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

Caribou Utilities District Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Agenda

Type: Monthly Meeting, Board of Trustees

When: Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 5:30 P.M.

Where: City Council Chambers, 25 High Street, Caribou, Maine

Agenda:

1. **Approval of Minutes**

   Review and approve the minutes of the previous meeting

2. **Financial Reports**

   Budget and financial reports for period ending August and October 2026

3. **Multi Department Update**

   Updates on matters related to both water and wastewater

4. **Water Department Update**

   Updates on water-related matters, projects, and any relevant issues

5. **Wastewater Department Update**

   Updates on wastewater-related matters, projects, and any relevant issues

6. **Other Business**

   Discussion of additional District business or updates brought forward by the Board, if necessary.

7. **Confirm Next Meeting**

   Confirm December meeting

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Monthly Management Report

Meeting Month: November, 2026

Prepared By: Jonathan Helstrom

Agenda:

Approval of Minutes

No additional comments on the October 14, 2026 monthly meeting minutes.

Financial Report

No additional comments on the financials through the end of October.

Multi-Department Update

General Manager Annual Performance Review
My annual performance review is scheduled for the upcoming Board meeting. I will provide additional information to Board members in advance of the meeting for their review and consideration.

Monthly Board Meeting Location
We are planning to complete the equipment installation and additional improvements to the meeting space before the next meeting At this time, let's plan to move the December meeting to the CUD office.

Cybersecurity Review
The cybersecurity assessment coordinated through the Maine Drinking Water Program and cybersecurity specialists with the U.S. Army National Guard was conducted on November 5, with the out-brief on November 6.

Overall, the assessment went well, and the District's existing cybersecurity practices and systems appear to be in good shape. The assessment team identified areas where improvements could be made, but no significant concerns were noted. We plan to implement the recommended improvements over time.

Due to the sensitive nature of cybersecurity, specific details regarding system configurations, potential vulnerabilities, and security measures will not be included in this public report or discussed in a public forum.

Staffing Update

We have completed the recruitment process for the Water/Wastewater Technician position and are pleased to report that Wyatt Taggett has been hired to fill the vacancy. Wyatt is a Caribou High School graduate and currently resides in Caribou. We are pleased to have him join our team. With this position filled, the District is once again fully staffed in the Water and Wastewater Departments.

Water Department Update

Water Main River Crossing Project

Soderberg Construction has completed the Water Main River Crossing Project to the point of substantial completion. The new water main was officially placed into service on October 23, 2026, marking an important milestone.

The final balancing change order has also been completed, reviewed, and approved by all parties. The final construction cost is $1,462,617.50, which is a decrease of $10,132.50 from the original contract amount of $1,472,750.

A small amount of work remains, primarily related to final site restoration. Due to the time of year, it was too late to establish the required vegetation along the riverbank slopes. This work will be completed in the spring when conditions are more favorable. We are retaining a portion of the contract payment until the remaining restoration work has been satisfactorily completed.

Overall, the project has gone extremely well. Dirigo Engineering, Soderberg Construction, and CUD staff have worked collaboratively throughout the project, and we are very pleased with the quality of work and the final outcome. The new crossing provides the District with much-needed redundancy and significantly improves the reliability of our water distribution system.

Fluoridation Update

The District recently received a letter from Anthony Salisbury, organizer of the Maine Water Accountability Project, regarding our Board's previous discussions about fluoridation. The letter was mailed to Board President Jay Kamm and the Trustees, and a copy is included in your meeting packet.

Mr. Salisbury indicated that Maine State Representative Poirier intends to reintroduce legislation prohibiting fluoridation during the upcoming legislative session. He asked whether the District would consider providing testimony regarding our firsthand operational experience with fluoridation, particularly equipment deterioration, maintenance requirements, chemical handling, and employee safety concerns.

I responded to Mr. Salisbury, acknowledging the Board's operational concerns and explaining that I believe water utility operators and managers can provide valuable firsthand information during legislative discussions. However, I emphasized the importance of maintaining a neutral position on the broader public health debate and limiting any potential involvement to our operational experience.

I also noted that Maine's current statutory process places the ultimate decision regarding fluoridation in the hands of the voters served by the water system. While this process can be challenging, I believe there is value in allowing the community to make that decision.

I indicated that I would bring his request before the Board for consideration, but that any decision to provide testimony or formally support legislation would ultimately rest with the Trustees.

