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Minutes of Meeting #165 May 28, 2025

The Maine Public Drinking Water Commission (DWC) held its 165th meeting on May 28, 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

Members Not Present Were: Lee Worcester

Time: Carol called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

A. RECURRING BUSINESS:

- Approval of Minutes, Meeting #164, November 6, 2025
 - Minutes from November 6, 2024, meeting were approved with Brian Tarbuck abstaining.
 - There was discussion on Chair and Vice Chair. There was a unanimous vote to have Carol White continue as Chair, and Jeff LaCasse as Vice-Chair for this year.
 - DWC Membership update:
There was discussion on current membership status. All seats will expire on 8/31/25 except for Jeff LaCasse's position, which expires 8/27/27. Jim will email applications to members to fill out and return to Carol so she can submit them together to the Governor's office.
- 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 previous years.
 - David stated that we are placing systems who are three years or owe \$500 or more in enforcement to collect overdue AFM.
 - David also stated we will have the ability to take online credit card payments for AFM with this year's AFM billing.
- 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, as

well as the use of AFM fees to fund six staff, up from five staff previously. It was discussed that increasing AFM fees this year rather than waiting for next year would best address a future projected shortfall. After discussion a motion was made by Matt Reynolds, seconded by Brian Tarbuck:

To Increase AFM rates to a \$75.00 base fee for Public Water Systems with a population greater than 100, and a per capita (over 100) fee of \$0.70, due to increased program expenses. The motion was approved unanimously.

- DWP General Updates (DWSRF, Staffing, PFAS)
 - Current staffing levels were discussed. Amy stated that the DWP is fully staffed at 55 FTE's.
 - Amy discussed the potential impact of proposed federal funding cuts on the DWP and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.
- Legislation and Rulemaking Update
 - Amy gave an update on the draft PFAS rules, which are out for public comment until June 20, 2025.
 - 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
 - This is due to the DHHS Commissioner's Office on August 1, 2025.
 - Carol will put together a draft copy and distribute it to the DWC members.
- DWC Staff Merit Award
 - Carol stated we will discuss this at the next meeting.
- Public Water System Items for Discussion - Public Comment
 - None

Meeting Dates for 2025

- September 10, 2025, 9-11 AM - Augusta/Zoom
- November 19, 2025, 9-11 AM – Augusta/Zoom

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 AM