



## Greater Augusta Utility District Board Agenda

Monday, May 18, 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. Rate hearing
5. Agenda additions
6. Old Business
  - a. Approve meeting minutes - pages 10 - 14- **Motion**
  - b. Rate committee update - pages 3 and 9
  - c. Project updates – pages 5 - 6
  - d. General Manager’s report – pages 7 - 8
  - e. PFAS litigation options update - page 4
7. New business
  - a. Review financial statements - \*will receive via email on Monday\*
  - b. Review liens - n/a
  - c. Communications update
  - d. HR update
  - e. Executive Session
  - f. Public comment
8. Adjourn - **Motion**

### Attachments:

- Minutes

**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	22.4
Bob Corey	Treasurer	11/5/2026	3/17/2016	10.0
Pat Paradis	Clerk	1/5/2029	1/5/2017	9.2
Tim Dennett	Augusta	11/5/2026	4/17/2025	0.9
Keth Luke	Augusta - non voting		6/1/2016	9.8
Cecil Munson	Augusta	1/5/2029	1/5/2017	9.2
Brad Sawyer	Augusta	2/4/2028	11/15/2016	9.3
Keith Taylor	Hallowell		9/2/2024	1.5
Kara Tudman Walker	Hallowell - non-voting		9/2/2024	1.5

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, May 25, 2026	Memorial Day	Holiday
Friday, June 19, 2026	Juneteenth	Holiday
Monday, June 22, 2026	Regular meeting	22 Arsenal
Friday, July 3, 2026	Independence Day	Holiday
Monday, July 27, 2026	Regular meeting	22 Arsenal
Monday, August 24, 2026	Regular meeting	22 Arsenal

**Training opportunities**

1. Welcome
2. Introduce Board members
3. Introduce GAUD employees, consultants and guests
4. Rate hearing
5. Agenda additions
6. Old business

a. Approve meeting minutes - **Motion**

<b>Motion:</b> I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for April 27, 2026.			
M	2nd	For	Against

b. Rate committee update - Motion

On March 23 the Board voted to propose 5% increases to rates at the water, sewer and stormwater divisions. The public hearing was on April 27, 2026.

There have been no petitions filed or comments received from the MPUC or Public Advocate’s Office.

The motion below formalizes the request to the PUC to execute the drinking water rates. Concurrently, the motion below sets new rates for the sewer and stormwater division.

<b>Motion:</b> I move that we certify and approve the revised schedule of rates for drinking water service, fire protection service, sewer service and stormwater service, which has been presented to this meeting and recorded with the minutes, to go into effect on or about June 1, 2026, and continuing until such time as the schedule of rates is modified by vote of the Trustees. I further move that the Assistant Treasurer, in addition to the Treasurer, be authorized and directed to apply the schedule of rates, along with all fees and charges otherwise authorized by the District or by State statute, to all persons, entities and property receiving services from the District, and to thereafter collect the sums due from said persons and entities and to take all appropriate action related to the collection of said sums, including the preparation and filing of notices and liens and allowed by the District's Charter and State law.			
M	2nd	For	Against

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.

f. PFAS “forever chemicals” update - **Motions**

There are two litigation options to consider.

1. A proposal from Napoli-Shkolnik that has been under review since the fall of 2025 relating to upriver dischargers and;
2. A proposal from SL Environmental relating to dischargers that add PFAS to wastewater.

If approved, the motions suggested below will continue discussions with one, both or neither of the law firms to consider litigation that could recover money for PFAS related utility expenses.

