

**KENNEBEC WATER DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
THURSDAY – JUNE 5, 2025 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; J. Michael Talbot, Assistant Treasurer; Sarah Whateley, Clerk; Amy Stabins, Trustee; Mark McCluskey, Trustee; Allan Fuller, Trustee; Bruce Williams, Trustee; Matthew Bulmer, Trustee (Remote Access)

Trustees absent: None

Matthew Bulmer, Trustee, joined the meeting at 7:40 a.m.

Also present: Roger Crouse, KWD General Manager; Amy Dyer, KWD Finance Manager; Matt Zetterman, KWD Engineering Manager; Benny LaPlante, KWD Service Manager; Jared Bragdon, KWD Distribution Manager (Remote Access); Robbie Bickford, KWD Water Quality Manager; Sue Markatine, KWD Recording Secretary; Andrew Kahrl, ReVision Energy Team Member; Nate Niles, ReVision Energy Team Member (Remote Access)

**ITEM 1: INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Mr. Andrew Kahrl and Mr. Nate Niles (Remote Access) from ReVision Energy were introduced and welcomed by the Board members.

**ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING OF MAY 1, 2025**

Motion by Trustee Talbot, "to accept the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees' meeting of May 1, 2025," seconded by Trustee Williams.

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

**ITEM 3: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ACCOUNT WARRANT**

Motion by Trustee Earickson, "to ratify the June 5, 2025 total warrant of checks released for \$240,303.61," seconded by Trustee Talbot.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

**ITEM 4: REVIEW OF APRIL 2025 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

The Trustees were provided with the April 2025 Financial Statements and Accounts Receivable Aging Report, and a brief review was conducted.

On behalf of the Board members, President Richards thanked Ms. Dyer for the review of the financial statements.

## **ITEM 5: APPROVALS/MOTIONS NEEDED**

### **A. PUC Annual Regulatory Assessment \$25,997 (was \$26,565 in 2024)**

Mr. Crouse informed the Trustees that the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) Annual Regulatory Assessment is \$25,997.00. This amount is determined by annual revenues of a utility, and the percentage of time spent by MPUC staff for water-related items in proportion to other utilities.

Motion by Trustee Earickson, “to authorize the payment of \$25,997.00 to the Maine Public Utilities Commission for the Annual Regulatory Assessment Fee,” seconded by Trustee Talbot.

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

### **B. Approval of PFAS Treatment Preliminary Design Report and Solution**

At the May 1, 2025 Board meeting, CDM Smith conducted a presentation of the work completed to evaluate treatment options to reduce PFAS levels. Various options and estimated costs were put forth for consideration. At the end of May, CDM Smith submitted a final report including a recommendation. The Trustees were provided with a memo from Mr. Crouse summarizing the options and associated costs and requesting authorization to implement the CDM Smith recommendation. Mr. Crouse and Mr. Bickford answered questions from the Trustees regarding PFAS levels, PFAS testing, and this proposal.

Motion by Trustee Williams, “to use the existing gravity filters for PFAS mitigation with more frequent replacement of granular activated carbon (GAC) media (Option 2),” seconded by Trustee Talbot.

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

### **C. Approval of 2025 – 2026 Insurance Policy**

The Trustees were provided with a request for authorization memo explaining the process and results of soliciting three brokers, two of which submitted quotes, for property and casualty insurance proposals.

Motion by Trustee Williams, “to accept the proposal from the Maine Municipal Association for the July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 Property and Casualty Insurance Premium,” seconded by Trustee Earickson.

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

### **D. Approval of Chase Avenue Pump Station Upgrade Project Design Agreement**

The Trustees were provided with a request for authorization memo outlining the background details and project scope for the proposed agreement with Dirigo Engineering for the Chase Avenue Pump Station Upgrade Project design services. In January 2025, the Board members were presented with three proposals from engineering firms for the Chase Avenue Pumping Station evaluation, and Dirigo Engineering was

selected. At that time, it was explained that it would be prudent that the firm chosen for the evaluation would also be recommended to complete the actual design. Mr. Crouse and Mr. Zetterman answered questions from the Board members regarding this agreement.

Motion by Trustee Fuller, “to enter into an agreement with Dirigo Engineering for \$90,000.00 for the Chase Avenue Pump Station Upgrade Project design services,” seconded by Trustee McCluskey.

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

#### **E. Approval of Updates to KWD’s Salary Schedule**

The Trustees were presented with a request seeking approval to add the IT Technician and Senior Project Manager’s positions to the KWD salary schedule and to remove the Technology Manager’s position. Mr. Crouse explained the reasoning for these requests and answered questions from the Board members.

