



Greater Augusta
Utility District

Water | Wastewater | Stormwater

12 WILLIAMS STREET
AUGUSTA, ME 04330

TRUSTEE MEETINGS

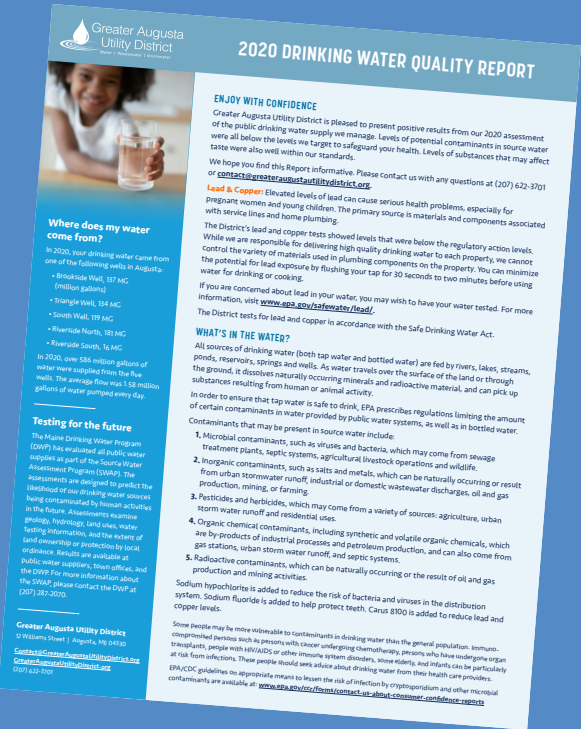
The monthly meetings of your Board of Trustees are open to the public. For a complete schedule, visit our website and click on **Trustee Meetings** under the **About Us** menu. You'll also find a link to archived videos of all meetings since November, 2014.

CURRENTS

SUMMER 2021

2020 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Every year, we assess our public drinking water supply, analyzing and reporting on levels of potential contaminants. We're happy to say that these levels are once again well below the levels we target to safeguard your health. The Drinking Water Quality Reports page on our website has all of the details, visit GreaterAugustaUtilityDistrict.org and click the right box.



Greater Augusta
Utility District

Water | Wastewater | Stormwater

GreaterAugustaUtilityDistrict.org

CURRENTS

SUMMER 2021

DEEP DIVE: DIGGING A TRENCH BENEATH THE KENNEBEC

The headline of a recent article in the Kennebec Journal on April 24, 2021, said it all: "Trench proposed to be dug across Kennebec River for new sewer line in Augusta." GAUD's General Manager, Brian Tarbuck, and Assistant GM, Andy Begin, were quoted in a lengthy story describing the technical challenges of this ambitious project.

Basically, only one pipe now brings wastewater from Augusta's east side across the river to GAUD's treatment plant, on the city's west side. That single pipe dates from 1963. The project, estimated to cost roughly \$3 million, would augment that older pipe with a new, 16-inch high-density polyethylene pipe. At the same time, a new water line will be laid down alongside.

How to lay these new pipes? Attempts to drill pipes beneath the river failed, which left digging the trench using an excavator on a barge as the best solution. The pipe would be laid down in the trench and then reburied. Depending on permitting, the work could begin in August and take two to three months.

While the excavation work is occurring in the deepest parts of the river, larger vessels may be unable to pass through. That situation would only be the case for a few days. In general, the entire project is being designed to cause as little disruption as possible on and adjacent to the river. And the long-term benefits are significant. Keep track of our progress on Facebook!



These pipes stored along the Kennebec River Rail Trail, behind our wastewater treatment plant, will be used in our proposed project to convey drinking water and wastewater under the Kennebec River.

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; the wastewater system in Hallowell; and regional wastewater collection and treatment for the communities of Monmouth, Winthrop and Manchester.

FOREVER CHEMICALS (PFAS)

PFAS stands for “per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances.” Sometimes called “forever chemicals,” these man-made substances persist in the environment and can accumulate over time. The good news is that we have just conducted tests showing very low levels of PFAS in GAUD’S drinking water.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s advisory level for PFAS is no more than 70 parts per trillion (ppt). In March 2021, we tested the five wells located throughout our system, and found no PFAS levels above 20 ppt, with most samples below three ppt. We will continue to test and monitor our drinking water supplies, as well as wastewater biosolids, in order to meet all regulatory health standards.

Why are there PFAS? They are man-made chemicals used through the years in ordinary consumer products like non-stick cookware, microwave popcorn bags, flame retardant clothing, furniture and carpets, as well as other industrial products like firefighting foams. Their usage has dropped significantly, but their effects linger, which is why we’ll continue to monitor their presence.

