

APPROVED

MeWEA Executive Board Meeting
In-Person & Zoom
Portland Water District
October 20, 2023

MINUTES

Attendance: Emily Prescott, Peter Zaykoski, Charlene Poulin, Jeff McBurnie, Stacy Thompson, Andre Brousseau, Emily Prescott, Scott Firmin.

Zoom Attendance: Teresa Tucker, Mike Guethle, Paula Drouin, Tim Wade, Evan Pereira, Phil Tucker, Rob Pontau, Jim Cohen, Gregg Wood, Amanda Smith, Joan Kiszely.

Absent: Jodi Keene, Travis Peaslee, Sierra Kuun, Jennifer Nicholson, Bryanna Denise, Alex Buechner, Sarah King, and Travis Jones.

Call to Order: President Tim Wade called the meeting to order at 9:02.

Quorum: It was determined there was a Quorum.

Minutes: Motion made by Jeff McBurnie seconded by Phil Tucker, all approved the August 18, 2023, minutes

Treasurer's Report: Jeff McBurnie submitted a written report (attached at the end of minutes) on the September 2023 financial report. Jeff reported the following:

- Start of the planning of the Budget
- Waiting for the fall convention invoice.
- Going to tighten up on the budget.

Motion made by Rob Pontau, seconded by Stacy Thompson, all approved the financial report.

Old Business: None

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

DEP Report: Gregg Wood reported the following:

- DEP is getting staffed up.

- Filing paperwork to respond to the appeal of the MS4 permit & LID Ordinances that the department approved.
The Board will be hearing the appeal on Thursday, November 2.
- PFAS Sampling around the Phase 1
Sampling 105 municipalities.
15 to 20 private facilities.
Putting data together and putting the data on a map.

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

- Fall Training on the schedule.
- End of November a class Microbiology
- Management Candidate School – 20 have submitted their application.
- Wast Water Operator School – Hosted by Portland Water District
- Peter presented awards at the MeWEA Awards Fall Convention
- Thanked MeWEA for their continued support of JETCC.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE: Jim Cohen reported the following:

Maine Legislative Update

With fall officially underway, we are inching closer to the start of the Legislature's Second Regular Session. While the full Legislature does not convene until January, many legislative committees have started meeting to work on bills that were carried over. Here are some updates from the last few weeks in Maine politics and policy:

List of proposed bill titles for Second Regular Session released. Earlier this week, a preliminary list of bill titles proposed for the Legislature's Second Regular Session was released. The [list](#) includes working titles of requests that were submitted by the cloture deadline for the Second Regular Session. On Thursday, October 26, the Legislative Council - which is composed of the 10 elected members of legislative leadership, including the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Republican and Democratic Floor Leaders for both the Senate and House of Representatives, and their Assistant Floor Leaders - is scheduled to meet to consider the submitted requests. Once the Council meets, notice of the Council's action will be sent to bill sponsors on Friday, October 27, 2023, and the deadline for filing appeals to the Council's actions is Wednesday, November 1, 2023. The full Legislature will convene its Second Regular Session on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

Several legislative committees are scheduled to meet over the fall. Several legislative committees are scheduled to meet in the coming weeks to work on carry-over bills, including the following:

- Tuesday, October 17: Judiciary Committee; Housing Committee (off-site meeting in Bangor)
- Wednesday, October 18: Government Oversight Committee
- Wednesday, October 25: Health and Human Services Committee; Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee
- Tuesday, October 31: Housing Committee
- Wednesday, November 8: Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee.
- Additional committee meetings may be scheduled in the coming weeks, and the Legislature's full calendar can be found [here](#).
- **Ongoing and interim legislative study commissions continue to meet.** Several legislative study commissions are up and running and have been rescheduled to hold meetings in the coming weeks. Two interim study commission, the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine and the Task Force to Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System, are scheduled to meet on Wednesday, October 18. In addition, the Right to Know Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, October 23, and both the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Blue Ribbon Commission to Design a Plan for Sustained Investment in Preventing Disease and Improving the Health of Maine Communities are scheduled to meet on Tuesday, October 24. The full list of interim commissions can be found [here](#).

