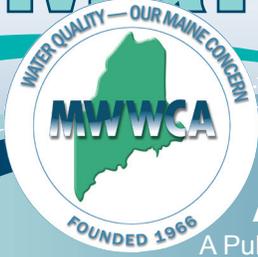


# Maine WasteWater NEWS



August 2012 • Summer

A Publication of the Maine WasteWater Control Association

1-800-452-8786

## Trenchless Training Opportunity

On October 16, 2012, there will be an opportunity to attend a seminar in the greater Springfield, Massachusetts area (exact location is still TBD) presented by the Northeast Trenchless Association, the Trenchless Technology Center at Louisiana Tech University and US EPA (New England Municipal Assistance Program). The full day seminar, "Trenchless Technologies – Practical Applications, Design, and Construction Considerations", will include premier speakers from throughout the Northeastern United States and feature keynote speaker, Dr. Ray Sterling. Dr. Sterling is a past Chairman of the ISTT and NASTT who brings a wide range of practical experience to this growing construction practice. For more information, contact Matt Timberlake at [matt@tedberrycompany.com](mailto:matt@tedberrycompany.com) or watch for online registration at [www.northeasttrenchless.com](http://www.northeasttrenchless.com)



## WANTED!

Do you know someone dedicated to their job? Do they work within a wastewater or stormwater collection system? **NOMINATE THEM FOR THE CHARLES PERRY AWARD!** Nominations can be made by clicking on the link below. Additional information is available from Mathew Bodwell at Hydro International, 92 Hutchins Dr. Portland, ME 04102 or (207) 756-6200.

<http://www.mwwca.org/charles-perry-award.htm>

## 2012 Officers

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Portland, ME

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North Yarmouth, ME

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

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

## Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

**October 19** – 9:00  
Monthly Meeting – MMA

**November 16** – 9:00  
Monthly Meeting – MMA

# CFL RECYCLING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

By Erik Sorenson, National Electrical Manufacturers Association and Carole Cifrino, Maine DEP

Many people are aware that compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) are among the most efficient light sources you can have in your home. Not only do they provide an excellent quality of light at a price that any budget can afford, they also deliver significant energy savings for the duration of their life. In economic times like these, every little bit of savings helps.

What some people may not know is that it is the law in Maine to recycle CFLs. Since 2011, a recycling program with over 150 municipal and retail collection sites throughout the state has been in place to serve the residents of Maine.

So next time you take a spent CFL out of a socket, remember to visit [www.lamprecycle.org/maine](http://www.lamprecycle.org/maine) to find the location of a recycling location near you. Not only is recycling a good idea, but it helps keep the environment clean – and that is a very bright idea. ●



## Reduce. Relight. Recycle.

**You can recycle your used CFL bulbs here.**

**And not only is it a good idea, it's the law.**

**In addition to helping keep our environment clean, you're saving energy too.  
Because CFLs use less— and we think that's a very bright idea.**

**For more information go to [lamprecycle.org](http://lamprecycle.org)**

© 2012, NEMA

# MWWCA Updates Its Facility Directory.

By Leeann Hanson, JETCC

## \*\*\*To all Members with a MEPDES Permit!\*\*\*

Recently you should have received a survey-letter from JETCC seeking updated information on your facility. This letter would have come from JETCC as they are assisting Maine WasteWater Control Association with a project to create an updated directory on Maine's Water Pollution Control facilities. The outcome of this project will be a tool for you to have at your fingertips to easily locate and contact other treatment plants around the state.

