

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.

MOVING FORWARD ON HANDLING STORMWATER!

Our last two newsletters have detailed the progress of the Stormwater Workgroup (SWG), which was formed a year ago to help GAUD develop a fair, equitable system to help pay for our investments in stormwater collection and treatment.

GAUD is unique among Maine districts in handling water, wastewater and stormwater. Stormwater is particularly complicated, since we're investing millions of dollars to comply with EPA and Maine DEP combined sewer overflow (CSO) regulations. The end result is one we all appreciate—cleaner rivers and, eventually, the ocean—but it takes a great deal of time and money to comply with these requirements.

Currently, we meet our stormwater budget by charging \$50.89/month for catch basins and \$8.30 per month per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). But looking down the road, we can see that these fees will not cover the ongoing cost of CSO compliance, operations and maintenance.

Our choice is either to reduce the number of CSO projects we undertake or increase revenues. Reducing the number of projects won't work, since we have to comply with State and Federal requirements. That means changing revenues. But how can we do that fairly, across a large, complex system?

The SWG provided guidance to the GAUD Board of Trustees, which is midway through a three-step process:
1. Set allocations. 2. Determine the optimal billing scenario. 3. Propose the structure and timeline for rate adjustments.

The SWG has already made a proposal to GAUD's Board of Trustees to "set allocations", that is, to decide how administrative, customer service and infrastructure costs should be allocated fairly among wastewater and stormwater services? The Trustees implemented those changes at their October 15 meeting.

The Board is now evaluating the second step, "Determine optimal billing scenario." They're analyzing several options, including establishing a commercial version of the ERU, revising the role that catch basins play in the revenue process, and examining how any changes might be phased in.

In early 2019 the Board will propose the structure and timeline for rate adjustments. The Board will hold a public hearing to explain the need and logic behind the proposed revenue changes, and a timeline for rate implementation.

The SWG, with representation from GAUD, the City of Augusta, the State of Maine, and the private sector, has worked diligently to develop a system that works fairly for GAUD's many customers. As always, you can learn more about this process at GreaterAugustaUtilityDistrict.org/SWG. Stormwater is a messy affair, both when it's surging through pipes and when it has to be paid for. The SWG, however, is helping GAUD to clean up the payment side of things, which will lead to a stronger, more sustainable system for all of us.



Currents FALL 2018

ANOTHER AWARD FOR PHYLLIS RAND!

Phyllis Rand, our Water Quality Coordinator, has been the recipient of numerous awards through the years. In the summer edition of this newsletter, we reported that she had won the Alfred E. Peloquin Award from the New England Water Environment Association in January. Now we are pleased to report that Phyllis has won the Maine Water Environment Association's David Anderson Award for Laboratory Excellence. Once again, congratulations and thank you, Phyllis!

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





INTERVIEW WITH THE INTERNS

This past summer, GAUD had the privilege of working with two engineering interns from the University of Maine, who assisted us greatly in operations throughout the system, especially in measuring catch basins across Augusta.

Here's what they had to say about the experience:

DENNIS CHIAPPETTA (right): On top of this being a really good engineering internship, I had a lot of fun. At the beginning of the summer, Dana and I were given the task of checking every catch basin in Augusta. It seemed a daunting task, and frankly, I have never taken on such a large project before. Throughout the summer, Dana and I had to learn to coordinate and strategize which basins we were going to do, in which order. I have gotten really good at waking up early and actually getting out of bed.

DANA MICHAUD (left): We coordinated each day what routes to take, to complete all of the catch basin measurements in an orderly manner. Towards the end of the summer, we were tasked with analyzing dewatering basins, to figure out if they were separated or combined with the sewer. It was interesting to use dye to trace the flow of water in the catch basins and try to visualize where it was going, based on the shape of the pipes or where the sewer was in relation to the catch basins.

I learned a lot about how catch basins are mapped out and why they are important to a city's infrastructure. I enjoyed working independently (and with Dennis!), learning how to manage our time wisely and complete the inspections.



