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KENNEBUNK LIGHT & POWER DISTRICT
COUNTY OF YORK
STATE OF MAINE

- - -
BOARD OF TRUSTEES - BUSINESS MEETING
TRANSCRIPT OF AUDIO RECORDED PROCEEDING
(Zoom Video Conference)
- - -

KENNEBUNK LIGHT & POWER DISTRICT
4 FACTORY PASTURE LANE
KENNEBUNK, ME 04043
TUESDAY, MARCH 02, 2021
5:03 p.m.

- - -

BOARD MEMBERS:

- PRESIDENT: DAVID CLUFF - (PRESENT)
- VICE-PRESIDENT: ROBERT EMMONS - (PRESENT)
- GENERAL MANAGER/TREASURER: TODD SHEA - (PRESENT)
- CLERK: DAN BARTILUCCI - (PRESENT)
- TRUSTEE: BRADLEY "SCOTT" DUCHARME - (PRESENT)
- TRUSTEE: BEVERLY FREUDENREICH (PRESENT)

1 A P P E A R A N C E S:

2 NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE
3 BY: Bill McDavitt, Environmental Specialist
4 50 Great Republic Drive
5 Gloucester, MA 01930
6 (978) 981-9300

7 U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
8 BY: Corbin Hilling, FERC Coordinator - Fisheries and
9 Wildlife Biologist
10 306 Hatchery Road
11 East Orland, ME 04431
12 (207) 401-0995

13 STATE OF MAINE
14 DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
15 BY: Sean Ledwin, Director of Sea Run Fisheries and
16 Habitat Division
17 Gail Wippelhauser, Fisheries Biologist
18 21 State House Station
19 Augusta, ME 04333-0021
20 (207) 624-6348

21 STATE OF MAINE
22 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
23 BUREAU OF LAND RESOURCES
24 BY: Kathy Howatt, Dams/Hydropower Facilities
25 Coordinator
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017
(207) 285-7688

(Other members of the public may have been present but
not identified.)

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

THE VERBATIM PORTIONS OF THIS MEETING are supplied to you on the condition that receipt thereof will certify the accuracy of the spoken word but not that of the speakers.

THE VERBATIM PORTIONS OF THIS MEETING are a transcript of the recorded proceedings and since the proceedings were not taken in front of a court reporter, accuracy in the depiction of speakers cannot be guaranteed in the colloquy of the transcript.

THE VERBATIM PORTIONS OF THIS MEETING are the only official transcript which may be relied upon for purposes of verbatim citation of the proceedings.

1 Whereupon, President Cluff called the meeting to
2 order at 5:03 p.m.

3 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Okay. I'm going to go
4 ahead and call the Kennebunk Light & Power Board of
5 Directors' meeting to order. Today is Tuesday, March
6 2nd. It's 5:03 p.m. The purpose of tonight's meeting
7 is to hear from the agencies who requested this meeting
8 to provide their input on our FERC process. The Board
9 has been deliberating on this now for eight to ten years
10 and we're coming down to the home stretch; where we need
11 to file our documents by the end of March.

12 The plan that the Board has put out, at this
13 point, all of you should have received and have a copy
14 of it, and I believe that's why you have requested the
15 meeting, to speak to that. We're only going to be
16 hearing from agencies this evening. We're not going to
17 be open for public comments. So, if there's anybody
18 joining us from the public, we will not be taking any
19 responses from the public. This meeting is specifically
20 just for the agencies.

21 So, with that, Todd, I'll turn it over to
22 you so you can go through your agencies one at a time
23 and we can hear from them.

24 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Okay. So, I'm doing
25 this in no particular order. I'm -- well, in a

1 particular order. It's who shows up first on the list.
2 First would be Bill McDavitt. I'll ask you to un-mute
3 and the floor is yours.

4 MR. McDAVITT: I guess I'll just open that,
5 you know, we have been following this project for -- for
6 a couple of years as well. We know that KLPD sent a
7 clear signal to not renew its license at some four years
8 ago or three-and-a-half; whatever it's been.

9 But as far as the surrender plan goes,
10 that's what's before us, and I just think our biggest
11 concern is the lack of any plan for fish passage. We
12 understand that it's expensive, but -- I mean, this
13 project really had -- that's a product impact. It's a
14 clear product impact that this project has not
15 mitigated. This plan really doesn't do anything to
16 mitigate those product impacts.

17 And -- I mean, FERC is supposed to be in
18 this balancing act of, you know, the benefits from power
19 generation versus this evil consideration for several
20 factors: Water quality, recreation, fish and aquatic
21 resources and just the -- I mean -- well, we've seen
22 what the product can do on the generation side, but the
23 National Marine Fisheries Service is just very concerned
24 about the lack of passage that's been in place for years
25 and now, with this surrender application before us,

1 basically to surrender in place, the surrender
2 application doesn't appear to do anything towards
3 mitigating the impact either.

4 So, I mean -- it's my understanding that
5 this surrender application is a draft. I don't know if
6 there is any opportunity to -- we've wanted to meet with
7 the Board for a while now. We've been available and
8 just to the extent that there's a chance to -- to work
9 with the Board, in terms of any sort of improvements
10 toward fish passage.

11 I mean, right now Kessler is at the end of
12 the road for -- for migratory fish and under this plan,
13 Kessler will remain the end of the road for migratory
14 fish. I think -- well, anyways, to the extent that
15 there's a chance to have a conversation with the
16 agencies about mitigating these impacts and the lack of
17 fish passage, we're certainly open to having that
18 conversation.

19 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Okay. Thank you very
20 much.

21 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Duffy, do you want to
22 do a back and forth conversation or do you want me to go
23 down the line to the next folks?

24 PRESIDENT CLUFF: I'm just making a couple
25 of notes as I go along and maybe we can address them.

1 Because I think we're going to hear maybe a similar
2 comment along the way.

3 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Okay. I will go to
4 the next person, who was one of the agencies that
5 requested, and that would be Corbin.