If you have not responded already, could you please do so by reviewing

the information sent to you. All you need to do is confirm that the information is correct or update as needed and forward your reply directly to JETCC. **If possible, we ask that you provide your information by Friday, July 27.**

Fax: 207-253-8020 | Email: [jetc@maine.rr.com](mailto:jetc@maine.rr.com)

JETCC, PO Box 487, Scarborough ME, 04070-0487

If you did not receive the survey-letter you may complete the attached pdf or enter your information online by visiting [www.jetcc.org](http://www.jetcc.org)

If you have any questions please call JETCC at 207/253-8020

# MWWCA E-Mail Database

All current members of MWWCA should receive periodic e-mails, which may include the most recent newsletter, conference and training announcements, or regulatory updates. If you haven't received any e-mails from the organization recently, you may wish to update your information in the distribution list by sending your current e-mail address to Joan Kiszely at [jkiszely@memun.org](mailto:jkiszely@memun.org). Don't miss out on the exciting networking and educational opportunities MWWCA provides!

## MILESTONE: Daniel V. Swasey

SCARBOROUGH -- Daniel V. Swasey, 67, of Portland, passed away at the Gosnell Memorial Hospice House in Scarborough on June 14, 2012, after a courageous battle with cancer.

He was born on Feb. 17, 1946, in Portland, the son of Perley A. and Margaret (Belfontaine) Swasey. He attended Portland Schools, graduating from Portland High School in 1965.

While still in high school, Daniel enlisted in the U.S. Navy and after graduation, served aboard the U.S.S. Hawkins in Vietnam. He was proud of the fact that he circumnavigated the world twice during his service.

Daniel worked for 35 years for the Portland Water District, beginning with digging ditches and working his way up to being a Systems Operator as he prepared to retire in June.

Daniel had several passions, including learning to cook, hosting dinner parties often on Saturday nights for

friends and making many types of candies. He also loved photography, highlighted by studying under Ansel Adams in the summer of 1974 after a cross country trip with his daughter and good friend. Daniel also had a passion for music, learning to play guitar in his forties. Having a true thirst for knowledge, he always wanted to learn something new.

Daniel was a gregarious person who always gave everything he could to his friends and family. He loved to give to others, believing that you always get out of life what you put in to it. He could relate to everybody, it didn't matter who someone was or what they had, he loved to connect with anyone who crossed paths with him.

He was a great friend, a great father and will be missed tremendously by those who knew him.

Daniel was predeceased by parents; his brothers, Robert and Harry and his sister Judie. He is survived by his

daughter Christina Swasey of Portland; and his brothers, Perley 'Pete' Swasey of New Hampshire, Donald Swasey of Sabattus and Everett Swasey of Buxton. He is also survived by his girlfriend, Anna Delaney of Portland; two very special friends, Virginia Pulling of Portland and Donna McCusker of South Portland; as well as several nieces and nephews.

At Daniel's request there will be a celebration of life at a later date. There will be a service notice in the paper closer to the celebration. He wants people to come ready to laugh and have fun! Arrangements are by A.T. Hutchins, LLC Funeral and Cremation Services, 660 Brighton Ave., Portland. To offer words of condolence and share memories with the family, please go to [www.athutchins.com](http://www.athutchins.com).

Please consider honoring Daniel by making a donation in his memory to the Animal Refuge League or the Gosnell Hospice House.

# “FLUSHABLES” FOCUS GROUP

By Aubrey Strause, Assistant Editor

On August 2, Michelle Clements (Public Relations and Information agent for the Portland Water District) and I were invited to watch two focus groups sponsored by INDA, the association that represents the manufacturers of non-woven wipes. The focus group discussions were held in Portland and were moderated in two sessions by a marketing specialist who works for an INDA member company. MWWCA had been given the opportunity to provide feedback on the design of the questions presented to the focus groups.

The table at which the group was seated was covered with nearly 30 different types of products, including toilet paper, baby wipes, surface cleaning wipes, feminine products, paper towels, and many more. It felt very “Law & Order”-like to sit behind the tinted, one-way glass as we watched consumers weigh in on what “wipes” products they use, how they dispose of them, and how they determine what’s OK to flush. As the moderator walked both groups through the discussion, there were a few surprises. First, participants in the groups were very candid about the materials they did flush- an honesty that was excellent to hear. Many of the participants were very environmentally conscious, and adamant that

many of the materials on the table should never, ever be flushed.