<b>Motion:</b> I move to formalize discussions with Napoli-Shkolnik to consider litigation relating to PFAS discharges.			
M	2nd	For	Against

<b>Motion:</b> I move to formalize discussions with SL Environmental Law Group to consider litigation relating to PFAS discharges.			
M	2nd		Against

7. New business

a. Review financial statements

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

b. Review liens

There are no liens to review.

c. Communications update - Meredith Strang-Burgess

Meredith will provide updates for the board.

d. HR update - Alan Burton

Alan will provide updates for the board.

e. Executive session to discuss land acquisition - **Motion**

<b>Motion:</b> I move to enter executive session to discuss property acquisition pursuant to MRS §405 6 C.			
M	2nd	For	Against

f. Public comment

8. Adjourn

<b>Motion:</b> I move that this body stand adjourned.			
M Sawyer	2nd	For	Against

## Summary of Capital Improvement Projects

### **CIP #23015 - Riverside Drive PFAS/PFOA pilot study - \$1,103,846 spent to date**

**Status:** The treatment equipment is installed and the interior piping is complete. Our team did an amazing job self performing this work. Our operations team is putting the finishing touches on our instrumentation and getting the system ready for testing. We still need to pressure test and disinfect the equipment and piping, then we will be ready to receive the new PFAS removal media. We will be online and treating in June.

**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 - \$134,836 spent to date**

**Status:** Our north Augusta test well is producing favorable results. We are moving forward with another round of pumping to further study our wellhead zone of influence and we are performing some environmental testing.

**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 - \$43,561 spent to date**

**Status:** CH Stevenson resumed construction. The sewer main is installed on Brooks Street. Sewer services will be connected in the next two weeks. Water main and Storm main will be the next step.

**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 - \$212,616 spent to date**

The environmental review documents were submitted and need to be reworked for higher level environmental impacts.

### **CIP# 25011 - Davenport Street Storm Drain - \$41,540 spent to date**

**Status:** Perryman Construction has installed 400 feet of water main. Its slow going with all the ledge. They should have the water main installed by the end of the month, then they will install new services. They will be installing storm main in June.

**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 Q2 2026, Contractual Completion by October 30, 2026,

**CIP# 25017 - Amherst Street Water Main & Storm Drain - \$14,958 spent to date**

Status: Pending securing easements on the Augusta Plaza site prior to bidding.

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 - \$29,140 spent to date**

Status: 90% Design. We submitted a Clean Water SRF application to help support this project for CSO separation. Alignment options are still being assessed as we deal with MDOT/COA and property owners.

Scope: Install 1,600 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: \$3.0M (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 (pending budget constraints).

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

The following employees have a May hire date. I'd like to call out Mike's fidelity to our organization as this is his going to be his last year working for us on a full time basis. He advised us that his last day is August 27, 2026.

Name	Years
Michael Morey	37.0
Robert Corey	10.0
Bruce Plourd	9.0
Julie Weston	9.0
James Pittman	7.0
Joshua Wright	1.0

### Of interest:

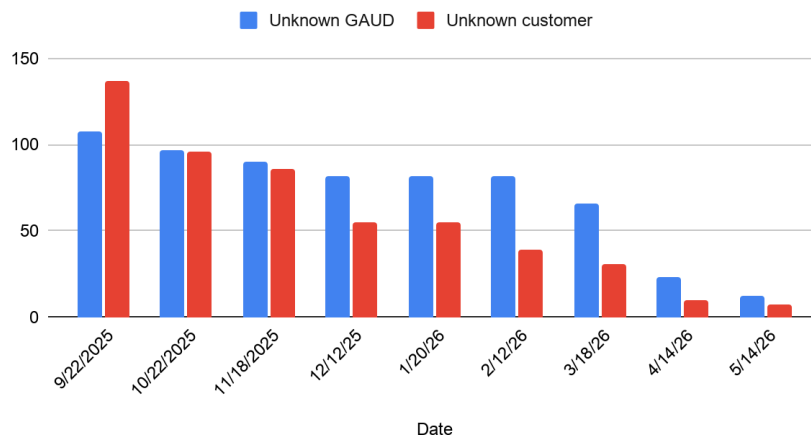
- Most of the topics that I would include here will be covered by Andy and Mike and I'll fill in if needed.
- Interns:
  - Carlee Pontau - UMaine Mechanical Engineering
  - Silas Bartol - Clarkson - Mechanical Engineering
- I'm discussing the option of legislation in 2027 to allow GAUD to invest in private infrastructure for the sole purpose of getting EPA money into our customer's pockets to replace the 10 lead privately owned service pipes that we are tracking. As it stands, we are required by EPA to remove these pipes and prevented from doing so by a local decision we've made to not invest in privately owned infrastructure. I'm exploring if this is something that we need the legislature to work on or if it's something we need to put back on the referendum for Augusta voters to approve.