6 Corbin, are you available to speak and could
7 you clarify: In the e-mail chain I didn't get I believe
8 it's Fish and Wildlife Service, but I'm not quite sure
9 of your capacity there.

10 MR. HILLING: Yeah, that's correct. I'm one
11 of two new Fish and Wildlife Service FERC coordinators.
12 That's said, I've been with the service for two months
13 now, so I'm still kind of getting my bearings in Maine
14 with hydropower in general. So, I'm here to support the
15 other agencies, but given my recent change in roles, I
16 don't really feel comfortable giving -- giving a
17 statement at this point, so I'll defer to the other
18 agencies.

19 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Sorry to put you on
20 the spot --

21 MR. HILLING: No, you're fine.

22 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: -- Corbin. Welcome
23 to the process and it's very nice to meet you.

24 MR. HILLING: Likewise.

25 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Okay. Sorry about

1 that.

2 Sean Ledwin. I think Sean is prepared to
3 make some statements. Sean Ledwin is with the Maine
4 Department of Marine Resources, as well.

5 MR. LEDWIN: Hello everyone. I'm Sean
6 Ledwin. I'm the director of the Sea Run Fisheries and
7 Habitat Division of Maine Department of Marine
8 Resources. You know, just as Bill had mentioned, you
9 know, we've been following this project for quite some
10 time and, you know, we do find the sort of current plan,
11 I guess, under-whelming, as far as the resources that my
12 agency manages with the sea run fish such as shad,
13 alewives, blue-back herring, eels, those types of
14 things.

15 So, yeah. I mean, we're -- you know, we
16 hope to kind of get a better sense of kind of where
17 things are at and hopefully kind of explore some
18 potential alternatives to the existing plan.

19 Just so folks are aware, the, you know,
20 focus. FERC is not the only game in town. There's --
21 there's other state requirements potentially, and laws,
22 related to fish passage that could become applicable
23 here. I do think it's best when folks can work
24 collaboratively and there's potentially public and
25 private resources outside of, you know, just the owner

1 that could be available to do some, you know, better
2 things for aquatic resources here.

3 So -- but Gail -- Gail Wippelhauser is on as
4 well. She's our -- our FERC lead and has more of a
5 pulse on the surrender and anything else. I don't know
6 if Gail -- I don't want to direct the meeting, so let me
7 know --

8 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: That would be --

9 MR. LEDWIN: -- maybe Gail could weigh in.

10 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Todd, I think that's fine.
11 Why don't we go to Gail.

12 MR. LEDWIN: Okay.

13 PRESIDENT CLUFF: They're from the same
14 agency.

15 MS. WIPPELHAUSER: Okay. A couple of
16 things. I've looked at some data that was collected by
17 the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve people and
18 there are definitely shad, alewives, blue-back herring,
19 American eels, tomcod is interesting, rainbow smelt down
20 below the dam. So, we're very interested in getting
21 passage up into the river for those species. There's
22 also American eel upstream and our concern is getting
23 them back downstream into the ocean.

24 I looked at the surrender application.
25 There's a couple of things I was wondering about and I

1 don't know if this is an appropriate time to ask about
2 those -- have those questions answered.

3 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Sure. Go ahead. I
4 don't know if we can answer them for you, but we'll --
5 if we can, we'll attempt to.

6 MS. WIPPELHAUSER: Let me just see my
7 notes here. So, umm, so -- that -- Kennebec Power and
8 Light are the owners of the dams?

9 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Kennebunk Light &
10 Power that is --

11 MS. WIPPELHAUSER: Sorry. Okay. So, it
12 looks like you would be removing the flash boards at all
13 of the projects.

14 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Right.

15 MS. WIPPELHAUSER: At Kesslen it said, you
16 would disable the floodgates; is there a -- I don't know
17 if you'd -- consider -- considered flooding problems.

18 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: We have considered
19 flooding problems, but our project specifically states
20 that we're not flood attenuation and the open -- the
21 different liabilities -- if this is -- I'll stop there.
22 But, yes, we did consider.

23 MS. WIPPELHAUSER: Okay.

24 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Yes.

25 MS. WIPPELHAUSER: And then, there's -- it

1 looks like the penstocks would be permanently closed and
2 the trash racks removed and the penstocks might be
3 filled -- or the bypass gates would be filled. So, I
4 don't know if those completely eliminate any water from
5 going through the dam or around the dam. It can only go
6 over the dam; is that correct?

7 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: It would -- that is
8 correct. The majority of the water -- the flow would be
9 over the dam at that point.

10 MS. WIPPELHAUSER: Okay. I think those were
11 the only things I wanted to ask, but, again, we would be
12 very interested in getting upstream and downstream fish
13 passage at these projects. There are some fish-ways
14 which are -- there's a new company that's working on
15 this. They're pieces that you can put together.
16 They're kind of cast ahead of time and that might be
17 something that could be considered at these projects.

18 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Thank you, Gail.

19 MS. WIPPELHAUSER: Yup.

20 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: I'm going to send --
21 I'll stop. Okay. Let's see. Then we go to Kathy
22 Howatt, the Maine Department of Environmental
23 Protection. Good evening, Kathy.

24 MS. HOWATT: Yes, hi. This is Kathy Howatt,
25 I'm at the DEP -- it's nice to meet you, all who I

1 don't know. I have -- I have some questions and -- and
2 hopefully some information for you.

3 So, the Department has considered -- has
4 looked at the surrender plan and it has considered the
5 results of what are quality studies that were done in
6 support of a re-licensing. We had directed the -- the
7 prospective operator to do some certain studies and
8 those studies did show that there -- that there are
9 environmental effects from the presence of the dams.

10 Those environmental effects include two --
11 two different categories. The first that I wanted to
12 talk about a little bit was that the dissolved oxygen in
13 the impoundments at Dane Perkins and Twine Mill are
14 depressed below the state water quality classification
15 standards in the impoundments, but below the Twine Mill
16 dam, the D.O. sampling below the dam showed that it does
17 meet standards. And so, what that does indicate to us
18 is that it's the presence of the dam that caused the --
19 the -- not attainment of D.O. standards.

