

Approved

MeWEA Executive Board Meeting/Summer Cookout

VIRTUAL

August 16, 2024

9:00 AM

MINUTES

Virtual Attendance: Emily-Cole Prescott, Terry Tucker, Rob Pontau, Jeff McBurnie, Paula Drouin, Stacy Thompson, Andy Begin, Peter Zaykoski, Evan Pereira, Sierra Kuun, Joan Kiszely.

Call to Order: President Emily Prescott called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Quorum: It was determined there was a Quorum.

Minutes: Motion made by Jeff MvBurnie seconded by Terry Tucker, all approved July 19, 2024, minutes

Treasurer's Report: Jeff McBurnie reported on the financial report.
Motion made by, seconded by, all approved the report as presented.

- I have not seen the July financial report to date.
- Checking as of July 31st is \$73,130.89.
- CD as of July 31st are \$21,004.20.
- Total Assets as of July 31st is \$94,135.09.
- Registration for the fall convention is open now.
- Still wants everyone to be cautious with spending.
- The finances are improving but there are some big expenses coming up. One being the Sunday River Fall Convention bill coming up.

Old Business:

Utility Manager Committee report: Rob Pontau reported the following:

- 3:00 p.m. on Thursday September 19th will be the next meeting for the Utility Manager Committee.

Planners & Wastewater Utilities Event Update: Emily Prescott reported the following:

- Had a meeting to get this event off the ground.
- The date will be the 4th week in September.
- MWUA is assisting with this.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

DEP REPORT: Gregg Wood was not present at this meeting.

JETCC-NEIWPC: Peter Zaykoski submitted a report.
He recapped his report as follows:

- RECENT ACTIVITIES: Planning for the fall schedule is now underway with classes beginning in early October. He expects the full fall schedule to be published in early September.
- Management Candidate School continues with operator exchanges occurring over the summer. The last class before graduation at the Fall Convention is currently being rescheduled. The next iteration of MCS will start in November and be held at Bangor Water District.
- The 2025 North Country Convention will be on April 2-3, 2025, at Northern Maine Community College. This year we will be issuing a call for abstracts. Will be seeking volunteers to assist in scoring abstracts and developing the agenda for the Convention.
- DECISIONS MADE:
- The Committee has not met since the last EC meeting. The Committee is still seeking an At-Large representative and welcomes suggestions broadly on individuals who may be a good fit.
- ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: Please reach out to me if you are interested in helping with agenda development for the NCC.
- NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: The next JETCC meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2024, at the Bangor Water District.
- Managers Candidate School – Brief discussion on having MeWEA recognize the candidates at the Business meeting.
- They were supposed to have their last school/session, however the instructor could not do this session due to illness. They will do a round table on September 11th. This is being held in Yarmouth. Peter is looking for assistance with this session. If anyone wants to attend feel free to contact him.
- Also, looking for people to help with getting abstracts for the JETCC conference.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE: Jim Cohen was not present. Emily indicated that he would attend certain meetings when the Legislators start back up.

MWUA: Andy Begin reported the following:

- They had their golf tournament & summer outing which was successful. They had 124 golfers, and 300 at the cookout.
- Thanked all the sponsors.
- Put out a recent email about abstracts for their February 2025 conference.
- Nicki is hiring a full-time person. She will be looking at switching up responsibilities.
- They are working on Training Options.
- Next board meeting is next Tuesday.

NEBRA UPDATE: Phil Tucker and Janine Wells-Burke was not present.

NEWEA STATE DIRECTORS REPORT -: Paula Drouin submitted her report, she recapped her report.

Paula Drouin reported that she submitted an article for the NEWEA journal. Paula also reported that she is finalizing the hosting details for Operator Exchange, the participant from Vermont her name is Hannah Yates

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Joan Kiszely reported the following.

- Working on the Fall Convention with Stacy, Cindy & herself.

COUNCIL DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

OUTREACH COUNCIL: Phil Tucker, Director submitted his Outreach Council Executive Committee report. Phil was not present.

Public Relations Committee – Evan Pereira was present and reported on the following:

- Developed MEWEA Opinion letter/testimony to DEP on proposed Juniper Ridge Landfill expansion.
 - Drafted MEWEA Op-Ed on this as well for press release
- Phil and Amanda featured on an episode of Joseph Blackman's 'Public Works Podcast'.
- Continued holding regular biweekly meetings to coordinate with Black Fly Media, GAC, and MWUA PR to establish priority PR items for Q3 and share resources.
- Priority Upcoming PR Focuses (Statewide & Local):
 - Biosolids fact sheet for MEWEA website.
 - Op-Ed on behalf of MEWEA, linked to Biosolids Study, for press release.
 - Press release around WIPPES Act support.
 - Op-Ed/Letter in support of proposed Senate Bill 4673 to treat clean water utilities as government entities, open up more funding.
 - Work with GAC on Op-Ed/letter on concerns with new earmark sourcing from SRF funds.
 - Explore more leads to highlight hyper local stories.

PERSONNEL ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL: Stacy Thompson, Director reported the following;

Awards – Mike Guethle, Chair

- The awards are closed.

