

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Agenda

Monday, February 23, 2026, 6:00 PM

22 Arsenal Street District Meeting Room, Augusta, Maine

1. Welcome - Knight
2. Introduce Board members
3. Introduce GAUD employees, consultants and guests
4. Agenda additions
5. Old Business
 - a. Approve meeting minutes - page - **Motion**
 - b. Rate committee update
 - c. Project updates – pages
 - d. General Manager’s report – page
 - e. PFAS “forever chemicals” - page
 - f. PFAS litigation options update
6. New business
 - a. Review financial statements - page
 - b. Review liens - page
 - c. Personnel Policy Manual update: Paid no work aka “snow day” - **Motion**
 - d. Communications update
 - e. HR update
 - f. Public comment
7. Adjourn - **Motion**

Attachments:

- Minutes
- Financial statements

Attendees:

<input type="checkbox"/> Knight – Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Tudman Walker	<input type="checkbox"/> Sawyer	<input type="checkbox"/> Begin
<input type="checkbox"/> Paradis – Clerk	<input type="checkbox"/> Munson	<input type="checkbox"/> Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/> Payne
<input type="checkbox"/> Corey – Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke	<input type="checkbox"/> Dennett	<input type="checkbox"/> Tarbuck

A quorum consists of 4 voting Trustees. The table below reflects my best understanding of current terms.

Name	Role	Term expiration	Original	Years served
Ken Knight	Chair	9/19/2028	11/5/2003	22.1
Bob Corey	Treasurer	11/5/2026	3/17/2016	9.8
Pat Paradis	Clerk	1/5/2029	1/5/2017	9.0
Tim Dennett	Augusta	11/5/2026	4/17/2025	0.7
Keth Luke	Augusta - non voting		6/1/2016	9.5
Cecil Munson	Augusta	1/5/2029	1/5/2017	9.0
Brad Sawyer	Augusta	2/4/2028	11/15/2016	9.1
Keith Taylor	Hallowell		9/2/2024	1.3
Kara Tudman Walker	Hallowell - non-voting		9/2/2024	1.3

Guests:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Executive sessions are described in [MRS Title 1 Section 405](#). Executive sessions may only be called by a public recorded vote of 3/5 of the members, present and voting.

Upcoming holidays and meetings now on the fourth Monday of each month.

Monday, March 23, 2026	Regular meeting	22 Arsenal
Monday, April 20, 2026	Patriots' Day	Holiday
Monday, April 27, 2026	Regular meeting	22 Arsenal
Monday, May 18, 2026	Regular meeting (3rd Monday due to holiday)	22 Arsenal
Monday, May 25, 2026	Memorial Day	Holiday
Friday, June 19, 2026	Juneteenth	Holiday

Training opportunities

1. Welcome
2. Introduce Board members
3. Introduce GAUD employees, consultants and guests
4. Agenda additions
5. Old business
 - a. Approve meeting minutes - **Motion**

Motion: I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for January 26, 2026.

M	2nd	For	Against
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- b. Rate committee update

The rate committee (Bob Corey, Cecil Munson, Mike Payne, Brian Tarbuck) met on December 17, 2025.

The rate setting schedule is on its own page.

Action will be needed no later than the March 23 board meeting to set the rate process in motion for a July 1 implementation.

- c. Project updates - Begin

Andy will provide updates regarding the District’s capital improvement projects.

- d. General Manager’s report - Tarbuck

Brian will provide updates not otherwise covered in this report.

- e. PFAS “forever chemicals” update

Andy covered our current PFAS issues in the project summary.

- f. PFAS litigation options update

There are no new updates. This is a reminder that action is needed by April, 2026 for a go / no-go on litigation.

6. New business

- a. Review financial statements

Mike Payne will review the financial statements from January, 2026.

It is important to note how difficult it is for Mike to work on the 2024 audit with RKO and the 2025 audit while trying to close out the 2025 books and set up the books for 2026. He has done a remarkable job and deserves credit for pushing through this.

There is no update from RKO regarding the presentation of the 2024 audit findings to the Board.

b. Review liens - **Motion**

There are two requests for GAUD to waive existing liens from two properties that have been foreclosed by the City of Augusta:

1. 29 Boothby Street. The City foreclosed on this property in January 2019 and the building was razed. We have seven liens on this property totaling \$11,685.87. We wrote off \$15,731.70 in 2019. The potential buyers asked if we would accept a payment of \$5,000.00. They stated the liens exceeded the purchase price of the lot.