### Lead and copper

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

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 10 customer owned lead services.

Unknown GAUD and Unknown customer



Our goal remains to have all "unknown" services identified by January, 2028. You can see by the chart that significant progress has been made. We will resubmit our inventory to reflect our current findings in early July and send public notices to the 10 customers with lead services by the end of October. In the meantime, the dwindling number of pipes that need to be inspected makes it easier to verify so we think we will be able to verify the currently 'unknown' pipes by December.

In 2027 we expect new guidance from EPA that will require additional 'potholing' verification of pipes. Even if we know what the pipe is, EPA requires that we prove it by direct observation and documentation. This is very expensive so we're going to wait for formal guidance to ensure we don't have to do this task multiple times.

### **Activities**

- May 1 Board of Licensure of Water System Operators - Board
- May 6 Drinking Water Commission - Board
- May 7 / 8 - NEIWPC - Saratoga Springs - Board

## Rate setting timeline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Task</u>	<u>Timeline</u>	<u>Regulatory summary</u>
Monday, May 18, 2026	May Board meeting - <b>VOTE</b>		<b>vote to approve final rates with MPUC</b>
Wednesday, May 27, 2026	30 day petition period ends / <b>rates must be filed with PUC no later than today</b>	hearing date + 30 days	at least 10 days after but <b>no more than 30 days</b> 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

The table below shows the current rates compared to proposed rates for a customer with a 5/8" water meter and a monthly consumption of 5 hundred cubic feet.

<b>Results</b>	<b>Current monthly</b>	<b>Proposed monthly</b>	<b>Δ</b>	<b><u>Annual</u></b>	<b><u>Daily</u></b>
Water	\$ 37.35	\$ 39.22	\$ 1.87	\$ 22.41	\$ 0.06
Fire	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sewer	\$ 54.23	\$ 56.94	\$ 2.71	\$ 32.54	\$ 0.09
Storm	\$ 12.96	\$ 13.61	\$ 0.65	\$ 7.78	\$ 0.02
<b>Sum</b>	<b>\$ 104.54</b>	<b>\$ 109.77</b>	<b>\$ 5.23</b>	<b>\$ 62.72</b>	<b>\$ 0.17</b>
Annual	\$ 1,254.48	\$ 1,317.20	\$ 62.72		
Daily	\$ 3.43	\$ 3.61	\$ 0.17		

Note that the 2026 proposed cost per gallon for this customer including all water, sewer and stormwater costs is about 3 cents per gallon at a consumption of about 125 gallons per day. The cost of these services is approximately equal to the cost of electricity for an apartment or small home.

## **Minutes of the Greater Augusta Utility District (GAUD) Board Meeting**

**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2026, 6:00 PM

### **Board Members in Attendance:**

Bob Corey, Cecil Munson, Patrick Paradis, Keith Taylor, Kara Tudman Walker, Brad Sawyer, Keith Luke, Ken Knight, Tim Dennett

### **Staff and Consultants:**

Mike Payne, Andy Begin, Meredith Strang-Burgess (Communications Consultant), Kristina Iliaria (Account Executive at Burgess), Alan Burton (Human Resources Consultant)

### **Guests (for PFAS Litigation):**

Ken Sansone (SL Environmental)

### **Old Business**

At 18:02 Bob Corey moved to accept the meeting minutes for March 23rd. The motion was seconded by Cecil Munson. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Proposed Rate Increase Hearing**

The Board proposed a 5 percent rate increase for the sewer, stormwater and drinking water divisions. The purpose of the rate proposal is to fund aging infrastructure and improve operational resiliency. Public feedback highlighted concerns regarding fixed-income households despite significant grant receipts which have reduced the need for ratepayer funding.

