

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Agenda

Monday, August 25, 2025, 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 - **Motion** - pages 12 -13
 - b. Rate committee update
 - c. Project updates – pages 6 -8
 - d. General Manager’s report – pages 9 - 11
 - e. PFAS “forever chemicals”
6. New business
 - a. Review financial statements - pages 3, 14 -16, 19-20 - **Motion**
 - b. Review liens - page 4 - **Motion**
 - c. Communications update
 - d. HR update
 - e. Executive session - **Motion**
 - 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	9/19/2025	11/5/2003	21.5
Bob Corey	Treasurer	11/5/2026	3/17/2016	9.2
Pat Paradis	Clerk	1/5/2026	1/5/2017	8.4
Tim Dennett	Augusta	11/5/2026	4/17/2025	0.1
Keth Luke	Augusta - non voting	12/31/2025	6/1/2016	9.0
Cecil Munson	Augusta	1/5/2026	1/5/2017	8.4
Brad Sawyer	Augusta	2/4/2028	11/15/2016	8.5
Keith Taylor	Hallowell		9/2/2024	0.7
Kara Tudman Walker	Hallowell - non-voting		9/2/2024	0.7

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

Monday, September 1, 2025	Labor Day	Holiday
Monday, September 22, 2025	Regular meeting	22 Arsenal
Monday, October 13, 2025	Indigenous Peoples Day	Holiday
Tuesday, October 21, 2025	Regular and planning meeting	Civic Center
Tuesday, November 11, 2025	Veterans Day	Holiday
Monday, November 24, 2025	Regular meeting	22 Arsenal
Thursday, November 27, 2025	Thanksgiving Day	Holiday
Friday, November 28, 2025	Thanksgiving Friday	Holiday
Monday, December 22, 2025	Regular meeting	22 Arsenal
Thursday, December 25, 2025	Christmas Day	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 July 28, 2025.			
M	2nd	For	Against

b. Rate committee update

The rate committee (Bob Corey, Cecil Munson, Mike Payne, Brian Tarbuck) met on Wednesday, July 23. Bob will provide an update.

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.

6. New business

a. Review financial statements

Mike Payne will review the July, 2025 financial statements.

On February 24, 2025, the **Board voted to approve spending \$400,000** as matching funds to receive a \$4.0M grant from the Drinking Water Program for PFAS mitigation.

As it happens, we appear to have misunderstood the way the formula was calculated and need to request a second vote on this matter to clarify the commitment from GAUD to secure the \$4.0M from the DWP.

The DWP set up the disbursement at 90% DWP and 10% GAUD. Though it is not really intuitive, the math works out as follows. To get 90% of 'some amount' equal to \$4.0M:

$$0.9 (X) = \$4,000,000$$

$$X = \$4,000,000 / 0.9 = \$4,444,444.44$$

$$\text{GAUD's 10\% matching commitment} = 0.1 \times \$4,444,444.44 = \underline{\underline{\$444,444.44}}$$

Therefore, we need to clarify the financial commitment that the board approved in February, 2025 as follows:

Motion: I move to clarify the vote that was unanimously approved by the Board on February 24, 2025 to execute the \$4,000,000 loan agreement between GAUD and the MMBB for the Riverside Drive PFAS project as presented to the Board by clarifying that the matching contribution required by GAUD is \$444,444.44.			
M	2nd	For	Against

b. Review liens

There are multiple liens to review. Management recommends waiving automatic foreclosure at each location.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Notes</u>
267 Northern Avenue	\$525.84	4 liens; property taxes being paid
465 Leighton Road	\$331.14	foreclosed by the City
39 Patterson Street	\$489.14	foreclosed by the City
20 Florence Street	\$117.22	
33 Pike Street	\$353.42	3 liens; mortgage with Select Portfolio Servicing Inc (will be sending notices)
4 Campbell Street	\$314.78	2 liens; went through foreclosure with the bank, I will be reaching out
23 Hicks Rd	\$117.22	just received info concerning the PR, I will be reaching out
59 Maple Street Hallowell	\$227.48	called the owner (they usually pay)
177 Cony Street	\$117.22	LOTS of City liens
23 Winthrop Street Hallowell	\$205.91	
	\$2,799.37	

Motion: I move to waive automatic foreclosure at the properties listed in the table above.

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

Meredith will provide updates for the board.

This area is in a “moderate drought” classification. “In a moderate drought, wildfires and ground fires increase, honey production declines, hay and grain yields are lower than normal, and trees, landscaping and fish are stressed, according to the drought monitor. People may be asked to voluntarily conserve water because reservoir and lake levels are below normal capacity.” If water levels continue to drop we may need to:

- ask customers to curtail water usage; and
- restart the Riverside Well.

Curtailment is hard to enforce so it’s more of a public awareness event to ask people to water plants using common sense practices.

Restarting Riverside which exceeded the 20 ppt state PFAS level would be a last resort due to the concerns people might have about bringing that water back into the system.

It could be that in two weeks it rains solid and we have flooding. No one knows. But in the meantime it’s wise to plan for the worst and hope for the best.

d. HR update - Alan Burton

Alan will provide updates for the board.

e. Executive session

Motion: I move to enter executive session to discuss negotiations relating to the collective bargaining agreement between GAUD and Teamsters Local 340 pursuant to MRS §405 6 D.

