

# Maine Water Environment NEWS

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A Publication of the Maine Water Environment Association

## President's Corner

By Paula Drouin, MEWEA President



Paula Drouin

I am a believer that in life, one never stops learning. The start of this year provided me a mini crash course in government affairs. I attended a public hearing in Augusta where I testified in favor of LD1510 (\$50M wastewater bond) and LD178 (\$5M stormwater bond). I also attended a work session on LD1298, An Act to Update Maine's Water Quality Standards. I had never spoken before a legislative committee before; in fact, I had never even gone to a hearing or work session. I didn't quite know what to expect, and I was nervous. Fortunately, on both occasions there were other MEWEA members there and I felt very supported and proud to be a part of it. I immediately saw the value of being present in order to gather informa-

tion and to speak on behalf of our association; however, it would not have been as easy on my own. I think one of the greatest things about our association is the willingness of people to help others learn and grow. MEWEA is full of highly skilled people with a wealth of knowledge, and I look forward to fostering existing friendships and building new ones as I move forward this year.

I strongly encourage anyone interested in getting involved in MEWEA to reach out to me. We have many committees doing fantastic work and a number of fun social/networking events, as well as resources to offer. One thing I hear over and over is "I didn't realize MEWEA did that". We do a lot, so please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or to discuss how MEWEA can better serve you. I plan to continue weekly President's messages, so stay tuned to those for more frequent updates on events and happenings. ●

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LAWPCA

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### NEWEA State Director

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\*For a complete Board Listing, please visit the MEWEA website at:

[www.mewea.org](http://www.mewea.org)

## Upcoming Executive Committee Meeting Dates:

**Mar. 1** – Executive Board Meeting - Senator Inn, Augusta

**Apr. 12** – Executive Board Meeting/Strategic Planning Session - Four Points Sheraton, Bangor



## Obituary for Allan Kenneth Moir

Dateline – Kennebunkport

Allan Kenneth Moir, 63, of Kennebunkport, died Sunday evening, December 24, 2017 at Gosnell Memorial Hospice House. He was born in Worcester, MA on May 20, 1954, a son of George Allan Moir and Elise Marie (Toomey) Moir. Allan grew up in Upton, MA, and graduated from Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School. Training to be a machinist, he worked for Bay State Abrasives in Westboro, MA. He then took a job as a plant operator with the Upton Sewer Department. While in Upton, he also learned the demanding and rewarding job of firefighter and EMT, working with the Upton Fire Department.

In 1977, he met his future wife, the former Donna Lee Carpenter, on a blind date. They were married on September 7, 1977, and celebrated their 40th anniversary earlier this year.

Allan and Donna moved to Maine in 1981 when Allan was hired by the Kennebunkport Wastewater Department. He became a well-respected member of the Washington Hose Company and, in 2010, was hired as Chief of the Kennebunkport Fire Department, a position in which he was serving at the time of his death. He was well loved by his firefighters, never asking them to do something he wouldn't do. Allan was also the proprietor of K-Port Divers. He taught SCUBA, tended moorings, and performed boat and ice rescues. When not working, he enjoyed being on his boat, hunting, fishing, and yardwork, ensuring Donna's garden was ready to plant. He was an Eagle Scout, and also held his private pilot's license.

In addition to his parents, Allan was predeceased by a brother, John Moir.

He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Donna Lee Moir of Kennebunkport; a brother, Andy Moir of Surry, ME; two sisters, Elise Elbrecht of Lake Peekskill, NY, and Denise Smith of Upton, MA; nieces and nephews Andrew and Thomas Elbrecht, Amanda and Amber Moir, Cameron and Madeline Smith.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at Kennebunkport Village Fire Department, 32 North Street, Kennebunkport.

Allan and his family would be honored if one would consider a donation to KEMS, PO Box 460B, Kennebunkport, ME 04046 in his memory.

To share a memory or leave a message of condolence, please visit Allan's Book of Memories page at [www.bibberfuneral.com](http://www.bibberfuneral.com).

Arrangements are in care of Bibber Memorial Chapel, 67 Summer Street, Kennebunk, ME 04043.

# ON MY SOAPBOX: Let me introduce myself!

By Mo Dube, Newsletter Editor

**Note: The opinions, positions, and views expressed in any “On My Soapbox” feature are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the opinions, positions or views of the Maine Water Environment Association.**

I will take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mo Dube, and I am the office manager/ Safety Coordinator at a private wastewater treatment plant, non-hazardous wastewater hauler, and composting facility in Belgrade Maine named Pat Jackson, Inc. I was born into the wastewater industry, my father Eugene “Gene” Dube the past president of Pat Jackson, Inc. a well known Site Evaluator and ingenuitive man that contributed greatly to the wastewater industry is the legacy I have to follow. I find that these are very big shoes to fill. My favorite thing to do is subsurface wastewater disposal system inspections, I can remember the times my dad would give me a ten dollar bill if I went out with him on his inspections and dug all the test pits, its more than just a fond memory, it was also experience gained, and why I was able to become a Maine state certified septic inspector at the age of 12. I am currently completing my apprenticeship as a site evaluator in training, and hope that to be my next venture, along with my operators exam, and class B-CDL exam that are right around the corner. I live a busy life with my spouse and two



Mo Dube and Sons

boys 4yo/3mo, and many animals. We have a small homestead that we call “miniature acres” where we raise nigerian dwarf goats for milk, various poultry ( Ducks, Chickens, and Turkeys) for meat and eggs, and rabbits. In addition to our crazy critters that live in the barn, we have 4 canine companions 2 collies, a rottweiler, pitbull, and 3 cats. My home is loud, rambunctious, and full of energy. I also can’t forget about my favorite seasons aka. Hunting and Fishing season, There is something very special about being in the woods, and going out on our skiff. My family has made it a point to live as sustainably as possible, so harvesting food for my family is more than just sport or hobby farm its understanding that life and resources are valuable. If we can not protect our resources such as our water, aquatic population, land and wildlife then there is no feasible way to sustain our human population. I use this thinking strategy daily to provide the best contribution to the wastewater community possible. I look forward to this upcoming year for MEWEA and being apart of an organization that is making such a beneficial impact on our state. 🌊

## Stay Informed

The legislature will be voting on *LD 1298 - An update to Maine’s Water Quality Standard* this session. The bill was introduced at the request of Maine DEP to update Maine’s water quality standards to be consistent with the EPA.

For more information and a summary of the changes please visit:

<http://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280064521>

MEWEA is proposing changes to the Association Bylaws based upon past Strategic Planning sessions. The membership will vote on these changes during the business meeting portion of the MEWEA 2018 Spring Conference on April 13.

The proposed changes can be found here:

<https://www.mewea.org/important-proposed-by-law-changes-to-be-voted-on-4-13-18/>



# DEP Update on Bill - L.D. 1298 – An Act To Update Maine’s Water Quality Standards

By Brian Kavanah, DEP

1. Why was L.D. 1298 – An Update to Maine’s Water Quality Standards introduced? This bill was introduced at the request of the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) to update Maine’s water quality standards to be consistent with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommendations.

All state water quality standards are required by federal law to be approved by the EPA. In 2012, EPA published new recommendations for recreational bacteria criteria. The new recommendations are based on the latest science to ensure the criteria are adequately protective of the designated use of recreation in and on the water. EPA’s 2012 recommendations are comprised of two numeric thresholds (geometric mean and a statistical threshold value (STV)), an averaging duration for the geometric mean, and a maximum frequency of exceedance for the STV.

EPA also recommended that Maine extend the season within which the criteria apply to reflect a longer time-period for potential human recreational contact than the current period (May 15 -September 30).

A public hearing was held on the bill in 2017 and the bill was carried over to the 2018 legislative session. At the work session on January 10, 2018, the Department recommended an amendment to the bill to address issues identified by interested parties and further refinements recommended by EPA to obtain their approval. The Environment and Natural Resources Committee (ENRC) made additional changes to the numeric thresholds and voted to pass the amended bill. The amended bill is attached. It is likely this bill will be voted on by the full legislature very soon. Additional information on the bill and schedule for final consideration can be found by searching for L.D. 1298 at <http://legislature.maine.gov/>.

2. What aspects of the amended bill are of interest to municipal wastewater facilities?

It is important to note that the amended bill does not directly regulate discharges. The bill specifies ambient water quality criteria. These criteria then serve as a basis for regulation of discharges to surface waters.

