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Minutes of Meeting #159

February 8, 2023

The Maine Public Drinking Water Commission (DWC) held its 159th Meeting on February 8, 2023, via Zoom and in person meeting in Augusta.

Present Were:

Members: Kathy Moriarty, Lee Worcester (via Zoom), Jeff LaCasse, Carol White, and Amy Lachance (DWP Director).

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

Members Not Present Were: Rebecca Laliberte

Time: Kathy called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

A. RECURRING BUSINESS:

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
 - Kathy is retiring in June 2023, and resigning from the Commission at that time.
 - Carol White was elected Chairperson (Kathy nominated, Jeff seconded, unanimous vote).
 - Jeff LaCasse was elected Vice-Chairperson (Kathy nominated, Carol seconded, unanimous vote).
2. Approval of Minutes, Meeting #158, Sept 7, 2022
 - Minutes from the September 7, 2022, meeting were approved as written (Jeff motioned, Kathy seconded, unanimous vote).
3. SFY 2022 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.
 - Discussion of overdue systems.
4. DWP Financial Report – D. Welch

- David presented current financial information showing that spending is on target according to budget. There is no plan to increase AFM fees at this time.
5. DWP General Updates (DWSRF, Staffing, PFAS, Lead Testing in Schools)
 - Current staffing and hiring challenges were discussed.
 - PFAS sampling is 95% complete
 - 8% of systems exceeded the interim standard.
 - One percent of Community Water System population exceed the interim standard.
 - School Lead sampling is finishing up.
 - The State match amount for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund in the Governor's proposed budget had an unintentional error, which will be fixed in the corrected budget proposal.
 6. Legislation and Rulemaking Update
 - Federal draft PFAS regulations are due to be released on March 3, 2023.
 - Maine PFAS rules must be finalized in 2024.
 7. Public Water System Items for Discussion – Public Comment
 - No public comment.
 8. DWC Membership Update
 - Discussion of current membership and vacant position.
 - The Drinking Water Program will send a request to the Governor's Office to either act on current applications or provide a timeframe when action will be taken.
 - Commission members will begin to reach out to solicit new potential Commission members.
 - The Commission will look into the remote meeting policy.
 9. Set 2023 Meeting Dates and Locations
 - May 24, 2023, in Augusta
 - November 1, 2023, in Augusta
 10. Suggested Topics for next Meeting
 - Increased activity by the Commission to solicit new members and meeting topics, in an effort to increase participation and focus.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM