

**KENNEBEC WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
THURSDAY – FEBRUARY 4, 2016 at 7:30 AM**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by President Hodsdon.

Trustees present: Al Hodsdon, President; Karl Dornish, Vice-President, J. Michael Talbot, Treasurer; Allan Fuller, Clerk; Jeff Earickson, Assistant Treasurer; Joan Sanzenbacher, Trustee; Gary Coull, Trustee; Mark McCluskey, Trustee; Bill Boucher, Trustee; Patricia Gorman, Trustee

Trustees absent: None

Trustee Coull left the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Also present: Jeff LaCasse, General Manager; Jefferson Longfellow, KWD Engineer; Mike O'Brien, KWD Customer Service Manager/Safety Manager; Emile Nicol, KWD WTP Supervisor; Benny LaPlante, KWD Distribution Superintendent; Sue Markatine, Recording Secretary

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

None

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 2016.

Motion by Trustee McCluskey, "to accept the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees' Meeting of January 21, 2016," seconded by Trustee Gorman.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 3: FINANCIALS

A. ACCOUNT WARRANT

February 4, 2016

CHECKS RELEASED		Check	Dollar
Vendor	Description	Date	Amount
Postmaster	Bulk Mail Postage-Billing	01/21/16	795.05
Somerset County Reg. of Deeds	Water Lien Filing Fee-3 Properties	01/21/16	66.00
Answering Services Unlimited	Monthly Answering Service	01/22/16	145.42
Dennis K. Burke Inc.	Heating Oil-WTP	01/22/16	4,460.89
Environmental Projects Inc.	Disposal of Potassium Permanganate Containers-WTP	01/22/16	985.00
Hanover Computer Company LLC	Annual Domain Name Reg./SSL Certificate/Battery Security/Hard Drives/Professional Services	01/22/16	2,309.40
J & S Oil Company Inc.	Diesel Fuel	01/22/16	167.98
The Low Impact Hydropower Inst.	Annual Fee-M-4	01/22/16	1,000.00
M C Disposal Inc./DBA CMD	Monthly Porta potty Rental	01/22/16	75.00
Fanado Pelotte	Backhoe/Wheelers-Variou Locations Sheet Protectors/Pens/Calc.	01/22/16	669.38
Quill Corporation	Ribbons/Dividers/Folders/Paper Binders/Paper Clips	01/22/16	1,068.64
Staples Credit Plan	Copy Machine/Ink	01/22/16	290.14
Teague Distributors Inc.	Gas Cap for Snow Blower	01/22/16	9.00
Time Warner Cable	Monthly Internet & Phone Service	01/22/16	231.17
F. W. Webb Company	Fittings for New Block Heater-WTP Generator	01/22/16	47.60
Wright-Pierce	Professional Services-Western Ave Pump Station	01/22/16	3,341.67
Treasurer, State of Maine	Removal & Installation of Main-Western Ave Bridge Project	01/22/16	69,906.99
Atlantic Insulation Services Inc.	Insulate Boiler Room Piping-WTP	01/29/16	975.00
Business Card-Bank of America	Office Christmas Tree-K-Mart/Gas-J & S Oil Christmas Party Food-Shaws/Google Apps-Google	01/29/16	362.40
Central Tire Company Inc.	Install New Tire on Job Trailer Rim	01/29/16	10.00
Fabian Oil Inc.	Propane-WTP	01/29/16	42.30
Fairfield Drafting & Construction	Plans for Scope of Work for Intake Building Project	01/29/16	2,674.00
FP Mailing Solutions	Annual Postage Machine Rental	01/29/16	468.00
Hilltop Cleaning Service	Monthly Cleaning Service	01/29/16	564.00
Hussey Communications Inc.	Monthly Internet Service	01/29/16	250.00
K. L. Jack & Company Inc.	Safety Rain Gear/Hard Hats/Gloves/Cordless Recip. Saw Cordless Grinder	01/29/16	1,993.67
Kennebec Auto Service	Replace Battery-Tk. 21/Brakes, Control Arm, Oil Chg.-Tk20	01/29/16	872.29
Maine Municipal Emp. Health	Monthly Health Insurance	01/29/16	21,505.80
Maine Water Works Supply	Hydrant	01/29/16	2,286.60
Treasurer, State of Maine	Water Tests	01/29/16	101.00
Workplace Health	Preplacement Physical Exam-1 Emp.	01/29/16	178.00
Motor Supply Company	Fuel Filters/Fuses	01/29/16	21.37
Postmaster	Bulk Mail Postage-Billing	01/29/16	732.88
E. J. Prescott Inc.	Resettlers/Pack Joints/Recharge Cords/Battery Packs	01/29/16	25,242.00
Quill Corporation	Banker Boxes/Dividers/Sheet Protectors	01/29/16	303.19
Super Shoe Stores Inc.	Employee Clothing	01/29/16	119.97
United States Cellular	Monthly Data Hot Spots Service	01/29/16	97.80
United States Cellular	Monthly Cell Phone Service	01/29/16	99.62
Verizon Wireless	Monthly Cell Phone Service & Tablet Service	01/29/16	124.62
Walmart Community/GEMB	Beverages/Pens/Tabs/Television (for Training Videos)	01/29/16	616.15
Ware-Butler Inc.	Tarp/Bolts/Nuts/Washers	01/29/16	16.75

Winslow Supply Inc.	Nipples/Ells	01/29/16	24.24
TOTAL WARRANT			\$145,250.98

Motion by Trustee Talbot, “to ratify the total warrant of checks released for \$145,250.98”, seconded by Trustee Earickson.

Trustee Dornish asked for a further explanation of the resetters purchased from E. J. Prescott, inquiring if the purchase was for an annual supply. Mr. O’Brien explained that a resetter is a meter setting apparatus which includes a backflow device on one side and a ball valve on the other side with the meter being placed in the middle. In cases where there is substandard plumbing in a structure and in order to not disturb the piping, these units are utilized when a BFP device is installed. This particular purchase was for 150 at the cost of \$158.95. This supply amount will not necessarily meet the annual installation requirements and additional units will be ordered when this inventory is nearing depletion. Mr. LaCasse added that the customer is charged for the BFP device part at the present cost of \$86.09, and the backflow preventer unit becomes the property of the customer at the time of installation.

Trustee Hodsdon noted that the final bill was received for the project KWD sub-contracted with the State of Maine for the removal and installation of the KWD Western Avenue Bridge water main. Mr. Longfellow commented that the reason for the delay in paying this bill was due to an erroneous bill mailing by the State before a correct bill was received by KWD.

Trustee Boucher asked for a further explanation of the payment made to the Low Impact Hydropower Institute for \$1,000. Mr. LaCasse explained that this is the annual licensing fee for M-4 as a low impact facility. He added that also upcoming is the 5-year renewal of the certification of M-4 as a low impact hydropower facility. Mr. LaCasse has received correspondence regarding this recertification. There will be an initial flat fee of \$2,000 to cover the first phase of the application review. In addition, there is a new set of criteria standards. However, the new Certification Handbook has not been provided to KWD as of yet, so it is unknown if there will be any required changes and associated costs before M-4 will be recertified.

Trustee McCluskey observed the payment to Quill Corporation for \$1,068.64 and inquired if KWD buys office supplies at 6-month intervals. Mr. LaCasse responded that the majority of these particular invoices are probably provisions for annual purposes, such as year-end and audit related reports but may also include paper stock which has increased dramatically in price over the past few years. Most KWD office supplies are ordered on an as needed basis.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Questions From November Financials

At the January 21st meeting, there was a question raised regarding the 2015 budgeted amount for the appropriated retained earnings of \$37,585 as the November 2015 year-to-date actual amount is \$1,170,249. Mr. LaCasse began by explaining that this financial category reflects the annual appropriation necessary to fund the principal portion of KWD’s long term bond debt. He stated due to a Munis software program glitch, the budgeted figure of \$37,585 is incorrect and should be \$1,275,024. The other financial budgeted line items are stated correctly on the financial reports. Mr.

LaCasse added that this is just a budget figure and has no influence on the bottom line of the financial state of KWD.

Trustee Hodsdon commented that with the recent rain and snow melt M-4 must be generating consistently. Mr. Longfellow stated that M-4 is generating; however, he added that high volume precipitation and resultant high flow conditions can actually result in less generation. Explaining this further, there is less difference in water elevation during high flows which creates less power generation compared to periods of normal flow conditions. Mr. LaCasse added that there is also potential generation loss when there is wasted water flowing over the spillway, but the heavy precipitation and snow melt do balance that waste by providing an opportunity to generate more hours on a daily basis.

