

Approved

MeWEA Executive Board Meeting
York Sewer District
21 Bay Haven Road
VIRTUAL
June 21, 2024

MINUTES

Emily Cole-Prescott, Terry Tucker, Phil Tucker, Gregg Wood, Peter Zaykoski, Jim Cohen, Paula Drouin, Andre Brousseau, Andy Begin, Rob Pontau, Sierra Kuun, Joan Kiszely.

Call to Order: President Emily Prescott called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM.

Quorum: It was determined there was a Quorum.

Minutes: Motion made by Rob Pontau to approve the minutes with the edits, seconded by Phil Tucker, all approved the May 17, 2024 Executive Board Meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff McBurnie was not present. However, he sent in a report. Joan Kiszely shared his report with the Executive Board. Emily indicated he will contact Jeff when he returns from vacation.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

DEP REPORT: Gregg Wood reported the following.

- Two weeks ago they were fully staffed, however 3 people left. They are now down 2 compliance inspectors and one enforcement person.
- They hired Brad Kelso to replace Jim Crowley. Brad comes from the papermill industry and much like Jim has an extensive chemistry background.
- DEP is currently working on Overboard Discharge permits.
- DEP is looking to ask for a \$50M bond, of which 47M would be for wastewater and \$3M for small community grants.
- Just sent out 2 MS4 Permits. Friends of Casco Bay still not in agreement. Emily Prescott stated she would reach out to the Stormwater Committee to ask for their input on the MS4 permits.

JETCC-NEIWPCC: Peter Zaykoski, submitted a written report, and reviewed his report with the board. He thanked everyone who came to community engagement

He stated that JETCC will be holding one more class next week in Hampton.

MCS is going well and currently working on dates for the next program and also looking at the Bangor area for the next location.

Operator school has finished and went well.

JETCC still has an open At-Large position.

Peter also asked if he could possibly sit in on some committee meetings to look at potential interest for classes.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE: Jim Cohen submitted a report (see report attached to the minutes). He gave an overview of the session and reviewed the following LD's.

LD 1111: An Act Concerning Contracts and agreement for Larger scale Water Extraction. Anti Poland Spring bill. This did not pass.

LD 1537: An Act to amend the laws relating to the prevention of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution. This bill passed.

LD 2132: An act to clarify the right to appeal certain Public Utilities Commission Decisions. Died on the floor.

LD 2254: An Act To Clarify Permissible Election and Lobbying expenditures by consumer-owned Utilities and the Casco Bay Island. This bill passed.

LD 2270: An Act to create the Lincoln Mill Facilities District. This bill passed.

Paid Family Medical Leave Act: A lot of issues with this and will probably need some fixing. They need to keep an eye on this. This can impact a small facility.

MWUA: Andy Begin reported the following:

- Just had a bi-monthly meeting and HR session.
- Will be working on their Strategic Planning Session.
- Excited that they are getting better financial reports and better picture of where things are at.
- Summer Outing will be August 8th.

NEBRA UPDATE: Phil Tucker gave a brief update on NEBRA.

- Woonsocket, Rhode Island Incinerator. Banned all liquid waste.
- CT has banned land application of biosolids.
- Vermont banned land application of biosolids.
- MASS. Has momentum of a bill that could ban all land application of biosolids.
- New Hampshire has passed a bill where anything that is dug out of the ground needs to be tested for PFAS and if levels are in exceedance, material would need to be treated as hazardous waste.
- Only good news is the Cercla exemption is moving forward.
- It was suggested that it might be a good idea to coordinate with NACWA for a round table discussion. With that, it could be beneficial if EPA was part of that discussion.

NEWEA STATE DIRECTORS REPORT -: Paula Drouin reported the following:

Paula Drouin reported that she attended the NEWEA spring meeting in Newport, RI. The government affairs meeting was unfortunately canceled due to most folks being at the golf tournament, but she did attend the awards committee meeting. Paula reported that she submitted nominations for the NEWEA Pelouin and Operator awards. Paula also reported that she is working with Vermont to plan the operator exchange program. Both states have interested operators.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Joan Kiszely reported the following.

- Working on the upcoming Fall Convention. The exhibitor packet went out to last year's exhibitors. Have 15 definite at this time.
- Working with the graphic designer on the Attendee packet.

COUNCIL DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

OUTREACH COUNCIL: Phil Tucker, Council Director
Communications – Bryanna Denis,
Government Affairs- Dan Marks & Amanda Smith
Membership – Jen Nicholson
Public Relations – Evan Pereira

Phil Tucker submitted a report (see report attached to the minutes) and gave a review of his report.

- Not much is going on. PR is busy as always. Black Fly is currently working on a story from Biddeford.
- Some concerns on the cost for the Newsletter – not sure what will be happening there. Perhaps go to a summary email that goes out once a month. More to come on this.
- Wants to work on some sort of ad-hoc committee for workforce development.

PERSONNEL ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL: Stacy Thompson, Director was out on vacation. No report was submitted.

