

TRUSTEE MEETINGS

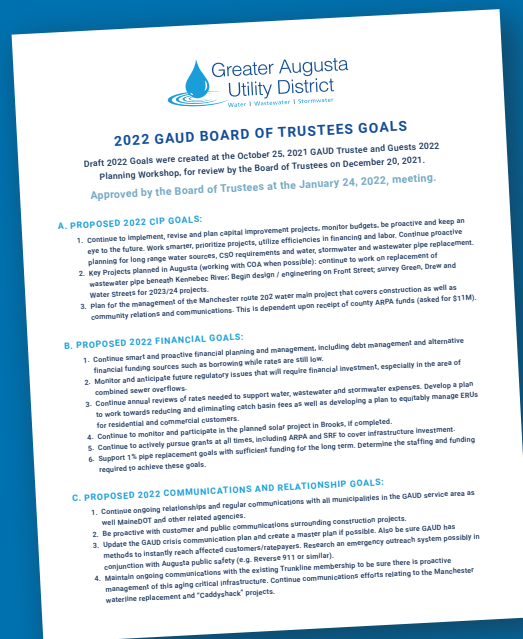
The monthly meetings of your Board of Trustees are open to the public. For a complete schedule, visit our website and click on **Trustee Meetings** under the **About Us** menu. You'll also find a link to archived videos of all meetings since November, 2014.

CURRENTS

SPRING 2022

BOARD GOALS IN 2022

At the January 2022 meeting of the District's Board of Trustees, the Board adopted a set of six goals for 2022. The six goals range from issues such as finances and human resources to specific projects and "headwinds": topics on the horizon that may affect GAUD in the months and years to come. You can read the full goals at [GAUD.ws/meetings-minutes](https://gaud.me/ws/meetings-minutes).



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.

GreaterAugustaUtilityDistrict.org

CURRENTS SPRING 2022

Saving old pipes to save the District money: PIPE RELINING PROJECT ON WESTERN AVENUE

Pipes are the most significant investment for most water, wastewater and stormwater utilities and GAUD is no exception. We maintain hundreds of miles of pipes and, as you might guess, they wear out with time and use.

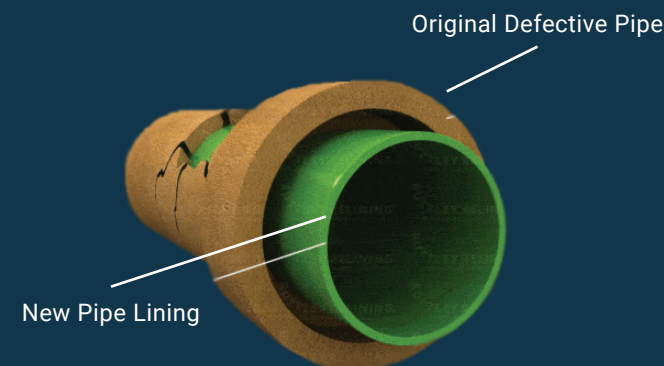
Over the years, pipes have become more and more expensive to install. Twenty years ago a reliable estimate to replace a single foot of buried pipe was \$100. Now it's \$250 to \$400 per foot to create an approved traffic control plan, conduct digsafes permits, excavate the old pipe, install a new pipe, backfill the trench in compacted lifts, and pave to MDOT or city standards.

Techniques have been developed that don't require excavation to repair or replace a pipe. One method we have used is called "relining." A wastewater or stormwater pipe is cleaned, a polymer 'sock' is inserted into the pipe; then the sock is inflated and a chemical is added to harden the inflated sock so it protects the old pipe. This method is fast, doesn't require excavating the road and costs around \$50 per foot.



Relining helps reduce maintenance costs by making the inside of the pipe smoother, thereby improving flow. It also smoothes over the joints where two pipes are joined together. Over time the joints can fail and tree roots and groundwater can get into the pipe. Treating water that doesn't need to be treated is just dumb and it's expensive to cut out tree roots each year. Relining prevents both.

We will be investing about \$600k this year alone in relining wastewater pipes. We started a project this winter on Western Avenue and were able to reline some of the pipe but the cold temperatures and traffic backups forced us to pivot to side streets. We will finish the Western Avenue relining work this summer, working at night to minimize traffic backups.