### **Infrastructure and PFAS Mitigation**

Ongoing projects include Riverside Drive treatment upgrades and new well construction to address PFAS contamination. The board also authorized updating rate models to explore more equitable cost recovery structures.

### **Legal and Administrative Actions**

The board approved a motion to waive foreclosure for specific liens to prevent automatic property loss. They also reaffirmed participation in the Kennebec County hazard mitigation plan for resiliency.

Next steps

- Eastern Avenue Bid: Complete design work for the Eastern Avenue pipe replacement; issue bid this summer for next year's construction.
- Review Specs: Update specifications and procedures for engineering; prepare materials for board review by the next meeting.
- Consult counsel: Talk with counsel regarding representation options for two different legal issues. Report back to the Board with an update on May 18th.
- Review audit: Catch up with Tim Gill from RKO regarding comments received on the 2024 audit draft. Finalize comments and report delivery.
- Review liens: Look further into the process for charging off property liens. Determine procedures for giving up on these non-recoverable debts.

- Develop legislation: Start discussions with Representative Bridgeo about a technical amendment to statute relating to how municipalities can recognize utility districts regarding lien recovery. Work with Brad Sawyer at Maine Rural Water on suitable quasi municipal utility legislation.
- Contract rate models: Enter into contract with Tighe and Bond to update the water, sewer, and stormwater rate models.
- Sign resolution: Circulate the adopted Kennebec County hazard mitigation plan resolution for necessary signatures.

## Details

- **Proposed Rate Increases and Regulatory Context:** A 5% rate increase across the water, sewer, and stormwater divisions was reviewed.
- **Projected Customer Cost Increase:** For a typical residential customer using about 500 cubic feet (3,700 gallons) of water per month, the total monthly cost increase for water, wastewater, and storm water is projected to be \$5.23. This increase would raise the total monthly cost from \$14.54 to \$19.77.
- **Justification for Drinking Water and Fire Protection Rate Increase:** The reasons provided for the proposed increase in drinking water and fire protection rates include the need to replace aging infrastructure and improve computer systems. Other factors driving the increase are the effort to increase operational resiliency by adding critical personnel and addressing the rising costs of supplies and energy.
- **Justification for Wastewater Rate Increase:** The increase for wastewater rates is driven by increased costs for sludge disposal, and the replacement of old pump stations and aging wastewater plant equipment. The district also needs to address rising power and supply costs, replace failing pipes, and increase operational resiliency.
- **Justification for Stormwater Rate Increase:** The stormwater rate increase is required for pipe improvements and to help minimize sewage discharge into the Kennebec River during extreme weather.
- **Rate Implementation Roadmap and Timeline:** An AI-generated timeline outlined the 2026 rate implementation roadmap, with the earliest possible implementation date being June 6th. The board will review comments and feedback at their next meeting on May 18th, when they may vote to authorize the changes. If approved, the new rates would take effect around June 6th, 2026.
- **Infrastructure Challenges and Mandates:** The board stressed that many projects are mandated by federal and state requirements, rather than being elective, due to old and ancient infrastructure. The district aims for a gradual increase in rates to avoid sudden, large percentage hikes, which are becoming common elsewhere due to aging infrastructure and expensive bedrock work. The District's rate setting process involves year-long research and discussion by the rate committee, prioritizing the most critical projects.
- **Riverside Drive Treatment Upgrades:** The project update included the installation of PFAS treatment equipment inside the Riverside Drive building, which internal crews will be piping up in the following weeks. The media to be used is an ion exchange resin, and the goal is to have the system working online by June. This \$16 million effort, which includes new source projects, is leveraging \$12 million in forgiveness or grant funding to protect public health and reduce the cost impact on rate payers.
- **North Augusta New Well Project:** The new well project in North Augusta, which is part of a multi-pronged strategy to mitigate PFAS, has been pumping for almost five days, producing half a

million gallons a day with little impact on the aquifer. A second, shallower depth may also be evaluated for water quality.

