Janet T. Mills
Governor

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Commissioner



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Minutes of Meeting #169
September 9, 2026

The Maine Public Drinking Water Commission (DWC) held its 169th meeting on Sep 9, 2026, in person at KeyBank building, Augusta and via Zoom.

Present Were:

Members: Brian Tarbuck (Zoom), Jeff LaCasse, Carol White, Matt Reynolds, Lee Worcester (Zoom), Amy Lachance (DWP Director), Eric Gagnon (Zoom), Bob Gardner, and Jim Willis (Commission Clerk).
Non-members: David Welch, DWP
Members Not Present Were: Jim Leighton

Time: Carol called the meeting to order at 9:11 AM.

A. RECURRING BUSINESS:

- Approval of Minutes, Meeting #168, May 6, 2026
  - Minutes from May 6, 2026, meeting were approved as written.

- SFY 2027 AFM Fee Collection Status – D. Welch
  - David Welch from the Drinking Water Program (DWP) updated the Commission on the collection status of the Alternate Funding Mechanism (AFM). To date, the DWP collection rate is slightly below previous years.

  - David gave an update on how online credit card payments are going. So far 314 systems have paid by online by credit card.

- DWP Financial Report – D. Welch
  - David presented current financial information showing that spending is on target from previous years. David did state that raising the AFM fee has helped cover the increase in staff costs. David also stated that we are currently looking to increase Maximum base fee to $100.00 in the statute so we can adjust AFM fees as needed going forward.

- DWP General Updates (DWSRF, Staffing, PFAS)
  - Current staffing levels were discussed. Amy stated that the DWP currently has a couple vacant positions. Robin Frost has retired. Ami Stillings will be taking

over Robin's position. We will be looking to fill Ami Stillings old position soon. Amy discussed the proposal to make the 11 temp positions permanent.
    - Amy gave an update on SRF.

- Legislation and Rulemaking Update
    - Amy gave an update on the Water Operator rules, Amy stated should be finalized soon. Other rule changes will be needed for well driller licensing and Subsurface Wastewater programs as well as updating DWP rules.
    - Amy gave an update on legislation.

- Public Drinking Water Commission Annual Report
    - Carol presented the draft report to the DWC members to review, report was discussed and any changes should be emailed to Carol so she can finalize report and send it to the DHHS Commissioners office.
- Update on DWC membership
    - Carol stated we are now a fully staffed commission.

- Discussion on cyber security
    - There was discussion on uptick of water systems being compromised and how DWP is assisting systems. Going forward there is potential for larger systems to get hit with cyber-attacks.

- Public Water System Items for Discussion - Public Comment
    - None

Meeting Dates for 2026
Wednesday December 2, 2026, 9:00 AM (Augusta and via zoom)

Meeting Adjourned at 10:45 AM