

APPROVED

MeWEA Executive Board Meeting

In-Person & Zoom
MWUA Office
November 17, 2023

MINUTES

Attendance: Emily Cole Prescott, Jeff McBurnie, Stephen Knollmeyer, Jim Cohen, Joan Kiszely.

Zoom Attendance: Tim Wade, Theresa Tucker, Phil Tucker, Stacy Thompson, Andre Brousseau, Evan Pereira, Jennifer Nicholson, Peter Zaykoski, Amanda Smith, Greg Wood, Charlene Poulin, Rob Pontau Sierra Kuun, Dan Marks, Alex Buechner, Dan Marks.

Absent: Travis Peaslee, Andy Wendell, Paula Drouin

Call to Order: Vice President Emily Cole-Prescott called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

Quorum: It was determined there was a Quorum.

Minutes: Motion made by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Terry Tucker, all approved the October 20, 2023, minutes

Treasurer's Report: Jeff McBurnie reported on the October 2023 financial report. & budget. Jeff reported the following:

- They really must watch what they are spending.
- He is putting together the budget.
- The following Committee Chairs have not turned in their Budget Request. They are as follows: Government Affairs Public Relations, New Professional, Membership, Communication, and Convention.
- Signed the Sunday River check this a.m. which was the largest check he ever signed for MeWEA.
- Black Fly Media would be supported by
- Reserve is under \$100,000.
- They do not have the revenue.
- Looking at travel to save money.
- Legislative Expenses are up.

There was a brief discussion in regard to the budget and the need for committee chairs to submit their budget request.

- Jeff wants to have a draft budget out there soon, however he needs the Committee Chairs budget request prior to getting the draft out.

Old Business:

Utility Manager Committee report: Rob Pontau reported the following:

- He sent out an email to request anyone that wanted to join would be welcomed and to let him know. Joan recirculated the same email.
- Planning to have their first meeting sometime this winter.
- Motion made by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Amanda Smith to create a Utility Manager Ad Hoc Committee.
- Rob will continue to fill seats on this committee.

Administrative Services Agreement w MWUA for 2024:

- Tim Wade reported they signed the contract between MWUA & MeWEA and put it in place 2 weeks ago. There was a 10% cost increase for 2024.

Pine Tree Power Update:

Tim Wade reported on the Pine Tree Power which was defeated.

Emily has contacted the Chambers, Planners, MeWEA, MWUA to work on a utilities event in April. Amanda will help with this effort. Tim, Terry & Phil are in favor of this. Jim Cohen is a member of the Chamber. She will give another update in December.

Black Fly Meda: Terry & Evan have been meeting with Diana. Relation to the Legislative Breakfast with media being present. Not in favor of having media there. Diana is looking for more stories.

Tim recommended the committee meet to potentially open the door for mix & match funds.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

DEP Report: Gregg Wood reported the following:

- Dec 7th at Board of Environmental Protection there will be a Public Hearing on the new ruling on Chapter 526.-316B part. EPA is responsible for this they have never done anything with it.
- MS4 Appeal for November 2 in front of the board. Appeal from The Friends of Casco Bay was settled by remanding the permit modification.

Only 13 of 30 were appealed. Only 17 were EPA wants to make sure they look at all 30 for LID. They are modifying the LID. After it goes on the paper, he will modify the permit.

- Chapter 500 rewrite- Stormwater Management out of the Land Bureau. LID will be the key and will piggyback with this) December 5 will be the first stakeholder group meeting.
- Maine Construction General Permit: The last time it was issued was 2006 expired in 2011. EPA wants them to update and renewed. The permit has been drafted and will go to EPA. Hopefully this will be done by March or April.

JETCC-NEIWPC: Peter Zaykoski submitted a report (attached at the end of minutes). He added the following:

- Fall training schedule continues.
- Reviewed their terms on the JETCC Board. Chris Kline is set to finish up on the Committee next May, however, would like to stay on and serve a second term.
- Management Candidate School started last week.
- Will hold their Graduation at the 2024 Fall Convention.
- In person training on Microbiology testing methods – November 30 in Brewer. Low registration right now.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE: Jim Cohen reported the following:

Maine Legislative Update: Jim Cohen provided a report. (attached at the end of minutes) He reported the following:

- The Public Legislative Affairs committee met on Wednesday.
- Legislative Breakfast is January 16th.
Topics of interest are Funding, PFAS, Biosolids, and Funding
Making sure Legislators know about all the good work they are doing.
- Legislators should start up the first of January.
- There are 500 carryover bills.
- Many committees met over the fall to talk about some of the bills
- Leadership of the legislators made it known they need votes on the 500 bills by the end of January.
- ENR Committee has been meeting. They are talking about PFAS & Law.
- 300 proposed Legislative Bills. These bills should be emergency bills.
The bills must be emergency bills.
- The Council met a week ago and out of 283 bills they let in 57 emergency bills.
- Yesterday they evaluated numerous bills that didn't get in. (230). 100 were appealed by legislators. Some were let in. 20 percent made it in.

- He is anticipating that Lewiston Event – issues are gun control, mental illness, public safety. Major topic of conversation.
- Homelessness & housing & workforce, labor issues, will be a crisis and budget will be another issue. The budget will be an issue.
- Carry over bills from the Labor committee that are very broad.
- Leadership is saying that the 500 carry over should be voted on by the end of January.
- There may be an opportunity for us to get more funding.
- Need a balanced budget.
- Right now there are just titles on the bills.
- There are 50 bills from the State Agencies. They were submitted over the summer.

Amanda Smith reported the following:

- Had a meeting and discussed the Legislative Breakfast:
- Scott Firmin had a recommendation for a Keynote Speaker
- Inviting IVY from Friends of Casco Bay to talk about Water Quality. Also to talk about the good things the group has done on Water Quality. Ivy is also working on Stormwater funding with Representative Bell.
- Scott did have a long conversation with Ivy.
- Looking to have this be more educational.
- Scott offered to introduce her.
- Trying to put a positive spin out there.
- Looking at topics on education
- Emily thanked Dan for stepping up..
- Partnerships & collaboration
- They are thinking of starting the breakfast off with the Progress of clean water in Maine then have Ivy come in after this presentation.
- Dan is the new co-chair and will be asking potential people for help.

State Directors Report: Paula Drouin was not present.

MWUA: Rob Pontau reported the following:

- Board meets next week.
- Lined up their Keynote Speaker for their February conference.
- Letter went out to all members on the Executive Director.
Reach out to him or the board if you have any input on the skill set for hiring a new Executive Director.
- Contracts are good to go. The MeWEA & MWUA came up with an Administrative Service Agreement and it has been signed.

MEWEA/MWUA Affiliate: Joan Kiszely was muted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards: Mike Guethle was absent.

Collection System: Travis Jones was absent.

Communications: Bryanna Denis reported on the following:

- The newsletter will be going out hopefully next week.

Convention: Stacy Thompson submitted a report. (attached at the end of minutes). She had no additional comments to report.

Laboratory: Andy Wendell was not present. He emailed Stephen Knollmeyer to complete the budget request. Steve reported the following:

- Met with Andy Wendell this week.
- He is learning the ropes.
- Thanked everyone for asking him to be the chair of this committee.

Membership Committee: Jennifer Nicholson reported on the following:

- Joan drafted a letter about dues increase and it went out to the membership.
- Membership Renewal will be coming out December 1st.

Personnel Advancement Report: Charlene Poulin reported the following:

- Been working on gathering sessions for the MWUA Conference.
- Emily thanked Charlene for doing this task.

Pretreatment Report: Terry Tucker did not have a report.

Public Relations: Evan Pereira submitted a Committee report (attached at the end of minutes). He added the following:

- His committee meets bi-weekly.
- Working with Jim Cohen and want to have a collaborative meeting with Government Affairs
- PFAS & Biosolids
- Brainstorming session coming up.

Residual Management Report: Travis Peaslee & Andre Brousseau submitted a report. (attached at the end of minutes). Andre Brousseau added the following:

- Email going on MeWEA support for NEBRA 2024. He put this in his budget.

Stormwater: Sarah King was absent.(see attached at the end of the minutes.)

Treatment Plant Operator Report: Alex Buechner was not present at the time of this report. He emailed the board his report. (see attached at the end of the minutes.

New Professionals Report: Sierra Kuun reported on the following:

- Meeting in December
- Wastewater & Water Professional Day.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Presidents Report: Tim Wade had nothing to report.

1st Vice President Report: Emily Prescott reported the following:

- Going into 2024 do we hold meetings every other month remotely?

2nd Vice President Report: Terry Tucker reported the following:

- NOAH Grant: Doesn't look like MeWEA can partner on this Grant. DEP stated that they will partner in. JETCC – Peter was interested in partnering with them also.
We may not be able to partner with them but can give them support.
- The Strategic Planning session will be held in Brunswick. April 12th was suggested, and this would be an all-day session. They will have an outline by December.
- April 9 & 10 is Washington Fly In

Immediate Past President: Dave Beauchamp was not present.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Rob asked what we are doing with the 3M & Dupont settlement lawsuit?

This is mainly for Water and then they go to Personal Injury

Agriculture & Wastewater

MeWEA should be putting the information out there.

He wanted to make sure everyone was aware of this.

York, Bangor & Brunswick has signed on.

MeWEA should be putting something out to the membership.

Emily will circle back to Rob, Amanda, Phil and Rob.

Deadline to sign on is December for Water Utilities

Upcoming Events

NEWEA

2024 Annual Conference January 21-24, 2024. Boston Marriott Copley Place
Boston, Massachusetts.

Spring Meeting May 19-22, 2024 – Spring Meeting, The Viking Hotel, Newport,
RI.

MeWEA & MWUA – Legislative Breakfast, January 16, 2024, Augusta Civic
Center.

MeWEA Fall Convention –September 18,19,20, 2024, Sunday River.

MWUA

MWUA Annual Conference - January 31-February 1, 2024, Augusta Civic Center

JETCC

Maine Management Candidate School – November 8, 2023, Yarmouth Public
Safety Building

North Country Convention – Spring 2025. Presque Isle

NEXT BOARD MEETING: December 15, 2023, at Brunswick Sewer District,
Brunswick, ME.

Adjourn: Motion made by Rob Pontau, seconded by Terry Tucker all approved to
adjourn the meeting at.10:26

A few people asked for some info on the poster contest and the Peer to Peer training program. Figured I would just share with everyone.

Peer to Peer

If you have not already heard about this, it's a great way for anyone working in this field to visit more facilities, receive onsite training that the DEP has approved for CEUs towards licenses, and network with peers.

And it's all free.

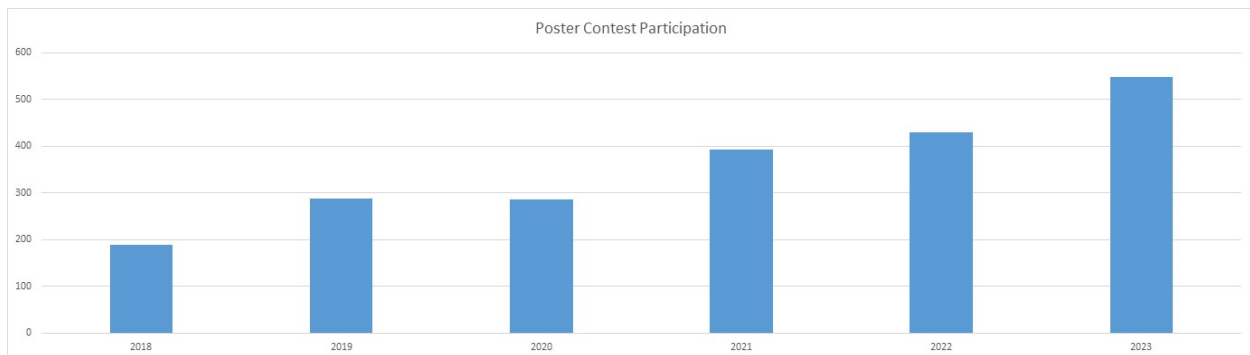
Here is a link with more info. [Operator Training \(mewea.org\)](http://mewea.org)

Please let me know if you have questions.