20 So, that being the case, there are a couple
21 of things going on that, I think, can help to ameliorate
22 that condition. And the first is that the surrender
23 plan does call for removal of the flash boards and that
24 will -- that will go some distance to help correct the
25 depressed dissolved oxygen, because it will both, at the

1 same time, reduce the depth of the impoundment and
2 increase the turnover of the water through the
3 impoundment. And so, both of those actions may have a
4 positive effect -- or are likely to have a positive
5 effect.

6 But we don't know if that will get you all
7 the way up to attainment, and so, I did want to talk to
8 you a little bit about the -- about KLPD's -- or, I
9 guess, plans or -- or operations post surrender. If
10 there's any opportunity to use the -- so -- maybe I
11 should back up a little bit.

12 The dissolved oxygen is primarily -- the
13 reason that the dissolved oxygen in the impoundments is
14 depressed below standards is that the depth of the water
15 creates opportunity for the -- for the water to
16 stratify. And, so, depending on the temperature of the
17 water, the -- the dissolved oxygen is depressed at
18 depth. It gets used up by the plants and the things
19 that are there, so -- but the -- I'm sorry -- the
20 critters and things that are there. Decomposition as
21 well.

22 And so, like I said before, the decreasing
23 the depth of the impoundment and increasing the turnover
24 of water through the impoundment can improve the
25 dissolved oxygen. However, during the low temperature

1 -- or the high temperature/low flow times of the year,
2 in the late parts of the summer, it also would help to
3 be able to put the water through the penstocks because
4 you'd be drawing the water from deeper and so, you'd be
5 removing the water that's depressed oxygen and give it a
6 chance to tumble around and get re-oxygenated.

7 So, I wanted to ask you if there were any
8 plans for -- for maintenance, management and operation
9 of the dams other than just allowing the water to flow?

10 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Mr. President, would
11 you like to handle that or would you like me to?

12 PRESIDENT CLUFF: I guess I would defer to
13 you, Todd. Just on the question about the penstocks, I
14 know that we've put this in there, that we were going to
15 fill them in and there was more -- my belief was that it
16 was more; that we needed to do this for FERC to show
17 that we were fully surrendering the generation of power,
18 and that we were disconnecting the generators,
19 disconnecting the transformers. And then, as part of
20 that, we were going to fill in the penstocks to show
21 that they were never going to be used again for
22 generation.

23 So, I don't know if the Board was to
24 consider not filling in the penstocks for that reason,
25 to keep the water flowing to help on the oxygenation,

1 and if the Board would consider that or not. Or, if you
2 felt that it was something, because of the FERC
3 requirements, that we wouldn't want to do.

4 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: I don't believe it
5 would be something that stringent, but I'd like to get
6 legal advice on that at the next scheduled meeting,
7 because I don't know that that would be a really -- a
8 deal-breaker with FERC, but I think we should discuss it
9 with Todd.

10 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Okay. So, if you could
11 just make a note of that so we can discuss that with
12 legal counsel.

13 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Absolutely.

14 PRESIDENT CLUFF: We're meeting with legal
15 counsel in, like, two weeks?

16 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: March 23rd.

17 PRESIDENT CLUFF: March 23rd. So three
18 weeks. So that can be an item that we can address.

19 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Absolutely.

20 MS. HOWATT: Terrific. We really appreciate
21 you taking the opportunity to discuss that and speak
22 about that as a potential step. I mean, it really would
23 help the water quality aspect of this. If the water
24 were to flow -- but we're not asking the water to be
25 flowing during the very high water times, because when

1 the water is very high anyway, it could cause damage.
2 You know, flood-flows in the spring of the year could
3 cause damage to the structures, and we're not asking
4 about that. We're not interested in promoting that sort
5 of thing. But, it's when the water flow is lower and
6 the temperatures are higher, like in August, July,
7 September. Like, that, later in the summer timeframe.

8 PRESIDENT CLUFF: More so when the water is
9 not going over the dams?

10 MS. HOWATT: Yeah. Right. It's not going
11 over the dams. It's kind of stuck behind there and if
12 it could flow though, it would be much better for the
13 water quality aspect of -- of the project.

14 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Todd, do we have any
15 controls on the penstock, on the amount of water that
16 flows through that --

17 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: We currently -- we
18 currently can funnel it down, so I don't -- I don't
19 imagine that it would be anything that -- a huge
20 retrofit.

21 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Okay.

22 MS. HOWATT: Yeah, yeah, yeah. And you
23 wouldn't not need like -- like the turbines and stuff
24 like that all could be gone. It just would be an avenue
25 for the -- to move the water from a little deeper in the

1 impoundment out through so that it has a chance to
2 aerate.

3 And the other thing that I wanted to talk to
4 you a little bit about is that the benthic
5 macroinvertebrates -- the study of the benthic
6 macroinvertebrates, they were surveyed downstream at the
7 Twine Mill dam, not downstream of the Dane Perkins dam,
8 because the impoundment goes all the way to the toe of
9 that second dam, and so there's not -- there's not a
10 free flowing area of stream in which to do the study.

11 So, it was done below the Twine Mill dam and
12 what they -- what they found was that the -- the benthic
13 macroinvertebrates did not meet -- they did not meet the
14 class B aquatic life and habitat standards. But, again,
15 I think that if we can get the water moving, I think
16 that we'll see an improvement in that -- in that aspect.
17 But, I did want to bring it to your attention.

18 Those two parts of the water quality
19 studies, the dissolved oxygen and the macroinvertebrates
20 did not meet the Class B standards that are the target,
21 the goal, for this piece of the river. So, I just
22 wanted to bring that to your attention. I wanted to
23 make sure that you are aware of those deficiencies and
24 that it is the -- it is the goal to meet the
25 classification standards, Class B water.