M	2nd	For	Against
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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 #17001 - Eastside Sewer Siphon - \$4,852,662 & 19047 Redundant River Crossing - \$4,301,400 spent to date

Status: Construction Complete. We are working on a contract with Consolidated Communications to provide dark fiber and a public fiber crossing. A contract agreement is being finalized with Go Net Speed to lease our buried conduit, approximately \$7,000 feet. Buildout expected early to late fall.

CIP #22015 - Front Street Pump Station 3 Replacement - \$1,967,454 spent to date

Status: The station should be online by 8/25. We have tested the station, devices and equipment and we are monitoring the new station in our SCADA system. We are waiting on the new influent manhole to intercept flow and reroute to the new station, scheduled for 8/18. Following the cutover, the old station will be abandoned and the parking lot will be paved.

Scope: Replace an aging 1962 sewer pump station with a new flood proof submersible station.

Purpose: Station subject to flooding and failure and beyond its useful life.

Budget: \$2.1M (\$2M grant)

Schedule: Start on Q4 2024, substantial completion by June 2025, this is getting pushed to late August/early Sept.

CIP #23015 - Riverside Drive PFAS/PFOA pilot study - \$246,397 spent to date

Status: The equipment is bidding (due on 9/9/25). The building modifications bid package is under review. We should be bidding in a week.

Scope: Mitigate PFAS at the Riverside Drive Treatment Building

Purpose: Comply with State and Federal requirements.

Budget: Received a planning grant for \$200,000, and a \$4M Forgiveness Loan. A second \$4M forgiveness loan has been awarded pending federal funding support of the capitalization grant to the Drinking Water Program. We are projecting \$14M in construction, but getting creative to reduce these costs.

Schedule: Planned for Q2 2026

CIP# 24024 - Brooks and St. Catherine Street - \$35,806 spent to date

Status: Awarded. The work will start in September. This project has a 2 year window to complete.

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 - \$146,062 spent to date

We are in the process of finalizing our funding application and environmental review document.

CIP# 25011 - Davenport Street Storm Drain - \$19,462 spent to date

Status: 90% design on the storm main and we are adding about 1,000 feet of water main. The water main is 1911 cast iron and replacing it will aid in the necessary storm main upgrades. Bidding still scheduled for this year.

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 Q4 2025, maybe June 2026

CIP# 25007 - Cony Road Water Main Replacement - \$86,986 spent to date

Status: By 8/25 the water main should all be installed, and potentially water services. The remaining cleanup work should wrap up in a week.

Scope: Replace 1,300 feet of 6" cast iron main with new 12" ductile iron.

Purpose: Replace leak prone water main and aging infrastructure, from 1930.

Budget	Contract	Spent to date
\$580,000	\$493,553	\$86,986

Schedule: Complete Q3 2025

CIP# 25023 - Eastern Avenue Tank Painting \$339,872 - spent to date

Status: All work is complete and both tanks are online.

Scope: Repaint the inside and outside of twin 1988, 400,000 gallon steel drinking water storage tanks.

Purpose: Replace the original coating system of both tanks.

Schedule: Expected completion in late July 2025, sliding to early August.

Budget (revised)	Contract	Spent to date
\$660,000 (\$680,000)	\$674,000	\$339,872

CIP# 25017 - Amherst Street Water Main & Storm Drain - \$10,242 spent to date

Status: The design is complete, pending bid package review. We will be bidding in September.

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# 25025 & 25026 - Replace two utility trucks - \$0 spent to date

Status There were two responses to the RFP. Quirk was the lower bidder for both 1 ton trucks. The bid for the utility body truck was \$75,970. The bid for the flatbed truck was \$55,210.

Budget (sewer / storm / water)	Contract	Spent to date
\$171,000 (\$94k + \$77K)	\$131, 180 (\$76k +\$ 55k)	\$0

Scope: Replace two ¾ ton 2009 utility trucks that are expensive to maintain.

Purpose: Maintain safe vehicles in the fleet that further our operational goals.

Schedule: Unknown - fleet trucks have unpredictable build schedules but buying through fleet is the least cost for the ratepayers.

General Manager's Report

The following nine (!) employees have an August hire date:

Colton Miller	1
Pat Gilbert	3
Scott Hoyt	3
David Curtis	5
Ryan Bucknam	5
John Cummons	6
Jason Souzer	11
Carolyn Hunter	26
Bill Wilkinson	38

Bill Wilkinson has the highest longevity of any of our employees with 38 years of service which means he has worked for us more than double the age of our youngest employee.

Other employee news

Our newest employee has worked here for about 1 month. **Whitney Newlon** is from Colorado and works in the accounting section to assist with payroll and accounts payable. We're fortunate to have her.

Julie Haas is amicably separating from employment as she has recently taken on the job of full-time mom. She loves her new job and while we are sad to see her go we have left the door open for her to return in the future. In a few weeks we will advertise her position as her work in the geographic information system was important and needs to continue. We wish her and her young family the very best.

Pete Kwiatkowski is also amicably separating though his motives are **retirement** driven. Pete is our go to guy for instrumentation and electrical troubleshooting. He and I share the same birthday (not the year though) and I've always enjoyed talking with him and learning from him. He has worked here for about **35 and a half years**. He doesn't want any kind of big celebration or anything but I wanted you all to know that he is riding off into the glorious sunset of retirement. **Good luck Pete** and thank you very much for all you've done for us!

