee Fuller – Yea, Trustee Whateley – Yea, Trustee Williams – Yea. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 3: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ACCOUNT WARRANT

Motion by Trustee Talbot, "to ratify the June 20, 2024 total warrant of checks released for \$403,113.00," seconded by Trustee Earickson.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Earickson – Yea, Trustee Bruesewitz – Yea, Trustee Talbot – Yea, Trustee Richards – Yea, Trustee McCluskey – Yea, Trustee Murray – Yea, Trustee Fuller – Yea, Trustee Whateley – Yea, Trustee Williams – Yea. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 4: REVIEW MAY 2024 FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Trustees were provided with the May 2024 Financial Statements and Accounts Receivable Aging Report, and a brief review was conducted.

The Board members thanked Ms. Dyer for the review of the financial statements.

ITEM 5: REVIEW OF KWD DEBT

The Trustees were provided with a table summarizing KWD's outstanding debt service and a brief review was conducted by Ms. Dyer.

ITEM 6: REVIEW OF PROPOSED LAND ACQUISITION POLICY

In March 2024, a work group consisting of KWD staff and Trustees was formed to review and revise the proposed KWD China Lake Watershed Land Acquisition Policy. As described in the KWD Water Stewardship plan, a land acquisition policy will guide the Board and staff in decisions relating to the expansions of KWD land ownership or land conservation to increase the protective buffer in the China Lake West Basin. As a result of the work group efforts, a proposed policy was presented to the Board. Mr. Bickford reviewed the highlights of the policy and answered questions from the Trustees. There was a brief discussion regarding consideration of the appropriation of funds if there is a desirable parcel for sale. There was also discussion regarding a particular property in Vassalboro which is on the market. Mr. Bickford made an inquiry regarding this property. However, the asking price for this parcel appears to be above fair-market value. Trustee Fuller commented that he would be interested to learn the cost to move the KWD water intake pipe to a more isolated location.

ITEM 7: APPROVALS/MOTIONS NEEDED**A. Adoption of Land Acquisition Policy**

As a result of the above discussion, a motion was proposed.

Motion by Trustee McCluskey, "to adopt the KWD China Lake Watershed Land Acquisition Policy," seconded by Trustee Talbot.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Earickson – Yea, Trustee Bruesewitz – Yea, Trustee Talbot – Yea, Trustee Richards – Yea, Trustee McCluskey – Yea, Trustee Murray – Yea, Trustee Fuller – Yea, Trustee Whateley – Yea, Trustee Williams – Yea. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 8: 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 informed the Board that the American Water Works Association and Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies have filed a petition for judicial review of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) PFAS regulation. Although both organizations support the EPA's decision to undertake the development of national PFAS standards, there is concern that the agency did not follow the required Safe Drinking Water Act process and use the best science and data in finalizing the rule. Mr. Crouse will continue to update the Board as this petition moves forward.

In response to a question by Trustee Murray, Mr. Bickford stated the water filter carbons were installed approximately three to four months ago, and the finished water testing for PFAS remains at the non-detect levels.

Referring to the proposed recycle water reduction project mentioned in Mr. Crouse's report, Trustee Richards commended KWD, stating this process should further increase water quality for KWD customers and reduce water treatment chemical costs.

The Board members thanked Mr. Crouse for his report.

ITEM 9: TRUSTEE COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND/OR IDEAS

There was a brief discussion regarding shoreland zoning rules and enforcement of these rules.

ITEM 10: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ITEM 11: AS NEEDED: EXECUTIVE SESSION – 1 MRSA §405. EXECUTIVE SESSION 405-6A, PERSONNEL

At 8:25 a.m., motion by Trustee Talbot, "to enter Executive Session under MRSA Title 1, Section 405-6A, Personnel Matters," seconded by Trustee Williams.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Earickson – Yea, Trustee Talbot – Yea, Trustee Richards – Yea, Trustee McCluskey – Yea, Trustee Murray – Yea, Trustee Fuller – Yea, Trustee Whateley – Yea, Trustee Williams – Yea. Motion carried unanimously.

At 8:45 a.m. President Richards brought the Board out of Executive Session.

Trustee Richards reviewed the highlights of his discussion with Mr. Crouse as a result of the Board's annual job performance appraisal of the General Manager. In recognition of a highly positive annual performance evaluation, a motion was proposed.

Motion by Trustee Williams, "to increase Mr. Crouse's pay level one step, from pay grade nine to pay grade ten, beginning on June 21, 2024," seconded by Trustee Murray.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Earickson – Yea, Trustee Talbot – Yea, Trustee Richards – Yea, Trustee McCluskey – Yea, Trustee Murray – Yea, Trustee Fuller – Yea, Trustee Whateley – Yea, Trustee Williams – Yea. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Talbot, "to adjourn the meeting," seconded by Trustee Williams.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Earickson – Yea, Trustee Talbot – Yea, Trustee Richards – Yea, Trustee McCluskey – Yea, Trustee Murray – Yea, Trustee Fuller – Yea, Trustee Whateley – Yea, Trustee Williams – Yea. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.