A. The current 7Q10 flow in the law may be too conservative for evaluating nutrient impacts.

The amended bill allows the use of a less conservative critical flow in a reasonable potential calculation, which may eliminate the need for nutrient limits for some discharges.

B. The bill modifies the ambient bacteria criteria for Class B, C, SB, SC waters. These changes are based on the latest science from EPA to protect the designated use of “recreation in and on the water.” The changes are:

- i. Reduces the bacteria (*Escherichia coli*) geometric mean number for Class C waters from 126 CFU per 100 milliliters to 100 CFU per 100 milliliters. All other bacteria numbers remain the same.
- ii. Adds a frequency and duration component when determining ambient attainment.
- iii. Extends the current time-period the bacteria criteria are in effect (May 15 – September 30) to April 15 – October 31.
- iv. Deletes current language that limits bacteria ambient nonattainment to “bacteria of human and domestic animal origin”.

3. How might the changes to the bacteria criteria affect my MEPDES waste discharge license?

The Department will make any changes necessary to MEPDES waste discharge licenses

(MEPDES/WDL) when they are due for renewal.

Fresh Water Discharges (Class B and C):

Permit Limits – Monthly Average:

As is current practice, ambient bacteria (*Escherichia coli*) geometric mean criteria serve as the basis for end of pipe monthly average (geometric mean) bacteria MEPDES/WDL limits. Therefore, Class B monthly average bacteria permit limits will remain the same. Class C monthly average bacteria limits will be reduced from 126 CFU per 100 milliliters to 100 CFU per 100 milliliters as shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Geometric Mean Criteria for *Escherichia coli* (#CFU per 100 mL) and Associated Permit Limits**

Class	Current Criterion	Proposed Criterion	Current Monthly Average (Geometric Mean) Permit Limit	Future Monthly Average (Geometric Mean) Permit Limit
Class B	64	64	64	64
Class C	126	100	126	100

Permit Limits – Daily Maximum:

As is current practice, ambient bacteria (*Escherichia coli*) instantaneous criteria serve as the basis for daily maximum MEPDES/WDL limits after consideration for dilution. Therefore, the Department expects that Class B and Class C monthly average bacteria

permit limits will remain the same for those discharges having a chronic dilution greater than that indicated in Table 2 below. As a historical note, prior to 2005 instantaneous criteria were used as the basis for daily maximum permit limits without consideration of dilution. When the instantaneous criteria became more strin-

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gent in 2005 via legislation, the Department developed a policy to apply dilution for daily maximum limits where it will not endanger critical areas such as designated swimming areas close to outfall locations. The currently used daily maximum limits shown in Table 2 below were derived from the pre-2005 criteria and are considered protective of existing (and proposed criteria) at the dilutions indicated in Table 2. Required chronic dilutions will be calculated assuming an ambient background concentration at the geometric mean (Class B=64 and Class C=1001), and an effluent concentration at the pre-2005 criteria (Class B=427 and Class C=949) such that the instantaneous criterion of 236 is not exceeded. Based on Department records, all POTWs discharging to Class B waters have a dilution greater than 1.1:1 and therefore we do not foresee daily maximum permit limits changing for Class B dischargers. Based on Department records, all but three POTWs discharging to Class C waters have a dilution greater than 6.2:1. All three of these discharges have received site specific bacteria limits in past permitting actions that are considered protective of the proposed instantaneous criterion therefore the Department does not foresee daily maximum permit limits changing for Class C dischargers. 1 Class C is currently 126 but will change to 100 if this bill is approved resulting in a lower required dilution to maintain the current permit limit.

**Table 2. Instantaneous Criteria for *Escherichia coli* (#CFU per 100 mL) and Associated Permit Limits**

Class	Current Criterion	Proposed Criterion	Current Daily Maximum Permit Limit	Future Daily Maximum Permit Limit
Class B	236	236	427 (if dilution >1.1)	427 (if dilution >1.1)
Class C	236	236	949 (if dilution >6.5)	949 (if dilution >6.5)

Marine Water Discharges (Class SB and SC)

Permit Limits:

L.D. 1298 does not change the current numerical enterococcus bacteria criteria that are used to ensure protection of the designated use of recreation in and on the water. However, as noted below, these numbers may serve as future bacteria MEPDES/WDL limits to ensure protection of recreation in and on the water in addition to the currently used bacteria limits for fecal coliform to ensure protection of shellfish harvesting.