November referendum election is quickly approaching. Maine's upcoming election, which will be held on Tuesday, November 7, is fast approaching. While there are no candidates up for election this year, the ballot will include eight referendum questions, four of which are citizens initiatives and four are proposed amendments to the Maine Constitution. Secretary of State Shenna Bellows recently released a nonpartisan voter guide to assist Maine voters.

- Carry Over Bills
- Deadline for new bills to be considered. The deadline was in September.
- Bust Session
- Election coming up.

Emily Prescott reported the following:

- Legislative Breakfast – Consensus to have it in January at the Augusta Civic Center hopefully on a Tuesday.
- Need to be aligned with Maine Development Foundation.
- Dan Marks will be doing Government Affairs with Amanda Smith in 2024.

Amanda Smith reported the following:

- Dan is doing an excellent job already.

- Dan and Amanda went to an E & R committee this month – PFAS & Products law update.
Source reduction will be a challenge.

State Directors Report: Paula Drouin submitted a report. (attached at the end of minutes). She reported the following:

- Completed the Operator Exchange Program
- Got Bryanna photos and a write up for the Newsletter.
- Stockholm Jr Water Prize
- Dates of NEWEA Events
- NEWEA Events – List of dates.
- Looking for a NEWEA representative for 2025 – Stacy Thompson indicated she is interested.
- Yesterday's Task Force meeting: Scott Firmin talked about the PFAS Task Force.

MWUA: Rob Pontau reported the following:

- MWUA had a meeting this week and elected two new board members. – Roger Crouse & Keith LeVasseur
- Resolution on Executive Director. Moving on to hire a new ED.
- Preparing for their conference in February.

MEWEA/MWUA Affiliate: Joan Kiszely reported the following:

- Working on Membership which is going out December 1st.
- Preparing to do list for Kate to take the lead on the Clean Water Week Poster Contest.
- Emailed a Thank You to all the Exhibitors for their support and got 90% of them to confirm for 2024.
- Working on Legislation Breakfast & Ski Day to do list.
- Tim Wade thanked Joan Kiszely, Cindy Wade, and Rick Anair for their excellent job at the conference.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards: Mike Guethle emailed me an update & reported on:

- We were able to provide many awards at this past fall convention. We ended up spending within our budget and should be done expending costs for the year.
- For 2024 awards, please start thinking now about who may have been left out of the awards or who is also deserving of recognition for 2024.

- This is the second year we have picked up final awards the day before the convention. To make things a bit smoother, next year we are going to need to have everyone have their nominations due by June and selections due to me by the July meeting.

Collection System: Travis Jones was not present,

Communications: Bryanna Denis was not present.

Convention: Stacy Thompson submitted a report. (attached at the end of minutes). She added to her report the following:

- The Fall Convention was great.
- Interested in seeing the invoice.
- Talked to Golf Course to see how much to rent the entire golf course. She would need twenty-six more golfers to be able to do that or more sponsorship.
She listed the benefits of renting the entire course.
Awards Ceremony they pay for just the food.
Next year it will be \$85 per person.
\$135 pays for golf, lunch, and BBQ.
Tim would like to discuss more about the Golf Tournament
Jeff McBurnie stated Cassella would sponsor the golf tournament.
Could be possible to get more Sponsorship.
Core & Main stated they wanted to be a large sponsor so Joan will reach out next year and see if they would like to sponsor golf.
- Stacy did submit her Budget for 2024 for Ski Day & Golf
- Ski Day will be at Saddle Back March 14th, 2024.

Laboratory: Andy Wendell was not present.

Membership Committee: Jennifer Nicholson was not present.

Personnel Advancement Report: Charlene Poulin reported the following:

- Charlene Poulin was thanked for her work on the Fall Convention sessions.
- Getting a Track of 5 Sessions for MWUA Conference.
- No Spring Conference next year.
- Will have a Strategic Planning Session.