C. Disconnection Process Questions

At the previous meeting, there was discussion regarding the customer water disconnection process due to non-payment and questions if there could be a better or improved methodology for this process. Mr. LaCasse referenced the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) Consumer Protection Standards for Water Utilities Chapter 660. This publication establishes the standards for the provision of service and administration of credit and collection programs by water utilities including, to name a few, such items as granting and denying service, credit and deposit practices, billing, disconnection, payment arrangements, and customer complaint procedures. It has a comprehensive process in which a water utility must adhere regarding the disconnection process and the language which must be included in the disconnection notice.

Because there is strong language printed on the disconnection notice as is required by the MPUC which causes a few customers, normally ones who receive the notice for the very first time, to become irate, Trustee Earickson suggested adding a phrase to the notice stating the language is stipulated by the MPUC. Trustee Hodsdon commented that the notice should also have a section informing customers to call the KWD Business Office with questions. Mr. LaCasse advised him that this information is already on the disconnection notice with the KWD telephone number. It also states KWD is willing to set up installment payments if the customer cannot pay the bill by the disconnection due date.

Trustee Earickson also reiterated his recommendation at the previous Board meeting that language should be added to the payment arrangement to the effect that this is the formal agreement, a separate bill will not be mailed, and highlighting the dates and amounts. Mr. LaCasse stated this change could be incorporated. He also commented that the person who recently complained when she received a disconnection notice due to a broken payment arrangement is one of the few and possibly the only one who misunderstood the purpose of the payment arrangement. Further explaining that the payment agreement is set up according to the dates and amounts (within reason) provided by the customer. As per MPUC stipulation, a payment arrangement is typically made for customer amounts which are in arrears. By enforcing these arrangements it aids in preventing the customer from falling deeper in debt.

Trustee Hodsdon asked if an invoice for a BFP is differentiated from a regular quarterly water bill. Mr. LaCasse replied that once a BFP has been installed, the charges (device and tax) appear on the customer's next regular quarterly bill. The customer can then make a payment arrangement for a portion or the totality of all the charges, BFP and water services. Before the terms and conditions were changed, BFP charges were invoiced via a separate service bill. These bills could not be

enforced by the threat of disconnection and many would go unpaid resulting in loss revenue for KWD. Enforcing these service bill payments in small claims court would have been quite time-consuming, costly and unproductive for these individual arrears.

Trustee Hodsdon recollected that at the previous meeting it was stated that disconnection site visits due to non-payment have decreased dramatically due to the “reminder” phone call which is made by Business Office staff before the actual disconnection of service is attempted. At the last meeting, Trustee Hodsdon had suggested making an additional courtesy call to customers before the disconnections are mailed alerting the customer that a disconnection is going to be mailed. Mr. LaCasse informed the Board that this would result in an additional 20,000 plus phone calls per year and would not be a productive use of time as customers would typically continue to wait to pay when they receive the notice itself. Trustee Hodsdon was under the impression that KWD is already making these calls. Mr. LaCasse explained that after the disconnection notices are mailed many payments are received by the disconnection due date. This reduces the number of courtesy calls which are made when the disconnection time has arrived.

Trustee Sanzenbacher commented that this subject was discussed in detail at the previous meeting and is included in the January 21st minutes, adding that there is not much purpose for the continuation of the same discussion. The majority of the Board members agreed, with Trustee McCluskey adding that it appears the present process is working properly and as it should.

D. Other

None

ITEM 4: MOTION ISSUES

A. Approve Contract for Engineering Services for Design and Bidding for Western Avenue Pump Station Renovation Project

At the previous meeting, the Board requested additional information and clarification of a few clauses in the contract provided by Wright-Pierce for the Western Avenue Pump Station Project. At the request of a Board Member, the Trustees were provided with a copy of Appendix A which is the Schedule of Terms and Conditions for Agreement between KWD and Wright-Pierce. The additional concerns and questions were conveyed by Mr. LaCasse to Jeff Musich, Engineer from Wright-Pierce. The Board was provided with a copy of a memorandum from Mr. Musich which addressed many of the Trustees concerns and questions.

In addition, although the Maine Drinking Water Program has allowed Wright-Pierce to use its standard contract on State Revolving Funds funded projects, because Trustee Hodsdon is more familiar with the EJCD (Engineers Joint Contract Documents) and it is more comprehensive, Mr. Musich did complete this form. This, along with the memorandum from Mr. Musich, aided in answering the questions posed by the Trustees. The Board Members were satisfied with the supplemental and more detailed information which includes the various insurance coverages and liability amounts.