Poster Contest

We have continued to see record numbers of entries each year. (See chart below). I'd love to see this continue to grow. I think a personal touch makes a huge difference. Taking the time to give the flyers and entry forms to the schools in person goes a long way.

For example, two years ago I visited the Biddeford schools in person and talked to some teachers. That year Biddeford had more entries than any other school system in the state, two of which were included in the calendar. Last year I did not make the time to do that, and Biddeford had zero entries. Clearly visiting the schools made a big difference. I'll be dropping off some calendars and entry form at the Biddeford middle school when they get back from their Thanksgiving break. I have attached the entry form and intro letter to this email in hopes that some of you will find the time to do the same.



In 1983 the Maine Legislature made provisions to designate the first full week of June as Maine Clean Water Week. Maine Clean Water Week was created to increase the public's awareness of the improvements made in the quality of Maine's waterways. One of the primary reasons our

waterways have so greatly improved is due to the hard work of Maine's collection system and wastewater treatment plant professionals.

The Maine Water Environment Association (MEWEA) is a nonprofit organization whose goals include: promoting education and communication within the wastewater treatment industry and to the general public; supporting a balanced view of environmental policies; and enhancing the image of wastewater personnel.

In celebration of 2024 Maine Clean Water Week, the Maine Water Environment Association is again sponsoring a poster competition for Maine students. Recent years have been a tremendous success and we have received over 500 posters which are judged for creativity, delivering a strong message, and connecting with the Association's mission.

The theme of the competition is "WHY WATER'S WORTH IT TO ME!"

ME meaning YOU and Maine

Prizes will be awarded for the top poster for each age group and recognition for the top three posters in each age group.

Grades 1-3

Grades 4-6

Grades 7-8

Grades 9-12

In addition, the winning students' schools will receive recognition. The winners will be honored at the Maine Water Environment Association 2024 Fall Convention, at the Maine State House, or at a school assembly.

Thank you,

Alex Buechner

Maine Water Environment Association

2024

MAINE

CLEAN WATER WEEK POSTER CONTEST

SPONSORED BY THE

Maine Water Environment Association

WHY WATER'S WORTH IT TO ME

FIRST PRIZE Grades 1-3: Winning Student: \$100.00 Cash

FIRST PRIZE Grades 4-6: Winning Student: \$100.00 Cash

FIRST PRIZE Grades 7-8: Winning Student: \$100.00 Cash

FIRST PRIZE Grades 9-12: Winning Student: \$100.00 Cash

Who can submit a poster? Any student in Maine School Grades 1-12.

What do you submit? A poster no larger than 22" x 28" in a horizontal format, which illustrates what clean water means to you or why you think clean water is important to the State of Maine (ME). Use crayons, marker, paints or another format. (tip: Colorful posters are judges favorites!)

When is your poster due? All posters must be received by MEWEA by March 22, 2024

Where do I send my poster?

Questions?

Send or deliver posters to:

C/O MEWEA Clean Water Week Contest 2023

Maine Water Utilities Association

15 University Drive

Augusta, ME 04330

Visit www.mewea.org or contact Alex Buechner at alex.buechner@biddefordmaine.org

IMPORTANT!!

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO COMPLETE THE PROVIDED CONTEST ENTRY FORM AND ATTACH IT TO THE BACK OF YOUR POSTER. ALL POSTERS SUBMITTED BECOME PROPERTY OF MEWEA, AND THE DECISION OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE IS FINAL.

Clean Water Week Poster Contest Entry Form

Please print legibly and attach this form to the back of your poster.

Student Name:

School:

Grade:

Student/Parent Email:

Teacher Name:

Teacher Email:

Please note that your email address will only be used for correspondence regarding the Clean Water

Week Poster Contest.

We will be using the provided student/parent and teacher emails to keep you informed on the status of

the contest, and to reach out to winners and runners up to obtain mailing addresses for mailing winning prize checks and copies of the calendar.