Another pleasant surprise was the enthusiasm of both groups for having a large, clear, logo on packaging, representing that the product should not be flushed. The group said that the logo should be placed in a prominent place that you “couldn’t miss”, and thought that a toilet with a line through it- like the logo shown below, developed by INDA- would be very clear and effective.



We were also interested to learn that a few members of the group had experienced issues with their home plumbing or septic system in the past. These participants strongly respected the instructions given to them by the plumbers that fixed it: if it’s not toilet paper, don’t flush it, no matter what the label says.

The focus group discussions were recorded, and a copy will be provided to MWWCA. The conclusions from the sessions will shape a survey that INDA will develop with MWWCA and that will hopefully lead to meaningful labeling and marketing changes. The goal is to reduce the type, number, and volume of materials that enter collection systems and that our communities need to deal with. ●

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2012 MWWCA FALL CONVENTION

The next Exhibitor Show will be held during the MWWCA Fall Convention at Sugarloaf in Carrabassett Valley, September 12-14, 2012.

The event will kick off with the annual golf tournament on September 12th, followed by two days of vendor exhibits and technical sessions. The exhibit area and technical sessions begin on Thursday, September 12th and conclude on Friday, September 13th. Join us for the latest in technology, networking, learning and fun. See you there!!!!

For more information, visit our website at [www.mwwca.org](http://www.mwwca.org) and Sugarloaf at [www.sugarloaf.com](http://www.sugarloaf.com)

# SAFETY CORNER: NEW FORMAT FOR MSDS SHEETS

Al Jellison, Safety Committee Chair

Do you remember a world without Material Safety DATA Sheets (MSDS) or the Hazard Communication Standards (1910.1200)? If so, then you have been in the industry for longer than 25 years. How do you like those numbers, Mac? OSHA has updated (March 26, 2012) this Standard and has adopted the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. This system will make all labels and Safety Data Sheets identical in their formats. The new classification system is more robust and precise and DATA driven than the old program. The chemical labels will have the following mandatory information which will include a pictogram, signal word, hazard statement and precautionary statements, product identifier, and supplier identification.

As of now the following are important dates to know for Employers:

- December 01, 2013: Employees will be trained on the elements of the new labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) (Employees have to be trained on the MSDS as the products are received, but if you do not have any of the new SDS, than training has to be done on the new formats)
- June 01, 2016: Update alternative workplace labeling and hazard communication program as necessary, and provide additional employee training for newly identified physical or health hazards. (Both old and new systems will be allowed until 12/01/2015)

The key thing to remember is that when your facility gets the new SDS, training needs to be provided. 🌐

## MILESTONE: Percy G. Harris

The Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District has lost a long-time friend. Percy G. Harris, age 76, of New Sharon, passed away unexpectedly on July 22, 2012, at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston from complications of Parkinson's and heart disease. Percy was the owner and president of AAA Interstate Septic Tank until his death. He enjoyed tinkering around the business and home. Every day, he would ride his four-wheeler from his home to his business and the new treatment system that he was working on. Percy is survived by his wife of 25 years, Nancy, his eight children, and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. 🌐

## UPCOMING 2012 EVENTS:

### \*\*Two-day Workshop "Fundamentals of Asset Management – A Hands-On Approach"\*\*

August 21-22 – Portsmouth, NH. Sponsored by NEWEA, USEPA, and New England Water Works Association

### \*\*USEPA Webcast "Method Update Rule: What's New and Why?"\*\*

August 23 – visit: [www1.gotomeeting.com/register/196455489](http://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/196455489) to register.