1 PRESIDENT CLUFF: I don't believe that the
2 Board was aware of that and thank you for bringing that
3 to our attention.

4 TRUSTEE FREUDENREICH: Yes. Excellent.
5 Thank you.

6 MS. HOWATT: Super. Well, that's all I had.
7 I wanted to bring those to your attention and to talk
8 with you about the -- whether there was an opportunity
9 to have a little bit of a different flow regime with
10 some, you know, late summer operation of the dams in
11 order to get the water moving that would improve our
12 water quality issues there and -- and with that, that's
13 all I've got and we'll certainly be available to answer
14 any questions that you have, or to help you to better
15 understand, or I can provide you the data if you're
16 interested in those -- those pieces for your own
17 knowledge and files. Thank you.

18 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Thank you very much,
19 Kathy.

20 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: I think -- Mr.
21 President, I think that is everyone from an agency that
22 was involved in the initial conversation.

23 PRESIDENT CLUFF: So, we have no other
24 agencies out there to speak to us tonight?

25 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Not in the state or

1 federal.

2 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Okay. So, I just wanted
3 to do a quick summary. It's more informational for some
4 of the agencies. I know that some of you may be new to
5 the process with us. Some of you may have been with us
6 through the entire process.

7 The Board and Kennebunk Light & Power
8 District began this journey probably about ten years
9 ago, when we looked at -- we knew that our license was
10 coming up for renewal and so we started the
11 conversations at that point. So, the first couple of
12 years the conversations were just amongst the Board
13 members just trying to get an education on the process
14 and what we might be looking at down the road and, I
15 think, back then we really didn't have a clear picture
16 of everything that we were going to see along this
17 journey to where we are today.

18 The Board, as you may or may not know, has
19 changed over those years as well. I believe that I'm
20 the only member of the Board that is still here since
21 day one when we began this. All of the other board
22 members have changed over. So, as we've had changeover,
23 there's been the process of getting those new board
24 members up to speed as they came on, but then we also
25 had their perspectives that were all taken into

1 consideration and then we all had to work
2 collaboratively as a board to come to the consensus that
3 we came to.

4 Probably three years ago, the Board at that
5 time decided that generation was not something that we
6 wanted to continue to do because of the cost. The Board
7 has always looked at this as what is most cost effective
8 to the Kennebunk Light & Power District as a whole and
9 what expenses would be borne by all of those ratepayers
10 and trying to be aware of that as we go.

11 When the Board decided that we weren't going
12 to do generation a few years ago, it was primarily
13 because when we looked at it, the cost of replacing all
14 of the generation facilities was going to be a very
15 large expense. We were looking at, you know, probably
16 upwards of four to five hundred thousand dollars per
17 site just for updating the generation and that didn't
18 include any improvements that we would have to make to
19 the dams. Also, it didn't -- we knew that if we did
20 that at the time we would be most likely looking at fish
21 passage at -- on each dam, because we would be going for
22 another license for another 20, 30, 40 years, whatever
23 the -- at that time.

24 So, at that time, the Board decided not to
25 do generation. We sent the letter to FERC that we were

1 not going to do generation and our hope was that we
2 could then sell the facilities to somebody else that
3 would then take on the task of generating. We
4 advertised it. We did have one company come forth,
5 which looked promising, but then we got toward the end
6 of that process and that fell apart.

7 We then came up to the expiration of that
8 timeline and so then the Board had to make their next
9 final decision, which was the decision that they made at
10 this time, and that was to surrender in place. We
11 looked at what it was going to cost for the removal of
12 the dams and what impacts it would have and those
13 brought up concerns from the Board. They weren't sure
14 what impact it would have on certain areas of the river,
15 what costs that would come from that, and so the Board
16 decided to go down the surrender in place path.

17 The Board has considered -- as we were doing
18 this, we considered the fish passage, but at each time
19 it wasn't that the Board didn't want to do it. It came
20 down to an expense and when we do that, and we knew at
21 this time that FERC wasn't requiring it -- the Board is
22 very aware that we may go through this process with FERC
23 and FERC is going to require that and if that's the
24 case, then the Board will come back and we'll have to
25 look at it and see what FERC's requirements are. I

1 think we're also aware that even once our FERC license
2 is gone and we're from underneath the federal
3 requirements, we're going to have the state requirements
4 and we know that we're going to need to continue to work
5 with our state agencies as these dams stay in place.

6 So, even though our FERC license expires,
7 KLPD is going to have to deal with the dams for -- for
8 quite some time, as well, and where we go with that, and
9 what improvements we have, we'll work through those with
10 our state agencies for the better of everyone.

11 I think that's a quick overview of our
12 ten-year journey on where we're at. I appreciate your
13 time as agencies; coming in and speaking with us. I
14 think, you know, we're going to get to know each other a
15 lot better through this final stage and then in the
16 years to come as we move forth.

17 I know that there's been some comments that
18 the Board didn't let the agencies participate in the
19 beginning or that we didn't have these meetings before
20 and I take exception to that, because this board has
21 been so open in this process. We've had so many public
22 comment meetings where any of the agencies that came we
23 listened to them. We took comments.

24 Did we set up an individual agency meeting
25 just for you? No. But we had so many other

1 opportunities where any one of the agencies could have
2 come in and spoken to us and we listened to everybody.
3 I can't count the times that we've gone above and
4 beyond. And so, that's the only piece, because I keep
5 hearing that, that we didn't open the door and we didn't
6 let you guys come in and talk to us and I kind of take
7 exception to that.

8 But other than that I think, you know, going
9 down the road, we're here to work with you and we're
10 going to have to compromise as we go into the years to
11 come. I'm not sure if any of our other Board members
12 would like to make some comments. I'll go around.

