

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, April 8, 2026 in the City Council Chambers located at 25 High Street, Caribou, Maine.

Trustees Present

Jay Kamm, President
David Martin, Treasurer
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 5:30 PM. After reviewing the minutes of the March 11, 2026 meeting, David Martin moved and Matthew Till seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. After discussing the March 2026 Budget and Financial Reports, Mark Draper moved and David Martin seconded the motion to accept the reports as presented. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Sue explained to the Trustees that the 2025 audit for the water division as well as the PUC report has been completed, and the wastewater adjustments should be arriving soon to conclude the 2025 audit. Once this is completed, the Financial Statements for 2025 for the District will be available.

Manager Helstrom discussed diagrams of a new leak detection program utilizing permanently installed sensors on hydrants throughout the system. These sensors continuously monitor for leaks by analyzing pipe vibrations and transmitting data to a cloud-based platform. The District has committed to an initial deployment of 100 units which will provide approximately 60% hydrant coverage across the entire system. This level of coverage will allow for broad system monitoring while identifying areas where additional units may be beneficial over time. This program will not replace the District's existing ZCore leak detection equipment which is still used to pinpoint and confirm leak locations. Instead, it will replace the need for staff to manually listen at individual hydrants one at a time. By having early leak detection, it will allow for more cost-effective repairs, reduce water loss, and help prevent larger system failures.

Bid Openings for the Aroostook River Crossing Project was held at 3:00 P.M. at 176 Limestone Street. Nine contractors took out bid packages with only three bids presented at the opening. The following bids were received; Trombley Construction, \$1.817 million dollars, McGillan Inc. Construction \$1.530 million dollars, and Soderberg Construction had low bid of \$1.472 million dollars. Mark Draper moved and David Belyea seconded the motion to accept the bid from Soderberg Construction in the amount of \$1.472 million dollars pending review of bid package by our engineering firm, Dirigo Engineers. The Trustees felt with the bids coming in under the engineers estimate, plus the fact that the District has

been awarded a \$1,000,000 NBRC Catalyst Grant (Northern Border) for the project, plus 35% of the balance of the loan will be forgiven by the State, that the District as well as the ratepayers should be in good shape as far as the remaining balance the District will need to borrow for the project. One final step is required before the NBRC (Northern Border) can issue a Notice to Proceed for the project. Manager Helstrom will submit the document this week.

The heating system being installed by Jerry Castonguay Plumbing and Heating in the Water garage is nearly completed. The District rented a scissor lift to allow the District staff to remove the old ductwork and at the same time the ability to paint the ceiling and walls of the garage which looks great.

The FEMA grant requires that engineering services be procured through a competitive selection process in accordance with federal requirements. A request for Qualifications (RFQ) for engineering services is currently being publicly advertised, with a submission deadline of April 21, 2026 at 3:00 PM. Once this step is completed, the District can proceed with the installation of the generator at the wastewater plant. FEMA is looking for the best qualified engineers to complete the project.

David Martin moved and David Belyea seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 PM.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. The next scheduled Trustees meeting will be Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 5:30 PM in the Council Chambers at the City Office located at 25 High Street.

Sue T Sands, Office Manager and District Clerk