Public outreach

I was fortunate enough to be asked to introduce Kennebec Savings Bank's CEO, Andrew Silsby, at a Watershed Friends auction and thank you event on August 21. KSB was recognized for its commitment to improving water quality over the years and I'm on the Advisory Council to the Watershed Friends (formerly Friends of Cobbossee Watershed - they rebranded to help minimize the confusion between their organization and Cobbossee Watershed District). It was a nice event and helped put the utility district in a good light as well.

Legal advisors

We have several legal advisors that we use from time to time. We are seasoned enough that we generally don't need legal assistance that much but sometimes it's the best way to get a solution. I had sent an email with an article about the dissolution of Eaton Peabody which summarized this. Here's a more detailed update.

- Mary Denison, Lake and Denison. Mary is our primary legal representative. Most of our work has to do with property issues and she is very skilled at this. She is helping us work with Moody's as they are planning to expand a building in a technical area that may be most readily solved by transferring GAUD assets to Moody's.

It's a complex concept that we'll talk about at the meeting. Work between Moody's counsel and ours was ongoing at the time of preparing meeting documents.

- Mike Hodgins, Verrill Law. I got to know Mike about 14 years ago when he was working for Bernstein Shur and defended GAUD in a lawsuit that was filed by the City of Hallowell regarding sewer rates. The firm that Hallowell hired was Verrill-Dana. Mike left Bernstein and went to work for Eaton-Peabody until they closed this year. He's now at Verrill and is **representing us in the Fieldstone development to help ensure that the owner of Fieldstone meets his obligations to allow us to accept the water and sewer infrastructure.** That he now works for the firm that once engaged in litigation against us is ironic but I have no concerns at all given my years of experience with Mike.
- Lee Bragg, Bernstein-Shur. I've known Lee since I started working here in 1999 and he is a great resource. His current role with us is for new debt which requires bond counsel.

Years ago there was a model that we would hire just one large firm to do 'everything' but that model doesn't really apply anymore. This current model allows us to use the firms that can best help our ratepayers solve problems and allows us to follow attorneys who know what we do and how we work regardless of their employer.

Building improvements

I should have known this but I didn't. If you disturb more than 10,000 square feet of land in Augusta you need to get approval from the Planning Board. I learned about this, embarrassingly, from Matt Nazar at the City who was minding his own business in his office when it started shaking on account of the large vibratory roller that we were using to smooth out the gravel in our parking lot in preparation for paving. We are very, very far behind the proverbial 8 ball in terms of submitting an after the fact request to ask for approval to repave the driveway. It's embarrassing for me but I had no idea that there was any sort of rule that applied to this and am working now through a lengthy apology process to my friends at the City.

Security improvements at 12 Williams are ongoing and slow as the contractor is very busy with other customers, predominantly schools, which can only be worked on in the summer.

Security improvements are also ongoing at the wastewater treatment plant as we replace the old double swing gate with a remotely activated motorized slide gate. We believe that this will provide better access control for our operators over night, on weekends and towards the end of the work day. Sometimes an operator will leave and not notice that a person has driven into the back of the plant, effectively trapping them there. This gate will work on the same software as the one at 12 Williams as we move to establish a more uniform access control system across our physical assets.

EPA inspection June 24th and 25th

I received the full report from the EPA inspection. There were no surprises in the written report. I'm happy to provide copies if anyone is interested. We covered the salient points at the July meeting.

Lead and copper

We have a full court press on eliminating all of our 'unknown' drinking water services whether they are owned by GAUD or privately owned. This will considerably narrow our universe of pipes that are either galvanized or lead.

Lead / Copper Rule pipe lengths			
Pipe type	GAUD owned	Customer owned	Total
Unknown	108	137	245
Lead	0	9	9
Galvanized	14	57	71
Total	122	203	325

Our goal is to get the 'unknown' pipes to zero so we can focus on the lead and galvanized pipes that require replacement under the rule.

We met on Friday, August 15th with Chuck Mahaleris from Senator Collins office to come up with a strategy to allow lead service pipes owned by private individuals to be replaced with federal dollars. This would eliminate a regulatory Catch-22 that prevents GAUD from replacing private services on its own. We also discussed the so-called "Caddyshack" Trunkine pump station consolidation project that is necessary for the safe long-term conveyance of wastewater from Manchester to Hallowell and ultimately to Augusta. Chuck gave us some ideas on how to approach a request for that project via Congressionally Directed Spending. It was a productive and enlightening meeting.

Monday, July 28, 2025

Greater Augusta Utility District Board Minutes

Location: Greater Augusta Utility District shop conference room at 22 Arsenal Street

Trustees present: Ken Knight, Patrick Paradis, Cecil Munson, Bob Corey, Keith Luke, Keith Taylor, Tim Dennett, Kara Tudman Walker.

Trustees absent: none

Attendees: Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Mike Payne

Guests: Alan Burton, John Cummons

At 18:00 Knight called the meeting to order and introduced board members, employees and consultants.

At 18:01 Bob Corey made the following motion:

Motion: I move to accept the Board meeting minutes for June 16, 2025.			
M Corey	2nd Sawyer	For Unanimous	Against

At 18:01 Corey discussed the recent rate committee meeting. Corey noted that the utility is working to manage the projects funded by the capital improvement plans.