13 Beverly, do you have anything that you would
14 like to add?

15 TRUSTEE FREUDENREICH: Well, I appreciate
16 meeting who these agencies are and so I was taking notes
17 by your names and an understanding of when I hear your
18 name to know which agency. I appreciate kind of this
19 input on -- on some of the parts like you were talking
20 about the penstock and some things on that, and the
21 oxygen in the water, and if that is a flexibility that
22 FERC would have, that -- that looks like something and
23 if that will not, liability wise, affect us, I think
24 that that is something that the attorney will have to
25 tell us. But I do appreciate you being here.

1 I'm the newest person on the Board.
2 However, I have followed this very, very closely for
3 five years, so I feel comfortable with it. The people
4 love the Mousam River running through their community
5 and they care for it very, very much and so we want to
6 take care of it.

7 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Thanks, Beverly.

8 Dan, do you have anything --

9 TRUSTEE FREUDENREICH: So thank you very
10 much for coming.

11 PRESIDENT CLUFF: -- you'd like to -- Dan?
12 Todd, is Dan still with us?

13 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: He is. I asked him
14 to un-mute. Either he can't un-mute or he doesn't have
15 any comment.

16 CLERK BARTILUCCI: Hello?

17 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: There he is.

18 PRESIDENT CLUFF: How are you?

19 CLERK BARTILUCCI: I'm good but thank you.

20 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Okay. Thanks, Dan.

21 Bobby, do you have anything to add?

22 VICE-PRESIDENT EMMONS: No, I'm good. Thank
23 you.

24 PRESIDENT CLUFF: All right. And did Scott
25 ever make it into the meeting?

1 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: He is in the meeting.
2 Let me ask him if he has anything to add. Scott, if you
3 want to talk, please un-mute yourself.

4 (No verbal response.)

5 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: I guess he has
6 nothing to say, Duffy.

7 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Let's just go around one
8 more time with our agencies to see if they have anything
9 final to say or recap.

10 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Kathy -- Kathy Howatt
11 has her hand up, so I'll ask her first and then --

12 MS. HOWATT: Yes. Thank you. Umm, so, I
13 just want to make sure that I'm clear that KLPD is going
14 to continue to own the dams into the foreseeable future;
15 is that a correct --

16 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Yes.

17 MS. HOWATT: -- assumption?

18 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Yes.

19 MS. HOWATT: Okay.

20 PRESIDENT CLUFF: That is correct.

21 MS. HOWATT: So you'll be who we're dealing
22 with moving forward through any issues or --

23 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Right. And --

24 MS. HOWATT: (Inaudible).

25 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Yeah, like I stated, we're

1 going to be working -- KLPD is going to be working with
2 all of our state agencies moving forth once we get out
3 from underneath the FERC requirements, and then, you
4 know, we'll set up with the state agencies to see what
5 requirements we need to meet on your behalf now that
6 we're not following the federal guidelines.

7 MS. HOWATT: Terrific. We're here to help
8 you with any of those steps as we can.

9 PRESIDENT CLUFF: All right. We appreciate
10 your support. Thank you.

11 MS. HOWATT: Thank you.

12 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: I'm going to go to
13 Bill McDavitt next because he had his hand up and put it
14 down. He might have changed his mind, but I'm going to
15 give him -- oops. Sorry, Bill. I just re-muted you.

16 MR. McDAVITT: Yeah, well --

17 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: There you are.

18 MR. McDAVITT: Just to the extent -- I mean,
19 we hear you. It's been a long journey. You've been
20 studying this for awhile. A lot of this -- I've been
21 following this and a lot of this is not new. I mean, I
22 understand with board's fiduciary responsibilities.
23 It's just -- you know, Kessler is clearly the end of the
24 road for fish and either -- either you think the Board
25 has a responsibility to try to mitigate that -- I mean,

1 the Mousam River has restoration potential. It is
2 possible to get shad and alewife above to habitat. Now,
3 just -- to the extent that the Board can spend money, or
4 wants to spend money, or research grants, or find ways
5 to raise money, you know, that's something for the Board
6 to consider, but -- and, yes, we are -- we also
7 understand that there are other dams in the river, but
8 this cross-pointing of fingers, well, there's dams
9 upstream, therefore. We don't have to do anything and
10 the upstream owners can say, well, there's dams
11 downstream. And really, restoration starts at Kessler.
12 Kessler is the end of the road for several fish and
13 there's restoration potential. There is grant money out
14 there.

15 We -- again, I understand your fiduciary
16 responsibility, but to the extent that there's ways to
17 get creative to find pots of money and really mitigate
18 that impact and play a role in restoring migratory fish
19 on the Mousam River -- I mean, that's really a question
20 for -- you know, if you guys want to have an executive
21 session, whatever, that's fine, but I just think a
22 question for the Board to ask is, what role do we want
23 to play in restoring migratory fish in the Mousam River?
24 Kessler is the end of the road for these migratory fish
25 for many, many years. You got the benefit from the

1 electricity. You know, you had generation. There's
2 clearly a benefit from that. There's no questions
3 there's a benefit, but -- the water was your fuel. The
4 water is a public resource and that public resource has
5 aquatic resources in it. And so, again, you need to ask
6 yourself, given that we benefited, we made the power, we
7 sold it to our customers, there's clearly a benefit, but
8 there's also costs and there's also product impacts, and
9 that's -- that's a question for the Board to answer.
10 What -- do you want to continue to have that product
11 impact that you've had for years? Do you want to have
12 that impact going forward? Or do you want to play a
13 role in mitigating your impacts? Do you want to play a
14 role in restoring aquatic resources and migratory fish
15 to the Mousam River?

16 PRESIDENT CLUFF: All right. Thank you,
17 Bill. I think, you know, in the years to come, these
18 are all going to be answers that the Board is going to
19 have to work with and determine. I don't -- like I
20 stated before, I do not see this as -- once we get this
21 FERC process completed, I don't see this being the end
22 of the road. I think that KLPD is going to be dealing
23 with this, going down the road, whether we want to or
24 not, and we're going to have to look at that and say,
25 you know, is there state money, or federal money, or

1 grants, or something that would help to change that and
2 can it be done?

