

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, May 13, 2026 in the City Council Chambers located at 25 High Street, Caribou, Maine.

Trustees Present

David Martin, Treasurer
David Belyea, Trustee
Mark Draper, Trustee

Absent;
Jay Kamm, President
Matthew Till, Trustee

Others Present

Jonathan Helstrom, General Manager
Sue T Sands, Office Manager, District Clerk
Danielle Brissette, City Clerk
Jonathan Judkins, CEO, LDA
Troy Haney, LDA Director
Joseph Sleeper, LDA Director

Trustee David Belyea called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. After reviewing the minutes of the April 8, 2026 monthly meeting, Mark Draper moved and David Martin seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. David Martin moved and Mark Draper seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting held April 8, 2026. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. After discussing the April 2026 Budget and Financial Reports, Mark Draper moved and David Martin seconded the motion to accept the reports as presented. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Manager Helstrom discussed the hazard survey inspection of CUD facilities recently conducted by MMA Risk Management Services. Two very minor deficiencies were identified during the inspection of which the District was already aware of. #1, Lack of vehicle protection bollards around the recently installed propane tank at the water garage, and # 2, a single incandescent light bulb without a protective safety shield located within the oil tank room. Both of these items have already been slated for correction. The inspection findings were very minor in nature, and reflected positively on the condition and safety of CUD facilities and the excellent job the field crew is doing to stay on top of safety and facility maintenance throughout the system.

The notice to proceed was granted April 23, 2026 for the NBRC Catalyst Grant (Border Grant). This item was needed before a construction contract could be awarded. The River Crossing bid opening was held April 8, 2026 with Dirigo Engineering determining that Soderberg Construction was the successful bidder for the amount of \$1,472,750. The Notice of Award was executed April 24, 2026, followed shortly thereafter by the Notice to Proceed, establishing a construction start date of June 1, 2026. The project is anticipated to be substantially completed including final pay requisition by December 28, 2026.

After several years of applying for funding, we were very fortunate to be awarded SRF funding in June 2025 that included 35% principal forgiveness, (grant) and following that award we received \$1,000,000 grant from NBRC (Border Grant) which reduced the overall cost to the District significantly. Then as a

result of the bids being favorably, the District now has approximately \$1,400,000 in remaining SRF capacity that could potentially be used for an additional eligible project. Trustee Belyea felt that water main replacement should be top priority. Manager Helstrom discussed certain projects that would be approved for the project; (1) Telemetry upgrade at water tanks, (2) Targeted water main replacement, especially in areas with known water loss, and meter replacement. After discussion, the Trustees were favorable of Manager Helstrom moving forward and discussing the remaining funds that could be used for projects with Jim Lord, of Dirigo Engineering, and develop preliminary cost estimates, and bring a recommendation for Board consideration in the near future.

The heating system replacement in the water garage has been completed. The CUD staff removed the old equipment, patched wall and ceiling penetrations, pumped over fuel, and removed old fuel tanks from the facility. The parts inventory has been moved from the second floor to a more convenient location within the garage.

Dirigo Engineering received the highest overall score on the RFQ of the three submitted for engineering services for the installation of the generator at the Grimes plant. Because portions of the engineering and background work were already completed during the grant application process, the project is expected to move into final design and bidding in a timely manner. At this time, the goal is to have the project substantially completed and administratively closed out by the end of 2026.

At the time of the Manager's report, there were no new updates available on the FY2026 (CDS) Congressionally Directed Spending Grant application. However, just before the meeting, Manager Helstrom received notification that he could proceed with the project by applying to EPA for funding. This project would include Wastewater System Upgrades – (Headworks) Wastewater System Upgrades, (Pump Station # 1, Force Main Upgrades) Wastewater System Upgrades, (Pump Station 2, Grimes Rd PS) upgrade, Wastewater System Upgrades (Collection System Pump Station Upgrades) and Wastewater System Upgrades, (Phase II of WWTP upgrades Project)

The redundant wastewater river crossing project has been submitted by Senator Collins in the amount of \$1,091,000 as part of the Fiscal 2027 Interior and Environment Appropriations process. This funding request represents the federal share of the currently unfunded river crossing component of CUD's broader wastewater reliability and resiliency improvements. This project was also included on Senator King's FY2027 CDS disclosure listing identifying projects which he intends to support during the appropriations process. Having support from both Senator Collins, a Republican and Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Senator King, an Independent, is beneficial because it demonstrates broad bipartisan support for the project and strengthens overall advocacy efforts as the federal budget process moves forward.

Treasurer David Martin signed Water and Wastewater Liens. An allonge for the Water Line of Credit from Katahdin Trust was signed by Treasurer David Martin and President Jay Kamm to extend maturity from May 31, 2026, until August 31, 2026. Our annual financial statements have not been completed by our auditor and once this is done, the Line of Credit will be renewed for another year.

David Martin moved and Mark Draper seconded the motion to move into Executive Session, Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405 (C) Economic Development at 5:50 P.M. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. David Martin moved and Mark Draper seconded the motion to move out of Executive Session, Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405 (C) Economic Development at 6:51 P.M with no action taken.

Mark Draper moved and David Martin seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 P.M.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

Sue T Sands
Office Manager, District Clerk