The Duration and Frequency and Seasonality aspects of the bill will be implemented in Class SB and SC waters in the same manner as described above for Class B and C waters.

Unrelated to L.D. 1298, the Department has recently been considering potential changes to how bacteria are limited in MEPDES/WDL in Class SB and SC waters. The Department has historically limited bacteria discharges to marine waters by limiting fecal coliform to be protective of shellfish harvesting consistent with Department of Marine Resources (DMR) requirements.

This practice was believed to also be adequate to ensure protection of recreation in and on the water which is controlled in statute by criteria for enterococcus bacteria. Based on recent com-

Duration and Frequency:

The new duration and frequency components of the ambient criteria that are used to determine ambient attainment status cannot practically be incorporated into MEPDES/WDL limits and therefore the Department does not plan to use them in MEPDES/WDL.

Seasonality:

MEPDES/WDL bacteria limits (and any associated total residual chlorine (TRC) limits) that are currently applied May 15 - September 30 will be extended to April 15 - October 31. The Department is aware that some facilities that dechlorinate to comply with total residual chlorine (TRC) limits may not be currently structured properly to dechlorinate in colder temperatures.

This may result in crystallization of dechlorination chemicals. If infrastructure or other modifications are necessary to meet TRC limits in the extended bacteria season the Department expects to grant a compliance schedule where necessary to allow modifications to be made before the new extended seasonal bacteria and associated TRC limits become effective.

ments from EPA on Maine draft permits to marine waters, a recent Maine 316b permit to marine waters drafted by EPA, and discussions with the DMR on their most recent fecal coliform standards, the Department will be modifying how bacteria limits for marine discharges are established. This change is unrelated to L.D. 1298. It is likely that future marine discharge

MEPDES/WDL will contain limits for both fecal coliform and enterococcus bacteria. These limits may be able to be modified based on monitoring by the discharger. Additional details on this change will be provided to dischargers to marine waters at a later date.

4. Does the deletion of the current language that limits bacteria ambient nonattainment to “bacteria of human and domestic animal origin” affect my MEPDES/WDL?

No. EPA requested that this language be removed from the current law so that bacterial levels from any source (including wildlife) that exceed the ambient criteria could be considered nonattainment.

The Department would conduct any ambient monitoring that would be required to determine ambient attainment status.

# Clean Water Week Poster Contest

By Alex Buechner

Hello Friends! Aaaaaahhh. Can you feel it? Can you feel it in the air? That excitement that only comes once a year? Yes, that's right. It is once again time for the Clean Water Week poster contest announcements. Letters were sent out last month and by now have gotten to all the schools in the state, reminding them to encourage the Maine youths to express their creativity and appreciation for the environment by designing and submitting their very own posters. This is a great way to get the conversation started to inspire young people to appreciate and better understand where their water comes from, where it goes and just how vital it is to their everyday life. I think it is great. I have one tiny gripe though... Last year we received over 200 entries! Fantastic! Unfortunately, out of the greater than 500 schools in the state, only 3% of them had kids that participated. That means there is a good chance that most of the people who are reading this right now are working near a school district that does not participate. That is less than fantastic. It has got me thinking about how this could be improved. What can we do to spread the word and encourage participation? The approach that I have taken in my area is to reach out personally. I'm sure that the school systems are being bombarded with stuff all the time and it is easy for something like this to slip through the cracks with no one noticing. A phone call or an email coming from a local facility to the teachers or principals reminding them of the event can go a long way and even better, it can open up the door to further conversations about water and wastewater education. While on the phone with the Biddeford science teachers I let them know that we are also available to do facility tours as well as visits to their schools to talk to the kids about wastewater. As we all know too well, the biggest challenges in wastewater that we will be facing the future are an aging workforce, and even older infrastructure. It has always been my opinion that the key to solving both these issues is through a better understanding and appreciation by the general public. And what better way to change the hearts and minds of the public than by indoctrinating their kids?! Sorry, educating their kids. I meant to say educating... ●

## THIS COULD BE YOUR AD SPACE!

**Contact: Mo Dube or Bryanna Denis, MEWEA Communications Co-Chairs**

Mo Dube: [service@patjacksonseptic.com](mailto:service@patjacksonseptic.com)