At 18:02 Begin provided capital improvement project updates.

Begin explained the ongoing work to install fiber optic lines beneath the river in a way that will benefit digital service providers and GAUD.

The project to replace the 1963 Texvit sewer pump station on Front Street is coming along nicely. The generator has been received. Electrical work is ongoing. The project should be complete by August, 2025.

The PFAS preliminary design work is complete. Begin plans to release bid documents by the end of the week.

Grant funding may also be used for a new source in the North Augusta area. There are promising sites near the existing well on Leighton Road that could be developed for a new source on City of Augusta owned property. There are environmental covenants that need to be met before any work can commence.

Summer Street work has been completed. The sewer pipe that used to go under a private garage has been removed. 4 catch basins were separated from the combined sewer as a result of this project.

The TL2 and TL4 'Caddyshack' project is going to be submitted to EPA for approval. The CDS money was approved ahead of the project being approved.

The Davenport and Amherst Street projects will be bid this year with a deadline of summer 2026 completion.

CH Stevenson has begun drinking water pipe replacement work on Cony Road. 1,300' of 6" cast iron 1930's era drinking water pipe will be replaced with 12" ductile iron pipe this summer. The approximate cost of this work is \$580k.

There are two 1988 400,000 gallon welded steel drinking water storage tanks on Eastern Avenue are being repainted at a cost of about \$674k.

Amherst Street is 95% designed. It needs to be put out to bid.

Two one ton utility trucks were put out to bid. Quirk won the bid and will deliver two Chevrolet trucks by the end of the year. One of the trucks is a flatbed at \$55k and the other is a utility truck at \$76k.

A sewer main on Tobey Street will be replaced using pipe bursting. Tobey Street is very narrow and very steep.

At 18:12 Tarbuck recognized years of service milestones for Julian Dixon (2); Maia Ferris (3); Kolby Peckham (6); David Robinson (6); Steve Tirrell (6); and Brian Tarbuck (23).

Tarbuck noted improvements in lighting to the outside of the 22 Arsenal Street entrance. The parking lot is going to be repaved soon. Tarbuck is waiting on the full report from the EPA's recent inspection. Tarbuck attended a meeting with

the Winthrop Utilities District about what GAUD could do to help WUD in an emergency or a change in leadership on a temporary basis.

Tarback shared water quality data from the Kennebec River that was collected in advance of the IronMan event. The data showed that the water in the Kennebec met swimmable standards apart from a single sample collected following a rain event.

Tarback talked about the EPA inspection of the drinking water division.

Paradis asked if the PFAS efforts were an unfunded mandate. Tarback noted that in this case, there are funds to help pay for efforts to remove PFAS from drinking water.

At 18:28 Payne presented a financial summary from June, 2025.

Budget Summary 2025		Revenue			Expenses			
Month	Division	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Budget	Actual	Act / budg	Ending cash
6	Sewer	7.1	3.34	47%	5.4	2.5	45%	1.66
6	Stormwater	4.1	2.06	51%	3.3	1.4	42%	3.08
6	Water	6.8	3.25	48%	4.7	2.4	50%	4.72

At 18:30 Payne noted that we have completed the analysis of a RFP for audit services. Five firms submitted proposals. Nicholson, Michaud & Nadeau submitted the qualified least cost proposal in the amount of \$52,500 for three years. The next lowest price was from RKO at \$100,500. NMN was selected by the City of Augusta to complete their audits. Payne noted that his discussions with other NMN customers were very positive.

At 18:36 Payne noted that the first payment from the 3M PFAS class action lawsuit was received. The amount of the payment was \$56k for the water division.

At 18:41 the board approved Kennebec County's Hazard Mitigation plan.

Motion: I move to adopt Kennebec County's Hazard Mitigation Plan.			
M Corey	2nd Paradis	For Unanimous	Against

At 18:42 Knight provided a communications update.

At 18:43 Alan Burton provided the human resources update. Burton noted that there are no open positions. The Accountant 1 position has been filled and will start on Monday. 51% of the job descriptions have been updated. Negotiations continue with the Teamsters. Two 360 reviews are underway now. Work continues on communication and feedback loops.

At 18:45 the board entered executive session:

Motion: I move to enter executive session to discuss negotiations relating to the collective bargaining agreement between GAUD and Teamsters Local 340 pursuant to MRS §405 6 D.			
M Sawyer	2nd Corey	For Unanimous	Against

At 18:53 the Board exited executive session.

At 18:53 the Board adjourned.

Motion: I move that this body stand adjourned.			
M Sawyer	2nd Corey	For Unanimous	Against

GREATER AUGUSTA UTILITY DISTRICT

Financial Highlights for July 2025

Water Division

Income Statement: Water revenue for the month ending July 31, 2025 totaled **\$4.0M** which is **1% over budget** and approximately **\$954K above** the same period last year. Expenses for the same period totaled **\$2.7M** which is **in line with budget** and approximately **\$349K above** the same period last year.