### \*\*NEWEA Collection Systems Seminar and Exhibit\*\*

September 11 – Westford, MA

### \*\*MWWCA Fall Convention\*\*

September 12-14 – Sugarloaf USA, Carrabassett Valley, ME

### \*\*NEBRA/NEWEA Biosolids and Energy Conference\*\*

September 23-24 – Amherst, MA

### \*\*WEFTEC\*\*

September 30 October 3 – New Orleans, LA

### \*\*MMA Convention\*\*

October 3 & 4 – Augusta Civic Center

### \*\*Trenchless Technologies Seminar\*\*

October 16th – Greater Springfield, Mass (email [matt@tedberrycompany.com](mailto:matt@tedberrycompany.com) for more information)

Contact **Tim LeVasseur** at [TLevasseur@kstd.com](mailto:TLevasseur@kstd.com) with information on retirements, promotions, memorials, or other events impacting MWWCA members that should be included in our "Milestones" segment.

# ON MY SOAPBOX: It's the D-- Code!

By Mac Richardson, Newsletter Co-Editor

Have you experienced situations where rules, regulations or codes forced you to spend significant money for no apparent benefit? If you have not, consider yourself both very lucky and possibly isolated! As I get geared up for this latest rant of mine, let me give you a couple recent examples of what I mean.

- L/AWPCA has to add a “grab rail” to the hand rail that we will be installing on the stairs leading up our anaerobic digestion tanks. Never mind that the new “grab rail” is only two inches below the top rail of the handrail that was proposed! Apparently, someone is going to climb up our digesters who can reach up to 34 inches but not 36 inches!
- When doing some work on our headworks, we proposed to improve the isolation from potential explosive gases by adding an air lock between the headworks and the rest of the plant. Between the design engineers and the local electrical inspector, a conservative reading of NFPA 820 was forcing consideration of blocking off all

internal access to the headworks and adding a new covered walkway around the side of the building! Never mind that the code itself explicitly states that it is not the intention to add burdensome costs to existing facilities, or that the plant has operated for over 40 years with no air lock, with no explosions during that period. In any case, I have heard of many facilities where essentially an “imaginary line” becomes the point or demarcation between where all equipment needs to be explosion proof and where standard equipment is allowable.

- How about the collection system that had to add not one but two (male and female) handicapped access restrooms to a sewage pumping station building. I bet a veritable flood of disabled people use those facilities!

I am sure you have plenty examples of similar wastes of public money and resources. From odd portions of labor contracts, to organization/company policies, to insurance requirements, to past practices, I suspect we all have been frustrated by these requirements

that often just don't make sense. In today's competitive world, and struggling economy, how can we justify letting these ridiculous requirements go by without trying to change them or at least pointing out how they waste resources that are needed for other things? Do the requirements for Davis-Bacon wage rates really make sense for publicly funded work (as mandated by most SRF projects)? Is it time that women-owned and minority-owned businesses no longer need carve outs and special treatment?

I am not against all regulation and standards, and codes are certainly useful when applied with a modicum of reason and rational thought. Let's hope that we can look at what we do and how we do it in order to work smarter and use our resources to maximize public benefit. Some rules, regulations and codes need to be examined to ensure that they make sense and actually deliver the benefit for which they were intended or were created. Maybe even EPA can look at the nutrient criteria proposed by Maine DEP with a fresh set of eyes! 

## Reminder: Operator Scholarships Available

The MWWCA Personnel Advancement Committee is accepting applications for operator training scholarships. An individual selected for a scholarship must be a current member of the Association. Recipients will be reimbursed for up to 85% of the total cost of tuition, materials, registration and other related costs, up to a maximum of \$250.00 per request. Training programs can include JETCC, NEIETC, technical college courses, and similar offerings. Visit <http://www.mwwca.org/scholarship.htm> to learn more about the scholarship program, eligibility requirements, and to download an application. 