3 I think KLPD could on its own, and this is
4 my personal opinion, I'm not speaking on behalf of the
5 Board on this, but that is something that we're going to
6 have to investigate down the road.

7 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Okay. So the next
8 one I will go to, and I'll apologize if no -- if some of
9 these people don't have followup comments, I'll just --
10 Corbin, I'm going to pass right by you. Sean -- Sean
11 Ledwin, if you'd like to make any comments, I've asked
12 you to un-mute. You don't have to if you wouldn't --

13 MR. LEDWIN: Yeah, I can make a quick
14 comment. Again, it was great speaking with everyone
15 today and appreciate all the comments, interests and
16 certainly know there's a lot of good opportunities
17 there. You know, I certainly -- you know, not being
18 super familiar with some of the issues you guys are
19 dealing with, obviously the fiduciary issue -- you know,
20 there's obviously riparian landowners that, you know,
21 might want to see a particular thing stay the same or
22 want a change and I know you guys -- you know, all of
23 that gets factored into these conversations.

24 You know, I think there are a lot of good
25 opportunities to try to, you know, exchange information,

1 provide education and -- related to, you know, fisheries
2 and some of the constraints that are there with these
3 projects and try to come up with something that meets a
4 lot of the shared goals between you guys, the towns and
5 the agencies. So, you know, the more it can be
6 supported with public money -- and I think people could
7 walk away feeling better about things.

8 You know, there's -- there's also the other
9 side of that, which is kind of the hardball like, you
10 know, laws, regulations type of things. You know, I
11 think -- you know, as we comment to FERC, it's a little
12 bit of a challenge for, you know, because there is --
13 there is some responsibility for the agencies to comment
14 related to fish passage while the FERC process is
15 ongoing. You know, if there was -- if there was some
16 more conversations and we could have some more
17 commitment related to, you know, exploring different
18 alternatives, I think, you know, that might end up being
19 more mutually beneficial and less confrontational.

20 So, I do -- you know, there's certainly --
21 we've -- I've received a lot of, you know, interest.
22 Obviously it's a narrow set of folks that are -- but,
23 you know, important people in town that are really
24 interested in seeing fisheries restored here. You know,
25 people have reached out to our governor's office about

1 these projects. So, it is really important, fisheries
2 in the state of Maine. We're a marine state. It's --
3 you know, the resources are really important. They
4 bring people into town. You know, there's a lot of
5 benefits to the communities there and so I think -- you
6 know, I just -- you know, I think the best course is a,
7 you know, engagement and, you know, I guess I appreciate
8 -- this is maybe a good first step or, you know, fourth
9 step, whatever, but it would be great to continue that
10 and, you know, hold hands a little bit as we kind of go
11 through this. Otherwise, I think -- I have a feeling
12 there's interests that will, you know, pressure us to do
13 something, or DEP to do something, or how we comment
14 with FERC that would be more adversarial and might not
15 be the best outcome for everybody and so, we really
16 don't want that. These things can get really messy. I
17 don't -- we don't want that. So --

18 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Yes. So, Sean, I'd just
19 like to say that as long as I'm on the Board, I've got a
20 few years left on my term, I will always be open to
21 working with the agencies. I think that if we work
22 together it's better than, you know, the hammer coming
23 down.

24 MR. LEDWIN: Exactly.

25 PRESIDENT CLUFF: The hammer is never the

1 better option.

2 MR. LEDWIN: Yes.

3 PRESIDENT CLUFF: I think, you know, one of
4 the biggest -- I would say, as far as I'm concerned, the
5 biggest struggle we've had as the many different board
6 members that have been on here, has been the unknowns.
7 This process through FERC is not a black and white.
8 It's not a very clear --

9 MR. LEDWIN: I know. Yeah. We feel the
10 same way.

11 PRESIDENT CLUFF: It's not a clear unknown
12 that here's option A, here's option -- it's not cut and
13 dry.

14 MR. LEDWIN: Right.

15 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Even with our legal
16 counsel trying to get -- our legal counsel is providing
17 us with the best advice and -- that they can, but
18 there's -- they don't have, you know, the exact answer
19 either, and so, that's been the biggest challenge. So,
20 the Board is trying to navigate through this as best as
21 they can, making the decisions they can and, you know,
22 we're held under this license and we know that we need
23 to get out from underneath the license, and we're trying
24 to do that through this process, but it's all the
25 unknowns, and we're trying not to step on any land mines

1 as we navigate through this.

2 And once we get through this, on the other
3 side, like I said, I think that's when we have the
4 opportunity to work with our local state agencies and
5 try to see where we can go from there. So....

6 MR. LEDWIN: Thank you, David. And thank
7 you, everyone, for having -- having us. I really
8 appreciate it. It's great seeing some faces in here
9 from you.

10 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Thank you, Sean.

11 Mr. President, I was going to go to Gail
12 Wippelhauser next, but Scott Ducharme seems to be able
13 to communicate now. Scott, do you want to give it a
14 shot?

15 TRUSTEE DUCHARME: Yeah, can you read me
16 now?

17 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Yes, sir.

18 TRUSTEE DUCHARME: Yeah, I think Duffy --
19 President Duffy laid out, pretty much, the history well,
20 but there's a couple of things to the agencies I'd like
21 to mention. Number one, the -- the Board did change,
22 like he said, and before it really changed in June of
23 2016, they voted to surrender the license, so we could
24 never produce power on those as KLPD again. It would
25 have to be by another agency and, of course, we all know

1 what happened with that. And the other thing is, also,
2 the Town voted to -- over 70 percent of the Town voted
3 to keep the dams, even if -- even without power
4 generation at that time. And that's where the Board has
5 worked and why we -- why we are staying where we're at.

6 My questions to, probably the lady who was
7 talking about oxygen, is it possible, if we kept the
8 floodgates and opened them now and then in the
9 summertime and let it refill, that that would solve the
10 problem of sedimentation and no oxygen in the water?
11 That's pretty much all I have. Thank you.