- **Ongoing and Planned Infrastructure Projects:** The Brooks and St. Catherine streets project has restarted, involving water main and stormwater upgrades, with a portion of Brooks Street also receiving a sewer upgrade. The Davenport project started with pre-drilling the ledge for removal, which is a thousand-foot stretch of water and storm pipe designed to mitigate combined sewer overflows (CSOs). The Memorial Drive stormwater separation project design is roughly 90% complete, aiming to remove 60 combined catch basins out of the sewer system.
- **Eastern Avenue and Manchester Planning:** Design work for replacing over a mile of 100-year-old water main on Eastern Avenue is underway, aiming to bid this summer for construction next year. Planning is also progressing for a new water line to Manchester along the outer perimeter, which would address water age issues in the existing 1905, 24-inch pipe . This project may be coordinated with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to save on traffic control and paving costs.
- **Wastewater Grit Room Upgrades:** The wastewater operations building's grit room received an upgrade by internal crews, who installed new pumps and piping, and applied a fresh coat of paint.
- **Employee Updates and Recognition:** Acknowledgment was given to employees for their years of service..
- **Seasonal Line Activation and Hydrant Flushing:** Seasonal water lines for Manchester customers are now active after a two-week process of flushing, disinfection, and testing. Hydrant flushing will begin this week, occurring one day per week in the daytime instead of twice a year at night, to allow wells time to recover and for safety reasons.
- **PFAS Sampling and Data Security:** The first quarter PFAS samples from the Bond Brook Road Triangle wells were all negative, with the test results available on the website. The district is making progress on installing fiber optics across the river in conjunction with sewer and water pipes to establish high-speed, secure data connection between the infrastructure and the wastewater plant.
- **PFAS Wastewater Litigation Discussion:** The meeting included a discussion regarding PFAS remediation litigation, stemming from the increased cost of sludge disposal due to new state legislation. Ken Sansone, from SL Environmental Law Group, explained that their firm exclusively represents public agencies in contamination cases and aims to hold manufacturers like 3M and DuPont responsible for remediation costs.
- **Litigation Status and Contingency Fee Model:** SL Environmental is filing individual lawsuits for wastewater treatment plants, which are consolidated under a Multi-District Litigation (MDL) proceeding in South Carolina, as there is no current class action for wastewater claims. The firm works on a contingency fee basis, receiving 25% of any recovery, and currently represents 20 different agencies in Maine on PFAS claims.
- **Recovery Timeline and Scope:** It is difficult to predict the exact timing for the wastewater cases, but Sansone hopes to see progress within the next two or three years. Any settlement would likely use a model combining prorated distribution based on PFAS levels and additional funds for agencies that have already incurred remediation costs. The lawsuit would also attempt to capture any additional expenses the district incurs in the future, such as potential effluent treatment requirements.
- **Procedure for Retaining Legal Services:** If the board decides to move forward with the litigation, the first step is to sign the legal services agreement, followed by drafting and filing a complaint in the MDL

proceeding. The district would then provide records of any PFAS testing conducted. The board has been discussing two separate litigation avenues: the sludge-related case and a separate case concerning upstream polluters.