Pretreatment Report: Terry Tucker did not submit a committee report. Terry added the following:

- Have not had a meeting.
- Attending the Pretreatment conference.
- Going to try and hold one more meeting before Jim Crowley leaves.
- She will be stepping down as chair at the end of September. Riley Cobb will be the new Pretreatment Chair,

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

- Thanked Tim for representing MeWEA at the online seminar on 10-11 about the costs and impacts of PFAS.
- Thanked Phil Tucker for representing MeWEA at WEF Tec in Chicago.
- Working closely with Diana Nelson & Terry Tucker.
- Looking to get more connected with Government Affairs Committee
- Positive stories, media stories of folks on our staff.
- Looking to do a story – Impact on climate needs.
- Continuing efforts in all fronts
- Going to reconvene his committee in November,

Scott Firmin

Support an article on storms from Charlene Poulin.

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

- Continuing to meet monthly for the residuals study with DEP, B & C with the commissioner attending the last meeting.
- Attended multiple NEBRA lunch & learn webinars.
NEBRA conference is being held in Portsmouth NH on November 1st & two. Both Travis and Andre will attend.
- Meeting with State Biosolids – Brown & Caldwell & DEP on October 26 to wrap up the study. This will be the last in-person meeting.
- Emily Prescott indicated that PFAS subgroup will be meeting with to talk about the study.

Storm water Report: Sarah King absent.

Treatment Plant Operator Report: Alex Buechner was not in attendance but submitted a report.

Young Professionals Report: Sierra Kuun was not in attendance.

- Someone on the board indicated that this committee will be taking the lead in the Sea Dogs Game.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Presidents Report: Tim Wade reported on the following:

- **Utility Manager Committee report:** Travis Peaslee & Amanda Smith submitted a report.

They have wrapped up their recommendation for evaluation of a utility manager (superintendent) committee. The summary is that they recommend ending the ad hoc committee that is in place. They develop a new one with Rob Pontau chairing it to keep things together and moving forward between now and adoption of a new committee. They have a timeline and plan for implementation. Rob indicated he will start up a new ad hoc committee at the beginning of 2024.

- Emily and Tim will be meeting over the next few weeks to start a new transition.
- Pine Tree Power: Several organizations are opposing this. Do we want to use our platform to send this message out to oppose this? Tim will draft something up reminding our membership that the Association is opposing this.
- MeWEA Administrative Service Contract: Met with MWUA at post-convention. They asked to get a proposal back to MeWEA. We are working through the changes & details. Hoping to have a finalized document by next week. Jeff, Terry, Emily, and Rob will get together to look at the details.

1st Vice President Report: Emily Prescott talking with some planning groups to do an event for Planners and Wastewater Utilities in the Spring. Emily indicated she will give an update on this in November. Will connect with the Chamber of Commerce.

2nd Vice President Report: Terry Tucker stated that she met with DOL regarding the NOAA Climate Workforce Development Grant. They feel that Wastewater and Water workers fit into this category. They are looking to fill at least fifty positions. There will be a follow-up meeting on October 24th to discuss further details about how funding will be allocated. The DOL is looking to see if MEWEA or MRWA would like to partner with them on this endeavor. I will report back at the next meeting when I have all the final details to see if the Board is interested in partnering with them.

Immediate Past President: Dave Beauchamp was absent.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

- Jeff encouraged everyone to get their budget request into him. He needs to go over the Draft budget for November 17th.
- Government Affairs with NEWEA is putting together a new committee for Regulators. There is some discussion between NEIWPC & NEWEA on this subject.
- Cornhole: Terry indicated that she beat Phil.

Upcoming Events

NEBRA – 2023 Northeast Residuals & Biosolids Conference November 1st & two. The Venue, Portsmouth, New Hampshire

NEWEA 2024 Annual Conference January 21-24, Boston Marriott Copley Place Boston, Massachusetts.
Spring Meeting May 19-22, 2024 – Spring Meeting, The Viking Hotel, Newport, RI.

MWUA Conference is January 31, February 1, 2024, Augusta Civic Center.

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

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

MWUA

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

JETCC

Maine Management Candidate School	November 8, 2023
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North Country Convention	Spring 2025
	Presque Isle

MeWEA

MeWEA Fall Convention

September 18-20, 2024.
Sunday River

NEXT BOARD MEETING: November 17, 2023, at MWUA – Augusta, ME.

Adjourn: Motion made by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Rob Pontau, all approved to adjourn the meeting at.10:09.