My recommendation is that the District remain neutral regarding the proposed state legislation and decline to provide testimony at this time. I believe our efforts would be better focused on continuing the public referendum process established under Maine law, allowing the voters served by the District to ultimately decide whether fluoridation should continue. However, the decision of whether or not the District provides testimony ultimately rests with the Board of Trustees as the District's governing body.

At this point, no commitments have been made on behalf of the District. The correspondence is being provided for the Board's information and consideration.

Wastewater Department Update

<u>Grimes Generator Replacement Project</u>
As previously reported, while the low bid was favorable compared to the overall construction estimate, the allocation of costs among the various bid items differed from the budget categories originally approved by FEMA. As a result, we have been working with MEMA and FEMA to obtain approval for the necessary modifications to the grant budget and construction schedule.

We are still awaiting FEMA's approval before moving forward with awarding the construction contract. The proposed generator has an estimated lead time of approximately 50 weeks from the date of order, making timely approval important to keeping the project on schedule.

The anticipated construction schedule includes beginning site work in May 2027, with generator installation and commissioning expected in early 2028. The revised schedule remains within the existing FEMA grant period of performance, which expires January 2, 2029.

We have also been coordinating with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection regarding the construction contract documents.

At this point, the project is essentially ready to move forward with the contract award once the necessary approvals are received. We will continue following up with MEMA and FEMA to keep the project moving and avoid unnecessary delays.

FFY 2025 Maine Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan (CWSRF)

We have made additional progress on the District's application to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (MMBB) for up to $1.7 million in CWSRF financing. Sue provided additional financial information requested by MMBB as part of its underwriting review. Following receipt and review of that information, MMBB indicated that they are prepared to present our loan application to their Board for consideration at its November 18, 2026, meeting. This is another positive step toward securing the financing needed for the District's planned wastewater infrastructure improvements.

Wastewater Upgrade Project

We have received notification from Maine DOT that we have been conditionally awarded $2,085,500 through the 2026 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund (MIAF) for our wastewater infrastructure improvements.

This is a significant funding award for the District and comes at a great time. As we've been working with Dirigo Engineering to prioritize the improvements identified in their October 27, 2026 proposal, I've been trying to determine how we could accomplish as much of the needed work as possible within our available funding.

With this latest award, we now have three major funding sources supporting our wastewater infrastructure improvements:

- EPA Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS): $3,288,000. Funding for wastewater treatment and collection system improvements.
- Maine DOT Infrastructure Adaptation Fund (MIAF): $2,085,500. Newly announced conditional award for wastewater infrastructure improvements.
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP): $285,468.75. Previously awarded funding toward the replacement of the Pump Station #2 generator.

Together, these grants represent approximately $5.66 million in funding for our wastewater infrastructure.

This additional funding significantly changes our approach to the project and greatly expands the scope of improvements we can accomplish. With the additional funding, we should now be able to complete all of the identified Priority 1 improvements, including the headworks, pump stations 1 and 2, wastewater treatment plant upgrades, SCADA/PLC improvements, and the treatment plant generator. In addition, we anticipate being able to complete the Priority 2 improvements, which include upgrades to all 10 out of 11 of our remote pump stations.

Based on our preliminary estimates, we should now be able to complete approximately $6.11 million in wastewater infrastructure improvements while only needing to borrow approximately $450,000. This means nearly 92% of the total project would be funded through grants, with only about 8% financed by the District.

These numbers are still preliminary. Prior to the DOT announcement, we were significantly underfunded and had been working with Dirigo Engineering on value engineering and reducing certain project components to stretch our available funding as far as possible. With this new award, we can revisit those decisions and potentially restore improvements that we had been considering scaling back or eliminating. We will need to work through the revised scope and costs before establishing a firm project budget.

Another significant benefit is EPA's approval of our cost-share waiver, which eliminated the $822,000 local match originally required for our $3,288,000 CDS award. Between the additional grant funding and the waiver, our anticipated borrowing has dropped from approximately $1.7 million to just $438,000, while allowing us to accomplish considerably more work.

This is a tremendous opportunity for the District to address a substantial amount of our aging wastewater infrastructure, improve system reliability, and significantly reduce the long-term financial burden on our ratepayers.

I've attached the award notification for your review.

FY 2027 Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Application
There have been no new developments regarding the FY 2027 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request.

Other Business

No additional matters have been identified for discussion under Other Business at this time.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2026, which coincides with the annual MRWA Conference that Sue and I will both be attending. As an alternative, I propose rescheduling the meeting to Wednesday, December 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the CUD office on Limestone Street.

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

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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, August 12, 2026 in the City Council Chambers located at 25 High Street, Caribou, Maine.