Motion: I move to accept the offer of \$5,000 to release GAUD lien claims on the property at 29 Boothby Street.			
M	2nd	For	Against

2. 102 Northern Avenue. James Stiles, the buyer, requested waiving 4 liens totaling \$638.24.

Motion: I move to waive the 4 liens at 102 Northern Avenue in exchange for a payment of \$350.			
M	2nd	For	Against

c. Personnel Policy Manual update: Paid no work aka "snow day" - **Motion**

It's rare but from time to time the safest thing we can do is keep our people home or send them home early. We have done this on an ad hoc basis for a few years so it's prudent to take what we've learned and set that into a policy for consistency going forward. This would apply to non-union employees. We'd need to get it approved by the union as well though I can't see how they'd disagree.

Here is the proposed language that would be added to the Personnel Policy Manual:

Management may direct employees to stay home from work on a regularly scheduled work day or send employees home before the end of the day. This is called a "paid no work" day, or, more commonly, a "snow day".

Paid no work for an entire day:

For the purposes of payroll and overtime, a 'snow day' will be the same as 8 hour holiday leave as described in this policy.

Paid no work for a partial day:

Employees will be paid the difference between their hours actually worked and the hours remaining until the end of their scheduled workday. All other overtime and call-in pay provisions apply.

The following examples clarify how this will be applied.

Example 1: A person starts work at 6:30 AM. A 'snow day' is called at 10:30 AM. The person goes home at 10:30. The time from 6:30 to 10:30 AM is regular time. The time after 10:30 AM until the end of their normal pay period is "paid no work".

Example 2: A person starts work at 6:30 AM. A 'snow day' is called at 10:30 AM. The person has to remain at work to take care of systems, plow snow, cut trees etc. The person takes a 30 minute lunch at 11:30 and goes home at 3:00 PM. 6:30 to 10:30 equals 4 hours at regular time. 10:30 to 11:30 plus 12:00 to 3:00 equals four hours at double time.

Duration of “snow day” time:

Paid no work time starts when management makes the ‘snow day’ declaration and ends at midnight on the same calendar day.

Motion: I move to modify the Personnel Policy Manual to include the paid no work language presented at this meeting.

M	2nd	For	Against
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- d. Communications update - Meredith Strang-Burgess

Meredith will provide updates for the board.

- e. HR update - Alan Burton

Alan will provide updates for the board.

- f. Public comment

7. Adjourn

Motion: I move that this body stand adjourned.

M Sawyer	2nd	For	Against
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Summary of Capital Improvement Projects

CIP #23015 - Riverside Drive PFAS/PFOA pilot study - \$768,268 spent to date

Status: The water main has been repiped into the new portion of the building. All the foundation work is complete, including the floor slab. The mason has been onsite laying brick and block to cover the exhaust louver and minor repairs. The mason will continue over the next 2 weeks installing the brick and block exterior walls for the addition. The building should be complete by the end of March. The pressure vessels arrived on 2/18/26. We are working with the building contractor to hoist them into the building before the roof goes on.

Scope: Mitigate PFAS at the Riverside Drive Treatment Building

Purpose: Comply with State and Federal requirements.

Budget: We are projecting \$15M in total funding for PFAS mitigation and continue to refine project scope

Schedule: Planned for Q2 2026

CIP #25032 - New Groundwater Source to Mitigate PFAS - \$110,863 spent to date

Status: A second 8-inch test well is being developed. We are planning on a second round of pumping tests during the week of 2/23/25. Our goal in working with the department of environmental protection and the City of Augusta would be to install a new source that could pump roughly 500,000 gallons of water per day. We are still hopeful for more capacity and are exploring options.

Scope: New source, part of our larger PFAS buildout with our Riverside Drive Solution

Purpose: Maintain 2 million gallons/day of backup supply without PFAS contamination.

Budget: Combined with the Riverside Drive budget of \$15M.

Schedule: Ongoing, likely finishing in 2027 if permitting is a concern.

CIP# 24024 - Brooks and St. Catherine Street - \$43,397 spent to date

Status: This project is winterized and on hold until the spring of 2026.

