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Minutes of Meeting #166 Sep 10, 2025

The Maine Public Drinking Water Commission (DWC) held its 166th meeting on Sept 10, 2025, in person in Augusta and via Zoom.

Present Were:

Members: Brian Tarbuck, Jeff LaCasse, Carol White, Matt Reynolds, Amy Lachance (DWP Director), and Jim Willis (Commission Clerk).

Non-members: David Welch, DWP, and Eric Gagnon (Zoom)

Members Not Present Were: Lee Worcester

Time: Carol called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

A. RECURRING BUSINESS:

- Approval of Minutes, Meeting #165, May 28, 2025
 - Minutes from May 28, 2025, meeting were approved as written.
- SFY 2025 AFM Fee Collection Status – D. Welch
 - 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 collection rate is slightly behind in previous years. But we are catching up.
 - David discussed that we did not bill bottled water the new rates for this year's billing. A motion was made to increase bottled water to \$115.00 for small, \$325.00 for medium, and \$4200 for large, bottled water systems. Amy Lachance made the motion and Brian Tarbuck seconded, Motion passed unanimously.
 - David gave an update on how online credit card payments are going. So far about \$10,000 has been paid by credit card.
- DWP Financial Report – D. Welch
 - David presented current financial information showing that spending is above previous years due to a seven percent increase in some employee salaries. David did state that raising the AFM fee has helped cover the increase in staff costs. David also stated that we are currently looking to increase Maximum base fee to \$100.00 so we can increase fee in the future.

- DWP General Updates (DWSRF, Staffing, PFAS)
 - Current staffing levels were discussed. Amy stated that the DWP has two vacancies, a Rule Specialist and Public Water inspector. The limited time positions have been extended through 2027.
 - Amy gave an update on SRF, and a Lead service line update.
- Legislation and Rulemaking Update
 - Amy gave an update on the draft PFAS rules, which are out for public comment until June 20, 2025. Amy stated the rules are 95 percent done and so far, no major comments.
 - Amy gave an update on legislation during the current session, including bills impacting PFAS regulation and fluoride in public drinking water.
- Public Drinking Water Commission Annual Report
 - Carol presented report to the DWC members.
- Update on DWC membership
 - Carol requested for those renewing or seeking appointment to the DWC to send her applications so they can all be sent together as one packet.
- DWC Staff Merit Award
 - There was discussion on where to present this year's award since DWP did not have a summer staff day. Amy was going to work on soliciting potential nominees for consideration.
- Public Water System Items for Discussion - Public Comment
 - None

Meeting Dates for 2025

- November 19, 2025, 9-11 AM – Augusta/Zoom

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 AM