Trustees Present	Others Present
Jay Kamm, President	Jonathan Helstrom, General Manager
David Martin, Treasurer	Danielle, Brissette, City Clerk
David Belyea, Trustee	Sue T Sands, Office Manager, City Clerk
Matthew Till, Trustee	
Mark Draper, Trustee	

President Jay Kamm called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. After reviewing the minutes of the July 8, 2026 meeting, David Martin moved and Mark Draper seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. The Financial and Budget reports were reviewed with the Trustees. Sue explained that the month of July had three payrolls indicating a slight increase in Administrative and Field wages, and also the Property and Casualty Insurance with Maine Municipal Association was slightly increased due to additional equipment being added. David Belyea moved and Mark Draper seconded the motion to accept the reports as presented. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Since the last meeting Manager Helstrom has been exploring options for recording Cud's public meetings at the District's conference room located at 176 Limestone Street rather than having a City employee come back in to work to set the equipment up for the CUD meetings at 5:30 PM, and then to remain on site until the meeting is adjourned in order to lock the office up for the night. The District greatly appreciates all of the effort and time provided by the City of Caribou in order to enable the District to hold the monthly meetings in the Council Chambers. It appears that a relatively simple video and audio recording system could be purchased with an estimated cost of approximately $1,800.00. A motion was made and seconded to purchase the equipment, but after discussion, an amended motion was made by Mark Draper and seconded by Jay Kamm to authorize Manager Helstrom to move forward and purchase the equipment, have it installed and tested during the month of September, and possibly go online for the October meeting. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Due to the following recent Federal warnings and active security breaches of several of Maine's water and wastewater utilities, CUD has partnered with the Maine Drinking Water Program and cybersecurity specialists with the US Army National Guard to conduct a cybersecurity audit of our facilities in the coming months. The audit will be covered by a Grant offered by the Drinking Water Program and this review will provide an independent assessment of our existing systems and practices, help identify potential vulnerabilities, and provide recommendations for improvements. The District will continue coordinating with our IT provider and regulatory partners as recommendations are developed. The District would rather take a proactive rather than reactive approach to cybersecurity and identify reasonable improvements before a problem occurs.

The Water Main River Crossing project is approximately 40% complete at this time. The contractor is expected to return in force around August 17. Work completed during this period included approximately 805 feet of new water main, 823 cubic yards of ledge excavation, 1,600 feet of trench insulation, three trench relief drains, one hydrant, and three gate valves. The installed main has successfully passed leakage testing.

The leak detection procurement process has been completed. The equipment has now been installed throughout the distribution system with the sensors actively monitoring for potential leaks and collecting data. The initial results will be reviewed in the coming weeks to identify potential leaks that may warrant further investigation. The Drinking Water Program recently determined that these leak detection improvements are eligible expenses under the SRF program. As a result, approximately 35% of the project cost will be covered through SRF principal forgiveness, allowing the District to maximize the available funding while improving our ability to proactively identify leaks, reduce water loss, and help CUD identify areas of the distribution system where aging or problematic water mains should be prioritized for future replacement.

Over the past several months the District has been researching the process required to discontinue fluoridation of the municipal water supply. The project has proven to be more involved than initially anticipated, and the District has been working with legal counsel and the City to better understand the State requirements and municipal election process. Since the District missed the deadline by the City of Caribou for the November ballot, the item would need to be added to the agenda at a City Council meeting for discussion and authorization by the Council members. Legal counsel is currently consulting with the Maine Municipal Association to further clarify the statutory and procedural requirements for moving the issue forward.

The Generator Replacement project is continuing to move forward. SRF has assigned a project manager who will be reviewing the draft documents the week of August 10, 2026, and once this is completed, the project is expected to be advertised for construction. The first requisition has been submitted to FEMA for costs incurred to date. The District recently was notified by FEMA that they have awarded CUD $12,612.50 to cover eligible grant administration expenses at 100% federal funding with no local match required.

