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Minutes of Meeting #167 Nov 19, 2025

The Maine Public Drinking Water Commission (DWC) held its 167th meeting on Nov 19, 2025, in person in Augusta and via Zoom.

Present Were:

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

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

Members Not Present Were:

Time: Carol called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

A. RECURRING BUSINESS:

- Approval of Minutes, Meeting #166, Sept 10, 2025
 - Minutes from September 10, 2025, meeting were approved as written.
- SFY 2026 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 on par with previous years.
 - David gave an update on how online credit card payments are going.
- 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 in the statute so we can adjust AFM fees as needed going forward.
- 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 Lead service line update.
- Legislation and Rulemaking Update
 - Amy gave an update on the draft PFAS rules.
 - Amy gave an update on legislation during the current session, including bills impacting PFAS legislation.
- Public Drinking Water Commission Annual Report
 - Carol presented report to the DWC members.
- Update on DWC membership
 - Carol has submitted the packet of applications to the Governor's office. Joe Boucher, from the governor's office hopes to have them all processed by the end of the year.
- 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. Plan is to have DWC Commission decide winner by email and present award in February 2026.
- Public Water System Items for Discussion - Public Comment
 - None

Meeting Dates for 2026

Jim and Amy will send out meeting dates for next year in May, September, and November.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:33 AM