# MWWCA Fall Convention - September 12-14, 2012

Maine WasteWater Control Association  
 Fall 2012 Convention  
 "Resources at Your Fingertips"  
 Sugarloaf Resort; Carrabasset Valley, Maine  
**THURSDAY SESSIONS**

	NARROW GAUGE	SPRUCE	OAK
7:00 to 8:00	<i>Registration and Breakfast</i>		
	<i>Young Professional Mentor Matchups</i>		
8:00 to 9:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 1</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Industrial V-Belt Energy Recovery</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Paul Freeman (Eastern Industrial Automation)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 2</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PVC Joining Methods and Techniques</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Charlie Jennings (Spears Manufacturing)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 3</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Decoding Social Media</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Paula Drouin (LAWPCA) and members of the MWWCA Young Professionals Committee</p>
9:00 to 9:30	<i>Break/Vendor Time</i>		
9:30 - 10:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Advances in Control Technologies</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Jim Fritz (Electrical Installations, Inc. [EEI])</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hazard Communication</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Sharon Holmes (Maine Bureau of Labor's SafetyWorks! program)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 6</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Speaking</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Donna Tutty (Toastmasters of Maine)</p>
10:30 - 11:00	<i>Break/Vendor Time</i>		
11:00 - 12:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 7</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Androids, iPads, and Playbook (Oh My!): Applications for Tablets in Small Systems</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Sheldon Smith (Woodard &amp; Curran)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 8</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Flocculants and Coagulants for Wastewater Treatment</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Joe Lynch (GAC Chemical Corporation)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 9</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>USDA's Rural Development Funding Program</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Ronald Lambert (Community Programs Director, USDA Rural Development, Maine)</p>
12:00 - 1:30	<b>LUNCH/BUSINESS MEETING</b> <i>KEYNOTE: Senator Thomas B. Saviello (R, Senate District 18)</i>		
1:30 - 2:00	<b>VENDOR TIME/DESSERT</b>		
2:00 - 3:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 10</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Writing an Effective RFP</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Mary L. Monahan (MLM Connections)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 11</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>What Do I Do Now? Dealing with Personnel Issues</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Donald Brewer (Human Resources Director, City of South Portland)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 12</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Excavation Safety</b> <b>Part 1: Refresher</b> <b>Part 2: Updates to Dig Safe Rule</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speakers: Part 1: Michael LaPlante (Maine Bureau of Labor's SafetyWorks! program) Part 2: Jeff McNelly (Executive Director, Maine Water Utilities Association)</p>
	<b>VENDOR "ROUND TABLE"</b>		
3:00 - 3:30	<i>Break/Vendor Time</i>		
3:30 - 4:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 13</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Legislative Update</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: MWWCA Government Affairs Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 14</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Maine DEP's Technical Assistance Services</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Dick Darling (Maine DEP)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION 15</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Intrinsic Safety: Drivers for Safeguarding Your System</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Larry Mills (Williamson Electric/ WECO Group)</p>
4:30 to 6:30	<b>MEET AND GREET</b>		
6:30 to 8:30	<i>Young Professional Mentoring Pizza Party</i>		

# MWWCA Fall Convention - September 12-14, 2012

Maine WasteWater Control Association  
 Fall 2012 Convention  
 "Resources at Your Fingertips"  
 Sugarloaf Resort; Carrabasset Valley, Maine  
**FRIDAY SESSIONS**