The District submitted a loan application in June, after approval by the Board of Trustees, to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank for up to $1.7 million in CWSRF funding for Wastewater infrastructure. Recently an update was received from MMBB that the application was in their queue for underwriting review, and after preliminary studies of the documentation submitted, everything appears to be in order. Once the underwriting is complete, MMBB staff will make a recommendation to the MMBB Board regarding approval of the loan. David Belyea moved and Matt Till seconded the motion to authorize the opening of a dedicated Project Account for the Wastewater Division at Aroostook County Federal Savings and Loan. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

As previously reported, the District received a $3.288 million FY2026 EPA Community Grant for wastewater infrastructure improvements. Initially, the District planned to use the $1.7 million CWSRF financing for engineering services, however after discussions with the funding agencies and Dirigo Engineering it became apparent that doing so could limit our ability to count those engineering costs toward the required EPA non-federal match. The decision was made to procure engineering services for the entire project through a qualifications-based RFQ process. A total of four engineering firms obtained the RFQ package, however, Dirigo Engineering was the only firm to submit a Statement of

Qualifications and scored in accordance with the RFQ requirements. Dirigo was determined to be compliant, and subsequently selected to provide engineering and design services on the project.

A formal cost-share waiver request and supporting Census documentation has been submitted to EPA. On August 12, 2026, the District was notified that the waiver had been granted. This waiver will ultimately eliminate the local match requirement associated with the $3.288 million federal award. However, by the District completing the RFQ process, it still will provide the District with maximum flexibility in how engineering and other project costs are funded as the project progresses.

During the week of August 17, 2026, CUD & Dirigo will hold a project kickoff meeting to establish the project scope, top priorities for the project, schedule, and next steps.

Mark Draper moved and David Martin seconded the motion to go into Executive Session, Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405, 6A, Personnel issues at 6:00 PM. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. David Martin moved and Mark Draper seconded the motion to move out of Executive Session, Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405 6A, Personnel Issues at 6:08 PM. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

David Belyea moved and David Martin seconded the motion to go into Executive Session at 6:10 PM, Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405, 6C, Discussion or consideration of the condition, acquisition or the use of real or personal property permanently attached to real property. (Lease) UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. Mark Draper moved and Matthew Till seconded the motion to move out of Executive Session at 6:30 PM, Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405, 6C, Discussion or consideration of the condition, acquisition or the use of real or personal property permanently attached to real property. (Lease) UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Mark Draper moved and David Belyea seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 PM. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. The next scheduled meeting of the District will be Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 25 High Street, Caribou, Maine, beginning at 5:30 PM

Sue T. Sands, Office Manager, District Clerk

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

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Treasurer
David Belyea, P.E.
Matthew Till
Mark Draper

The monthly meeting of the Caribou Utilities District was held Wednesday, October 14, 2026 in the City Council Chambers located at 25 High Street, Caribou, Maine.

Trustees Present	Others Present
Jay Kamm, President	Jonathan Helstrom, General Manager
David Martin, Treasurer	Danielle, Brissette, City Clerk
David Belyea, Trustee	Sue T Sands, Office Manager, City Clerk
Matthew Till, Trustee	
Mark Draper, Trustee	

President Jay Kamm called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The August 12, 2026 Trustee meeting minutes were omitted from the packet, and will be voted on at the November 10, 2026 meeting.

The Financial and Budget reports were reviewed with the Trustees. The Other Income accounts on both divisions were discussed since the income reported is much higher than the budgeted amounts. Sue explained to the Trustees the sale of the Jet Truck for the Wastewater division was $25,000.00, and the water division sold a back-hoe for $20,000.00 which resulted in the increase of revenue.

Manager Helstrom discussed the office supplies and communication line items which are nearly at 100% and explained that in another year only one account will be set up for each division. Mark Draper moved and David Belyea seconded the motion to accept the reports as presented. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Manager Helstrom discussed the video conferencing and recording equipment which has been installed in the conference room at 176 Limestone Street to be used for future meeting coverage. Hopefully by the December meeting everything will be completed. The Field employees are doing some minor renovations as time permits in the Conference room. Since it has been such a busy summer with projects, etc., hopefully by the December meeting everything should be finished. A question was brought up by a Trustee inquiring if a meeting was scheduled and a number of people were anticipated to attend if the equipment would be portable. Manager Helstrom felt should this ever happen, coverage of the meeting could be handled with only a few minor adjustments.

The onsite cybersecurity audit assessment is scheduled for completion by the U.S. Army National Guard November 5th from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM with the out-brief requested for 7:30 AM, November 6, 2026. Manager Helstrom and the Water and Wastewater Superintendents met recently with Bob Sowers, who provides IT support for the District, and Chuck Kelley, who has previously worked on our equipment to review and discuss cybersecurity considerations. A few minor recommendations were made as a result of the review.

The District is in the process of transitioning from our current paper timesheets to a digital system through Aroostook Payroll. Each employee will record their time electronically, and this information will be reviewed bi-weekly by their supervisors before submitting to Aroostook Payroll for completion of the payroll.