Scope: Replace approximately 600 feet of 6" unlined cast iron water main, 350 feet of 8" VCP sewer main and 700 feet of storm upgrades.

Purpose: Mutual road reconstruction project with COA, updating aging infrastructure.

Budget: Water (\$248k), Sewer/Storm (\$198k).

Schedule: Planned for Q3 2025 into 2026

CIP #23009 & #24019 - TL2 & TL4 - Station Consolidation - \$205,318 spent to date

The environmental review document is being submitted to leverage \$2 million in grant funding.

CIP# 25011 - Davenport Street Storm Drain - \$40,821 spent to date

Status: The contract has been awarded to Perryman Construction in the amount of \$846,800.

Scope: Separate 1,000 feet of storm main from the combined sewer and remove 3 catch basins, and 1,100 feet of water main.

Purpose: CSO abatement and storm separation and replacement of aging infrastructure (1911 WM).

Budget: \$480,000 (storm main), \$450,000 (water main)

Schedule: Complete Q3 2026, Completion by October 30, 2026.

CIP# 25017 - Amherst Street Water Main & Storm Drain - \$12,950 spent to date

Status: Pending bid package review.

Scope: Replace 640 feet of 6-inch cast iron water main with 8" ductile iron, and Separate 400 feet of storm main from the combined sewer and remove 4 catch basins.

Purpose: The water main is over 100 yrs old and has been identified as deficient in fire flow capacity. The storm work seems like a good fit on this street to remove 4 catch basins from the sewer.

Budget: \$357,500 (water main), \$120,000 (storm main)

Schedule: Complete Q4 2025/Q2 2026

CIP# 25052 - Memorial Drive Stormwater Separation - \$7,796 spent to date

Status: 85% Design. We have spent a lot of time getting our storm main alignment in the best location possible. This is a deep install in a high traffic area, but will serve as a major storm collector for separation in this area. We are hopeful to leverage funding from the clean water SRF program to abate 2-3 CSOs in our combined system. Alignment options are still being assessed as we deal with MDOT/COA and property owners.

Scope: Install 1,200 feet of 30-inch diameter Stormwater main.

Purpose: Part of a multi-phase stormwater separation project in the Memorial Circle area to separate over 60 catch basins from the sewer system. The first phase will be a large storm main in Memorial Drive from Gage Street and up West Crescent. Future phases will include spurs to Western Avenue, Swan and Green Streets.

Budget: \$1.5M (storm main)

Schedule: TBD, formulating a plan with MDOT work.

CIP# 25051 - Eastern Avenue Water Main Replacement - \$3,124 spent to date

Status: Design. We are 80% through our design efforts. We will likely put this out to bid during the summer/fall of 2026 for 2027 Construction.

Scope: 6,300 feet of 12-inch water main between Hospital Street and Cony Road.

Purpose: The 6 & 8-inch unlined cast iron mains have a high break history, approaching 100 years old. In 2025 we fixed 3 leaks with more than 6 along this route. This project will likely be phased into smaller segments for affordability.

Budget: \$4M (water main)

Schedule: TBD, formulating a plan with MDOT work.

General Manager's Report

Celebrations

- Maine State Champs - pipe tapping competition
 - [Link](#) to Instagram reel from Maine Rural Water Association
- Mike Morey, recipient of the Sid Anthony Award of Merit
- John Cummons, recipient of the President's Award

The following employees have a February hire date:

Name	Years
Hardy Cummings	4
Pat Gilbert	2

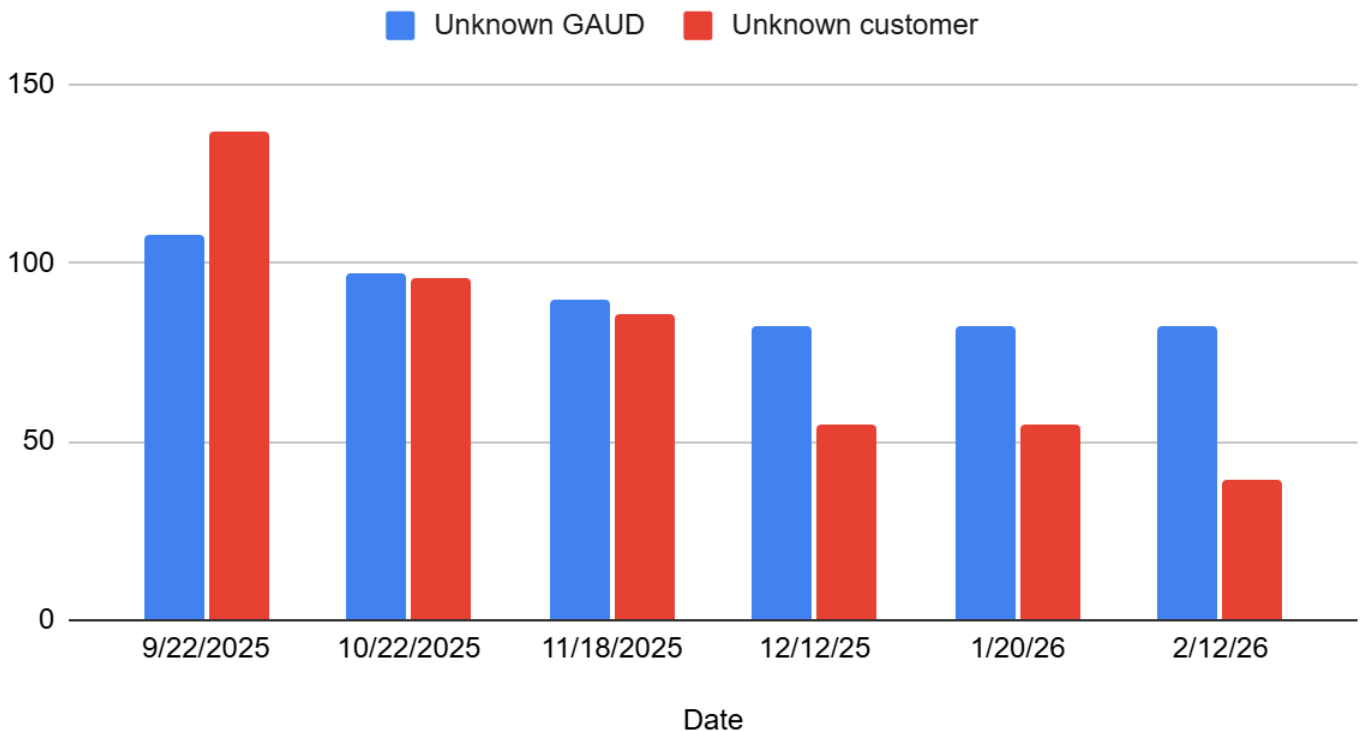
Lead and copper

Progress continues on identifying lead service lines that are either owned by the customer or by GAUD.

Recall that because voters opted not to invest in privately owned drinking water infrastructure that we are unable to take advantage of federal funds designated to replace customer owned lead service lines because the receipt of federal funds requires a match from GAUD which we are not allowed to do under the no private investments standards. We are looking at bringing this to the Legislature in 2027 to carve out a very specific exemption that would allow utilities like ours to invest in private infrastructure when regulations made it necessary to do so.

The chart below shows the progress we've made in identifying unknown service types. The goal is to get the number of unknown pipes to zero. To date we have not identified any GAUD owned lead services. We have identified 9 customer owned lead services.

Unknown GAUD and Unknown customer



Our goal remains to have all "unknown" services identified by January, 2028.