	NARROW GAUGE	SPRUCE	OAK
7:00 to 8:00	Registration and Breakfast		
8:00 to 9:00	<b>SESSION 16</b>  <b>Setting up a CCTV Program</b> <b>Part 1: Evaluating Options and Making the Investment</b> <b>Part 2: Municipal Perspectives</b>  Speakers: Part 1: Matt Timberlake (Ted Berry, Co); Part 2: Dave Hughes (Scarborough Sanitary District) and Dave Keith (Carrabasset Valley)	<b>SESSION 17</b>  <b>In-House Collection System and Facility Services</b>  Speaker: Nate Nichols (EJ Prescott)	<b>SESSION 18</b>  <b>Ergonomics and Occupational Health</b>  Speaker: Randy Klatt (MEMIC)
9:00 to 9:30	Break/Vendor Time		
9:30 - 10:30	<b>SESSION 19</b>  <b>Tools for Asset Condition Assessment</b>  Speakers: Jack Healey and Gina Snyder (USEPA Region 1)	<b>SESSION 20</b>  <b>Innovative Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Improvements at the Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center</b>  Speaker: Tom Page (Underwood Engineering)	<b>SESSION 21</b>  <b>Maine Municipal Association's Value to Your District</b>  Speaker: Eric Conrad (MMA Director of Communication & Educational Services)
10:30 - 11:30	<b>SESSION 22</b>  <b>Interpretations of NFPA 820 (Fire Protection in Wastewater Facilities)</b>  Panel: Jeff Romero (CDMSmith)	<b>SESSION 23</b>  <b>MWWCA's Open House Program and other Outreach Materials</b>  Speakers: Andre Brousseau (Sanford Sewerage District) and Matt Timberlake (Ted Berry, Co)	<b>SESSION 24</b>  <b>Considerations of GIS for Asset Management / Maine GIS Users Group</b>  Speaker: Aimee Mountain, GISP (GZA GeoEnvironmental)
12:00 - 1:30	LUNCH		
1:30 - 2:30	<b>SESSION 25</b>  <b>Design and Function of Common Centrifugal Pump Types</b>  Speaker: Mike Loncoski (AQUA Solutions, Inc.)	<b>SESSION 26</b>  <b>"Water's Worth It": Implementing WEF Into Your Outreach Materials</b>  Speakers: Howard Carter (Saco, ME) and Dan Bisson (CDMSmith)	<b>SESSION 27</b>  <b>Aeration: Understanding your Needs and Choosing a Blower Technology</b>  Speakers: Bart Booz (Wright-Pierce) with Glenn Schultz (Piller Blowers)
2:30 - 3:30	<b>SESSION 28</b>  <b>Maine DEP Update</b>  Speakers: Brian Kavanah (Director, Division of Water Quality Management) and Maine DEP staff		<b>SESSION 29</b>  <b>Motor Control Center and VFD Technology</b>  Speaker: Mike Gervais (Electrical Controls of Maine)

# Addressing the Challenges Associated with Operation of a New Treatment Facility – Ellsworth, ME

By Robert Polys & Brent Bridges, Woodard & Curran

Achieving high quality effluent is a complex challenge for wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs) throughout Maine. Changing regulations, tighter permit limits, and heightened public scrutiny can substantially increase the pressure on treatment systems and operators. When the City of Ellsworth set out to plan a new wastewater treatment facility, which is currently under construction, it knew that high effluent quality and flexibility in process control to accommodate current and future flows and loads would be key considerations.

After evaluating its options, Ellsworth selected a plug flow activated sludge treatment process with anoxic selectors for the new facility. The biological treatment system includes tapered fine bubble diffused aeration zones, anoxic selectors, an aerobic/anoxic swing zone and internal mixed liquor recycle pumping for additional process control flexibility and nitrogen management. The new state of the art treatment plant is configured to handle the wide fluctuations in flow that the City experiences during wet weather events. The plug flow activated sludge system was chosen because it was the most cost effective treatment process. In addition, it provides the City with the flexibility to accommodate large variations in flows and loads, especially during the initial years of facility operation and in the case of wet weather events.

The existing plant, which will be replaced by the new facility, used an attached growth (Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC)) process. As Ellsworth makes the transition to the new facility, there will be an increase in the level of complexity and sophistication in operation of the new WWTF. The new systems can put pressure on facility staff to learn all the nuances of a new treatment system. To assist the staff, the new WWTF includes a state of the art supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system which allows for automated operation of the facility. This functionality will help assist the staff streamline operations while also providing real time and historical data to assist them with biological process control. The new WWTF also presents a number of exciting challenges for facility staff. Specifically, operators will have the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of a new biological process, new process equipment, and the other associated support systems that have been added. One of the most unique challenges for the staff will be managing facility operations during periods of low flows and loads during the initial years of operation. The wastewater staff have been proactive in developing an understanding of the low flow and loading capabilities of the new WWTF which have been included in the design to assist them during the initial years of facility operation. Recently, the wastewater superintendent (Michael Harris) and chief operator

(Raymond Robidoux) completed a full day training session on the plug flow activated sludge process with nitrogen management which was specifically dedicated to facility operations and process control during the initial years of operation.