Manager Helstrom discussed two updates he would like to have amended on the current Personnel Policy before a new employee is hired;

(1) Class B CDL Training Benefit; The District recognizes the value of employees obtaining Class B, (CDL) Commercial Driver's License
   A. Currently the District covers the cost of the approved training course subject to management approval. The District would like to amend the Personnel Policy to include the following; Employees who participate in the Class B (CDL) training shall be subject to a twenty-four month service commitment beginning on the date the employee successfully obtains their license.
   B. Should the employee voluntarily terminate their employment with CUD prior to completing the 24-month period, the employee shall be responsible for reimbursing the District for the remaining prorated portion of the training expenses actually paid by CUD, subject to applicable law.
   C. Upon completion of twenty-four (24) months of continued employment, the employee shall have no remaining financial obligation associated with the training benefit.
   D. Employees participating in the Class B, CDL training shall be required to successfully complete all necessary examinations and obtain the CDL license within (90) calendar days following completion of the training course.
   E. Upon this completion, the employee will receive a $.75 per hour increase to current salary, retro to date of passing CDL exam, Class B License, and should they complete the Class A license, the employee would receive another $.25 per hour increase.

David Belyea moved and David Martin seconded the motion authorizing Manager Helstrom to proceed with the CDL License Amendment pending approval by Legal Counsel. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

(Item # 2) To amend the total PTO hours granted to new employees upon hiring by the District.
   A. New employees must work a total of 120 calendar days before the accrual of PTO is allowed, with the exception of sick days. At this time, the total PTO and Sick days offered will be prorated to day of hire and given to new employee. Trustee Martin questioned if an employee would be paid and allowed to use PTO should they have a sick day included in the 120 days. The consensus of the Trustees felt the answer to this question would be no. Manager Helstrom will discuss the issue with our HR Attorney for his decision. After further discussion, David Martin moved and David Belyea seconded the motion for Manager Helstrom to consult with our HR attorney for the correct procedure and wording for this new amendment to the Caribou Utilities District Personnel Policy. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

The River Crossing Project is progressing very well. The water main has passed its pressure test and has been chlorinated. Once the bacteriological testing results have been received, the next step will be putting the new main into service. Following the extensive excavation and water main installation work on Limestone Street, the paving has been completed. Substantial Completion of the project should be within the next couple of weeks.

Three bids were received and opened for the Grimes Generator Replacement Project September 17, 2026. Underwood Electric submitted the apparent low bid of $289,387.00. While the low bid was compared to the overall construction estimate, the allocation of costs among the various bid items differed significantly from the budget categories originally approved by FEMA. The District has been working with MEMA and FEMA to determine the appropriate process for modifying the approved grant budget before awarding the construction contract. Since the estimated lead time is now 50 weeks for arrival of the generator, it looks like site work will possibly start in May, 2027, and completion of installation and commissioning of generator will be early 2028.

No notification has been received from MMBB regarding the $1.7 million in CWSRF funds which the District applied for in June, 2026 for wastewater infrastructure improvements.

The District received a $3.288 million FY2026 EPA Community Grant for wastewater infrastructure improvements and Dirigo was selected through the qualification-based procurement process to provide engineering and design services for the project. EPA also approved the District's request for a waiver of the non-federal cost-share requirement associated with the Grant. This will eliminate the otherwise required 20% local match and significantly improves the overall funding position for the project.

October 22, 2026, and October 27, 2026, The District will be hosting two training classes with JETCC and Alfond regarding DEP inspections and grant opportunities. The second training will be on Chemical Feed Pumps presented by MRWA.

Mark Draper moved and Matthew Till seconded the motion to authorize Katahdin Trust to increase the total amount of the Business Visa Cards held by Jonathan Helstrom, Derek Dufour, Frederick Page, and Sue T Sands to a total of $30,000.00 per month. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. Mark Draper moved and David Belyea seconded the motion authorizing Sue T. Sands authority to open a special reserve account for the River Crossing Project at Katahdin Trust Company. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Mark Draper moved and Matthew Till seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 P.M. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 5:30 P.M. At 25 High Street in the City Council Chambers.

Sue T Sands, Office Manager, District Clerk

RECEIVED 11/2/26

Anthony Salisbury
Maine Water Accountability Project
515 Molunkus Rd
Cornville, ME 04976

October 26, 2026

Board of Trustees
Caribou Utilities District
176 Limestone Street
Caribou, ME 04736

Dear President Kamm and Members of the Board:

My name is Anthony Salisbury. I organize the Maine Water Accountability Project, a volunteer project in Somerset County that works from public records on water questions in Maine.