If you prefer a different method of contact, please provide on the form in place of an email address.

REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

15 University Dr
Augusta ME 04330

COMMITTEE NAME: Personal Advancement
Committee

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE:

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Gathering sessions for MWUA conference – should have finalized to Cindy by the time this meeting is occurring.

DECISIONS MADE:

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

NAME: Charlene
Poulin

DATE SUBMITTED: 11-14-
2023

REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION



15 University Dr
Augusta ME 04330

COMMITTEE NAME: Residuals Committee

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE:
n/a

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- MEWEA, DEP & BC will be wrapping up the residuals study towards the end of the month. The residuals committee will have a chance to review/comment on the draft report before the final version is presented to the commissioner and legislature.
- Travis, André, and a handful of MEWEA members attended the NEBRA conference held in Portsmouth NH. This was great venue to learn and network amongst biosolids managers and vendors. A few attendees toured the Pierce Island WWTF facility

DECISIONS MADE: n/a

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: n/a

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES:

- MEWEA's annual conference in Boston on January 21-24

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

NAME: André &
Travis

DATE SUBMITTED:
11/7/2023

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
15 University Dr
Augusta ME 04330

COMMITTEE NAME: Stormwater
Committee

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE:
09/15/2023

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- Working with CCSWD and MEWEA GAC representatives on chloride reduction through limited liability legislation update.
 - Working with NMSA to identify opportunities to share insight from other MS4-regulated municipalities with Maine communities.
-

DECISIONS MADE:

- Phil Ruck was selected for the Stormwater Award and it was presented at the MEWEA Fall Conference.
-

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

- Will be working with CCSWCD to develop a training video and/or guidelines to help municipalities better assess and advocate for stormwater funding needs, to align with and support state and federal initiatives to adequately fund stormwater infrastructure maintenance and upgrades.
 - Will be working with Maine Municipal Association, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and others to help improve state-wide understanding of stormwater issues and existing regulatory framework thereof through existing MMA outreach.
 - Will be participating in stakeholder process with MEDEP as they develop Ch. 500 updates; meeting dates TBD.
 - Will continue to support MS4-regulated communities through the appeal of LID ordinances.
 - Will continue to support chloride reduction efforts, including limited liability legislation and public outreach.
-

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: 12/15/23 @11 am.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jodie Keene, Sarah King

DATE SUBMITTED: 11/16/2023



REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
15 University Dr
Augusta ME 04330

COMMITTEE NAME: JETCC

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: August 3, 2023

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Our fall training schedule continues. We held a two-day NEWEA Collection System Exam Prep course in Hampden on October 25-26 and a three-class series of Centrifugal Pumps classes in Bangor, Fairfield, and Saco on October 31 - November 2. We also held a remote Chemistry Basics class on November 15-16. Coming up, we have an in-person Microbiology Testing Methods, Sampling Fundamentals, and Reporting Tips class in Brewer on November 30. We will also have a repeat of our Grades 3-5 Exam Prep three day class in Bangor on December 19-21.

Management Candidate School begun on November 8 in Yarmouth with 19 students. Our first class covered an Introduction to Personnel Management. Our next class will be on December 13 and cover Rules and Regulations.

We are opening registration for Wastewater Operator School. I continue to work on the curriculum and secure speakers. Please contact me if you are interested in contributing.

DECISIONS MADE:

The Committee will meet on November 16, after this report is filed but before the MEWEA EC Meeting. Relevant updates will be provided at the meeting.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: The date for the next JETCC Meeting is November 16, 2023. It will be held at KSTD.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

NAME: Peter Zaykoski, JETCC Program Manager

DATE SUBMITTED: 11/15/2023



REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORT

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15 University Dr
Augusta ME 04330

COMMITTEE NAME: Personal Advancement
Committee

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE:

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Gathering sessions for MWUA conference – should have finalized to Cindy by the time this meeting is occurring.

