

About The District

The Greater Augusta Utility District is a standalone quasi-municipal entity. Its roots go back to 1903, when the Augusta Water District was formed to take over a private water company. Today, the District is a regional public utility that owns, operates and maintains the water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure in Augusta; drinking water delivery in Manchester and East Winthrop; the wastewater system in Hallowell; and regional wastewater collection and treatment for the communities of Monmouth, Winthrop and Manchester.

We are proud to continually make progress towards our fundamental goals (see inside for details). Please contact me if you ever have any questions or concerns. On behalf of all the employees of the Greater Augusta Utility District, thank you for your support!

—Brian Tarbuck, General Manager | BTarbuck@GreaterAugustaUtilityDistrict.org



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

GREATER AUGUSTA UTILITY DISTRICT’S BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Dear Greater Augusta Utility District Ratepayers and Community Members,

I trust this message finds you well as we reflect on the past year and pursue new opportunities in 2024. Throughout 2023, the exceptional team here showcased remarkable dedication and resilience in the face of various challenges.

One of our significant accomplishments for the year was the successful completion of the installation of new pipes in the Kennebec River as part of the Kennebec River Utility Crossing project. This critical infrastructure project enhances our ability to provide safe and reliable water services to our community.

Additionally, I’m very proud of the resourcefulness that our team members demonstrated during last December’s unprecedented flooding just before the holidays. Despite encountering some initial issues, their quick response and can-do attitude ensured minimal disruptions to our water services. Strategic investments in our infrastructure, such as the flood-resistant design of the Rockingham Electric station and the placement of natural gas generators near critical facilities, played a crucial role in preventing major disruptions and safeguarding our water systems during that event. Our wastewater plant remained unaffected, and we’re in the process of updating the Front Street pump station with a flood-proof design this year.

The persistent issue of PFAS, commonly known as “forever chemicals,” was a top priority for the District in 2023 and remains one this year. We are steadfast in our commitment to the health and well-being of our community through proactive testing for PFAS and a close eye on any regulatory changes that could impact us.

Recruitment remains a significant challenge for the District. We are actively seeking new employees to join our dynamic team and encourage anyone interested in helping us deliver on our mission to provide clean drinking water to the community while protecting the environment to reach out.

Like our water, we strive to be transparent at all times. We encourage you to stay informed through our monthly Board of Trustees meetings, available on CTV7 and our website. For any questions or concerns, please reach out to me, any member of our Board of Trustees, or our General Manager, Brian Tarbuck, at (207) 622-3701 or www.GAUD.ws/contact-us.

Your continued support is invaluable as we navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. We’re proud to serve this community and appreciate your trust in us day in and day out.

—Ken Knight, Chair, Board of Trustees

2023 HIGHLIGHTS + ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Infrastructure/Projects

- Completed installation of new water pipes as part of Kennebec River Utility Crossing project.
- Replaced 2,000 feet of water pipe on Highland Avenue.
- 1,600’ sewer pipe - bid results due 11/2/2022.
- COA paving may drive projects on Ballard and Cushing streets.
- Front Street - engineering / design.
- No significant MDOT projects.
- Survey for Green Street, Drew Street, Water Street for 2024 / 2025 projects.

Administrative/Financial

- Continued smart and proactive financial planning and management, including actively pursuing grants at all times.
- Monitored future regulatory issues that will require financial investment, especially in the area of combined sewer overflows.
- Continued quarterly reviews of rates needed to support water, wastewater and stormwater expenses.
- Executed rate increases for drinking water and wastewater in 2023.
- Continued to work towards reducing and eliminating catch basin fees as well as developing a plan to equitably manage ERUs for residential and commercial customers.
- Continued to monitor area solar projects.
- Support 1% pipe replacement goals with sufficient funding for the long term. Determine the staffing and funding required to achieve these goals.

Outreach

- Maintained ongoing relationships and regular communications with all municipalities in the GAUD service area, as well as Maine DOT and other related agencies.
- Continued communication with Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA) and Maine Water Utilities Association (MWUA) regarding relevant industry happenings.
- Maintained proactive communication with customers and the general public about construction projects.
- Update the GAUD crisis communication plan and create a master plan, if possible. Reviewed methods for GAUD to instantly reach affected customers/ratepayers in the event of an emergency.
- Continued to work with universities to help reach infrastructure analysis and improvement goals.
- Continued current GAUD communications outreach through social media, billing inserts and other printed materials, reports, etc., with emphasis on relevant happenings and water-related topics.
- Maintained and updated the website on an ongoing basis.

Headwinds

- Closely monitored ongoing discussions and potential regulatory action regarding PFAS in drinking water and wastewater.
- Continued ongoing PFAS testing while maintaining proactive consumer education efforts.
- Continued to monitor arsenic levels, changes to the drinking water lead regulations and other regulatory changes.
- Monitored ongoing policy discussions regarding Maine moving to a consumer-owned public electrical utility.

STATEMENT OF NET FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2023

ASSETS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Current assets: | |
| Cash & cash equivalents | \$4,835,662.33 |
| Accounts receivable: | |
| Customer service | \$744,101.54 |
| Unbilled | \$1,247,562.00 |
| Other | \$1,019,272.29 |
| Lease receivable | \$338,344.16 |
| Inventory | \$489,744.54 |
| Prepaid expenses | \$146,640.73 |
| Total current assets | \$8,821,327.59 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Capital assets: | |
| Work in process | \$9,601,731.33 |
| Operating property | \$168,884,386.58 |
| Less accumulated depreciation | (\$71,020,000.42) |
| Net capital assets | \$107,466,117.49 |
| Total noncurrent assets | \$107,466,117.49 |
| Total assets | \$116,287,445.08 |

DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Deferred outflows of resources related to pensions | \$302,254.17 |
| Deferred outflows of resources related to other post employment benefits | \$419,691.24 |
| Total deferred outflows of resources | \$721,945.41 |

LIABILITIES

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Current liabilities: | |
| Accounts payable: | |
| Trade | \$489,518.86 |
| Construction/retainage | \$352,532.87 |
| Accrued payroll | \$94,682.07 |
| Accrued interest | \$139,563.72 |
| Unearned revenue | \$54,608.36 |
| Current portion of notes payable | \$2,532,451.00 |
| Total current liabilities | \$3,663,356.88 |

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Noncurrent liabilities: | |
| Accrued compensated absences | \$236,015.00 |
| OPEB liabilities | \$2,957,029.00 |
| Net pension liability | \$949,601.00 |
| Notes payable | \$21,285,539.58 |
| Total noncurrent liabilities | \$25,428,184.58 |
| Total liabilities | \$29,091,541.46 |

DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Deferred credits | \$313,550.10 |
| Deferred inflows of resources related to pensions | \$210,565.36 |
| Deferred inflows of resources related to other post employment benefits | \$152,615.41 |
| Deferred inflows of resources related to lease receivable | \$315,175.21 |
| Total deferred inflows of resources | \$991,906.08 |

NET POSITION

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Net investment in capital assets | \$88,519,816.94 |
| Unrestricted | (\$1,593,873.99) |
| Total net position | \$86,925,942.95 |

KEY 2024 PROJECTS

- Start River Crossing project on Jackson Avenue.
- Pave parking lot and repair operations building floor/ceiling at 12 Williams Street office.
- Sewer pipe replacement at Front Street Pump Station.
- Drinking water pipe replacement at Pineland Forest Pump Station.
- Replace Turtle Run water main.
- Replace sewer pipe and stormwater main on Summer Street.
- Ongoing stormwater pipe relining.

