



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, or to watch archived videos of all meetings since November, 2014, scan the code below.



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.



CURRENTS

SPRING 2023

UPCOMING PUBLIC RATE HEARING

Water & Wastewater Rate Public Hearing

Monday, May 15, 2023 at 6:00 PM • Augusta City Center (Council Chambers)



Greater Augusta Utility District invites the public to a hearing on Monday, May 15 at 6:00 PM to learn more about our proposal to increase water and wastewater rates that will go into effect on or about July 1, 2023. We work diligently to keep rates stable and costs as low as possible, but rising operating costs have made these increases necessary. We appreciate your support for the increased revenue needed to continue providing safe and reliable drinking water services, as well as environmentally sound wastewater collection and treatment systems.

For more information, visit GreaterAugustaUtilityDistrict.org/2023Rates or scan the QR code above.

CURRENTS

SPRING 2023

GAUD IN THE NEWS

GAUD is proud to be the featured drinking water utility in the December 2022 edition of *Journal of the New England Water Works Association (NEWWA)*. In addition to landing the cover spot, the article titled 'Roots in the River' included info about the District's history with the Kennebec River, our current services and capabilities, and our ongoing commitment to the environment. We're honored to be spotlighted by NEWWA. Big thanks to everyone who made the write-up possible. If you're interested in reading 'Roots in the River,' you can download a digital copy of the publication by scanning the QR code at left.



CHECK OUT OUR NEW VIDEOS

Curious about GAUD's effort to protect the Kennebec River and surrounding natural resources? Want to learn more about the infrastructure that keeps your water flowing? We have you covered on those topics and many more with our series of informational videos.

We spent several weeks last summer shooting footage and interviews in various GAUD locations. From there, we created a total of eight short videos about a number of topics related to our services and processes, as well as our commitment to being green and improving our water systems to save ratepayers money. You can check out all of the videos on our YouTube page or scan the QR code at right.

VIDEO TOPICS:

- Greater Augusta Utility District Intro
- How to Pay My Bill
- Drinking Water
- Wastewater/Stormwater
- Infrastructure
- Customer Service
- Environment
- Recruitment





LONGTIME GAUD EMPLOYEE RETIRES

We're excited for the year ahead, but also sad to say goodbye to a longtime member of the GAUD family. **Chief Operator and Safety Director Jane Carroll** (at left) retired in February after 42 years with the District. Yes... 42!

She is one of only a few Maine women to serve as the chief operator of a wastewater plant and her legacy is unmatched, particularly her commitment to and leadership of our award-winning safety program. Under Jane's leadership, our wastewater treatment facility was the first ever to be SHAPE certified and has continued to hold that certification for all but one of the past 17 years.

Her most memorable experiences include the Flood of '87 and a tanker rollover in one of the rotaries. The oil spilled out of the tanker reached the wastewater treatment facility, but plant employees successfully prevented the oil from reaching the Kennebec River.

Jane says she's had the pleasure of working with many smart and dedicated people over the years.

We can't say enough good things about her contributions to GAUD and the communities we serve. She'll be missed immensely, but we're thrilled for her as she pursues this next chapter. **Congratulations and thank you, Jane!**

ONGOING PFAS CONVERSATION

PFAS, or "forever chemicals," are making headlines these days at the national and state level and are a frequent topic of conversation. There are studies that show that these emerging man-made contaminants are a health risk which is driving interest in reducing PFAS exposure. One exposure pathway is through drinking water.

Maine implemented a law in 2021 that sets 20 parts per trillion (ppt) of PFAS as the limit for any one or the sum of six analytes sampled after water treatment and before drinking water is delivered to customers. We have completed the sampling required and were pleased to find our PFAS levels were below the 20 ppt levels set by the state of Maine.

However, in March, 2023, the EPA proposed even stricter regulations for PFAS in drinking water. The proposed regulations are years away from implementation. As drafted, the proposed lower levels would require us to install costly treatment systems at one of our well sites. We are evaluating treatment options and will move ahead with treatment as needed if the proposed regulations become final.

We continue to carefully monitor the public health and regulatory landscape while maintaining our commitment to regular and transparent testing. If you have any concerns about your drinking water or how we handle our stormwater and wastewater, please contact us at **Contact@GAUD.ws** or call our office at **(207) 622-3701**.

For more information, scan the QR code at right.



TRANSPARENCY IS KEY IN THE WATER BIZ

We strive to be as transparent with our ratepayers as the water we provide to them.