DECISIONS MADE:

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

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REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

NAME: Charlene
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PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: n/a

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- MEWEA, DEP & BC will be wrapping up the residuals study towards the end of the month. The residuals committee will have a chance to review/comment on the draft report before the final version is presented to the commissioner and legislature.
- Travis, André, and a handful of MEWEA members attended the NEBRA conference held in Portsmouth NH. This was great venue to learn and network amongst biosolids managers and vendors. A few attendees toured the Pierce Island WWTF facility

DECISIONS MADE: n/a

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: n/a

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES:

- NEWEA's annual conference in Boston on January 21-24

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

NAME: André &
Travis

DATE SUBMITTED:

11/7/2023

TREATMENT PLANT OPERATORS COMMITTEE REPORT from Alex Buechner

A few people asked for some info on the poster contest and the Peer to Peer training program. Figured I would just share with everyone.

Peer to Peer

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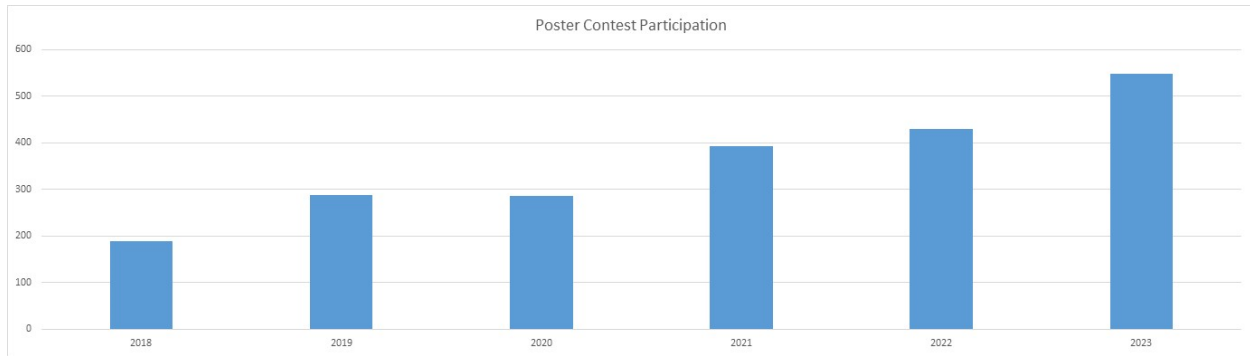
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Maine Water Environment Association

2024

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Grade:

Student/Parent Email:

Teacher Name:

Teacher Email:

Please note that your email address will only be used for correspondence regarding the Clean Water

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MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
15 University Dr.
Augusta ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 11/17/2023

COMMITTEE: Public Relations

COMMITTEE OFFICER NAME: Evan Pereira

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- Continued holding biweekly check-in meetings with Diana of Black Fly Media to identify PR opportunities and develop action items.
- Continued to field and vet media opportunities as presented to the committee.
- Continued working with Diana to develop media pitches for stories to highlight positive clean water industry stories, including story around impacts of climate adaptation and resiliency, both now and upcoming, on utilities in Maine. Looking for additional volunteers, members willing to participate and share individual community examples.
 - o Also developing pitch to media for story on success stories of Veterans in the Clean Water industry in Maine, looking for examples from as many communities as possible.
- Began engagement with Waste Dive regarding their request for input from MEWEA on a story being developed around PFAS in biosolids, specifically the effects of Maine's ban on land application of biosolids and the study being conducted on alternative means to address contamination.

NEXT STEPS & MEETINGS:

- Continue to keep a pulse on legislative developments such as proposed PFAS/Biosolids bill amendments and SRF updates and identify potential PR support for MEWEA as needed. o Begin to develop PR strategy/proactive approach ahead of legislature reconvening.

- Continue to hold biweekly check-in meetings with Diana of Black Fly Media to identify PR opportunities and develop action items.
- Collaborate with Superintendents Committee and Government Affairs Committee to continue identifying shortlist of interested members in supporting and staying involved with upcoming PR efforts and media pitches.
- Send out status update to MEWEA PR campaign sponsors.
- Hold joint meeting with Government Affairs Committee and Diana Nelson of BlackFly media to develop key messaging and PR strategy for upcoming Legislative Session.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Evan Pereira

DATE SUBMITTED: 11/16/2023