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Minutes of Meeting #154 September 1, 2021

The Maine Public Drinking Water Commission (DWC) held its 154 Meeting on September 1, 2021 via Zoom.

Present Were:

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

Non-members: David Welch, DWP, Matt Reynolds, and Tera Pare (Maine CDC)

Not Present Were: Kathy Moriarty, Brian Richardson, and Rebecca Laliberte

Members:

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

A. RULE MAKING PROCESS

Tera Pare from the Maine CDC discussed the rule making process.

B. RECURRING BUSINESS:

1. SFY 2022 AFM FEE COLLECTION STATUS

David Welch from the Drinking Water Program (DWP) updated the Commission on the collection status of the Alternate Funding Mechanism (AFM). So far, the DWP has a 92.5 percent collection rate which is on par with previous years. Amy stated that we are working on accepting credit cards as a future payment option.

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. The 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, the DWP would still be solvent until fiscal year 2025. Amy gave an update on where we are in the rule making process in raising the AFM fee.

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

Amy discussed the new potential funding for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) projects that is being worked on in Washington. Amy also discussed the new lead testing in schools program and how there is funding for schools to help pay for lead testing.

Amy also stated that the new PFAS testing for all Community systems and NTNC schools and childcare facilities needs to be completed by the end of 2022. Amy also stated that there is no funding currently available to help pay for PFAS testing and that the DWP would like to hire additional positions to help with the extra workload.

Amy updated the Commission on recent staff changes. We have hired Alex Pugh, who is overseeing the Subsurface Wastewater program, and management of PFAS. This was David Braley and Tom Brennan's old position. We have also hired Adam Hansen as a new Public Water Inspector, replacing Jason Pushard old position. We are close to offering the position for a new rule specialist in our Data Management team. The DWP is also working on filling a vacant NEIWPC position (David Welch's old position) to help with processing plumbing permits for the Subsurface Wastewater Unit.

4. LEGISLATION AND RULEMAKING UPDATE

Amy stated that we are continuing to work on resubmitting proposed changes to the Drinking Water Rules. The Legislature is not in session, so not much is going on currently.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the May 5, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

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

There was more discussion regarding PFAS and the Lead testing in school's program.

7. DWC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Jim has reached out to Governor's office and had no new updates to report at this time.

8. SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

8. 2021 DWC MEETING LOCATIONS

November 17, 2021 – (286 Water St, Augusta, Maine) 9:00 AM

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted

Jim Willis (Board Clerk)