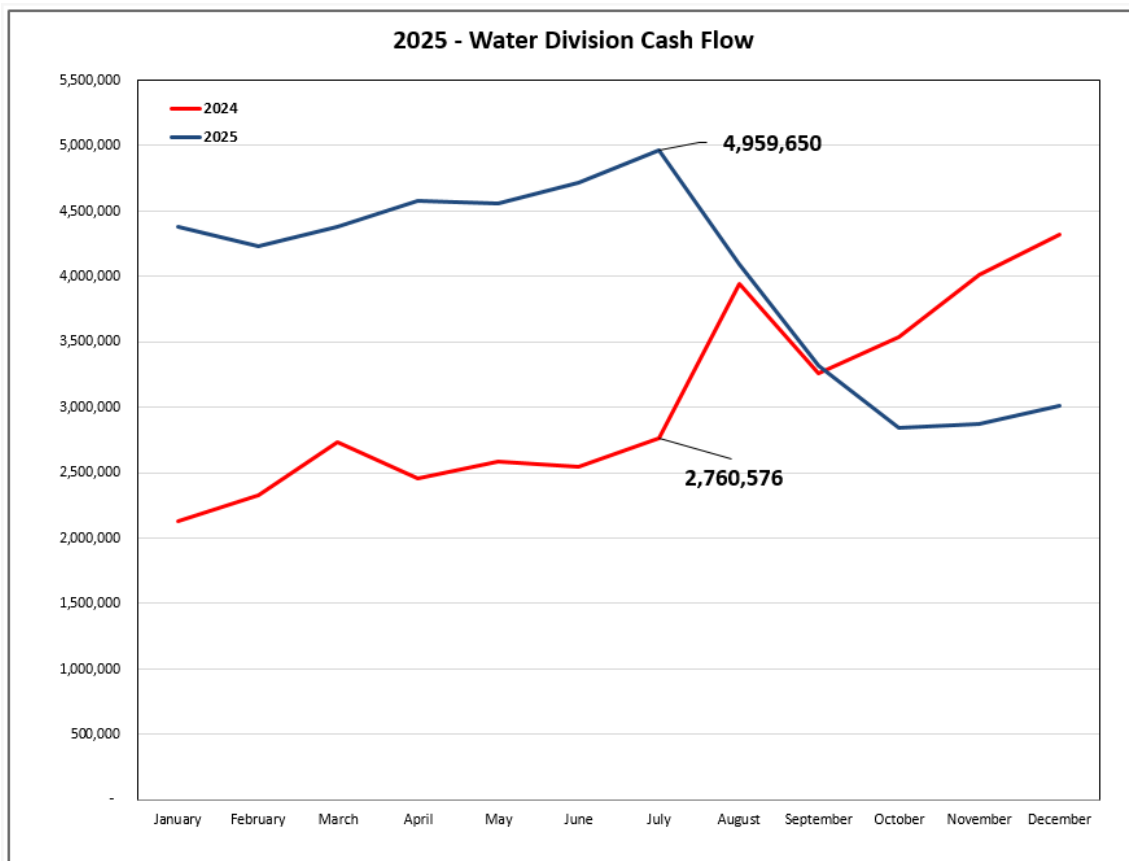
Water Revenue

	Budget	Actual YTD	% Used
Metered	4,113,118	2,317,672	56%
Fire Protection	2,415,640	1,390,261	58%
Investment income	5,000	29,394	588%
Other Income/Grants	250,000	233,531	93%
Sum:	6,783,758	3,970,858	59%

Water Expenses

	Budget	Actual YTD	% Used
Labor and fringe	2,318,465	1,231,419	53%
Power	286,144	153,038	53%
Supplies	500,392	338,165	68%
Debt interest	77,471	50,511	65%
Depreciation	993,002	575,790	58%
Other	566,626	395,606	70%
	4,742,100	2,744,529	58%
Revenue - expense	2,041,658	1,226,329	

Cash Flow: Cash at the beginning of the month was **\$4.7M**. Revenue of **\$1.3M** was collected. O&M expenses were **\$395K** and CIP expenses were **\$635K**. Cash at the end of the month was **\$5.0M**.



GREATER AUGUSTA UTILITY DISTRICT

Financial Highlights for July 2025

Sewer Division

Income Statement: Sewer revenue for the month ending July 31, 2025 totaled **\$4.0M** which is **1% under budget** and approximately **\$687K above** the same period last year. Expenses for the same period totaled **\$2.9M** which is **5% under budget** and approximately **\$1K above** the same period last year.

