

**KENNEBEC WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
THURSDAY – MAY 7, 2026 at 7:30 AM**

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

Trustees present: Ben Murray, President; Frank Richards, Vice-President; Jeff Earickson, Treasurer; J. Michael Talbot, Assistant Treasurer; Sarah Whateley, Clerk; Allan Fuller, Trustee; Nathan Saunders, Trustee; Paul Fongemie, Trustee; Alex Lelchuk, Trustee

Trustees absent: Amy Stabins, Trustee

Also present: Roger Crouse, KWD General Manager; Amy Dyer, KWD Finance Manager; Matt Zetterman, 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

The Trustees welcomed Trustee-Appointee Lelchuk. Trustee Lelchuk is fulfilling the term for Matthew Bulmer, Waterville representative, who recently resigned from the Board.

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING OF APRIL 2, 2026

Motion by Trustee Talbot, "to accept the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees' meeting of April 2, 2026," seconded by Trustee Richards.

Trustee Saunders suggested a minor change for further clarification.

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

ITEM 3: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ACCOUNT WARRANT

Motion by Trustee Earickson, "to ratify the May 7, 2026 total warrant of checks released for \$401,657.20," seconded by Trustee Talbot.

In response to a question from Trustee Saunders, Mr. Crouse briefly explained the KWD meter replacement program.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 4: REVIEW OF MARCH 2026 FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Trustees were provided with the March 2026 Financial Statements and Accounts Receivable Aging Report, and a brief review was conducted.

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

ITEM 5: APPROVALS/MOTIONS NEEDED**A. Approval of Fuel Contract Agreement – After-the-Fact**

The Trustees were provided with a request for authorization memo explaining that Mr. Bickford had reviewed the bids solicited by the Power Options fuel oil program. After the bid offerings, vendors request an almost immediate commitment; therefore, Mr. Bickford accepted a bid price for the annual fuel supply for the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) 2026 – 2027 heating season.

Motion by Trustee Fongemie, “to ratify the agreement with Fielding’s Oil for a fixed price of \$3.0975 per gallon for up to 12,000 gallons of fuel oil for the WTP 2026 – 2027 heating season,” seconded by Trustee Earickson.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Agreement for PFAS Eng. Final Design and Bidding Services

The Trustees were provided with a copy of the CDM Smith proposal and a request for authorization memo to approve the agreement between KWD and CDM Smith for engineering final design services and bidding support services for PFAS mitigation. Mr. Crouse reviewed the overall project cost, which the Drinking Water Program has now permitted to be combined with the Lagoon Discharge project, and grant awards to offset a portion of the cost. Mr. Crouse and Mr. Bickford answered technical questions from the Trustees regarding the specifics of the project.

Motion by Trustee Earickson, “to approve the agreement amendment with CDM Smith to complete final design and bidding support services for the PFAS mitigation upgrades to the Water Treatment Plant for an amount not to exceed \$704,013.00,” seconded by Trustee Fongemie.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Other

The Trustees were provided with a request for authorization memo to contribute financially to the City of Waterville’s Crescent Street pavement project. Mr. Crouse explained KWD is replacing a water main in this street and is required to install new pavement in the areas disturbed due to construction. In lieu of this, KWD has negotiated an alternate plan with the City to provide this payment directly to the City, and the City will be responsible for paving and maintaining the totality of the street.

Motion by Trustee Fongemie, “to approve the request for a one-time financial contribution to the City of Waterville for \$20,644.00 in lieu of KWD paving restoration on Crescent Street,” seconded by Trustee Fuller.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 6: GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

As part of their Board packet, 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 Trustees that the Halifax Street, Winslow, main replacement project Congressionally Directed Spending grant application has advanced to both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

Referring to his report, Mr. Crouse updated the Trustees on the current progress working with the Waterworth team in developing the KWD financial model and the multiple scenarios. There will be a Trustee workshop to review several model options on June 5, 2026, time to be determined, for interested Trustees.

Mr. Crouse informed the Trustees that the three-year contract with Constellation Energy for electricity supply for KWD's three high electricity usage sites expires in November 2026. Currently, the cost is above the previous contract of \$0.10710 per kWh. Mr. Crouse will continue to monitor the cost and possibly opt for a one-year contract if the rates are not as favorable.

Mr. Crouse mentioned that there is a documentary entitled "Unless Something Goes Terribly Wrong" which chronicled a year of the day-to-day operations of the City of Portland Waste-Water System staff. The themes include the urgent need for investment in water and wastewater systems, the unseen work that keeps communities' water clean and safe, the technical and bureaucratic challenges, and public awareness of the wastewater industry's critical role. Mr. Crouse and Nick Champagne, Superintendent of the Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District, are hoping to have an evening showing of this film in the Waterville area.

On behalf of the Board members, President Murray thanked Mr. Crouse for the General Manager's report.

ITEM 7: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

At the request of Trustee Saunders, Mr. Zetterman explained the functioning process of the Gutermann leak detection sensors which were provided to KWD on a trial basis.

In response to a question from Trustee Murray regarding the Sunset Heights, Winslow, water main improvement project, Mr. Crouse explained the reason for declining all the project bids and rebidding the project later this year. Specifically, KWD is waiting to learn if financing will be awarded by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program and KWD's intent to add additional scope to the project.

There was a brief discussion regarding the planned demolition of the KWD building at 5 South Street, Waterville. For security purposes, this building will not be sold or leased as it is located adjacent to KWD's transmission main and pump station.

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

ITEM 8: TRUSTEE COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Review of Trustee Term Expiration Dates

The status of terms for the present Board of Trustees was reviewed. The appropriate municipalities will be notified of the upcoming openings for the general election in November. Trustees interested in running for re-election should speak to their respective city/town officials regarding the appropriate steps necessary to be placed on the ballot.

On another note, Trustee Earickson suggested a couple of changes to the KWD web site.

Trustee Fuller reiterated his opinion that KWD should continue to seek means to expand the KWD buffer zone around the China Lake West Basin.

The Board discussed the July meeting schedule and decided to hold one meeting on Thursday, July 16, 2025.

ITEM 9: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ITEM 10: AS NEEDED: EXECUTIVE SESSION – 1 MRS §405. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Sue Markatine, Recording Secretary