Bryanna Denis: [bryanna.denis@wright-pierce.com](mailto:bryanna.denis@wright-pierce.com)

# Young Professionals

By Mike Guethele

In January, the MEWEA Young Professionals committee hosted an Ice Skating Family Night at Thompson's Point Rink in Portland. The annual event is organized as a laid-back opportunity for MEWEA members to spend time together as a group with their families in a social setting. While most of the organization's events are focused on technical education and networking, the annual skating day provides an opportunity for members to get to know one another on a more personal level. The event is also allows for newer and younger members to interact with our long-standing members in a less formal setting. This year, we were able to set aside a Friday afternoon for the event, and had over 20 attendees ranging from operators, municipal staff, consultants, and vendors. We plan on having the same event next year, and hope to see you there!

The MEWEA Young Professionals committee's next event will be a team at the Urban Runoff 5k and Green Neighbor Family Festival in Portland, where we will team with the Collections Committee to have an activity booth geared at informing the public about the Clean Water Industry. ●



Young professional group at Thompson Point Rink.

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Website: [www.mewea.org](http://www.mewea.org)

**Editorial Staff:** Bryanna Denis, Co-chair, Lead Project Engineer, Wright - Pierce, 11 Bowdoin Mill Island Ste. 104, Topsham, ME 04086. Phone: (207) 725-8721  
E-mail: [bryanna.denis@wright-pierce.com](mailto:bryanna.denis@wright-pierce.com)

Mo Dube, Co-Chair, Office Manager/Safety Coordinator, Pat Jackson, Inc., PO Box 691, Augusta, ME 04332-0691. Phone: (207) 623-3223  
E-mail: [service@patjacksonseptic.com](mailto:service@patjacksonseptic.com)

# The Water Warrior Jobs Initiative

By Peter Goodwin

## Overview

The drinking water and clean water industries are in crisis. Highly trained personnel who joined the industry in the 70's and 80's with the start of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) are retiring, and there is a marked shortage of qualified workforce ready to take their place. Lack of educational opportunities, training, and knowledge of the availability and desirability of the drinking water and clean water industry is leaving us with a manpower deficit and an imminent loss of decades of institutional knowledge.

On the other side are the highly trained, reliable, and competent veterans returning home and looking for good paying, stable jobs with the benefits and retirement opportunities that they deserve. Many skills learned in the Armed Forces, particularly with equipment maintenance and science based programs, translate very well into a successful career protecting the one thing no one in our country can live without, clean water.

The purpose of this initiative is to solve these two problems by promoting the drinking water and clean water industries as desirable career options, providing education and training opportunities, streamlining the process of certification for our veterans, and providing placement assistance and internships.

## Getting It Done

This initiative will require the coordinated efforts of industry leaders, veterans organizations, and government agencies, but the end result, getting veterans into good paying careers while serving their communities is worth it.

Current action items include:

- Coordinating training providers and the VA to get training provided TO the veterans, at reasonable costs.
- Coordination and agreement also needs to occur between state certification boards and the military/VA to determine which rates qualify for advanced time in rate, and how much.
- Discussions with DEP and state agencies to assess the feasibility for funding of the internship portion of this initiative, then coordinate how to connect veterans to prospective employers.
- Refinement/development of a regional Apprenticeship program.
- Ensure the water/wastewater jobs are advertised at Veteran job centers/websites.

Other ideas for promoting our industry to interested veterans include:

- Subsidizing the costs of online training programs/ training manuals. (Sacramento books, or the WEF MOP11, for example)
- Allow Veterans to attend NEWEA/WEF events at a reduced or subsidized cost, and advertise the events with VA Job centers/ Websites.

- Make certification testing more readily available to veterans, at no cost.

If you have a passion to participate in this effort, please visit the NEWEA website and join the Committee or contact Dustin Price [dprice@pwd.org](mailto:dprice@pwd.org) or Peter Goodwin [peter.goodwin@tedberrycompany.com](mailto:peter.goodwin@tedberrycompany.com)



A regional effort by the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) to recruit and retain returning and retiring U.S. Armed Forces veterans into the drinking water and clean water infrastructure fields.