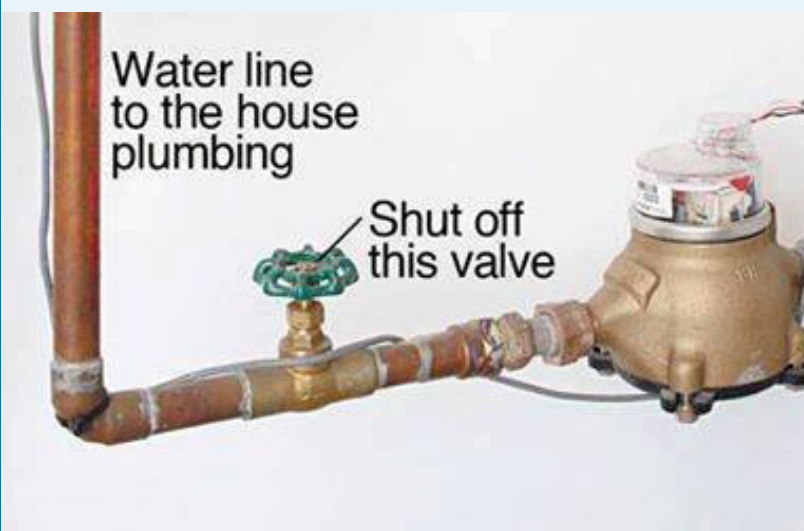
WINTER IS A-COMIN'

Winter in Maine is a guarantee of cold weather. Unprotected pipes can freeze, leaving you without access to water. Worse still, frozen pipes can crack or break, leaving you with potential flooding and serious repairs. Follow these steps to winterize your home and protect yourself from frozen and damaged pipes.

- Locate your water shut-off valves for quick access in emergencies. There should be a working valve on each side of your water meter.
- Insulate pipes and faucets in unheated spaces.
- Seal around pipes where they enter the house.
- Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses.
- Turn off and drain irrigation systems.

Visit our website for more information:

GreaterAugustaUtilityDistrict.org/Customer-Service/Seasonal-Water-Tips



TRIBUTE TO JUNE MOONEY

The GAUD family has lost one of our closest members. June Mooney was 68 when she passed away on July 29, 2018, after a brief illness. June, known as "Junebug" by her work family, was born in 1950 in Winslow. She attended Messalonskee schools and the University of Maine, where she received a bachelor's degree in animal and veterinary science. After some time in Florida, June returned to Maine and came to work for GAUD in 1989 as a Water Quality Chemist. She worked for us for 28 years, retiring in the summer of 2017.

In her time with GAUD, June served on professional committees for the Maine Water Environment Association and the Maine Water Utilities Association, from which she received the Jeff Nixon award in 2017 for her years of service to the profession. While stationed at the Carleton Pond Treatment Plant, June often rescued orphaned wildlife. She was a treasure, a friend to everyone she came in contact with, and she will be missed.

CONGRATULATIONS, TYLER PEASE!



Tyler Pease, Assistant Engineer at GAUD, has received his diploma for participating in Management Candidate School (MCS). Classes at Portland Water District prepared mid-level drinking water and wastewater treatment personnel for career advancement in utility management.

The MCS was coordinated by the Maine Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC) with support from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Maine Water Environment Association (MeWEA) and Maine Water Utilities Association (MWUA).



ASK RANDI

RANDI TAYLOR,
ADMINISTRATIVE
SUPERVISOR, ANSWERS
YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT
YOUR WATER UTILITY.

Q: I received a disconnection notice, so I paid the back water and wastewater (sewer) fees. But I didn't see anything for stormwater. Why not?

A: If a customer fails to pay their water or wastewater (sewer) fee, we can disconnect their water. Some of our customers, however, also have stormwater service, in addition to water and wastewater. But we cannot physically disconnect stormwater collection service. So if those customers fail to pay a bill, a disconnection notice can only cover water and sewer; our only option to collect unpaid stormwater fees is a lien.

Our advice: if you receive a disconnection notice, call the office to review any and all outstanding account balances.

Contact Randi at (207) 622-3701 or
RTaylor@GreaterAugustaUtilityDistrict.org