Activities

- On January 27 I tried to go to Boston to attend the **New England Water Environment Association** in Boston. It's convenient to take Amtrak out of Brunswick to North Station in Boston. Unfortunately, I didn't know until arriving in Brunswick at 4:20 AM that the train had been canceled. I drove back to Augusta to work for a bit, then back to Brunswick for the 11:00 AM train which took much longer than expected to reach Boston. By the time I arrived the day's activities for the conference had ended. No matter, I decided I'd just stay all day Wednesday. That night my college son and I went to the Bruins game which was fun, then by about 10 PM I was out. The next morning I checked my phone to learn that my stepmother had fallen the previous night and was in the emergency room in Augusta. So I got on the 0850 northbound train and missed the whole conference. As it happens, a week later my stepmother passed away at Glenridge on account of complications of the broken hip.
- On January 29th I attended a **cybersecurity presentation at the invitation of UMA**. I was able to meet some new people notably Brigadier General Diane Dunn. I enjoyed talking with her about how resources available to the departments she runs could be leveraged in an emergency situation. We are poised to create a 'digital twin' of some of our operational digital infrastructure to help find weak spots in our defensive posture and remedy those deficiencies. A very interesting evening.
- On February 2nd Punxsatawney Phil revealed to his handlers who are fluent in groundhogese that there will be **six more weeks of winter**. So far, Phil has been correct as it has been a "real winter" with very cold temperatures and frost 4' thick. Given this frost depth we struggled to find a significant leak on Carlisle Avenue which had been dumping into a nearby gravity sewer pipe. Water was falling in the tanks so we went to work to find leaks. We finally fixed the leak by the end of the week but it was a high stress week until it had been repaired.
- On February 3 I met with Zach Lovely from **Hallowell Water District** and Darrin Lary from Wright-Pierce to get up to speed on their progress toward eliminating PFAS from the Hallowell water system.
- February 4th and 5th marked the 100th anniversary of the **Maine Water Utilities Association** celebrated at its annual convention at Augusta Civic Center. Andy relinquished his leadership role as President to Roger Crouse from Kennebec Water District. Mike Morey received the Sid Anthony Award and **John Cummons** received the President's Award.
- On February 6th I went to **Dan Wells' retirement party in Winthrop**. Dan had worked for over 30 years for Winthrop Utilities District and they were kind enough to invite me to his retirement party. I'm happy for Dan and look forward to continued good relations with WUD's board and their new superintendent, Aaron Chase.
- On February 9th I attended a **Hallowell City Council** meeting. After the Council reviewed how to allow for a person to safely clean out an unsafe building and work through the ultimately stalemated process of changing building permit fees I was able to explain our current situation regarding PFAS and where sludge from Hallowell is ultimately disposed of. I also explained that that the Pipeline Trail would not be excavated anytime soon and if we perform work there we will have lots of public engagement before and throughout the project. I stayed for a bit after as Zach Lovely from Hallowell Water District explained current design efforts to bring a project online that will remove PFAS from the water. Zach did very well and noted that HWD will have a public hearing regarding PFAS on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 5:00 PM at City Hall.
- On February 10 Andy and I hosted an online meeting with our combined sewer overflow (CSO) consultant from Florida who has worked with us for 35 years and a hydraulic flow modeling expert from Australia who has worked with us for 25 years. We are putting together an assessment of how well our operational changes have performed over the past five years. This lays the foundation for laying out how we will **continue to reduce stormwater overflows** in the next five years.



Rate setting timeline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Task</u>	<u>Timeline</u>	<u>Regulatory summary</u>
Monday, February 23, 2026	February Board meeting		
Friday, March 20, 2026	Bill inserts to customers	<i>optional</i>	<i>no regulatory requirement to do this</i>
Monday, March 23, 2026	March Board meeting		Last meeting to set rates to meet July 1 deadline
Friday, March 27, 2026	Publish supporting materials / file with PUC and PA	hearing date - 30 days	at least 30 days before public hearing
Monday, April 6, 2026	Mail notice of public hearing	<i>hearing date - 21 days</i>	must be in mailboxes 14 days before public hearing (see below)
Monday, April 13, 2026	Publish notice of public hearing	hearing date - 14 days	at least 14 days before public hearing: customer notice (mail about one week before this date to ensure 14 day deadline is met) send copy to MPUC and PA (email) website / Facebook etc (optional)
Monday, April 27, 2026	April Board meeting & rate public hearing	This drives all other dates	Public hearing
Thursday, May 7, 2026	Soonest date to file rates w/ MPUC	hearing date + 10 days	at least 10 days after but no more than 30 days after public hearing
Monday, May 18, 2026	May Board meeting - VOTE		vote to approve final rates with MPUC
Wednesday, May 27, 2026	30 day petition period ends / rates must be filed with PUC no later than today	hearing date + 30 days	at least 10 days after but no more than 30 days after public hearing
Saturday, June 6, 2026	Earliest effective date of rates	filing date + 30 days	at least one month after rates filed with PUC

When will customers see the effects of the rate changes in their bills?

Rate change	June 6, 2026
Start of new rates	June 22, 2026
Customers receive bill for new rates	August 14, 2026
Payment due on new rates	September 9, 2026