Terry reported the following:

- Terry indicated we currently have a New Professional, Storm Water award, and Past President award. She stated that Mike spoke to her and feels like there is some disorganization with the awards. Trying to get information out maybe earlier. The Lifetime Achievement award that was submitted did not meet the criteria and will not be presented at the conference. Awards in the future need to be sure to meet the criteria.

- Stacy indicated that in the past if someone was nominated in the previous year we would look at them again, but would need to make sure that they are in the same role and things haven't changed.
- Paula feels around May they need to have a meeting.
- JETCC Award: Peter indicated that they reach out to the person nominating a award. He recommends they ask the nominee if anything has changed.

Convention – Justin Barnett and Tim Wade, Co-Chair

Stacy reported the following:

- Fall convention attendee packet went out August 13th.
- There are 52 Exhibitors to date.
- Cornhole: talked to Travis about the Cornhole event. 2 Sponsors for drink tickets at 1,500, and 1 sponsor for the food. Looking for sponsors for the lanes for \$500 each.
- Drink Tickets sponsor at 120 tickets for \$1,500
- Do the food for the cornhole based on how they have raised the money.
- Went through the menu. She indicated that there will not be any special desserts or soda this year.
- Trying to minimize as much as possible for the cost.
- The Camp Restaurant will close half of the room at 10:00 pm so there is no additional charge to MeWEA of \$775 an hour.
- Switching her focus to Golf currently.
- A bit of confusion to do with the Sponsorship levels that MWUA & MeWEA jointly came up with. Wright Pierce got in with a discount and felt she needed to leave that alone for now. She didn't know how the sponsorship discounted things.
- Paula indicated she could help at the Golf Tournament.

New Professionals – Sierra Kuun, Chair

Stacy noted she will be in touch with Sierra to go over the raffle for the Fall Convention.

TREATMENT SYSTEMS OPERATION COUNCIL: Paula Drouin, Director submitted a report and recapped her report.

Residuals

The Residuals committee reported:

A letter of support was written for a determination of public benefit for Juniper Ridge landfill expansion. The letter was sent, and they had a follow up call.

MEWEA will either support and work with the DEP's legislation efforts or consider doing our own legislation if DEP isn't. An email from the department went out on

8/15 stating that they are requesting an extension to 9/23 so they can have more time to review.

Ban on out of state C&D – the emergency extension pushed the ban out to July 2025, but that’s likely not enough time. There is an independent study being done to show there is not enough in state C&D (the study was recommended in the B&C study).

A \$50 million bond is under discussion, including how a point system or discretionary language should be put in about digestion, drying, etc. Trying to tie back to B&C study and their recommendation for funding for solids reduction.

The group will have another meeting early Sept. with the commissioner, and they are looking to meet every six weeks.

Pretreatment

The committee reported that they are intending to transition the chairperson role from Riley Cobb to David Dane. They will have a meeting soon to discuss the changeover.

Lab Committee

Paula Drouin reported that the email sent to the existing lab committee members list was not very successful, possibly due to some people being retired, so she will be reaching out to facilities directly to try to get more folks interested in joining the committee.

Stormwater Committee

The Stormwater Committee reported:

The Stormwater Conference is Sept. 5-6 in Portland.

They are finalizing the Stormwater Panel at the MEWEA Fall Convention.

The committee will be sponsoring the [Winter Salt Awareness Week](#) (led by Wisconsin) this year. Regional and State reps from Maine participated in a call a couple of weeks ago and we will be participating in the event and related outreach. MEWEA SWC will also be sponsored (\$500). They have been doing a lot of advocacy work around chloride toxicity and smarter winter maintenance practices that this event will help support.

The committee will also be submitting comments to DEP on the proposed update to Ch. 500 regulations once it has been distributed for public comment. Of note, DEP is proposing some low impact development (LID) standards, some additional stream classifications, and some stressor-specific best management practices (BMP) requirements that we'll want to watch closely.

TPO Committee

Paula Drouin reported that she attended a meeting where the committee was working to finalize their session for the fall convention.

Collection Systems

There was no committee report. Paula Drouin reported that she will connect with the committee to ensure they have all they need for the convention. Stacy Thompson reported on the cornhole tournament in her Convention Committee report.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Presidents Report: Emily reported on the following:

- Terry & she have been working on getting everything together for the transition to MMA.
- I had a meeting with MMA on the Website.
- Working with Nicki to send out renewals earlier.
- Will continue to collaborate with MWUA on the same events.
- I already met and discussed the Newsletter. It will be a joint partnership with MWUA.
- Contract: She will contact Peter at MMA to move on the contract. She will send out the contract to the Executive Board to get comments.
- Emily asked if Paula could put the conference on the Website & LinkedIn.
- Emily asked Joan to send out emails Monday a.m. and Thursday afternoon about the upcoming Convention.

Vice President Report: Rob Pontau reported the following:

- Operator Challenge has raised \$5,000 for sponsorship.

Immediate Past President: Tim Wade was absent.

ADJOURMENT

Motion made by Peter Zaykoski, seconded by Terry Tucker, all approved to adjourn the meeting at. 10:00AM

UPCOMING EVENTS

JETCC: North Country Convention – Spring 2025 in Presque Isle.