KENNEBEC WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
THURSDAY – AUGUST 6, 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; Amy Stabins, Trustee; Allan Fuller, Trustee; Nathan Saunders, Trustee; Paul Fongemie, Trustee; Alex Lelchuk, Trustee
Trustees absent:	None
	Trustee Whateley, Clerk, left the meeting at 8:50 a.m.
Also present:	Roger Crouse, KWD General Manager; Amy Dyer, KWD Finance Manager; Matt Zetterman, KWD Engineering Manager; Benny LaPlante, KWD Service Manager (Remote Access); Robbie Bickford, KWD Water Quality Manager (Remote Access); 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 JULY 16, 2026

Motion by Trustee Talbot, "to accept the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees' meeting of July 16, 2026," seconded by Trustee Richards.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 3: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ACCOUNT WARRANT

Motion by Trustee Earickson, "to ratify the August 6, 2026 total warrant of checks released for $697,782.06," seconded by Trustee Talbot.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 4: FINANCIAL PLANNING DISCUSSION

At the July 16, 2026, Board meeting, the Trustees were presented with five funding scenarios using the Waterworth financial model. The Board's consensus was to further explore options to move toward a pay-as-you-go system for long-term funding of water main replacement. At today's meeting, the Trustees were provided with a summary of six pay-as-you-go transitions ranging from an immediate transition to transitioning over fifteen years. The Trustees were also provided with a Summary of Activities Required to Develop and Implement a Long-Term Water Main Replacement Program document, a draft of a Kennebec Water District Long-Term Water Main Replacement Funding and Asset Sustainability Policy resolution, and a recommendation for a January 1, 2027 water rate increase.

The Trustees discussed the six different transition periods, focusing on estimated rate increases, debt balances, and annual percentage of pipe replacement goals. Ms. Dyer explained and Mr. Crouse demonstrated using a graft the logic of using a variable water rate increase rather than a fixed water rate increase through the years. Mr. Crouse reiterated that even with the adoption of a pay-as-you-go system, KWD will continue to seek Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loans with principal forgiveness or other grants when available. He also stated that, dependent upon circumstances, the Board can decide to modify the chosen financial model annually.

The Board members will take time to process and assess the several model options for long-term funding of water main replacement before making a decision.

ITEM 5: APPROVALS/MOTIONS NEEDED

A. Approval of January 2027 Rate Increase

The Trustees discussed rate increase percentages, and a motion was proposed.

Motion by Trustee Earickson, "to approve an across-the-board water rate increase of four-percent effective January 1, 2027," seconded by Trustee Richards.

Vote: 9 in favor, Trustee Fuller opposed, motion carried.

B. Adoption of Resolution for Long-Term Water Main Replacement Funding

Motion by Trustee Richards, "to table Item 5. B. Adoption of Resolution for Long-Term Water Main Replacement Funding," seconded by Trustee Fongemie.

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.

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

Because numerous water systems in several states have recently been targets of cyberattacks, Mr. Zetterman reviewed why KWD does not have the vulnerabilities that have been exploited by the recent cyberattacks and the proactive steps KWD has taken over the past 15 years to reduce the risk of impacts by cyberattacks. He also mentioned that KWD has been a participant in several cybersecurity assessments over the past seven years from which KWD has continued to make cybersecurity improvements. The most recent assessment, conducted by the Maine Army National Guard, highlighted KWD's strong cybersecurity position. KWD receives regular cybersecurity alerts including daily monitoring updates from the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

On behalf of the Board members, President Murray thanked Mr. Zetterman for this 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 Fuller, Mr. Bickford explained that during routine water sampling, two areas tested positive for coliform but were below the governmental compliance level. Following KWD protocol, the water mains were flushed, and the resampling tested negative for coliform.

In response from a question from Trustee Fuller regarding City residents' complaints, Mr. Crouse reviewed the steps being taken to resolve the dust and noise issues associated with the contractor use of the KWD South Street, Waterville, property.

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

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

None

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 Richards.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

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Sue Markatine, Recording Secretary