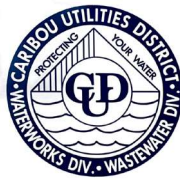


Jonathan Helstrom
General Manager
Sue Sands
Office Manager, Clerk
Fred Page
Water Superintendent
Derek Dufour
Wastewater Superintendent



Caribou Utilities District

Water & Wastewater
P.O. Box 10 Caribou, ME 04736 (207) 496-0911

Trustees

David Martin
Treasurer
David Belyea, P.E.
Jay Kamm
Matthew Till

The monthly meeting of the Caribou Utilities District was held Wednesday, January 21, 2026 in the City Council Chambers located at 25 High Street, Caribou, Maine.

Trustees Present

David Martin, Trustee
Jay Kamm, Trustee
Matthew Till, Trustee
David Belyea, Trustee,

Others Present

Jonathan Helstrom, General Manager
Sue T Sands, Office Manager, District Clerk
Danielle Brissette, City Clerk

Manager Helstrom called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Appointment of 2026 Officers for Caribou Utilities District was the first item on the agenda. David Martin moved and David Belyea seconded the motion to elect Jay Kamm as President for 2026. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. President Kamm proceeded with the remainder of the meeting. David Belyea moved and Matthew Till seconded the motion to elect David Martin as Treasurer for 2026. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. Jay Kamm moved and David Martin seconded the motion to elect Matthew Till as Assistant Treasurer for 2026. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. David Belyea moved and Matthew Till seconded the motion to appoint Sue Sands to serve as District Clerk for 2026. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

After reviewing the minutes of the December 17, 2025 meeting, David Martin moved and David Belyea seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

The Budget and Financial reports for December 2025 were discussed. President Kamm questioned other amounts for 2025 which were not on the report but have been paid in 2026. Sue explained the large items included the 4th Quarter Solar Invoice as well as two large Versant amounts that had been paid for December. Trustee Belyea questioned Capital reserve funds available. David Martin moved and David Belyea seconded the motion to accept the reports as presented.

Manager Helstrom discussed the phone and internet transition and explained that Fidium would be scheduling the cutover in the near future.

Chuck Kelley of Kelley Industrial Electric of Limestone was hired to review the CUD Solar's performance and provided a valuable spreadsheet of 2024 and 2025 billing data. The District had a savings of approximately \$72,000 in 2024, and \$86,000 in 2025. The study suggested potential optimization through adjustments to account cascades and rate classifications. Mr. Kelley also identified potential opportunities for new, small-scale localized solar installations on low-usage accounts used primarily for instrumentation with minimal monthly power demand. This would involve disconnecting these accounts from the grid and supplying power through individual solar panels paired with onsite battery storage.

Manager Helstrom discussed the NBRC Catalyst Grant and explained that the Environmental Review is the final step remaining before we receive the notice to proceed.

The 2027 Caribou Bridge Closure was discussed. Manager Helstrom has attended several meetings with the DOT and Aroostook Emergency Management stakeholders and submitted comments to the DOT regarding the concerns of the District during the closure. It will require a significantly longer detour to access the water station, an increase in fuel use as well as labor costs associated with the increased travel time.

FEMA is working through the final processing on the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant. All of the necessary documents have been submitted by the District, but now everything will be submitted to the Department of Homeland Security, (DHS) for final agency review and approval which could take several months.

The Congressionally Directed Spending Grant has been confirmed for the District in the amount of \$3.288 million for wastewater infrastructure for 2026. It has been passed both by the House and Senate and is now waiting for the President's signature.

The DOT is planning to replace an aging culvert over Prestile Stream in the summer of 2027. The District has a gravity sewer line located within the project area and will be affected during construction. Early indications suggest this will be a substantial cost to the District. Planning by the District is very limited at this time until Maine DOT completes its preliminary design and provides the District with anticipated construction approach, scope of work, duration, and temporary traffic patterns. The District will be receiving additional information once it is available.

There are no new updates regarding the fluoride removal from the District water supply. Manager Helstrom is in the process of preparing a document that will outline the proposed next steps. Trustee Martin suggested a video be made and put on our website showing how fluoride damages our equipment, and the potential hazard it has to our employees.

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. in the Caribou City Council Chambers. David Belyea moved and David Martin seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 P.M. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Sue T Sands, Office Manager and District Clerk