

Jonathan Helstrom
General Manager
Sue Sands
Office Manager, Clerk

Fred Page
Water Superintendent
Derek Dufour
Wastewater Superintendent



Caribou Utilities District
Water & Wastewater
176 Limestone St., Caribou, ME 04736
(207) 496-0911

Trustees
Jay Kamm
President
David Martin
Treasurer
David Belyea, P.E.
Matthew Till
Mark Draper

The monthly meeting of the Caribou Utilities District was held Wednesday, February 11, 2026 in the City Council Chambers located at 25 High Street, Caribou, Maine.

Trustees Present

Jay Kamm, President
David Martin, Trustee
David Belyea, Trustee
Matthew Till, Trustee
Mark Draper, Trustee

Others Present

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

President Kamm called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. The first item on the agenda was to welcome Mark Draper as a new Trustee of the District, and also to introduce Mr. Draper to the current Trustees.

After reviewing the minutes of the January 21, 2026 meeting, Matthew Till moved and David Martin seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. All Trustees voted in favor to accept the minutes, with one abstention, Mr. Draper.

Manager Helstrom discussed the new format of the 2026 Budget with the Trustees. The format will include the 2025 cumulative total of the budget for the same period on each line item, along with the 2026 monthly total for comparison. After reviewing, David Belyea moved and Matthew Till seconded the motion to accept the reports as presented. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Manager Helstrom reported to the Trustees that Fidium would be scheduling the cutover soon to complete the phone and internet transition for the office.

The District is working closely with Chuck Kelley of Kelley Industrial Electric of Limestone for potential optimization through adjustments to account cascades and rate classifications in order to improve the Solar performance of the District on the River Road. Since the recent study completed by Mr. Kelley indicated a savings of \$72,000 for 2024 and \$86,000 for 2025, the District will continue reviewing with Mr. Kelley 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.

There are no new updates with the NBRC Catalyst Grant application. Although the Environmental Review, which was previously completed, and also is the final step remaining before the Notice to Proceed can be issued, has had back-and-forth communication between Mr. Helstrom, Jim Lord, and the NBRC stating that more information is necessary before completion. Originally the District was told that the determination would be issued by the end of January, and now the most recent email states a mid-

February determination. Trustee Belyea would like Mr. Helstrom to set up a formal session with our engineer, Jim Lord to discuss this issue.

Trustee Belyea discussed the possibility of extending the water line further out South Main Street this summer once the DOT start their construction on the Prestile Stream project. With construction already in place at this location, Belyea felt it would be a perfect timing for the District to extend the main if possible. Mr. Helstrom felt this was an excellent suggestion and will look into it further.

Two sewer liens were signed by the Treasurer and new signature cards were signed by the dedicated signers of the District.

There are no new updates regarding the fluoride removal from the District water supply. Manager Helstrom would like to share his perspective regarding the potential discussion of discontinuing fluoride treatment at our River Road plant at an upcoming Board meeting. Mr. Helstrom is concerned about how this discussion may be perceived by the public since it has been a part of Caribou's water system since 1959. David Belyea moved and David Martin seconded the motion to table the fluoride issue at this time. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Trustee Martin suggested having the office do courtesy calls monthly to all individuals with disconnection notices before water is actually shut off. With an average of 84 monthly notices being sent out, (91 actually mailed for month of February) it was decided that customers can arrange their personal payments without further notice from the office.

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the Caribou City Council Chambers. David Belyea moved and Matthew Till seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM.

Sue T Sands, Office Manager