12 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Kathy, that would be a
13 question to you.

14 MS. HOWATT: Sure. We would be able to
15 maybe take a look at that. I'd want to consult with our
16 -- with the department's water engineers about that,
17 what they think that would do or whether that would --
18 because really, I don't think -- I don't think, off the
19 top of my head, that you want to just drain the
20 impoundments and then refill them because of the
21 critters that live there. That could be pretty harmful
22 to them.

23 So, the idea of just running the water
24 through the penstock during the late summer was what I
25 had come up with, but let me give some thought to it and

1 talk with our environmental assessment staff and water
2 engineers and maybe we can come up with some other ideas
3 for consideration by the Board.

4 TRUSTEE DUCCHARME: One other thing. Can you
5 hear me?

6 MS. HOWATT: Yes, I can.

7 TRUSTEE DUCCHARME: Okay. One other thing.
8 You mentioned that the -- below the Kesslen Dam the
9 oxygen content was fine but above it the oxygen content
10 was low. Would that have anything to do with the --
11 with the tide every six months -- I mean, every six
12 hours being changed with salt water tide there? And
13 also, how would it affect, even with the -- with the
14 dams above Twine Mill and Dane Perkins, how would that
15 affect the water? They're not moving anything. They're
16 still staying the same, the dams, the dams above our
17 dams. Thank you.

18 MS. HOWATT: Sure. Sure. So, the water
19 quality below the Kesslen Dam, the dissolved oxygen was
20 fine in the reach below the dam. We did not sample --
21 or -- not us. We didn't do the sampling at all, but AFH
22 did not sample the impoundment above the Kesslen Dam
23 because they had determined, at some point in their
24 application process, that they were not going to try to
25 license that facility. They only wanted to license the

1 top -- the upper two dams, and so they didn't do any
2 studies. We don't know what the condition of the water
3 is in the Kesslen impoundment. We do know what the
4 water quality condition is in the Dane Perkins
5 impoundment and in the Twine Mill impoundment and those
6 were the two that I was specifically referencing as far
7 as the operations of the dams -- or the flowing water in
8 the late summer through the penstock, to try to move
9 that lower oxygen water out, give it a chance to get
10 more mixing and more, you know, turbulence and that
11 helps to bring -- that helps to increase the dissolved
12 oxygen there.

13 But I didn't make any statements about the
14 Kesslen impoundment because we don't have any data
15 there. As far as --

16 TRUSTEE DUCHARME: Yeah, well --

17 MS. HOWATT: Oops. Go ahead.

18 TRUSTEE DUCHARME: Yeah, and of course,
19 below the Kesslen Dam it's pretty much a rocky river
20 flowing -- water flowing and also, is every six hours, a
21 tide going up and down, that has to have an affect on
22 it, so you would have oxygen generated in the water just
23 by hitting the rocks.

24 MS. HOWATT: Yes. Right. So the flow --
25 right. Yes, exactly. So the flow -- the downstream

1 flow does -- when the water tumbles on the rocks it, you
2 know, it gets exposed to a lot more atmospheric oxygen
3 and that can be -- that gets added into it, so -- and
4 becomes dissolved into the water. So, in that respect,
5 that is -- that is part of the reason why the dissolved
6 oxygen samples that were collected below the Kessler Dam
7 -- but, of course, you know, I'm sure that, like you
8 said, you know, fresh water or, you know, sea water
9 coming in probably is also well oxygenated -- you know,
10 the water is well oxygenated so that helps as well.

11 The primary concern that I had for the --
12 for the dissolved oxygen is what we had sampled in the
13 impoundments and how, you know, we know that there's --
14 that the problem is created by the presence of the dams
15 because the dissolved oxygen is okay. So it's really --

16 TRUSTEE DUCHARME: Oh, oh, wait.

17 MS. HOWATT: -- the water that's in the
18 impoundments that's a problem.

19 TRUSTEE DUCHARME: I -- okay. The only
20 place that I see where the dams would be -- where they
21 have the falls, if you took out the -- I think it's at
22 Twine Mill Falls, and pretty much, when we lower the
23 water level, there is ponding all through from Kessler
24 all the way up to the falls and beyond the falls is just
25 ponding. So the water -- you'd have to test the water

1 quality at the next dam up. If there's no oxygen in
2 that, and it's coming over, there's no way -- and
3 there's ponding being developed except for at the falls
4 itself, you would still have no oxygen until it hit down
5 by Kesslen and started hitting the rocks again. Would I
6 be correct in that assessment?

7 MS. HOWATT: No. No, you are not.

8 TRUSTEE DUCHARME: What's this now?

9 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Scott, she said you would
10 not be correct in your assessment.

11 TRUSTEE DUCHARME: Oh. So there would be no
12 ponding and there would be oxygen in the ponds if there
13 was ponding?

14 MS. HOWATT: I'm not sure I understand, I
15 guess, what you're point is. We -- so the samples were
16 collected in the impoundment at Dane Perkins and at
17 Twine Mill and oxygen was also sampled below Twine Mill
18 and below Kesslen. Below Kesslen and below Twine Mill
19 the dissolved oxygen met the standard. But in the
20 impoundment of Dane Perkins and in the impoundment of
21 Twine Mill, it did not meet the standards. If that's
22 the -- the Class B requirements.

23 TRUSTEE DUCHARME: I understand that.
24 That's correct. But, if you had the dams removed, if
25 you had the dams removed and that's -- we've had all the

1 water drawn out as if the dams were not there and over
2 the years it's basically just a mud patch. There's no
3 rocks except for at the falls, so you would have a lot
4 of ponding in August and there would be very little
5 oxygenation -- oxygen in the water at that time because
6 --

7 MS. HOWATT: Why?

8 TRUSTEE DUCHARME: -- there would be no
9 water -- no oxygen above the last dam that is still
10 there.

11 MS. HOWATT: I thought you guys were keeping
12 the dams? I thought that that was kind of your plan?

13 TRUSTEE DUCHARME: Yeah, that's where we
14 are.

15 MS. HOWATT: So I'm --

16 TRUSTEE DUCHARME: We are keeping the dams.

17 MS. HOWATT: I'm rather confused by the
18 point that you're trying to make. I don't understand
19 what point you're making.