Motion by Trustee Williams, “to adjust the salary schedule to add the IT Technician and Senior Project Manager’s positions and to remove the Technology Manager’s position,” seconded by Trustee Stabins.

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

#### **F. Other**

The Trustees were provided with a request for authorization which included proposals from two vendors (three were solicited) to purchase one hundred resetters. Mr. LaPlante demonstrated and explained that a resetter is a plumbing adapter designed to fit where the old meter was and provides a convenient shut-off valve, a dual-check backflow prevention (BFP) device, and a place for the new meter without requiring any modifications to the existing plumbing. As part of the meter upgrade program, KWD technicians are replacing brass-bodied meters with composite alloy meters and checking for BFP device installation. Customers who are without, and are required to install a BFP device, have the options of KWD technicians installing the device at the cost of the device plus tax or having another party, such as a plumber, install the device.

Motion by Trustee Williams, “to approve the purchase of one hundred resetters from F. W. Webb for \$26,729.00,” seconded by Trustee Earickson.

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

#### **ITEM 6: SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE**

Mr. Crouse narrated the background details of KWD’s Vassalboro solar energy project. Mr. Crouse also reviewed the fact that KWD has been receiving Net Energy Billing Credits from the power generated by the hydro facility owned by Messalonskee Stream Hydro, LLC. These credits are applied to KWD’s

monthly electrical bills, reducing the amount owed. If KWD was to proceed with the Vassalboro solar energy project, these credits would cease.

Mr. Kahrl and Mr. Niles briefed the Trustees on the challenges and changes since ReVision and KWD signed a power purchase agreement in October 2023. The project is now not expected to be online until the fall of 2026. Due to development cost increases, ReVision cannot find a buyer for the project. Under the terms of the agreement, ReVision has the right to offer to renegotiate the power purchase agreement (reducing KWD's savings so the buyer would see a better rate of return). The new proposal presented to the Board would significantly decrease KWD's savings over the 20-year life of the agreement.

Because the savings to KWD would be similar to what KWD is currently receiving from Messalonskee Stream Hydro, LLC, the consensus of the Trustees was to not move forward with the Vassalboro solar energy project.

Mr. Kahrl and Mr. Niles revisited the option of having KWD finance (and own) the project. This would provide increased savings to KWD. However, as in 2023, the Board was not interested in owning the solar array.

Mr. Crouse and the Board members thanked ReVision Energy, Mr. Kahrl, and Mr. Niles on their efforts put forth for this project.

#### **ITEM 7: GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

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

Trustee Earickson asked for an update regarding Maine Legislative bill LD 1111, "An Act to Provide Water Service to Fairfield Residents Affected by Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances". Mr. Crouse responded there is no recent update. This bill has been placed on the special appropriations table along with several other bills waiting for budgetary decisions.

In response to a question from Trustee Fuller, Mr. Crouse replied that the next water rate increase, which has already been approved by the Maine Public Utilities Commission, is an eight percent increase scheduled for January 1, 2026.

On behalf of the Board members, President Richards thanked Mr. Crouse for his report.

#### **ITEM 8: 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 asked questions and discussed the proposed quarry project in Winslow on Verti Drive which is adjacent to the KWD transmission main.

On behalf of the Board members, President Richards thanked the Department Managers for their reports.

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

**A. Upcoming Meeting Dates that May Need to be Cancelled or Rescheduled:**

- i. June 19<sup>th</sup> – This occurs on an observed holiday – Juneteenth.**
- ii. July 3<sup>rd</sup> – Day before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. There may be challenges meeting our quorum requirement.**

The Board discussed the upcoming meeting schedule and decided to hold the next meeting on Thursday, July 17, 2025.

In response to a question from Trustee Whateley, Mr. Crouse replied that KWD budgets on an annual basis. Because KWD will continue to receive energy credits through Messalonskee Stream Hydro, the termination of the Vassalboro solar project will not have a significant impact on the KWD future budgets.

In reply to a question from Trustee Fuller, Mr. Crouse explained that KWD does solicit bids for electricity supply through the KWD broker, Maine Power Options.

**ITEM 10: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**ITEM 11: AS NEEDED: EXECUTIVE SESSION – 1 MRS §405. EXECUTIVE SESSION  
6. A. PERSONNEL MATTERS**

None

**ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

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Sue Markatine, Recording Secretary