Awards – Mike Guethle
Convention – Justin Barnett and Tim Wade
New Professionals – Sierra Kuun
Professional Development – Charlene Poulin

- Sierra Kuun New Professionals indicated she has been working on planning the Seadog event with Cindy Wade & Joan Kiszely.
- There was a brief discussion in regathe Fall Convention sessions. They are going to offer the Government Affairs session first thing Thursday morning instead of making it the last session of the convention. They feel it is a struggle to have the GA session on Friday at the end of the convention. They feel more will attend first thing Thursday a.m. They discussed inviting the DEP staff and hosting a meet & greet after the first Session. It will be the only session going on at that time. Mark Holt will moderate this session.

TREATMENT SYSTEMS OPERATION COUNCIL: Paula Drouin, Director
Collection Systems – Kevin Eaton and Ashley Jones,
Laboratory- Stephen Knollmeyer,
Pretreatment – Riley Cobb,
Residuals – Travis Peaslee & Andre Brousseau,
Stormwater – Sarah King and Jodi Keene,
Treatment Plant Operations – Alex Buechner

Paula Drouin submitted a report (see report attached to the minutes) and reviewed her report with the board.

- There will be a collections meeting next week to discuss the cornhole tournament and sponsorship. Possible having an optional donation on the registration form.
- Working on putting costs together to see what we need for sponsorships for next year.
- Still trying to get a Laboratory Committee back together.

Andre spoke in regard to the Residuals Committee. Himself, Emily and Travis will be meeting with the Commissioner and Brian Kavanaugh on July 11th to see how they want to handle the biosolids issue.

Andre also stated that there will be more to come on a potential drying treatment facility for PFAS in Sanford.

Rob talked about Ops Challenge. They will be sending 5 members to New Orleans. They are also working on doing some additional fundraising to help with the costs.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

President-Elect Report: Terry Tucker gave an update on the Strategic Planning Session and what was discussed at that session:

- Sustainability – ways to get back into a better position financially.
- Nominating Committee – Getting this Committee started. Nominating Committee actually did meet and Amanda Smith will be nominated at the Fall Conference as the next incoming Vice President.
- Administrative contract for services. She indicated that they asked NEWEA, NEIWPC, MWUA and MMA. A request to go back to MMA to have more questions answered was suggested.
- Discussion on contracted services.
- Discussed sponsorships and how to handle them going forward.

Presidents Report: Emily reported on the following.

- Contract Services will be with Maine Municipal Association. They came in \$14,000 lower than MWUA. MMA's focus is all about Training, and they are set up to handle multiple affiliated contracts. MMA will hold a meeting with Terry & Emily to negotiate the fee and discuss a 3-year contract. At this meeting they will also discuss the transition from MWUA to MMA. When they made the decision to go back to MMA they did contact Nicki Pellenz to let her know.
- Emily stated that her and Terry met with MWUA to talk about continued collaboration and some of those collaborations will be the Legislative Breakfast, having quarterly meetings, reworking the newsletter format, collaborating with the planning event, stronger communication with the Maine Development Foundation
- She will be having a discussion on cost with Jim Cohen.
- NEWEA & NEBRA may share the funding of the Black Fly Media. This

Vice President Report: Rob Pontau reported that the Utility Managers Group is going well. They had a great meeting. The next meeting will be at the fall conference. They would like to get the word out to more Districts, but would like to keep it to just one person from each location. Right now there are currently 18 in the group.

Immediate Past President: Tim Wade was not present.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Next Executive Committee will be July 19, 2024 – Virtual

ADJOURMENT

Motion made by Phil Tucker and seconded by Andre, all approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45AM

UPCOMING EVENTS

MeWEA

Sea Dogs Event – June 22, 2024

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

JETCC

North Country Convention – April 2 & 3, 2025. Presque Isle

Treatment Plant Operators – The committee reported:

The committee requests we keep reminding folks about the Peer-to Peer training program.
www.mewea.org/operator-training

The MEWEA Ops Challenge team is going to WEFTEC!

Residuals Management – The committee reported:

Andre, Emily, and Travis will be meeting with the DEP commissioner on July 11 to discuss state efforts, Brown & Caldwell study, and possible funding and/or legislative efforts.

Laboratory Committee

Paula Drouin reported that she is working on helping get the Lab Committee off the ground again. She met with Alana Dougherty from PWD who is interested in being on the committee, and possibly chairing it. Paula will reach out to members on the current committee email list to determine who is still around and interested in setting up a meeting.

Stormwater – The committee reported:

The June 7th meeting was canceled, and the next one will be September 6th at the stormwater conference. The committee also reported they submitted an abstract for the fall convention that will involve a panel of speakers who will share examples of unique funding opportunities from around the country used in stormwater projects to improve capacity and resilience.

Pretreatment – The Pretreatment Committee had no report.

Collection Systems – The committee reported their next meeting is in Yarmouth on 6/25 from 11-1.