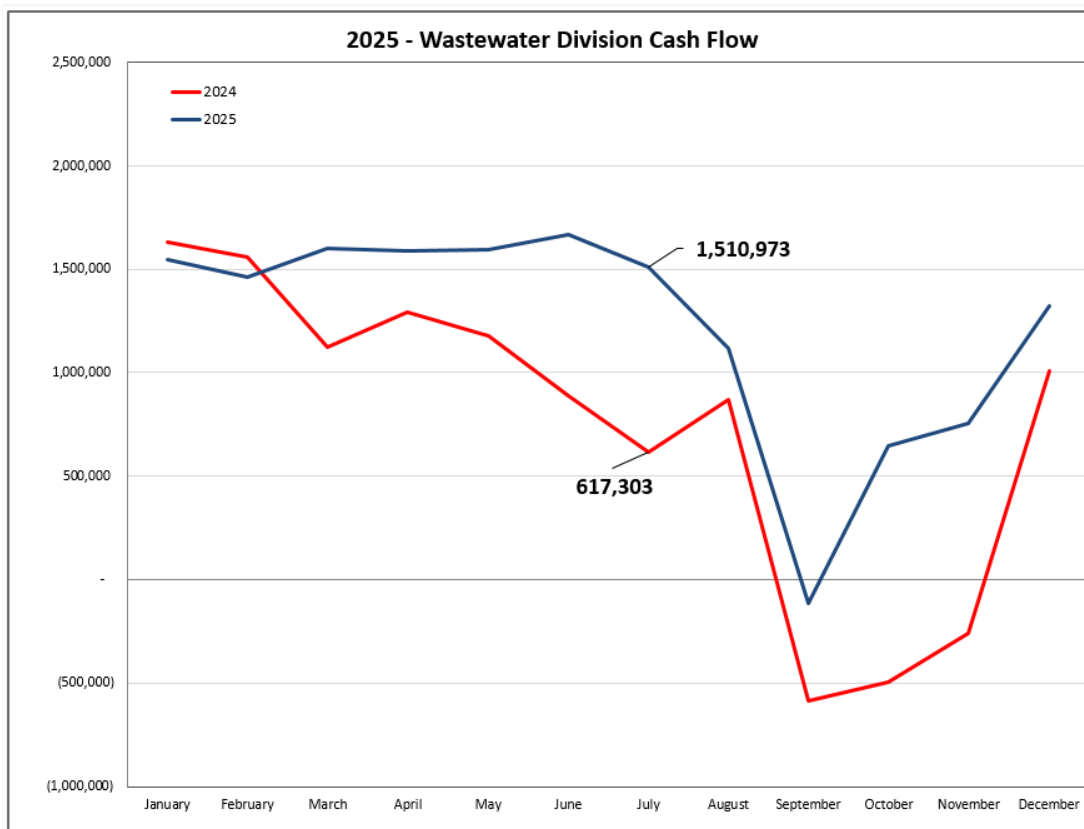
Sewer Revenue

	Budget	Actual YTD	% Used
Flat rate	37,031	17,412	47%
Metered	5,719,943	3,141,483	55%
Trunkline	945,000	501,377	53%
Investment income	5,000	29,394	588%
Other Income/Grants	365,692	340,310	93%
Sum:	7,072,666	4,029,976	57%

Sewer Expenses

	Budget	Actual YTD	% Used
Labor and fringe	1,816,519	909,563	50%
Power	415,804	210,727	51%
Supplies	322,803	174,317	54%
Debt interest	265,016	149,027	56%
Depreciation	1,533,662	853,764	56%
Other	1,055,595	579,641	55%
	5,409,398	2,877,039	53%
Revenue - expense	1,663,268	1,152,937	

Cash Flow: Cash at the beginning of the month was **\$1.7M**. Revenue of **\$656K** was collected. O&M expenses totaled **\$308K** and CIP expenses were **\$499K**. Cash at the end of the month was **\$1.5M**.



GREATER AUGUSTA UTILITY DISTRICT

Financial Highlights for July 2025

Storm Division

Income Statement: Storm revenue for the month ending July 31, 2025 totaled **\$2.5M** which is **3% over budget** and approximately **\$77K above** the same period last year. Expenses for the same period totaled **\$1.6M** which is **9% under budget** and approximately **\$32K below** the same period last year.

Storm Revenue

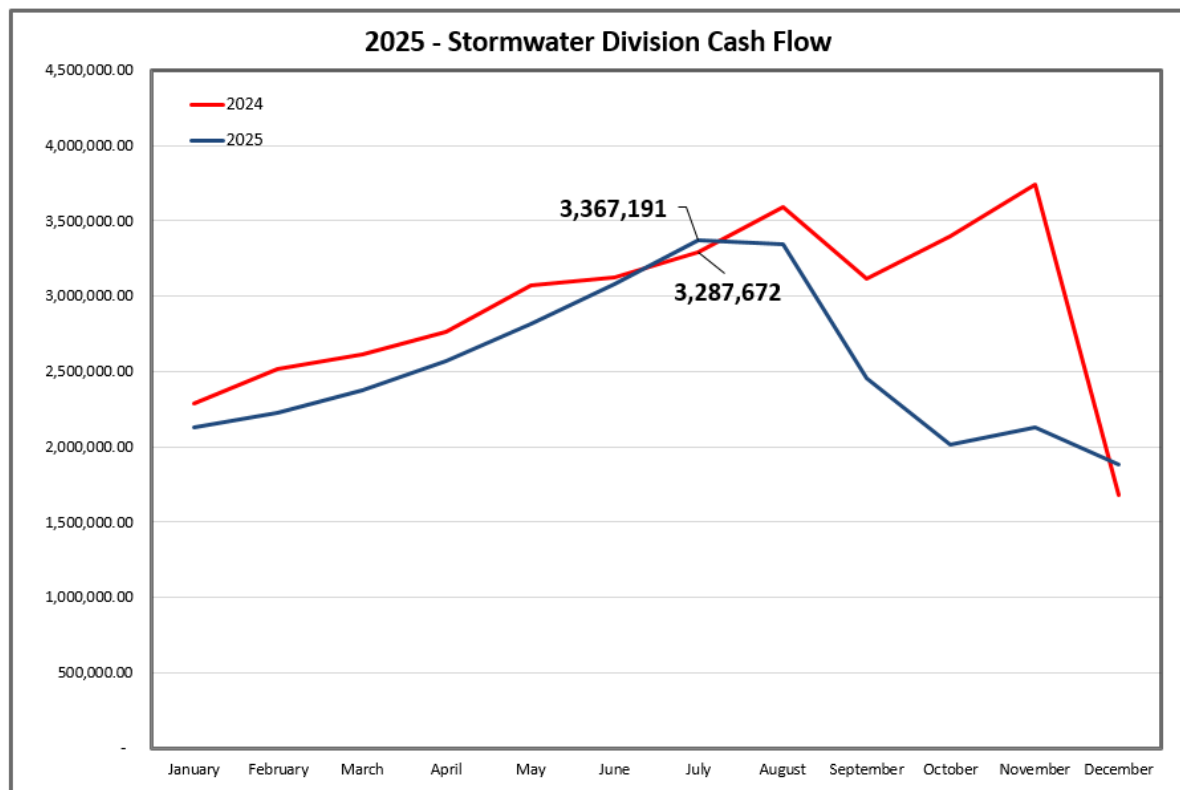
	Budget	Actual YTD	% Used
Stormwater	4,062,397	2,391,046	59%
Investment income	5,000	29,394	588%
Other Income/Grants	-	54,101	0%
Sum:	4,067,397	2,474,541	61%

