

**KENNEBEC WATER DISTRICT
ANNUAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
THURSDAY – JANUARY 5, 2023 AT 7:30 AM**

Note: KWD Trustees held this meeting at the KWD Business Office. Notice of the meeting was posted on the KWD Facebook and Webpage.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Trustee Stabins.

Trustees present: Amy Stabins, Trustee; Frank Richards, Trustee; J. Michael Talbot, Trustee; Jeff Earickson, Trustee; Sarah Whateley, Trustee (Remote Access); Allan Fuller, Trustee; Denise Bruesewitz, Trustee (Remote Access); Bruce Williams, Trustee; Mark McCluskey, Trustee; Ben Murray, Trustee

Trustees absent: None

Ben Murray, Trustee, joined the meeting at 7:35 a.m.

Also present: Roger Crouse, KWD General Manager; Amy Dyer, KWD Finance Manager; Jeff Longfellow, KWD Engineering Manager (Remote Access); Matt Zetterman, KWD Technology Manager (Remote Access); Benny LaPlante, KWD Service Manager (Remote Access); Jared Bragdon, KWD Distribution Manager (Remote Access); Robbie Bickford, KWD Water Quality Manager; Sue Markatine, Recording Secretary

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

KWD Trustees welcomed the following members of the public: Linda Bacon, Ken Wagner, Scott Pierz, Stephen Greene, and Eric Lind (All Remote Access).

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2022.

Motion by Trustee Williams, “to accept the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees’ Meeting of December 15, 2022,” seconded by Trustee Fuller.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Earickson – Yea, Trustee Bruesewitz – Yea, Trustee Talbot – Yea, Trustee Richards – Yea, Trustee Stabins – Yea, Trustee McCluskey – Yea, Trustee Fuller – Yea, Trustee Whateley – Yea, Trustee Williams – Yea. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 3: NOMINATIONS AND ANNUAL ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

- a. President**
- b. Vice President**
- c. Treasurer**
- d. Assistant Treasurer**
- e. Clerk**
- f. Assistant Clerk**

After a brief discussion, a motion was made to nominate the available positions for the 2023 KWD Board of Trustees Officers.

Motion by Trustee Talbot, “to elect the following slate of officers for 2023: Amy Stabins, President; Frank Richards, Vice President; J. Michael Talbot, Treasurer; Jeff Earickson, Assistant Treasurer; Sarah Whateley, Clerk; Roger Crouse, Assistant Clerk,” seconded by Trustee Earickson.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Earickson – Yea, Trustee Bruesewitz – Yea, Trustee Talbot – Yea, Trustee Richards – Yea, Trustee Stabins – Yea, Trustee McCluskey – Yea, Trustee Fuller – Yea, Trustee Whateley – Yea, Trustee Williams – Yea. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 4: ANNUAL BOARD APPROVAL PROVIDING KWD AUTHORITY TO FILE LIENS:

- a. Motion needed: “To commit the authority for collection of the rates and other charges of the Kennebec Water District in 2023 to the Treasurer of the Kennebec Water District Board of Trustees.”**

It was the consensus of the Trustees to commit to the KWD Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer the KWD rates and other charges for collection.

Motion by Trustee Earickson, “to commit the authority for collection of the rates and other charges of the KWD in 2023 to the Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer of the KWD Board of Trustees,” seconded by Trustee Williams.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Earickson – Yea, Trustee Bruesewitz – Yea, Trustee Talbot – Yea, Trustee Richards – Yea, Trustee Stabins – Yea, Trustee McCluskey – Yea, Trustee Fuller – Yea, Trustee Whateley – Yea, Trustee Williams – Yea. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 5: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ACCOUNT WARRANT

Motion by Trustee Talbot, “to ratify the January 5, 2023 total warrant of checks released for \$2,141,162.17,” seconded by Trustee Earickson.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Earickson – Yea, Trustee Bruesewitz – Yea, Trustee Talbot – Yea, Trustee Richards – Yea, Trustee Stabins – Yea, Trustee McCluskey – Yea, Trustee Fuller – Yea, Trustee Whateley – Yea, Trustee Williams – Yea. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 6: DISCUSSION OF ALUM TREATMENT AND KWD’S POSITION

The Board members were furnished with a memo from Mr. Bickford providing background information on China Lake’s water quality and explaining that the China Lake Association is requesting KWD’s support of an alum treatment to aid in improving the lake’s water quality. All members of the public attending today’s meeting commented either in support of the use of an alum treatment or offered to provide guidance to the Trustees’ questions.

Several Board members shared their views and asked questions regarding the potential alum treatment. Some Board members desired additional information, and, as one resource, they were directed to the Watershed- Based Management Plan which was updated in March 2022. After a lengthy discussion, the consensus of the Board was to direct Mr. Crouse and Mr. Bickford to collaborate with the China Lake Association’s staff and to present to the Trustees a recommendation to aid in determining the KWD official position of an alum treatment.

ITEM 7: APPROVALS/MOTIONS NEEDED**A. Other**

None

ITEM 8: GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The Trustees were provided with the General Manager's report, and a brief review was conducted by Mr. Crouse.

In addition to his report, Mr. Crouse informed the Board that Central Maine Power has approved the electrical grid interconnection for the potential KWD solar panel project in Vassalboro. However, the Town of Vassalboro passed a six-month moratorium in November 2022 on solar panel projects in order to allow time for the development of a governing ordinance. Mr. Crouse added that after the completion of land surveys, the project footprint has been scaled back slightly. The amount of electricity generated by the solar panels which will offset KWD's facilities cost is now estimated at 70 percent rather than 80 percent.

In response to a question from Trustee Earickson, Mr. Crouse explained that all KWD job positions, including the General Manager, are incorporated under the KWD Salary and Administration policy.

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

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Earickson – Yea, Trustee Bruesewitz – Yea, Trustee Talbot – Yea, Trustee Richards – Yea, Trustee Stabins – Yea, Trustee McCluskey – Yea, Trustee Fuller – Yea, Trustee Whateley – Yea, Trustee Williams – Yea. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 9: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

As part of their Board packet, the Trustees were provided with the Monthly Department Reports prepared by the respective managers.

Mr. Crouse mentioned KWD continues to advertise to fill a Distribution Technician position. Trustee Stabins suggested to possibly consider some type of recruitment bonus.

Motion by Trustee Talbot, "to accept the Department Reports as presented," seconded by Trustee McCluskey.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Earickson – Yea, Trustee Bruesewitz – Yea, Trustee Talbot – Yea, Trustee Richards – Yea, Trustee Stabins – Yea, Trustee McCluskey – Yea, Trustee Fuller – Yea, Trustee Whateley – Yea, Trustee Williams – Yea. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 10: TRUSTEE COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND/OR IDEAS

In response to a question by Trustee Fuller, Mr. Crouse stated that there has been no further communication from Mr. Robbins regarding his request that KWD consider the acquisition of the East Vassalboro Water Company, LLC.

ITEM 11: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ITEM 12: AS NEEDED: EXECUTIVE SESSION – 1 MRS §405. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

None

Motion by Trustee Talbot, “to adjourn the meeting,” seconded by Trustee Williams.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Earickson – Yea, Trustee Bruesewitz – Yea, Trustee Talbot – Yea, Trustee Richards – Yea, Trustee Stabins – Yea, Trustee McCluskey – Yea, Trustee Fuller – Yea, Trustee Whateley – Yea, Trustee Williams – Yea. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 a.m.

Note: Although Trustee Murray was present at this meeting, his oath of office for his new term was still pending. Therefore, his votes were not included in the official record above.

Sue Markatine, Recording Secretary