I'm writing because of your district's own record over the past year, which I've read with attention: trustees citing visible equipment wear from fluoridation and concerns for employee safety; the board's support for removal; and your conclusion — reached with counsel — that discontinuing fluoridation is not something a district can simply do on its own authority, but must go through the statutory process. You are living, right now, the two halves of the question our Legislature will take up again: what fluoridation does to a system operationally, and how the law actually allocates the decision to stop.

Representative Poirier is reintroducing the fluoridation prohibition bill in the new Legislature. When it was heard in 2025, no water district, operator, or utility voice appeared in support — the operational side of fluoridation was simply absent from the record. Our own district's September overfeed (5.0 mg/L for roughly twenty hours; 5,568 people under a Do Not Drink order) has made that absence harder to defend. I'd be glad to share our reconstruction of that event if it's useful to you.

Would the district consider putting its experience before the committee when the bill is heard, most likely in early 2027? Testimony in person or by Zoom — from the board, or from your superintendent or general manager — would carry the most weight for a statewide bill, but written testimony, or any support the district is willing to give, would be genuinely helpful. I recognize you have your own local process underway and your own counsel's advice to follow; nothing here asks you to step outside it, and a declination — or no reply — is fully respected and changes nothing. Anything submitted would be the district's own text, approved by the board before filing.

I work by email so there's a written record; if your district prefers another channel, tell me and I'll use it. Thank you for the care your board has visibly brought to this question.

If you would like to respond, email is the surest way to reach us: anthonysalisbury2020@gmail.com — our project email address is temporarily out of service.

Respectfully,

Anthony Salisbury
Maine Water Accountability Project



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

Dale F. Doughty
COMMISSIONER

NOTICE OF AWARD RECIPIENTS

November 4, 2026

SUBJECT: Notice of Recipients of Conditional Awards for the 2026 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for applying to the 2026 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund (MIAF) administered by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT).

We are pleased to announce that the review committee has conditionally approved funding for the projects listed below. Funding for this round of the MIAF program is supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office for Coastal Management (NOAA OCM) through the Climate Resilience Regional Challenge (CRRC) awarded to the Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF) in Fall 2024.

Below is the list of conditionally approved recipients:

Entity	Award Amount
1. Auburn Water District	$ 300,000.00
2. City of Brewer	$ 878,226.00
3. Caribou Utilities District	$ 2,085,500.00
4. Town of Chebeague Island	$ 250,000.00
5. Fort Fairfield Utilities District	$ 2,838,510.00
6. Town of Gouldsboro	$ 1,525,158.00
7. Town of Hiram	$ 684,000.00
8. Matinicus Isle Plantation	$ 45,000.00
9. Town of Mercer 1	$ 760,719.00
10. Town of Roxbury 1	$ 238,450.00
11. Town of Rumford	$ 554,000.00
12. South Berwick Sewer District 1	$ 292,600.00
13. City of South Portland	$ 75,000.00
14. Town of Swan's Island	$ 75,000.00
15. Town of Thomaston	$ 1,438,154.00
16. Town of Tremont	$ 705,683.00
17. Town of Vienna 1	$ 641,250.00
18. Town of Vienna 2	$ 612,750.00

These projects are subject to and must comply with all applicable federal guidelines established by NOAA OCM, including, but not limited to, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related Environmental Compliance review, before a contract with MaineDOT can be executed. Your award has been conditionally approved; however, project activities may not commence until NOAA OCM completes the environmental compliance review and releases the funds for these projects.

For these projects, your grant manager will be Lirella Jaen, from MaineDOT (Adaptation.DOT@maine.gov). Your grant manager will contact you shortly should additional information be required for the environmental compliance review. We are providing the information required by NOAA OCM to facilitate a timely review. However, the duration of the review process is uncertain and may take up to several months.

Upon completion of the review process, entities will receive official award letters and grant agreements. Please be advised that the project start date will be the date on which the contract is fully executed by MaineDOT. Accordingly, do not undertake any grant-funded activities until we have notified you of the start date. Reimbursement cannot be provided for work performed before your contract's start date. MaineDOT will work with you to execute your grant agreement once the funds are released by NOAA OCM.

Congratulations on your successful grant proposal! We look forward to working with you. Please contact the grant manager if you have any questions in the meantime.