Storm Expenses

	Budget	Actual YTD	% Used
Labor and fringe	1,411,326	645,676	46%
Power	176,400	89,705	51%
Supplies	259,573	114,146	44%
Debt interest	96,974	38,028	39%
Depreciation	931,552	527,881	57%
Other	417,343	196,940	47%
	3,293,167	1,612,377	49%

Revenue - expense	774,230	862,164
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Cash Flow: Cash at the beginning of the month was **\$3.1M**. Revenue of **\$436K** was collected. O&M expenses were **\$147K**. Cash at the end of the month was **\$3.4M**.



Minutes for the 08/21/2025 Rate Committee Meeting

Date: August 21, 2025

Attendees: Bob Corey, Cecil Munson, Mike Payne, Brian Tarbuck

Key Discussions:

- **Meeting Documentation and AI Tools:**

- It was noted that meetings are now being recorded, emphasizing the importance of having a record, particularly for other board members.
- AI tools are being used to help with minute-taking, summarizing conversations effectively and understanding voices well. One participant shared that they use AI daily for document analysis, finding it very handy.
- The use of AI for internal processes, such as training a visual model to extract data from invoices (e.g., CMP bills) for automated import into the system, was discussed as a way to leverage technology and save time. The "Notebook LM" Google tool was specifically recommended for document analysis.

- **Financial Updates and Projections (Cash Flows):**

- **Latest Numbers:** The latest financial numbers were updated, showing cash balances for Water (updated through June 30) and Storm (through May 31). Water projections for year-end 2025 are higher than previous estimates due to delayed projects.
- **Project Delays:** Several projects are being pushed out to 2026 or later, impacting cash balances. Examples include:
 - **Amherst Street project:** This project, initially hoped to start in September, may not happen until later due to design and bidding complexities.
 - **Davenport project:** A significant investment, potentially facing delays due to the discovery of a tunnel edge, which could increase costs substantially (e.g., from \$600-\$700/foot to \$1,000/foot). A decision is expected next week.
 - **Wastewater Plant Generator:** The \$750,000 budget allocation for a FEMA grant-funded generator is currently not being counted on, as the money may not materialize. This fund is set aside as a match for a \$3 million generator. The discussion highlighted the infrequent need for such a large generator versus the benefits of putting power lines underground. Portable generators are not sufficient for the wastewater plant due to its size and pumping needs, requiring a megawatt-scale generator.
 - **Sewer and Stormwater Projects:** Delays in projects also impact sewer and storm cash balances, which might look higher than actual usable cash due to spoken-for funds.
- **Rate Increases and Targets:** Discussions reiterated the goal of keeping rate increases in single digits, ideally around **9% or less**. Current projections with zero rate increases would place the water cash balance below the target of \$750,000. The committee aims to determine a tolerable amount for rate adjustments, potentially around 3.2%, and adjust capital projects accordingly.

- **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Infrastructure:**

- **Prioritization:** The CIP list is extensive, with "way more projects, way more need than we'll ever have money". Priorities for water, sewer, and stormwater projects are established, with new projects potentially moving to the top.