NEWEA State Director

Paula Drouin reported that she attended the NEWEA spring meeting in Newport, RI. The government affairs meeting was unfortunately canceled due to most folks being at the golf tournament, but she did attend the awards committee meeting. Paula reported that she submitted nominations for the NEWEA Pelouin and Operator awards. Paula also reported that she is working with Vermont to plan the operator exchange program. Both states have interested operators.

Outreach Council Executive Committee Report

6/21/24

Council Director – Phil Tucker

- NEBRA and NEWEA are both potentially interested in some cost sharing with Blackfly Media.
- Collaboration with MWUA on Workforce Development

Communications Committee – Bryanna Denis

- Holding off on summer newsletter until sponsorship/finances is figured out with MWUA.

Government Affairs Committee – Amanda Smith/Daniel Marks

- Quiet time of the year for GA.

Membership Committee – Jennifer Nicholson

- Nothing to report

Public Relations Committee – Evan Pereira

- Continued regular biweekly check-ins with Diana and representatives from PR and GA committees (typically Dan, Terry, and myself)
 - Beginning to bring Nikki Pellenz (MWUA) into the regular fold this month to share PR resources between our organizations.
 - Always looking for anyone who is interested in getting more regularly involved in PR efforts!
- Held Q2 PR Committee Meeting
 - Status update from Black Fly Media – PR is moving much smoother this year, getting many more state-wide and hyper local hits to support MEWEA's strategy.
 - Brainstorm for priority action items and press releases for Q3 and beyond
 - Next focuses for PR are:
 - Upcoming Press Releases: PFAS Sources and Solutions (Clean Water Utilities as Receivers, not Generators), General Regional State of Biosolids Disposal, Proactive Pilot Testing & Innovation Solutions Throughout Maine, Climate & Community Resiliency (Proactive ME Utilities Working for Solutions)
 - Upcoming Hyperlocal Highlights for Bangor, Biddeford, Brunswick, Scarborough – CALL FOR OTHERS WHO HAVE GOOD STORIES TO SHARE WITH THE PUBLIC!

REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

**15 University Dr
Augusta ME 04330**

COMMITTEE NAME: JETCC

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: June 5, 2024

RECENT ACTIVITIES: The Committee hosted a Community Engagement Event on June 5 before their meeting at EJP in Gardiner. Thank you to all from MEWEA who attended and provided input. The intention is to use the information we gathered in planning for our upcoming Fall, Winter, and Spring course offerings.

Our spring semester will finish up with a final class on June 27, a repeat of the Pipe Location and Leak Detection class we held in March. This will be offered at F.W. Webb in Hampden, ME.

Management Candidate School continues with operator exchanges coming up for the summer and two more regular classes before graduation at the Fall Convention.

Wastewater Operator School has wrapped up with the final class and graduation held on June 6. There were a total of 18 graduates from the program this year. The next iteration of this program is intended to be held in 2026.

The 2025 North Country Convention will be on April 2-3, 2025 at Northern Maine Community College.

DECISIONS MADE:

Jeff Saucier, McCain Foods USA, has joined the Committee as an Industrial representative, replacing Travis Jones, who termed out this spring. The Committee continues to have an open At-Large representative position and welcomes any ideas on individuals in the community who may be a good fit.

The next iteration of Management Candidate School is being planned for the second Wednesdays of each month, starting November 2023. The Committee has expressed interest in holding the program in the Bangor area.

JETCC will be soliciting nominations for its Founder's Award and the Hanson Excellence in Management Award in the coming weeks. Please consider making a nomination or passing these calls on broadly to our community.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: The next JETCC meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2024 in the Bangor area; specific venue is to be determined.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: Thank you to all MEWEA members who have supported our programming in the recent months. The contributions have been significant and a critical factor in the success of our work.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

NAME: Peter Zaykoski, JETCC Program Manager

DATE SUBMITTED: 6/20/2024

TREASURER'S

REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
Maine Water Utilities Association
15 University Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 6/21/2024

TREASURER NAME: Jeff McBurnie

ACCOUNT/BUDGET STATUS: I've reviewed and reconciled the Association's financials up to the end of May. Year to date, we have \$66,913 in our accounts; contrast that with \$87,765 at the end of May 2023. Exacerbating our financial situation is the receipt of \$10,915 in member dues at the end of 2023. We are headed in a direction that the Association cannot sustain. Although we should start to see more revenue coming in as we approach the Fall Convention, we need to reevaluate our spending priorities as well as investigate ways of making our revenue stream more robust. For the short term, I did not rollover one of the CDs that was maturing to ensure that we have some liquidity for paying bills. I hope to secure a new CD, at a better return, shortly after Convention revenues and expenses are settled. My intention is not to alarm our members, but this needs to be seriously addressed before our finances drop into the red.

REMINDER: As always, if you spot errors, have questions, or just want to discuss the Association's general financial status, please don't hesitate to contact me.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jeff McBurnie

DATE SUBMITTED: 6/14/2024

DISTRIBUTION:

X MWUA Affiliate Liaison
X Executive Committee Meeting
Newsletter
Other:

Please check if item should be expanded for external release.