Motion by Trustee Sanzenbacher, “to authorize the General Manager to sign the Agreement between Kennebec Water District and Wright-Pierce for Renovation of the Western Avenue Pumping Station to provide engineering services as proposed,” seconded by Trustee Fuller.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Other

None

ITEM 5: TRUSTEES

A. Comments, Concerns, Ideas

At a previous meeting, Trustee Coull had mentioned that there is a KWD service box valve sticking up in his driveway that is also near the fire hydrant which he plows to maintain accessibility. He has hit the valve numerous times with his plow and requested it be lowered by KWD. At today’s meeting, Trustee Coull thanked the crew from the KWD Operations & Maintenance Department for their quick response to this request and a job well done.

Trustee Earickson mentioned that he has noticed a valve protruding out of the sidewalk near Mayflower Hill next to a utility building. There was some discussion as to whether this is property of Colby College or KWD. Mr. LaPlante will direct his crew to investigate this concern.

Trustee Dornish commented that in the Morning Sentinel today there is a picture and commentary regarding an automobile sliding off a snow-covered road damaging a KWD hydrant. Trustee Talbot had also seen this article and noted there was a hydrant purchase on today’s warrant at the cost of \$2,287 and had asked if this repair would be as costly. Mr. LaCasse explained that the older style hydrants were solid barrels, with the shaft buried approximately 6 feet in the ground. When these are damaged, it is necessary to repair or replace the total unit. The newer style hydrants are designed with a coupling which allows the top portion to dislodge when hit limiting the damage. This is the case of the one referred to in today’s paper; therefore, Mr. LaCasse does not believe it will be too costly to repair.

B. Railroad Square Fire Service Dispute

At the January 21st Board meeting, Trustee McCluskey had brought to the Board’s attention an issue regarding a customer and his service. In summary, the customer was required by his insurance company to install a fire service sprinkler system. KWD staff met with the owner of the building which is typical for a new service as it involves the KWD infrastructure. Because excavation was necessary for this project, it was decided that KWD could at the same time reconfigure a portion of its main and agreed upon a set amount of cost sharing for this portion of the project. As stated in the KWD Terms and Conditions, the cost of a changed or added service is the responsibility of the customer. Due to various circumstances, including a problem with the planned construction location, more cost was incurred for this project and the customer requested KWD share in the additional expense. For various reasons, including the extra time and cost for a KWD employee to be on site due to the aforementioned complications, Mr. LaCasse did not feel KWD should absorb the additional expense. Therefore, the customer made a request to the Board to review

the matter. The Trustees were provided with a series of e-mails regarding the situation, and the Trustees and Mr. LaCasse discussed the subject matter in detail. After much deliberation, a motion was put before the Board for a vote. Because Trustee McCluskey was involved in the customer's project, he recused himself from the vote.

Motion by Trustee Fuller, "to increase the KWD cost share for this project by \$1,328 bringing the total to \$3,586.21," seconded by Trustee Earickson.

The Trustees briefly discussed the motion, with the question of the party to whom the check would be issued being raised. Trustee Talbot recommended making the check payable to both the customer and the contractor who is owed the money, and the motion was amended to reflect this change.

Motion by Trustee Fuller, "to increase the KWD cost share for this project by \$1,328 bringing the total to \$3,586.21 with the check made payable to both the customer and the contractor," seconded by Trustee Earickson.

Vote: 5 in favor, 4 against, Trustee McCluskey abstained, motion carried.

Trustee Dornish asked if the Board or Mr. LaCasse will relay this information to the customer. It was decided Mr. LaCasse would be the appropriate person to inform the customer of the decision.

C. Other

None

6: ENGINEER'S REPORT

A. Engineer's Report

February 4, 2016

China Lake Elevation: 170.8

Stream Flow: 140 cfs

Operations

The January hydrant checks have been completed. It is the first time tracking the work with the Google documents sheet. Some hydrants have been found with water in them. There were also a few which were frozen and needed to be thawed. The frozen ones had been used to extinguish a fire, but the information was never relayed to KWD, only information on the one nearest the incident was reported as being used.