Sincerely,

Joyce Noel Taylor, P.E.
Deputy Commissioner
Maine Department of Transportation

October 2026 Profit & Loss

Caribou Utilities District Water Department

REVENUE	Account	2026 Budget	2026 Cumulative Total	2025 Cumulative Total	% of Budget
Metered	461.0	$900,000.00	$743,559.19	$742,203.79	83%
Public Fire Protection	463.0	$357,600.00	$297,143.44	$293,620.00	83%
Lien Fees	476	$500.00	$126.00	$0.00	25%
Miscellaneous Customer Service and Fees	0.00	$16,000.00	$14,799.17	$14,219.03	92%
Other Income	474	$15,000.00	$25,197.11	$12,165.10	168%
Earned Interest	419	$6,000.00	$10,541.89	$9,500.80	176%
Lease Agreements	421	$33,000.00	$29,856.70	$28,987.10	90%
TOTAL REVENUE		$1,328,100.00	$1,121,223.50	$1,100,695.82	84%

EXPENSE	Account	2026 Budget	2026 Cumulative Total	2025 Cumulative Total	% of Budget
Administration Wages	601.80	$217,000.00	$183,090.19	$177,678.06	84%
Field Wages	601.20	$206,000.00	$165,983.85	$165,815.51	81%
Admin & General Expenses (Outsourcing)	620.70	$15,000.00	$10,063.52	$10,886.72	67%
Admin & General Expenses (Office Supplies)	620.75	$7,500.00	$8,567.79	$7,778.69	114%
Admin & General Expenses (Communication & Maintenance)	620.78	$4,000.00	$4,871.86	$2,917.58	122%
Admin & General Expenses (Advertising)	620.79	$1,000.00	$395.25	$324.57	40%
Admin & General Expenses (Travel, Education & License)	620.71	$8,000.00	$581.90	$3,751.35	7%
Retirement (401a)	604.82	$17,000.00	$13,465.95	$13,784.89	79%
Health Insurance & Stipend	604.81	$88,000.00	$70,141.68	$74,848.41	80%
Payroll Tax	604.00	$37,000.00	$30,215.62	$29,956.10	82%
Purchased Power (Plant Production)	615.10	$66,000.00	$45,695.70	$55,686.86	69%
Purchased Power (Transmission & Distribution)	615.50	$12,000.00	$10,419.29	$6,129.30	87%
Communication	616.00	$4,500.00	$3,410.61	$3,556.31	76%
Chemicals	618.30	$30,000.00	$29,687.11	$25,131.13	99%
Operations & Maintenance (Treatment)	620.20	$9,000.00	$2,704.99	$20,422.70	30%
Operations & Maintenance (Transmission & Distribution)	620.60	$31,000.00	$55,832.50	$46,119.99	180%
Laboratory Supplies & Testing	620.30	$9,000.00	$3,368.83	$4,599.51	37%
Operation Tools and Equipment	620.50	$7,500.00	$3,473.70	$2,811.64	46%
Contractual Services Engineering & Technical	620.26	$5,000.00	$0.00	$1,022.50	0%
Contractual Services Accounting	632.00	$6,500.00	$6,475.00	$11,375.00	100%
Contractual Services Legal	633.00	$1,000.00	$583.50	$209.00	58%
Transportation	650.30	$23,000.00	$11,493.13	$19,861.22	50%
Insurance (General Liability)	657.00	$15,000.00	$16,708.20	$14,503.55	111%
Insurance (Workers Compensation & Unemployment)	658.00	$5,000.00	$4,176.48	$1,207.68	84%
Bad Debt	670.00	$500.00	$0.00	$772.38	0%
Heating	615.55	$4,500.00	$718.70	$3,804.49	16%
Miscellaneous, Subscriptions, Dues & Regulatory Fees	675.50	$25,000.00	$14,450.47	$11,246.69	58%
Utility Regulator Assessment Fees	408.10	$8,000.00	$8,598.10	$7,868.00	107%
Tank Maintenance Fund	600.20	$6,000.00	$5,000.00	$5,500.00	83%
Asset Replacement Reserve	341.10	$33,000.00	$18,000.00	$18,000.00	55%
Garage & Office Roof Loan Payment	641.50	$7,000.00	$5,188.05	$3,342.78	74%
SUBTOTAL EXPENSE		$909,000.00	$733,361.97	$750,912.61	81%
Principal Payment (Long Term Debt Payments)	600.10	$393,300.00	$394,852.31	$393,760.75	100%
TOTAL EXPENSE		$1,302,300.00	$1,128,214.28	$1,144,673.36	87%
PROFIT (LOSS)		$25,800.00	($6,990.78)	($43,977.54)	