20 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Yeah, Scott, you're
21 confusing the subject a little bit.

22 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Do you have any more
23 questions, Scott?

24 TRUSTEE DUCHARME: Well, It's just the -- I
25 guess the main thing for them would just be to have the

1 -- find out if we kept the flood gates would that help
2 with the oxygen.

3 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Okay.

4 PRESIDENT CLUFF: And Kathy said that she
5 would look into that and get back to us on that.

6 MS. HOWATT: Okay.

7 TRUSTEE DUCHARME: Thank you.

8 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Thanks, Scott. We're just
9 going to go to Gail. I think Gail is the last agency we
10 haven't heard from.

11 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Yes.

12 PRESIDENT CLUFF: And then Todd would like
13 to make some comments.

14 MS. WIPPELHAUSER: I will be very quick.
15 I've worked on a number of fish passages with towns and
16 they've been small, relatively small ones, and in most
17 cases they become a focal point for the town. There's
18 always people there watching the fish go upstream with
19 their kids and I just wanted to point that out. Thank
20 you.

21 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Thank you, Gail.

22 Todd, do you have some comments?

23 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: I'd like -- I've been
24 dealing with this for six years. I've dealt with
25 probably more than ten Board members on this process.

1 Somebody mentioned adversarial, I think it was Sean
2 Ledwin, and I appreciate that because on my end, and
3 this hasn't -- this has been -- and I'm not -- that's
4 not personal to anyone. I've developed relationships
5 with several of the people that have given their opinion
6 on the river. We may have different perspectives, but I
7 can understand theirs and that's what I've been doing
8 for the last six years, is kind of gleaning what's out
9 there and what people are looking for.

10 And, what we had to do as the Board, as
11 staff at KLPD, is to go back to the facts and the facts
12 were that in 1954 we became a district -- in 1951 we
13 became a district. In 1954 we rebuilt a concrete
14 gravity dam that replaced the original dams that had
15 been there since the late 1600s. In 1954, no one, not a
16 single agency, we even have a letter from Inland
17 Fisheries and Wildlife, that said that no fish passage
18 would be required.

19 I'm responsible to my ratepayers. 40 years
20 have gone by with not a single ask or not a single
21 demand to put fish passage on our dams. It's not that
22 fish passage doesn't belong there. That's not my
23 opinion to say, but the Mousam is a problem river. It
24 is heavily dammed. We get water from the Sanford Sewer
25 District that comes into our impoundments that affects

1 our water quality. We have upstream facilities that are
2 non FERC regulated. All of these things came into the
3 decision for the Board to make. And to the 7,000
4 ratepayers that we are responsible to in the towns of
5 Lyman, Wells, Arundel and Kennebunk, this is the answer
6 that we needed to give.

7 The District doesn't have a lot of money.
8 We're not the investor owned utility and there were --
9 several of these Board members have been taken to task
10 publically, taken to task privately, and probably spent,
11 you know, a few nights sleeplessly because of the
12 process. We haven't not wanted to talk. We just needed
13 to get ourselves in line to get out of the FERC license
14 that we are -- we are sitting with.

15 And so, I'm willing to talk and listen to
16 anyone. I'm willing to -- but I only have so much power
17 and there's a long history of those conversations that
18 have been had. That may have been forgotten with
19 agencies that are sitting here now that, under a
20 different administration, might have been a different
21 kind of a conversation.

22 We made the decision -- the Board made the
23 decision they did in the best interest of the
24 ratepayers. Not specifically to be impactful to the
25 potential for restoration and so I --

1 That's it, Duffy. Thank you for letting me
2 speak, but I've spent six years dealing with this. I
3 know the Mousam River better than I ever imagined I'd
4 know anything.

5 As an aside, I was looking at the history of
6 York County. In 1872 it was written -- or 1879 -- I
7 accidentally landed on it. I said, hey, let's check the
8 Mousam River and the references to the dams on the
9 Mousam River are spot on and that's -- that's even
10 better than the research we had done. We had gone back
11 to 16 -- 1773 and there are references in the history of
12 York County that go back to 1672 I believe was the date.

13 And so, this wasn't a decision that was
14 taken lightly. This wasn't a decision that was made in
15 a vacuum. We've heard what everybody has had to say and
16 the Board had to make the decision they made.

17 Thank you, Duffy.

18 PRESIDENT CLUFF: Thank you, Todd.

19 Okay. I think, at this point, we've heard
20 from everybody. Everyone has had a chance to make
21 comments. I want to thank all of the agencies for your
22 time and for your input and we will definitely look into
23 the question that Kathy raised with the oxygenation and
24 the penstocks, so we'll know more about that moving
25 forward and if we need to make an adjustment to our plan

1 just before we send it off, the Board can make that
2 decision.

3 But, with that said, I think, you know, we
4 look forward to -- the Board looks forward to working
5 with the state agencies in the future as we move forth
6 once the FERC license is behind us and that we can make
7 a partnership to do what we need to do.

8 So, thank you again for your time.

9 GENERAL MANAGER SHEA: Thank you, Duffy.
10 I'm going to end the meeting now. Thank you everyone.

11 (Whereupon, the proceeding adjourned at 6:00
12 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, KATHLEEN A. DE MARRE, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the Kennebunk Light & Power District Open Public Meeting heard on Tuesday, March 02, 2021.

I DO FURTHER STATE that this transcript was prepared to the best of my ability and I am neither a relative, nor attorney, nor counsel of any of the parties to this action, and that I am not financially interested in the action.

Kathleen A. De Marre

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