

**KENNEBEC WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
THURSDAY – FEBRUARY 21, 2019 at 7:30 AM**

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

Trustees present: Jeff Earickson, President; Mark McCluskey, Vice-President; J. Michael Talbot, Treasurer; Allan Fuller, Clerk; Alex Wild, Assistant Treasurer; Al Hodsdon, Trustee; Karl Dornish, Trustee; Frank Richards, Trustee; Denise Bruesewitz, Trustee

Trustees absent: Amy Stabins, Trustee

Allan Fuller, Clerk, joined the meeting at 7:35 a.m.
Denise Bruesewitz, Trustee, left the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Also present: Roger Crouse, General Manager; Jeff Longfellow, KWD Engineer; Matt Zetterman, KWD Director of Water Quality; Benny LaPlante, KWD Customer Service Manager/Safety Coordinator; Jared Bragdon, KWD Operations 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 FEBRUARY 7, 2019.

Motion by Trustee Hodsdon, “to accept the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees’ Meeting of February 7, 2019,” seconded by Trustee Dornish.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 3: FINANCIALS

A. Account Warrant

Motion by Trustee Wild, “to ratify the total warrant of checks released for \$94,242.97,” seconded by Trustee Talbot.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Other

Mr. Crouse reported that now that Ms. Hastings, KWD’s Finance Manager, has returned from leave, the monthly KWD Financial Statements will be forthcoming.

ITEM 4: EXECUTIVE SESSION – 1 MRS §405. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

A. M-4 Sale Negotiations

At 7:35 a.m., motion by Trustee McCluskey, “to enter into Executive Session under MRSA Title 1, Section 405-6C, Real Estate Transactions,” seconded by Trustee Talbot.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

At 7:50 a.m., President Earickson brought the Board out of Executive Session.

As a result of Executive Session, a motion was put forward.

Motion by Trustee Richards, “to authorize the sale of the KWD Messalonskee Automatic Hydro-Station M-4 to Messalonskee Stream Hydro, LLC for \$175,000, subject to developing a mutually acceptable, definitive purchase and sale agreement,” seconded by Trustee Hodsdon.

The Trustees discussed the motion. Trustee Talbot, with the concurrence of the other Board members, recommended that the General Manager, at his discretion, ensures the agreement stipulates that Messalonskee Stream Hydro, LLC is responsible for any extraordinary costs, such as legal fees for research and documentation, relating to the sale of M-4.

Vote: 8 in favor, 1 abstention, motion carried.

ITEM 5: MOTION ISSUES

A. Dig Safe Membership

As part of their packets, the Trustees were provided with a document compiled by Mr. Bragdon requesting that KWD become a member of Dig Safe, a non-profit program which alerts participating utility companies of the need to mark their underground lines due to a pending excavation. Becoming a member will streamline the KWD service line location process, save staff time, and reduce the risk of contractor excavation without a KWD line location.

Motion by Trustee Talbot, “to authorize the General Manager to apply for an annual Dig Safe membership at the cost of \$6,420,” seconded by Trustee Dornish.

Vote: 8 in favor, 1 opposed, motion carried.

B. Utility Truck Purchase

The Board members were provided with the bid specifications and tabulations for the replacement of the KWD service truck.

Motion by Trustee McCluskey, “to approve the purchase of a new utility truck from O’Connor Auto Park for the net cost (after trade-in allowance) of \$30,058,” seconded by Trustee Richards.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Water Treatment Plant Roof Modification for Snow Restraints

The Board members were furnished with a request for authorization to purchase services for installing snow restraints on the WTP roof for safety reasons, and the proposal and contract terms and conditions provided by G & E Roofing, Inc. G & E Roofing, Inc. has worked with the roof product manufacturer to determine the best solution while still maintaining the roof warranty.

Motion by Trustee Talbot, “to authorize to employ the services of G & E Roofing, Inc. to install snow restraints on the WTP roof for the cost of \$16,661,” seconded by Trustee Hodsdon.

Vote: Motioned carried unanimously.

D. Other

None

ITEM 6: TRUSTEES

A. Comments, Concerns, Ideas

Trustee Earickson mentioned a customer had e-mailed a few Trustees listing his reasons for disputing the KWD charge of \$60 for delivering tenant notices to his rental unit alerting the renters that the water is in jeopardy of being disconnected due to the landlord’s failure to pay the water bill. Trustee Earickson forwarded this e-mail to Mr. Crouse, who, in turn, researched the situation and responded to this customer’s concern. To date, there has been no further contact from this customer.

Trustee Richards inquired if KWD staff could calculate the cost of water treatment in recent years (with improved water quality) versus historic costs when China Lake experienced more frequent algal blooms. He is curious to learn if China Lake’s improved water quality in the past few years has impacted the cost of water treatment. Mr. Zetterman commented that the two biggest factors influenced by clearer water are a reduction in the amount of alum utilized and less electrical power for backwashing utilized. Although power rates have varied, a comparison evaluation can be compiled.

ITEM 7: GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

A. Legislation

As mentioned at the February 7th meeting, Legislative Bill LD 347 which is “An Act to Provide Sustainable Funding for Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure” is an on-going bill and has been referred to the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee.

Trustee Hodsdon mentioned another bill, LD 197, currently in the legislature which is “An Act to Convene a Working Group to Authorize a Public Trust for Maine’s Groundwater and to Impose a 2-year Moratorium on Large-Scale Groundwater Extraction”. Mr. Crouse commented that this would place Maine’s groundwater at State level control rather than municipality level control.

At the previous Board meeting, Mr. Crouse mentioned a legislative bill, LD 216, which would require the inspection of all septic systems in a shoreland zone at the time of property transfer. Another bill has been introduced that expands the inspection requirement to apply to the transfer of

any property in the State regardless if it is in a shoreland zone. Mr. Crouse stated that the Environment and Natural Resources' Committee is planning to hold one work session for both bills.

Trustee Fuller mentioned there is also a bill to require lead testing in drinking water in all schools. Mr. Crouse commented that, although there are existing federal guidelines, this bill intends to direct the Department of Health and Human Services to establish requirements and rules for lead testing in schools.

B. Social Media

Mr. Crouse announced that KWD is now part of the social networking medias of Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Pulse Marketing, LLC recently conducted a training session with KWD staff on the utilization of these systems.

C. Director of Technology

Mr. Crouse was pleased to announce that Mr. Zetterman has accepted the position of KWD Director of Technology. KWD will be advertising for employment for his current position, Director of Water Quality, in the near future.

D. Strategic Planning

The Trustees were provided with a copy of the 2008 KWD Vision Statement. After some discussion, the Trustees proposed that the KWD Management Team review and recommend changes to this document.

E. Other

None

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

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 8: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Other

None

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

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Sue Markatine, Recording Secretary