October 2026 Profit & Loss

Caribou Utilities District Wastewater Department

REVENUE	Account	2026 Budget	2026 Cumulative Total	2025 Cumulative Total	% of Budget
Treatment	401.0	$785,000.00	$658,900.03	$649,854.14	84%
AWS Leachate	405.0	$213,000.00	$164,353.65	$181,004.38	77%
Trucked Septage & Wastewater	405.1	$4,000.00	$1,000.00	$3,730.78	25%
Stormwater	401.5	$4,000.00	$3,407.20	$3,382.16	85%
Miscellaneous Service & Fees	425, 416, 421	$15,000.00	$27,730.12	$41,209.47	185%
Earned Interest	415.0	$10,000.00	$7,289.01	$9,149.72	73%
Garage & Office Roof Loan Payment	430.0	$9,800.00	$7,236.72	$7,236.72	74%
Lease Agreements	404.0	$25,000.00	$25,000.00	$25,000.00	100%
TOTAL REVENUE		$1,065,800.00	$894,916.73	$920,567.37	84%

EXPENSE	Account	2026 Budget	2026 Cumulative Total	2025 Cumulative Total	% of Budget
Administration Wages	701.00	$147,000.00	$119,661.94	$119,812.11	81%
Field Wages	501.00	$176,000.00	$121,948.55	$146,657.32	69%
Admin & General Expenses (Outsourcing)	702.00	$15,000.00	$10,169.21	$10,093.06	68%
Admin & General Expenses (Office Supplies)	702.10	$7,500.00	$9,793.55	$5,390.07	131%
Admin & General Expenses (Communication & Maintenance)	702.20	$4,000.00	$4,406.68	$3,026.66	110%
Admin & General Expenses (Advertising)	702.25	$1,000.00	$331.25	$779.33	33%
Admin & General Expenses (Travel, Education & License)	702.30	$8,000.00	($308.05)	$1,361.04	-4%
Retirement (401a)	701.10	$11,000.00	($4,420.90)	$8,596.88	-40%
Health Insurance & Stipend	715.00	$88,000.00	$70,182.80	$76,324.19	80%
Payroll Tax	716.00	$26,500.00	$19,552.49	$21,610.15	74%
Purchased Power (Treatment)	513.00	$110,000.00	$97,524.82	$93,180.73	89%
Purchased Power (Pumping)	603.00	$90,000.00	$53,611.40	$73,894.78	60%
Communication	503.00	$5,000.00	$2,185.95	$3,811.82	44%
Chemicals	504.00	$3,500.00	$2,510.80	$2,613.52	72%
Operations & Maintenance (Pumping)	603.10	$15,000.00	$9,964.80	$12,547.42	66%
Operations & Maintenance (Treatment)	508.00	$10,000.00	$5,969.60	$4,773.42	60%
Operations & Maintenance (Collection)	608.00	$11,000.00	$15,593.51	$11,284.14	142%
Laboratory Supplies & Testing	507.00	$15,000.00	$10,817.01	$17,360.90	72%
Operation Tools and Equipment	510.00	$5,500.00	$4,282.21	$3,399.69	78%
Contractual Services Accounting	721.00	$6,400.00	$6,475.00	$6,375.00	101%
Contractual Services Legal	750.00	$2,000.00	$1,057.00	$494.00	53%
Contractual Services Engineering & Technical	521.00	$10,000.00	$6,036.03	$6,071.90	60%
Transportation	506.00	$23,000.00	$9,547.28	$16,473.41	42%
Insurance General Liability	711.10	$18,500.00	$18,698.80	$17,413.95	101%
Insurance (Workers Compensation & Unemployment)	711.00	$7,000.00	$3,961.52	$1,005.12	57%
Heating	509.00	$5,500.00	$4,789.32	$4,217.77	87%
Miscellaneous, Subscriptions, Dues & Regulatory Fees	550.00	$25,000.00	$6,060.51	$17,892.44	24%
Garage & Office Roof Loan Payment	741.50	$2,800.00	$2,048.67	$1,320.03	73%
Asset Replacement Reserves	341.20	$33,000.00	$11,000.00	$18,000.00	33%
SUBTOTAL EXPENSE		$882,200.00	$623,451.75	$705,780.85	71%
Principal Payment (Long Term Debt Payments)	749.00	$201,800.00	$50,231.71	$50,240.84	25%
TOTAL EXPENSE		$1,084,000.00	$673,683.46	$756,021.69	62%
PROFIT (LOSS)		($18,200.00)	$221,233.27	$164,545.68	