Work has started on dismantling and sealing the former Fairfield Booster Station. Any items which can be removed are being taken out, and then the plan will be to fill it with sand. The hatch will be removed and repurposed at the Western Avenue pumping station to replace the coal hatch that now also serves as an emergency egress.

The crews have completed their annual safety training. Each year there is required training for employees and it is necessary to document that this training has been conducted. KWD has taken advantage of the slower winter months to complete this training.

Work has begun to remove the existing tile floor and refinish the hardwood below. The existing vinyl composition tile is breaking up and is nearly impossible to roll a chair across. There are also several holes penetrating the floor that need to be filled as outlined in a Department of Labor safety inspection from 2014.

Engineering

Design is underway for the 2016 projects. The main focus will be on projects where the streets are planned to be rehabbed in 2016. The first phase of the work orders which have been sent to engineering for review have been processed for the year-end financials.

Jefferson Longfellow, P.E.

Trustee Sanzenbacher asked and Mr. Longfellow replied that the above-mentioned floor renovation was being conducted in the Distribution Superintendent's office at the South Street building.

Mr. Longfellow added that the crew has been conducting some service box repairs as necessary. He was also happy to report that to date there have been no winter main breaks. There has been a report of some excess water on the Taylor Road, Winslow. The KWD crew will be excavating this area early next week to investigate the probable source.

Motion by Trustee Talbot, "to accept the Engineer's Report as presented," seconded by Trustee Earickson.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 7: GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Western Avenue Project Update

Mr. LaCasse updated the Board on the Western Avenue Pump Station capital improvement project. Because Central Maine Power has its own specific interconnection regulations which have to be taken into consideration, Mr. Musich and Mr. LaCasse will be meeting with Central Maine Power reps on February 10th to review the project scope.

On February 3rd, Mr. LaCasse met with staff from the Maine Bond Bank. Because this project encompasses two years and because the bonding process is quite complicated, Mr. LaCasse inquired from the Bond Bank if there is a means to execute one bond issuance. It appears that KWD can be approved for interim financing with one long term bond issuance for the approximate \$3 million will be permitted with those bond funds available around April 2017.

Mr. LaCasse will also be contacting the MPUC as it is necessary for KWD to substantiate to the MPUC that it does have the proper rates and available funds in order to have the ability to pay the SRF loan funds. In consideration of the loan debt and the anticipation of a net income deficit in 2016

above \$250,000, a rate increase is currently being planned for 2017. Trustee Sanzenbacher commented that several years ago there was a substantial rate increase. She added that at that time several Trustees, including herself, voiced the opinion that going forward they would be in favor of smaller, more frequent increases as necessary rather than exposing rate payers to such an extreme increase.

At this time, Trustee Hodsdon addressed the fact that the KWD grant application to Efficiency Maine for the Western Avenue Pump Station capital project was denied. He began by commenting that this is an extremely complex project which was reflected during the grant application review by Efficiency Maine. Because the electrical feed from M-4 will no longer be powering the South Street pumping station, more of the M-4 electricity will be placed on the grid for sale. In addition to substantial electrical savings for the Western Avenue pumping operations, M-4 will be adding additional “green” electricity to the grid. Efficiency Maine typically awards grants to projects which will reduce the amount of electricity required from the grid. Trustee Hodsdon plans to appeal to the Efficiency Maine committee with the primary reason that the electricity produced by M-4 is one of the cleanest methods of generating power. Mr. LaCasse commented that he felt there was a misinterpretation of the electricity savings outlined on the application by Efficiency Maine and has contacted their consultant to discuss this further. To date, there has been no response from Efficiency Maine.

B. Intake Rehabilitation RFP Process

Mr. LaCasse stated that the Request for Proposals (RFP) the Board requested at its December 17 meeting to utilize the design plans configured by Fairfield Drafting & Construction (FDC) for the rehabilitation of the KWD Intake Building has not yet been completed so the project is on hold. Once he receives the draft RFP, Mr. LaCasse plans on meeting again with Mr. Violette from FDC to review the RFP terms to ensure all components necessary for the upgrade have been specified. The original plan was to get the project bid early so that construction could be undertaken in the winter period in hopes of getting more favorable pricing from contractors. Trustee McCluskey pointed out that on today’s warrant and as approved by the Board, FDC has been paid \$2,674 for the already completed project evaluation and formulation of plans for the Intake Building.