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT GRADS!

At a recent conference of the Maine Water Utilities Association, two of GAUD’s staff, Bill Wilkinson and Paul Lamoreau, Jr., were recognized as graduates of the Management Candidate School (MCS).

Bill and Paul, along with 19 other water professionals, participated in a two-year curriculum designed to prepare drinking water and wastewater plant personnel for careers in utility management. The curriculum included personnel management, supervisory skills, labor relations, budgeting and engineering basics. Congrats to Bill and Paul!



Presenter (on LT) Travis Jones with Paul Lamoreau (on the left) and Bill Wilkinson (on the right).

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A WATER MAIN BREAK

This is what it looks like when a water main breaks. Back in December, an 8” cast iron pipe split on Leighton Road, near the Goodwill building. Along the way, the crew, John Mills (left) and Dave Curtis (right), discovered another pinhole leak in an abandoned pipe. Hard work on a cold, blustery day.



UPDATE ON PFAS

So much has happened since our Summer 2021 issue of Currents reviewed the status of PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances), or “forever chemicals.” (Happily, GAUD’s tests continue to show very low levels in our drinking water. GreaterAugustaUtilityDistrict.org/PFAS)

Since then, the media have reported on the results of specific tests in individual farms, homes and communities across the state. Other water utilities in Maine have likewise reported on tests for PFAS in their supplies. The governor’s supplemental budget includes funding for testing for PFAS, including a new lab at the University of Maine.

New legislation in Augusta is addressing this significant issue. As of this writing, lawmakers are considering a \$100 million fund to help Maine farmers whose livelihood is affected by PFAS in addition to setting maximum levels allowable in drinking water.

What does all this mean for people living in the communities served by GAUD? We continue to monitor PFAS levels regularly and will report the testing results to our customers. Here is the State of Maine’s drinking water PFAS website: Maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/pws/pfas.shtml.



MEET KEITH LUKE, BOARD MEMBER

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, continuing our series with Keith Luke.

How long have you been a trustee?

I have been the City of Augusta’s representative on the Board since 2018.

Why do you volunteer to serve on GAUD’s Board?

My father served on the water district Board of Trustees in my hometown for many years and I enjoy addressing many of the same issues that were important to him: quality and award-winning drinking water delivered through quality infrastructure. And of course the same thing holds true for wastewater.

What are your hobbies?

When I’m not working on economic development or infrastructure issues, I enjoy thoroughbred horseracing.



PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED WATER & WASTEWATER RATE CHANGES

6:00 PM on Monday, May 16, 2022 at Augusta City Center Council Chambers

We invite the public to attend our hearing on May 16 to learn more about our proposed water and wastewater rate changes, which will be effective July 1, 2022. While we take pride in keeping costs and rates stable, rising operating costs have made these increases essential to continue providing safe and reliable water supplies, and effective wastewater treatment, as detailed below.

Drinking Water & Fire Protection

The proposed increase is \$1.25/month minimum, and an average cost per residential customer of approximately \$2.30/month, or 10% (which follows an average rate increase of 10% on July 1, 2021). The increase would apply to all customer classes, including public and private fire protection and private hydrants, and will generate additional revenue of approximately \$447,185, which will help fund the following important work:

- Replace aging pumps, pipes and equipment
- Improve aging computer systems needed to operate the utility
- Increase operational resiliency by adding critical personnel
- Address the rising costs of supplies and energy

Wastewater

The proposed increase is \$2.55/month minimum, and an average cost per residential customer of approximately \$7.17/month, or 30% (which follows a rate decrease of 29% in July, 2019). The increase will generate additional revenue of approximately \$779,000, which will help fund the following important work:

- Upgrade old pump stations
- Replace aging wastewater plant equipment
- Address increasing power and supply costs
- Replace and reline failing pipes
- Increase operational resiliency

Material supporting the proposed rate increases can be reviewed at GAUD.ws/2022Rates or at the GAUD office at 12 Williams Street in Augusta. If you have any questions or want more information, you may call Brian Tarbuck, General Manager, at (207) 622-3701, or the Administrative Director of the PUC at (207) 287-3831 to ask about water rates. (The PUC doesn’t regulate wastewater.)