## MEWEA joins in on Special Olympics Lobster Dip

By Mac Richardson, LAWPCA

Four MEWEA members with brave hearts and questionable judgment, jumped into the Atlantic Ocean at Old Orchard Beach on Saturday January 20 to support Special Olympics, Maine. The day was bright and mostly fair with only a slight breeze. This was a welcome sight to both organizers and participants as the event had been postponed twice due to extreme weather. The original date of January 1st saw air temperatures hovering around the negative single digits with wind chills well into the negative teens. The second reschedule date delivered an ice storm making travel hazardous. When time actually came to jump in the air temperature was right around the freezing mark with a 39 degree Fahrenheit water temperature. Still Plenty cold, but the four participants said that the experience wasn't really that bad, and raising over \$1,000 for Special Olympics made them agree to do this again if MEWEA puts together a team for 2019!



Nick, Paula, Scott and Mac still smiling after the dip.



# 2018 MEWEA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
January 1	MONDAY	Noon	Lobster Dip	The Brunswick, Old Orchard Beach
January 19	FRIDAY	9:00 A.M.	Executive Board Meeting	Maine Municipal Association
January 19	FRIDAY	5:30-7:30 P.M.	Family Skate Night	Thompson's Point, Portland
January 21-24	SUNDAY- WEDNESDAY		NEWEA Annual Conference	Copley Place, Boston
February 6 & 7	TUESDAY- WEDNESDAY		MWUA Joint Conference	Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland
March 1	THURSDAY	7:00-9:00 A.M.	Legislative Breakfast	Senator Inn, Augusta
March 1	THURSDAY	9:00 A.M.	Executive Board Meeting	Senator Inn, Augusta
March 2	FRIDAY	8:00 A.M.	Ski Day with NHWPCA	Black Mountain Ski Resort Rumford
March 29	THURSDAY		Maine Sustainability & Water Conference	Augusta Civic Center
* April 12	THURSDAY	Noon	Lunch 12:45 p.m. Executive Board Meeting/Strategic Planning Session	Four Points Sheraton Bangor
April 13	FRIDAY	7:30 A.M.	MEWEA Spring Conference	Four Points Sheraton Bangor
April 17-18	TUESDAY- WEDNESDAY		Washington D. C. Fly-In	Washington, D. C.
April 21	SATURDAY	9:00 A. M.	Urban Runoff	Deering High School Portland
May 18	FRIDAY		Southern Maine Children's Water Festival	USM Portland
May 18	FRIDAY	9:00 A.M.	Executive Board Meeting	TBD
June 3-6	SUNDAY- WEDNESDAY		NEWEA Spring Meeting	Goat Island Newport, RI

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# 2018 MEWEA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



June 4-8	MONDAY-FRIDAY		Clean Water Week Poster Contest	
June 15	FRIDAY	9:00 A.M.	Executive Board Meeting	Maine Municipal Association
June	TUESDAY		Hall of Flags joint event with AGC Maine & "Clean Water for ME" coalition	State House, Augusta
July	TBD		Androscoggin Land Trust Paddle After Hours	Auburn - TBD
August	Thursday		Androscoggin Land Trust Paddle After Hours	Auburn – Gritty's
August 17	FRIDAY	9:00 A.M.	Executive Board Meeting/Summer BBQ	Sunday River
September 19	WEDS	11:00 A.M.	MEWEA Golf Tournament	Sunday River
September 20 & 21	THURSDAY-FRIDAY	8:00 A.M.	MEWEA Fall Convention	Sunday River
September 29-October 3	SATURDAY-WEDNESDAY		WEFTEC	New Orleans
October 3 & 4	WEDS-THURS	8:00 A.M.	MMA Convention	Augusta Civic Center
October 9	TUESDAY		Northern Maine Children's Water Festival	UMO, Orono
October 19	FRIDAY	9:00 A.M.	Executive Board Meeting	TBD
November 16	FRIDAY	9:00 A.M.	Executive Board Meeting/Budget Workshop	Maine Municipal Association
* December 14	FRIDAY	9:00 A.M.	Executive Board Meeting\Final Budget/Holiday Luncheon	Maine Municipal Association

\* Lunch Provided

This is your newsletter – if you have news you would like to pass along or an opinion to express that would be of interest to the membership of MEWEA we are always interested in receiving material and will make every effort to incorporate your submissions.

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER  
60 COMMUNITY DR  
AUGUSTA ME 04330

# Maine Water Environment **NEWS**

## February 2018 ISSUE

*please circulate and share with your colleagues*



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