- **Pipe Replacement:** Pipes are a major cost driver, especially on the water side, with estimates of **\$500-\$700 per foot** for replacement. It was noted that this cost is seven times higher than 25 years ago. **Water pipe replacement could easily consume a \$15 million budget** if personnel were available to design and observe the work.
- **PFAS and Lawsuits:**
 - **PFAS Cash and Forgiveness:** The PFAS project has resulted in approximately **\$4 million in loan forgiveness**. The utility received a **\$50,000 check** from a class-action lawsuit against PFAS-creating companies, with more payments potentially coming over 40 years. This "found money" can be leveraged to avoid ratepayer burden.
 - **Expanding Lawsuits:** The utility is considering actively participating in expanded class-action lawsuits against upstream polluters (e.g., paper companies) to recover operating and maintenance costs related to PFAS contamination. This is seen as a way to keep costs down for ratepayers.
 - **Well Development:** PFAS money may be used to find a new well, ideally near the existing pump station on Leighton Road, to minimize infrastructure costs. If not, exploration further west (towards Manchester) is an option, though it would require extensive new piping and three-phase power.
- **Personnel and Operations:**
 - **Union Negotiations:** Negotiations for union contracts are ongoing, with some challenges related to an indexed inflation increase and the re-establishment of a foreman-type position.
 - **Staffing and Succession Planning:** A new office hire has eased workload for existing staff, allowing vacations. Randy's upcoming retirement (in less than two years) is being prepared for, recognizing that her job will likely be redistributed among multiple individuals or new processes. The office has strong documentation and procedures, which is aiding in the transition.
 - **Cost of Health Insurance:** **Health insurance costs are a major concern, projected to surpass entry-level employee wages by 2037.** This is attributed to a lack of guardrails on price increases, unlike CPI-tracked wages.
 - **Automation in Operations:** The use of automated street lights instead of flaggers for traffic control by contractors was cited as an example of leveraging technology to reduce labor costs and improve efficiency.
- **Other Projects/Issues:**
 - **Coney Road Leaks:** A project on Coney Road was prioritized due to numerous leaks and is currently underway.
 - **Moody's Sewer Main:** A private business (Moody's in the Rotary) is seeking to take over a public sewer main in Powhattan Street to facilitate building expansion. This is an unusual request, as typically developers transfer infrastructure to the public entity. The utility is not opposed but is working through the complexities of assigning value and revised deeds.

Next Steps/Action Items:

- Prepare for the October initial budget draft, which will include updated numbers and projections for board members to review in September.
- Continue to work on CIP prioritization, especially in August.
- Continue monitoring FEMA grant status for the wastewater generator.
- Further discussions on potential expansion of PFAS-related lawsuits.
- Discussions regarding the Moody's sewer main proposal.

August 12, 2025

Andy Begin, Assistant General Manager
Greater Augusta Utilities District
12 Williams Street
Augusta, ME 04330

RE: Notice of Award – 2025 DWSRF BIL-EC Primary Project List
PWSID #: ME0090080
DWSRF#: 2025-01 EC

Dear Andy Begin:

Your project for Greater Augusta Utilities District titled Riverside Drive PFAS Treatment with a total budget of \$12,301,800 was placed on the 2025 Emerging Contaminant Primary Project List. **Subject to approval of Maine's Capitalization Grant Application by US Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") Region 1, the DWP will fund 90% of incurred project costs, up to an additional \$4,900,000 (please refer to section entitled, "Funding Summary To Date" below for specifics).** DWP's funding will consist of a loan that is eligible for 100% Principal Forgiveness, up to \$4,900,000. The District will be responsible for providing a 10% local match in order to receive DWP's funding for this project. As project costs are incurred and pay requisitions submitted, funds will be drawn down proportionally (90:10 split) with local funds covering 10% of each reimbursement request.

If the District would like consideration to fund the local share through Drinking Water State Revolving Fund ("DWSRF") Base/Supplemental loan, an application must be submitted during the open call for DWSRF project applications in September 2025. The application will need to indicate that the request is to fulfill the local match requirement. Additional Emerging Contaminant funds for this project may also be requested during the 2026 open application period but will not be an eligible source of funding/financing for the local match requirement. All 2026 applications will be ranked and awarded based on demand at that time; **2026 funding is not guaranteed.**

Funding Summary To Date:

2024 Emerging Contaminants Planning (2024-01ECP) - Previously Awarded

Loan Amount: \$200,000

Principal Forgiveness: 200,000 (100%)

Local Match Needed: \$0

2024 Emerging Contaminants (2024-01EC) - Previously Awarded

Loan Amount: \$4,000,000

Principal Forgiveness: \$4,000,000 (100%)
Local Match Needed: \$444,444

2025 Emerging Contaminants (2025-01EC) - This Award

Loan Amount: \$4,900,000
Principal Forgiveness: \$4,900,000 (100%)
Local Match Needed: \$544,444

Greater Augusta Utilities District does qualify as a Disadvantaged Community.

PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR INTEREST in this DWSRF offer for construction funds, no later than August 29, 2025, by contacting McKenzie Parker at McKenzie.Parker@maine.gov.

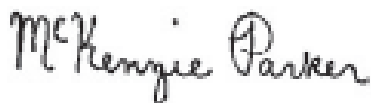
To participate in this funding program, your project must comply with several requirements, including:

1. Completion of a technical, managerial, and financial “Capacity Review” – contact Sarah Fundaun (Sarah.Fundaun@maine.gov).
2. Completion of an Environmental Review – contact Kendra Nash (Kendra.Nash@maine.gov).
3. Submittal of contract documents, plans, and specifications for review and approval prior to bid –contact Kendra Nash (Kendra.Nash@maine.gov).
4. Submittal of an Emerging Contaminant loan application to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (“MMBB”). Please refer to their website for further instruction:
<https://www.mmbb.com/programs/drinking-water-srf-program>.

We are pleased the Maine Drinking Water State Revolving Fund can offer this opportunity to assist Greater Augusta Utilities District with financing this important infrastructure improvement project.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need assistance or have any questions regarding the DWSRF Program. We look forward to working with you on your project.

Sincerely,



McKenzie Parker, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Tel: 207-557-2255
Email: mckenzie.parker@maine.gov

Email: Greg Connors, DWP, David Welch, DWP Kendra Nash, DWP, Jeremy McDaniel, MMBB