

APPROVED

MeWEA Executive Board Meeting  
VIRTUAL  
May 17, 2024

### MINUTES

**Virtual Attendance:** Emily Cole Prescott,, Jeff McBurnie, Terry Tucker, Phil Tucker, Paula Drouin, Rob Pontau, Peter Zaykoski, Andy Begin, Janine Burke- Wells (NEBRA) Judy Brunjes, Tim Wade, Stacy Thompson, Joan Kiszely.

**Call to Order:** President Emily Prescott called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

**Quorum:** It was determined there was a Quorum.

**Minutes:** Motion made by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Rob Pontau, all approved the February 16, 2024, minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jeff McBurnie reported on the Treasurer's Report. He explained that the association would need to be careful with expenses over the next months, but revenue should increase around the time of the fall convention. Jeff indicated that March & April financial reports were in order.

Emily provided an overview of the strategic planning session, noting that the group convened in late April, then will re-convene in late May 2024 to conclude its recommendations. A report will be provided with its recommendations after that conclusion.

Motion made by Rob Pontau, seconded by Tim Wade, all approved the financial report as presented.

#### **Old Business:**

**Utility Manager Committee report:** Rob Pontau reported the following:

- ✓ They will be holding a meeting next month in Freeport.
- ✓ The committee continues to bounce ideas out.

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

- ✓ They have moved this event to a Summer event.
- ✓ They are getting a lot of support for this event.
- ✓ They already have 2 speakers line lined up.

### **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**DEP REPORT:** Gregg Wood was not in attendance. Judy Bruenjes reported the following.

- ✓ SRF Monies are going out.

- ✓ DEP continues to work on their PFAS Study & Collections Study, which also includes river monitoring.
- ✓ Starting to work on Cyber Security action plan.
- ✓ Judy mentioned you can find PFAS Sampling results on the website.

**JETCC-NEIWPCC:** Peter Zaykoski, reported the following.

A Pipe Location and Leak Detection class will be 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 three more regular classes before graduation at the Fall Convention.

Wastewater Operator School will be wrapping up in early June. There are two more classes in the program.

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

**LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE:** Jim Cohen was not present.

**MWUA:** Andy Begin reported the following:

- ✓ They are doing Listening Session in Brewer, Portland, & Houlton. They have already done Brewer, Portland, and the Vendor Virtual listening sessions. The last one will be June 13<sup>th</sup> at the Bi-Monthly meeting in Houlton. The Board of Directors have attended some of the sessions. The Board wanted to see what the members want from the Association.  
Some of the feedback from these sessions is that members would like more entry level operating training. They want MWUA to host most of the training because they offer a better location, better offerings and are reasonably priced. Vendors would like to see MWUA & MeWEA to have a Conference.
- ✓ Their Summer Outing will be August 8<sup>th</sup> at the Cumberland Fairgrounds.
- ✓ They are hearing good things about the Management Candidate School and the interaction with the Leadership Training Institute.

**NEBRA UPDATE:** Phil Tucker & Janine Burke gave a brief update on NEBRA.

- April was a whirlwind with Biosolids
- 2 solid board members from Maine – Scott Firmin and Phil Tucker
- Janine mentioned that Phil and Scott were on TV regarding the biosolids report.
- H.R. 4446 Bill in Mass. bans land application and limits on ground water dischargers.
- Mass. is doing a biosolids study similar to Maine.
- Bill 7944 MeWEA will support exemption for CERCLA – Mass. will also be supporting this.

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

Paula Drouin reported that she is working with Vermont to plan the operator exchange program. Both states have interested operators. Paula reported that Andre Brousseau has agreed to assume the role of NEWEA State Director for Maine (three-year term starting January 2025). She

received the approval of the Executive Committee and then submitted the nomination on May 13. Paula reported that she is still looking for nominations for the NEWEA Peloquin and Operator awards and that the deadline for nomination submissions to NEWEA is 5/31.

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:** Joan Kiszely reported she has started working on the Fall Convention with Stacy, Justin and Tim.

## **COUNCIL DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

### **Council Director – Phil Tucker**

- Phil Spoke with WGME13 News to discuss the biosolids crisis in Maine
- Met with Senator Brenner to discuss steps forward and what the legislature can do to help us.
- Met with several utility leaders in southern Maine to discuss biosolids report and what comes next
- Attended a NACWA round table in Rhode Island to discuss Infrastructure funding, Climate resiliency and permitting, quality water standards and CSO long term control plans, and of course everyone's favorite, pfas and biosolids management. In attendance were folks from EPA HQ, EPA Region 1, Regulators from all New England states except Maine, NEIWPC, NACWA, and utility leaders from all over New England. From Maine it was Phil, Brian Tarbuck, and Andre Brousseau.

SEE PHIL TUCKER OUTREACH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FULL REPORT ON THE DRIVE OR MeWEA WEBSITE!

**PERSONNEL ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL:** Stacy Thompson, Director  
Awards – Mike Guethle,  
Convention – Justin Barnett and Tim Wade,  
New Professionals – Sierra Kuun  
Professional Development – Charlene Poulin

- ✓ New Professionals: Seadogs game is June 22 in Portland – Modify sign up on-line. She indicated it is very confusing.
- ✓ Justin, Tim and Charlene are meeting with her in regards to the Fall Convention
- ✓ Abstract email worked well. They have more than they need, but it was suggested they can use the others at the MWUA Conference.
- ✓ Awards – will be speaking to Mike G for the MeWEA Awards.

- ✓ Draft for the Exhibitor Packet will be ready to review after May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**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 – Ali Clift and Jodi Keene,  
Treatment Plant Operations – Alex Buechner

SEE PAULA DROUIN REPORT ON THE DRIVE OR MeWEA WEBSITE!

Additional Comments from Paula:

- ✓ Alex received 550 posters for Clean Water Week. He is getting the Calendars printed.
- ✓ Stormwater Committee met in March. The next meeting will be on June 7 (virtual).
- ✓ Lab Committee: Stephen Knollmeyer has stepped down as committee chair. She is actively thinking about who could be the Chair of this committee.

### **OFFICER'S REPORTS**

**Presidents Report:** Emily reported on the following:

- ✓ Brief update on the Strategic Planning Session. They will have a report out by the end of June.
- ✓ She thanked the Council Directors, and committee members for their hard work.

**President-Elect Report:** Terry Tucker had nothing to report.

**Vice President Report:** Rob Pontau reported the following.

- ✓ He will have good news at the next meeting with results from the Nomination Committee meeting.

**Immediate Past President:** Tim Wade

- ✓ The Nominating Committee met yesterday and identified two candidates and came up with additional names.

### **OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

Janine mentioned that MeWEA & MWUA have done a lot of good work for Maine.

Next Executive Committee will be June 21, 2024, at York Sewer District.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Phil Tucker, seconded by Peter Zaykoski, all approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:42AM.

### **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