GAUD is a public entity. And we're committed to keeping the public informed about what we're doing and how it's being done.

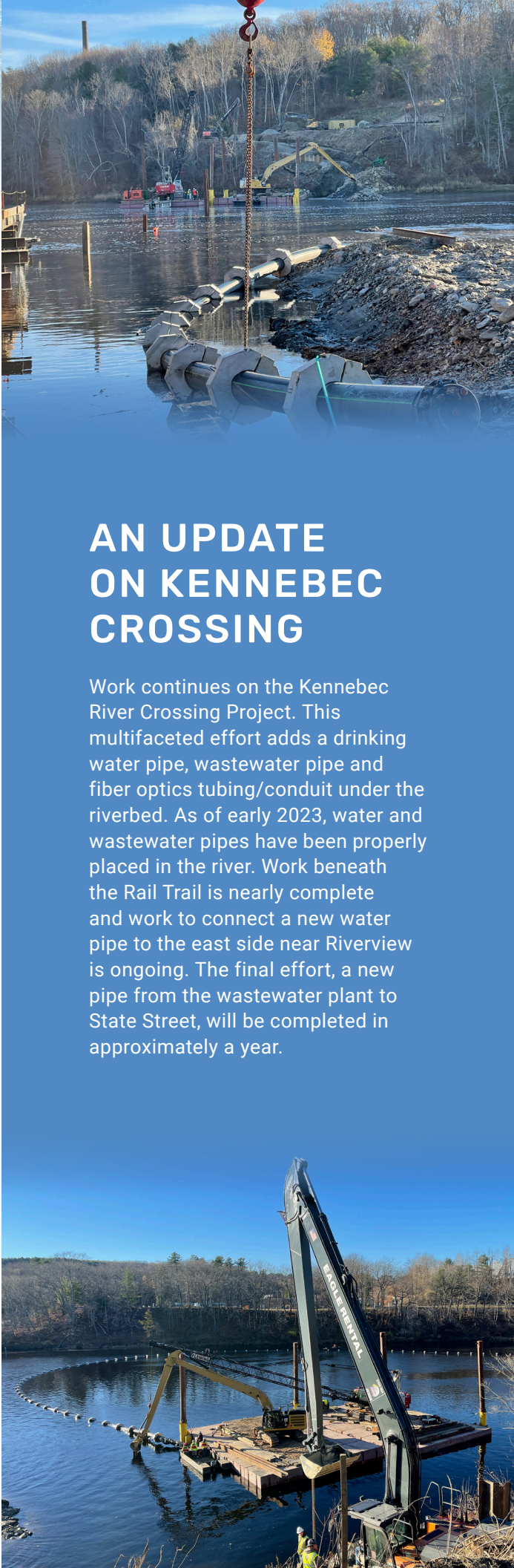
We work hard to ensure that our website – **GreaterAugustaUtilityDistrict.org** – is a comprehensive, convenient and up-to-date resource for ratepayers and community members. Many of our initiatives on the website and social media are cutting-edge and, in some cases, we're the only public utility doing them.



Important information you'll always find on our website/ social media includes:

- A list of daily GAUD activities
- Dates and agendas of upcoming Trustee meetings (broadcast live on local CTV7)
- Minutes and recordings of televised meetings
- Financial presentations that include audited statements going back more than ten years
- Monthly drinking water reports
- Ongoing test results for PFAS, commonly referred to as "forever chemicals"
- Seven years of annual reports
- Eight years of consumer confidence reports
- We maintain active Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts
- We provide routine email updates to local partners impacted by ongoing projects/work

We take pride in the work we do. Whether it's a traffic advisory about a water main repair or a Facebook post with info about our next Board of Trustees meeting, we're all about keeping the lines of communication open to keep you in the loop about what's happening with your drinking water, wastewater and stormwater. If you have questions, email them to **Contact@GAUD.ws** or call us at **(207) 622-3701**.



AN UPDATE ON KENNEBEC CROSSING

Work continues on the Kennebec River Crossing Project. This multifaceted effort adds a drinking water pipe, wastewater pipe and fiber optics tubing/conduit under the riverbed. As of early 2023, water and wastewater pipes have been properly placed in the river. Work beneath the Rail Trail is nearly complete and work to connect a new water pipe to the east side near Riverview is ongoing. The final effort, a new pipe from the wastewater plant to State Street, will be completed in approximately a year.