KENNEBEC WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
THURSDAY – OCTOBER 1, 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; Amy Stabins, Trustee; Allan Fuller, Trustee; Nathan Saunders, Trustee; Paul Fongemie, Trustee; Alex Lelchuk, Trustee

Trustees absent: Sarah Whateley, Clerk

Also present: Roger Crouse, KWD General Manager; Amy Dyer, KWD Finance Manager; Matt Zetterman, KWD Engineering Manager; Benny LaPlante, KWD Service Manager (Remote Access); Jared Bragdon, KWD Distribution Manager (Remote Access); Robbie Bickford, KWD Water Quality Manager (Remote Access); Max Kenney, KWD Senior Project 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 SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

Motion by Trustee Talbot, "to accept the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees' meeting of September 3, 2026," seconded by Trustee Fongemie.

Vote: 7 in favor, Trustee Stabins and Trustee Richards abstained. Motion carried.

ITEM 3: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ACCOUNT WARRANT

Motion by Trustee Earickson, "to ratify the October 1, 2026, total warrant of checks released for $955,752.69," seconded by Trustee Talbot.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 4: REVIEW OF AUGUST 2026 FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Trustees were provided with the August 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: 2026 COMPREHENSIVE WATER SYSTEM FACILITIES MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION

The Trustees were provided with the 2026 KWD Comprehensive Water System Facilities Plan prepared by Mr. Crouse, Mr. Zetterman, Mr. Kenney, and Mr. Bickford. Mr. Zetterman and Mr. Kenney conducted a PowerPoint presentation summarizing this plan. This review included an intro explaining the

background of earlier master plans and purpose, an overview of past, present, and future capital projects, an in-depth review of distribution projects recently completed, in progress, and planned, and a review of future transmission main projects. Mr. Crouse, Mr. Zetterman, and Mr. Kenney answered questions from the Trustees during and after the presentation.

On behalf of the Trustees, President Murray thanked Mr. Zetterman and Mr. Kenney for this informative presentation.

ITEM 6: SUMMARY OF EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION SURVEY

This agenda item will be reviewed at the November 5, 2026, meeting.

ITEM 7: FINANCIAL PLANNING DISCUSSION/WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT RESOLUTION

Trustees resumed the discussion on the adoption of a resolution to establish a high-level, long-term plan for water main replacement. During previous discussions, Trustees expressed support for pay-as-you-go models (rather than annual borrowing) with transition periods ranging from seven to twelve years. Trustees reviewed materials provided at past meetings illustrating the impact on water rates for pay-as-you-go transitions ranging from an immediate transition to transitioning over fifteen years. Mr. Crouse reiterated that the adoption of the resolution was not an adoption of the specific rate increases. Rather, the resolution provides Trustees and staff with a framework for annual investments and regular rate increases to meet water main replacement goals. Specific rate increases will be approved by Trustees as needed (generally annually or biennially). Mr. Crouse also reiterated that the Board could modify the resolution as needed in the future if circumstances or Board preferences change. There was discussion of overall funding possibilities for future capital projects, the expectation of utilizing Drinking Water State Revolving Funds if available, potential water rate impacts on customers, and the need for approval from the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for rate increases associated with this funding plan.

Motion by Trustee Richards, "to adopt a Long-Term Water Main Replacement Funding and Asset Sustainability Resolution as written to achieve a pay-as-you-go system utilizing the ten-year transition option," seconded by Trustee Fongemie.

Motion carried unanimously.

Because this is a monumental decision, Trustee Saunders suggested compiling a summary report capturing the overall development and options of the financial planning models and discussions by Board members which resulted in this decision.

ITEM 8: APPROVALS/MOTIONS NEEDED

A. Approval of Cost-of-Living Adjustment (If August 2026 Data is Published)

The Trustees were provided with a request for determination of the annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all KWD positions accompanied by statistical information from 1974 to 2026 of the variations in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). (The CPI-W index is used by the Social Security Administration to establish the annual COLA for Social Security recipients.) From August 2025 to August 2026 the CPI-W increased 3.5 percent.

Motion by Trustee Fongemie "to authorize a 3.5 percent cost of living adjustment wage increase to all KWD salary schedules effective January 1, 2027," seconded by Trustee Richards.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Purchase of ALFX Leak Detection System

The Trustees were provided with a request for authorization memo to execute an agreement between KWD and Ti-Sales for an ALFX Leak Detection System. Mr. Zetterman explained this is a networked system that utilizes acoustic sensors installed on hydrants to continuously listen for leak signatures. This will identify areas that warrant further investigation and provides a more cost-effective means of monitoring a large portion of the distribution system. Mr. Crouse and Mr. Zetterman responded to questions from the Board members regarding this system.

Motion by Trustee Richards, "to execute a five-year agreement with Ti-Sales for the ALFX Leak Detection System in the amount of $26,400.00," seconded by Trustee Saunders.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Adoption of Water Main Replacement Resolution

This motion item was completed under Agenda Item 7.

D. Adoption of Water Rate Increase (4 Percent on January 1, 2027)

Trustee Murray recapped the events of the Public Hearing held on September 29, 2026, for the proposed rate increase.

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

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 9: 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.

Mr. Crouse informed the Trustees that although KWD has taken steps to resolve the dust and noise issues associated with contractors' use of the KWD South Street property for equipment lay-down, there are still complaints from residents. KWD staff have decided that after the current project (Sanger-Boutelle Water Main Improvements Project) is complete (anticipated in the summer of 2027), KWD will generally not allow contractors to utilize the South Street site for large-scale projects. Mr. Crouse will be sending a letter to the Waterville City Manager summarizing this decision.

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

ITEM 10: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

There was a brief discussion regarding the national shortage of fluoride which prevented KWD from adding fluoride during periods in May, June, and September. No periods exceeded the thirty-day public notice requirement. Operations are currently back to normal.

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

ITEM 11: TRUSTEE COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

None

ITEM 12: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ITEM 13: AS NEEDED: EXECUTIVE SESSION – 1 MRS §405. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ITEM 14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Mr. Crouse informed the Board that there is a budget workshop scheduled with KWD staff and interested Trustees at 7:30 a.m. on October 22, 2026.

ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 a.m.

_____

Sue Markatine, Recording Secretary