On a different subject, Trustee Hodsdon commented that he spoke to Mr. Violette regarding replacing the windows at the South Street Complex. He conveyed the information that Mr. Violette has explored replacement window options, and there is a unit manufactured by Mathews Brothers which is of high quality and can be replaced from the inside. Mr. LaCasse stated that because of the numerous capital requests which are more essential to complete in 2016, the window replacement project will most likely be deferred to a future year and the repairs made earlier by KWD crew should suffice for near future.

C. Capital Budget Requests

The Trustees were provided with a spreadsheet outlining the 2016 Capital Requests by Department, which is the preliminary wish list from each department and proposed funding for these projects. In addition, this list also includes several requests for expense items from the various departments.

Although there are still a few items with pricing to be determined, the total of the potential capital requests list to date is \$1,713,675. Mr. LaCasse reviewed the funding source for the 2016

capital projects. The 2016 allocated depreciation funds, which are dedicated to replacing or upgrading depreciable assets, are anticipated to be \$950,000. As of November 2015, KWD has funds in the invested checking account of \$1,853,297. It will be necessary to subtract from this number the expected 2015 and 2016 deficits and the minimum balance proposal, as recommended by most financial agencies of at least a two-month buffer as a cash reserve balance, of \$1,000,000. In addition to these items, Mr. LaCasse will also be obligated to take into account the timing of the new debt for the Western Avenue Pump Station capital project and insure there are funds available to cover that expense.

Trustee Hodsdon raised the idea of KWD borrowing money from itself, noting that there is over a million dollars in the retirement reserved account. Mr. LaCasse stated that this is an available option that was presented when the funds were originally received. However, this use of the fund would have to be presented to and approved by the MPUC.

Mr. LaCasse and the KWD Managers will fine tune and conduct a final review of the 2016 Capital Budget. After this has been completed, Mr. LaCasse will present his final recommendation to the Board.

D. Legislative Session Issues

Each week, when the Maine Legislature is in session, the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) publishes a Legislative Bulletin, and Mr. LaCasse forwards this information to the Trustees regularly. Currently, there are only a couple of bills which could have an impact on water utilities.

The first is on the front page of one of the bulletins and is in regards to the Freedom of Access Act and, in particular, "remote meeting attendance". The MMA's Legislative Policy Committee is opposed to this legislation mainly due to the fact that it allows off-site participation by appointed boards but prohibits this type of participation by elected boards. In addition, Mr. LaCasse added that this bill address a problem that doesn't really exist as there is presently remote participation by some elected and appointed boards and there have never been any known complaints regarding this type of participation. From the viewpoint of the MMA, this bill should be modified to establish remote meeting rule parameters and to be applied equally to the majority of public entities.

The other legislative bill under review is LD 1566, "An Act Concerning the Establishment of Water Levels". Mr. LaCasse reminded the Board members of the process which was required of KWD in order to apply for a modification of the China Lake level order from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Agency and which was eventually granted. As supported by scientific data, this change for an earlier and increased fall flushing was requested in order to extract more phosphorus from the lake. LD 1566 would require the parties named in the petition to engage in mediation prior to the DEP initiating an adjudicatory hearing to resolve any dispute. This bill also contains a provision which would allow the DEP to charge the petitioning parties up to \$20,000 if it holds an adjudicatory hearing. Mr. LaCasse commented that some parties engaging in the mediation could have their own political agenda rather than viewing the request based on technical information and scientific data including the potential impact a change would have for wildlife and environmental chemistry.

Regarding a different legislative item, Mr. LaCasse mentioned that Mary Mayhew, Commissioner of Health and Human Resources, attended a recent Maine Drinking Water Commission meeting. During this meeting, there was discussion of the 2015 attempted action to

transfer the Maine Drinking Water Program from being a division of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to being a division of the DEP. In 2015, many groups opposed this move as the general consensus is that because drinking water is consumed by the public the MDWP should continue to be an agency of the DHHS which monitors the health and well-being of the public. Eventually, this transfer was taken off the table. At yesterday's MDWP meeting, the group reiterated their opposition of any attempted move to Commissioner Mayhew. She confirmed that any change was officially off the table at this time.

E. Other

None

Motion by Trustee Talbot, "to accept the General Manager's Report as presented," seconded by Trustee Sanzenbacher.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 8: EXECUTIVE SESSION (None)

None

ITEM 9: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

Motion by Trustee Talbot, "to adjourn the meeting," seconded by Trustee Earickson.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Sue Markatine, Recording Secretary