Lab Sample Number	Sample Site	PFOS (ppt)	PFQA (ppt)	PFNA (ppt)	PFHxS (ppt)	PFHpA (ppt)	Sum (ppt)
410-32424-1	Triangle - HD-4	0.77 J I	1.3 J	ND/0.49	0.57 J	ND/0.49	2.64
410-32424-3	Brookside - HD-5	1.1 J I	1.3 J	ND/0.51	ND/0.51	ND/0.51	2.4
410-32424-2	South - HD-6	0.85 J I	0.93 J	ND/0.49	ND/0.49	ND/0.49	1.78
410-32424-4	Bonenfant - HD-7	5.5	5.9	0.56 J	1.3 J	3.6	16.86
410-32424-5	MainEx - HD-8	2.41*	2.6*	ND/0.45	0.68 J	0.94 J	6.92

Sample Date: 03/09/2021
Laboratory: Katahdin Analytical / Eurofins
Method: EPA 527.1

Bonenfant Cl2 = 0.0 mg/L (Bonenfant ran approx 2 hours without FI prior to sampling)
Phosphate = 0.03 mg/L
Fluoride result = 0.17 mg/L

J = Result is less than the Reporting Limit but greater than or equal to the Method Detection Limit and the concentration is an approximate value.
I = Value is estimated maximum possible concentration.
ND/value: If an isotope was not detected, the method detection limit is shown here.
*The recovery labeled isotopes (PFOA, PFOS) in MainEx sample was outside of the QC acceptance limits. Insufficient sample volume was available for a repeat test.

DRINKING WATER RATE INCREASE

On April 26, GAUD held a public hearing to discuss and hear comments on a proposed increase in drinking water and fire protection rates. Current rates have been in effect since October 3, 2011.

On May 17, the Greater Augusta Utility District Board of Trustees voted to adopt the proposed rates as presented. The increase in current water rates will become effective with invoices dated on or after July 1, 2021. The proposed 10% rate—the same for all customer classes, including public and private fire protection and fire hydrants—will provide additional revenue of approximately \$364,593.

The minimum invoice will increase \$1.13 per month. The average residential invoice will increase approximately \$2.07 per month.

For more information, visit GreaterAugustaUtilityDistrict.org/Our-Rates.



GARY THORNE
CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Twenty years ago, Gary came to work for the District. He’s an expert excavator operator and has worked on projects across the region. Outside of work, Gary has been involved in stock car racing for decades. Congratulations, Gary!

WINTER INTERNS

This winter, we were fortunate to be joined by two engineering interns from Tufts University and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Madelyn Dwyer and Brett Foster joined GAUD over their winter breaks to work on infrastructure mapping and stormwater work. They were able to accomplish their work remotely.



PAPER STREETS

Sometimes, a paper map doesn’t conform to reality. A “paper street” is a street marked on a map and laid out by planners—but which was never built. Doing construction work on a paper street can be challenging because the street just isn’t there. That’s the case with a new project GAUD is working on near Howard and Sturgis Streets, in Augusta. A pipe needs to be replaced on an old paper street in the vicinity. The pipe is there but the street above it isn’t. The District requested an easement from the Augusta City Council to work beneath the “paper street.” With that piece of paper, we’ll be able to start moving the rock (and earth) and replace a failing sewer pipe.

PHYLLIS RAND FEATURED!

Phyllis Rand, our Water Quality Coordinator at GAUD, was featured in a recent cover story in Maine Town & City, the magazine of the Maine Municipal Association. The article profiled efforts by various Maine utilities, including GAUD, to track traces of COVID in their wastewater.

With support from the City of Augusta and funding from the federal CARES Act, GAUD sampled its untreated wastewater from July to October, 2020. The sample results showed very low levels of the virus that causes COVID, as was the case, then, throughout the central Maine community.

Perhaps more importantly, the tests show that scanning wastewater for viral fragments can help to predict increases in disease among people before they become symptomatic. Phyllis was quoted as saying, “I have gotten calls from other municipalities asking me for guidance on how to discuss this testing with their own town manager or town council. I do think that this is a very good tool if you have a captive area that you can test, for example, a nursing home.”



March 2021 Issue of Maine Town & City, Maine Municipal Association’s monthly magazine.

MEET THE BOARD!

The nine members of GAUD’s Board of Trustees come from all walks of life—and serve for all sorts of reasons. We thought you’d like to learn a little bit more about them, beginning with **Ken Knight, who serves as the Board’s Chair.**

How long have you been a Trustee?
I’ve served at the request of four Mayors, starting in 2003 as a sanitary district trustee.

Why do you volunteer to serve on GAUD’s Board?
When I was growing up, my father always told me that when you live in a community, you also need to serve the community in some way. In the late 1990s I served the City of Augusta in the conservation commission and as an elected City Councilor. My passion for safe, clean water with long-term stabilization of rates has been a cornerstone of my service to the board.

What are your hobbies?
I keep busy with my hobby of vintage sports cars and assorted motorized vehicles at our shop on Route 3. We also have a camp in Poland Springs.

