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Minutes of Meeting #153

May 5, 2021

The Maine Public Drinking Water Commission (DWC) held its 153rd Meeting on May 5, 2021 via Zoom.

Present Were:

Members: Jeff LaCasse, Kathy Moriarty, Carol White, Lee Worcester, Brian Richardson, Amy Lachance (DWP Director) and Jim Willis (Board Clerk).

Non-members: David Welch, DWP, Mike Abbott (DECH Director), and Matt Reynolds.

Time: Carol called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM

Mike Introduced Amy Lachance, the new DWP Director and Commissioner's Designee to the DWC.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as written.

B. RECURRING BUSINESS:

1. SFY 2021 AFM FEE COLLECTION STATUS

David Welch from the Drinking Water Program updated the commission on collection status of the AFM. We are currently at 99 percent collection rate which is on par with previous years.

2. DWP FINANCIAL REPORT

David Welch discussed the DWP Financial Report. David stated that we are currently staying within budget.

There was discussion on needing to increase the AFM fee for fiscal year 2023 to \$70.00 for the base fee and 65 cents for each additional person for population over 100. AFM fee for bottled water companies need to be increased. David did state that if the rule making process is not completed by fiscal year 2023, we would still be in good shape. Mike and Amy gave an update on where we are in the rule making process in raising the AFM fee. Amy is going to ask Tera Pare to attend the next meeting and explain the rule making process.

3. DWP GENERAL UPDATES (DWSRF, STAFFING, ETC)

Amy stated that we have had two Public Water Inspectors resign, Jason Pushard, and Michelle Coad. Tom Brennan has also left the DWP. We have had permission to advertise for the Senior Geologist position and one of the vacant Public Water Inspector positions. Amy also discussed that she looks

at each vacant position to see were that open position can best serve the DWP. Currently Jennifer Jamison our Lab Certification officer is over at HETL as Acting Director.

Amy and Mike discussed the need for additional positions for the upcoming PFAS and lead testing in schools. Amy is concerned that these new tasks will create challenges in continuing our everyday work. The DWC discussed sending a letter in support of adding new positions to handle the extra workload. A letter will be drafted and sent to the DHHS committee, and the Appropriation Committee in support of the DWP and adding new positions.

Amy discussed the potential of extra funding for SRF projects in the future from the federal government.

Kathy asked if the DWP might have trouble finding qualified applicants to fill the open positions.

4. LEGISLATION AND RULEMAKING UPDATE

Amy discussed several bills being discussed. LD 129 and LD 164 both dealing with PFAS. LD 206 lead in schools. Amy stated that we are continuing to work on resubmitting proposed changes to the Drinking Water Rules.

5. PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION (OPEN FORUM)

Kathy discussed how COVID has impacted the Bangor Water District and safety measures she has taken to protect her staff.

6. SELECT DWC STAFF MERIT AWARD COMMITTEE

Kathy, Carol, and Matt will look at this year's nominations and decide this year's winner. Amy stated we are hoping to have an outside staff meeting in September to announce the winner.

7. DWC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Jim discussed as of August 31, 2021, every member on the DWC will have an expired seat. Jim will send out the applications for members to fill out and send back to the Governor's office. Currently with COVID, the Governor's office has not been processing applications. Jim will also include the contact info for the Governor's office for members to reach out to.

8. 2021 DWC MEETING LOCATIONS

September 1, 2021 TBD- 9:00 AM

November 17, 2021 TBD - 9:00 AM

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted

Jim Willis (Board Clerk)