



# Augusta's Aging Infrastructure

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# What we do

- Water treatment and distribution
- Wastewater collection
- Stormwater collection
- Wastewater treatment

# Water infrastructure

- 5,780 customers
- 130 miles of infrastructure
- 10 storage tanks
- 9 pump stations
- 3 wells
- 1 mothballed filtration plant from 1991
- \$5M annual budget
- \$1.5M annual debt (1991 plant)

# Sewer & stormwater infrastructure

- 4,700 customers
- 120 miles of sewer pipe
- 38 miles of underdrain
- 17 pump stations
- 3,300 catch basins
- Regional waste treatment plant / trunkline
- \$5M annual budget
- \$1.5M annual debt

# Challenges

- Provide service to Governor, Legislature, DEP, Department of Labor, Drinking Water Program, PUC... No pressure...
- Small ratepayer base carries a large financial burden
- Failing pipes are not as likely to get \$\$ for repair as failing bridges or schools w/ lead paint
- Need to spend money on infrastructure is greater than our will to ask customers for it

# Accomplishments

- Since 2004, have been merging water and wastewater together (not in the same pipe...)
- November 6, 2007 referendum vote to allow utilities to merge under same charter - *please vote yes if you live in Augusta or Hallowell...*
- Many talk about regionalization; doing it is far more difficult but our best opportunity to save ratepayers' money

# Merger benefits

- Save over \$500k / year in admin labor costs
- Way easier to plan / budget having control of water / sewer / stormwater
- Single safety program / insurance / audit; has saved lots of time related to “soft” costs
- Single union contract / non-union personnel manual
- We believe that the Governor “copied” our idea with the whole schools thing...

# Future

- Would like to replace 1% of pipe each year
- Will cost about \$1M per year to do this on each side (water / sewer; less on storm drain)
- “Chasing the receding zero” – increasingly difficult regs based on new detection technologies
- \$8M CSO costs in 2010 will paralyze expenditures for many years; more CSO expenses to come
- Class B Kennebec will cost about \$1M to comply

# Almost the last slide...

## Getting to the future

- Continue support for SRF
- Love to have grants (we're thinking of a \$15M bottle drive / bake sale) but unlikely
- GIS based asset management – we can't fix pipes if we don't know where they are
- Increase public awareness that “pulling the silver handle” does cost real dollars

# The last slide!

Take homes:

- Work together wherever you can esp. locally
- Continue to thank and vote for elected officials who support SRF programs
- Set your planning horizon at 10 / 50 / 100 years
- Leave your system better than you found it