

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



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Maine Public Drinking Water Commission

MEETING #158

September 7, 2022

09:00 AM

Augusta, Maine/Zoom

Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes, Meeting #157, May 4, 2022
2. SFY 2022 AFM Fee Collection Status – D. Welch
3. DWP Financial Report – D. Welch
4. DWP General Updates (DWSRF, Staffing, PFAS, Lead Testing in Schools)
5. Legislation and Rulemaking Update
6. Public Water System Items for Discussion (Open Forum)
7. DWC Membership Update
8. Suggested Items for Next Meeting – September 7, 2022

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Minutes of Meeting #158

Sept 7, 2022

The Maine Public Drinking Water Commission (DWC) held its 158th Meeting on Sept 7, 2022, via Zoom and in person meeting in Augusta.

Present Were:

Members: Kathy Moriarty, Brian Richardson, Jeff LaCasse, Carol White, Amy Lachance (DWP Director) and Jim Willis (Board Clerk).

Non-members: David Welch, DWP, and Matt Reynolds

Members Not Present Were: Rebecca Laliberte, Lee Worcester

Time: Kathy called the meeting to order at 9:09 AM.

A. RECURRING BUSINESS:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the May 7, 2022 meeting were approved as written.

2. SFY 2023 AFM FEE COLLECTION STATUS

David Welch from the Drinking Water Program (DWP) updated the Commission on the collection status of the Alternate Funding Mechanism (AFM). To date, the DWP has a 84.3 percent collection rate, which is behind previous years. David stated that the September billing of outstanding AFM is going out September 2nd.

3. DWP FINANCIAL REPORT

David Welch discussed the DWP Financial Report. David stated that we are currently staying within budget. There was discussion that we might be able to put off increasing the AFM fees, due to additional funding available.

4. DWP GENERAL UPDATES (DWSRF, STAFFING, PFAS, LEAD TESTING IN SCHOOLS)

Amy discussed the new federal drinking water infrastructure funding. Amy also updated the DWC on the lead testing in schools program.

Amy gave an update on the new PFAS testing for all community water systems and non-transient, noncommunity schools and childcare facilities, which needs to be completed by the end of 2022. Amy indicated that there is no funding currently available to help pay for PFAS testing, and that the DWP is working to hire additional positions to help with the extra workload.

Amy updated the DWC on recent staff changes. Nate Saunders is leaving the DWP to be the Radiation Program Manager. McKenzie Parker will be acting Manager of the Engineering group. Mia Ferris of Rules has left the DWP for a position with Greater Augusta Utility District. Abe Habib Manager of the Inspection team has left the DWP.

Amy stated we are currently interviewing for a lead position and PFAS position.

5. LEGISLATION AND RULE MAKING UPDATE

Amy stated that the subsurface wastewater rules are moving forward in the rule making process. The DWP rules hopefully will be moving forward soon. Amy also stated that this legislative session does not have much legislation pertaining to the DWP.

6. PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION (OPEN FORUM)

There was continued discussion on how the DWC can advocate for the Maine Drinking Water Program.

7. DWC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Jim has reached out to Governor's office and had no new updates to report at this time.

8. DRINKING WATER PROGRAM STAFF MERIT AWARD

There was discussion on what future staff merit awards should be.

9. 2022 DWC MEETING LOCATIONS

November 16, 2022- Canceled

10. SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

None

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted

Jim Willis, Board Clerk