- **Discussion on Legal Representation for Two Issues:** The board discussed two separate legal issues: one concerning well contamination and the other regarding sludge disposal costs. Both issues involve individual claims, not class action. The suggestion was to consult counsel on the feasibility of separate representation for each matter or using one firm for both, with an update planned for the next meeting on the 18th. The deadline for the upstream claim is six years from when remedial actions, such as the treatment plant construction, occurred last year, contrary to a previously mentioned May 2026 deadline to execute an agreement to proceed..
- **Moving Forward with Fund Recovery Opportunities:** Sawyer expressed continued interest in recovering funds for expenses incurred due to problems caused by others, viewing this as serving the best interest of ratepayers. Sawyer is interested in moving forward and was willing to second a motion regarding the fund recovery. They suggested discussing the matter again at the next month's meeting to facilitate a decision.
- **Communications Update on Water Quality Report and Grants:** The water quality report is complete, posted on the website, and will be included in the May bills, fulfilling a regulatory requirement. Communication efforts are underway to highlight the grants received since 2020, totaling approximately \$19 million, primarily addressing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) issues. Communication also focuses on infrastructure, the PFAS remediation at Riverside, and the historical nature of the facilities.
- **Workplace Safety Week and PSA Campaign:** A major highlight was participation in National Workplace Safety Week, following the tragic deaths of two Maine DOT workers in January. Greater Augusta Utility District, along with other companies, created 30-second public service announcements (PSAs) featuring workers to promote the theme, "See cones, think people," which are now running and have garnered significant views on social media. The board encouraged sharing constituent questions or ideas for future communications.
- **Financial Summary for Water, Sewer, and Storm Divisions:** For the end of March, the water division's revenue was \$1.7 million, slightly below budget but above the previous year, with expenses at \$1.1 million, below budget. The sewer division reported revenues of \$1.8 million and expenses of \$1.4 million, both slightly below budget. The storm division revenues were \$1.1 million, in line with the budget, and expenses were \$522,000, below budget.
- **Update on the 2024 Audit and PFAS Mitigation Efforts:** A draft of the 2024 audit was received on April 20th, and the general manager is following up with comments. The district continues to address PFAS issues, predominantly on the west side, through external funding to install treatment at Riverside and investigate new, safe drinking water sources. The ability to move towards the fish hatchery for safe drinking water, funded by external sources, is seen as a significant benefit for ratepayers.
- **Discussion and Motion on Review of Liens:** The discussion focused on three liens at 267 Northern Avenue, with the recommendation to waive the lien rights to prevent accidental automatic foreclosure on the property. It was noted that if the district were a municipal utility district, they could recover legal expenses before distributing sales proceeds, but current status as a quasi-municipal independent entity prevents this, necessitating a statutory change. The board passed a motion to waive automatic foreclosure for the three liens at 267 Northern Avenue.

- **Authorization of Rate Modeling Proposal Update:** The board considered and approved a proposal to hire Tighe and Bond to update the drinking water, sewer, and storm water rate models, which have not been addressed since 2011/2015/2016. The objective of the update is to explore new rate structures that could recover operating and capital costs while potentially being more favorable to ratepayers who are least able to afford it. The goal is to have a product by November, allowing the board to consider policy positions this summer and input policy and mathematics for the 2027 plan.
- **Human Resources Update on Open Positions:** There are currently three open positions: one utility worker position, which is not yet advertised, and two engineering tech one positions, which have five and one application, respectively. The meter shop assistant position is believed to be filled.
- **Public Comment and Board Structure:** A member of the public, a retiree, expressed initial alarm about costs but appreciated the insight gained from attending the meeting and understanding the ongoing activities. The nine member board of trustees consists of seven voting members, including one from Hallowell, and 2 non-voting trustees. All members are appointed by the mayor of Augusta (and Hallowell, where applicable) and confirmed by their respective City Councils, serving three-year terms.
- **Reaffirmation of Participation in County Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Due to changes in FEMA's process for the generator and resiliency project, the board reaffirmed its adoption and participation in the Kennebec County hazard mitigation plan. The board unanimously approved the motion to adopt and participate in the county hazard mitigation plan.

The board adjourned at 8:15 PM on a motion by Sawyer, seconded by Munson.