In addition to the focus on high quality effluent, Ellsworth's new facility has been designed with additional features to support the City and surrounding area effectively. These include facilities to accept septage and other hauled waste. The septage receiving facilities include dedicated offloading, storage, transport and odor mitigation systems. A heating system which uses the treated effluent to assist in heating the buildings in the winter and the buildings in the summer adds to the overall facility energy efficiency. Sludge dewatering at the new WWTF will be accomplished using a high solids centrifuge to minimize the cost of dewatered sludge cake disposal off site.

The new plant will be complete in the fall of 2012, and will provide Ellsworth with the technology and capacity it needs to grow in the future. In addition to the ability to accommodate future City growth, the new facility has been moved from the city's waterfront area up to Bayside Road. The existing WWTF will be demolished following the completion of the new facility, thus allowing the City to redevelop the waterfront area where the existing WWTF is located. ●

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 MWWCA we are always interested in receiving material and will make every effort to incorporate your submissions.

# CLEAN WATER WEEK POSTER

By Matt Timberlake, Ted Berry Co

On July 17, 2012, Governor Paul LePage met winners of the MWWCA Clean Water Week poster contest. Ezra Smith of Brooks, Kaylee Townsend of Hudson, and Stephanie Ayotte of Kennebunk were the respective first, second, and third place winners of the contest. The students presented their artwork to the public at an event in the State's capitol honoring them for their accomplishments. Also speaking at the event were MWWCA Public Relations Chair Matt Timberlake and State Senator Tom Saviello.

The first place winner won a televi-

sion/DVD combination and educational tapes for his or her school. All three winning entries received cash prizes. Over 125 students participated in this year's contest.

"Maine has nearly 6,000 lakes, covering about one million acres of our state. These lakes generate about \$3.5 billion annually and provides 52,000 jobs for Maine's economy," Governor

LePage shared with the contest winners. "Keeping Maine's water clean means a stronger economy and a healthier environment, so I appreciate all the effort you put into this contest."

In 1983 the Maine Legislature made provisions to designate the first full week of June as Maine Clean Water Week. Maine Clean Water Week was created to increase the public's awareness of the improvements made in the quality of Maine's waterways.

*Editor's Note: Thanks to Matt, who chairs the MWWCA Public Relations Committee, for his hard work to coordinate the Governor and for organizing the Clean Water Week poster competition!*



**Maine WasteWater NEWS** is a quarterly publication of the Maine Waste-Water Control Association. (Publication months: Feb, May, Aug, Nov) Opinions expressed in this publication should be addressed to: MWWCA, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330.

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# It's Baaack! Maine Dep Restarts Process For Nutrient Criteria in Surface Water

By Paul Rodriguez and Tom Danielson

The Department of Environmental Protection has recently published another draft of Chapter 583, "Nutrient Criteria for Surface Waters" for review and public comment. The latest draft, published this past June, was revised to address comments and recommendations made by the EPA regarding subsequent drafts of Chapter 583 in a letter sent to the DEP in December of 2011. While the details surrounding the "Nutrient Rule" and the impact of nutrients in any water body can be very complicated, we wanted to offer a "Readers Digest" version of the core issues. The nutrient criteria are a combination of values for total phosphorus (TP) and nutrient response indicators. There are a variety of response indicators because of the different kinds of waterbodies, such as small streams, large rivers, lakes, and impoundments. The response variables include Secchi-disk depth, water column chlorophyll a, % algal cover, patches of bacteria and fungi,

pH, dissolved oxygen, and aquatic life. DEP would select the appropriate combination of response variables depending on the type of waterbody being sampled. The nutrient criteria include different expectations for water quality classes (AA, A, B, C, and GPA). The draft Nutrient Rule includes a decision framework that determines attainment of nutrient criteria based on the combination of TP and response indicators. A waterbody would not be impaired solely on elevated TP concentrations. A waterbody would attain nutrient criteria if all of the measured response indicators were met. The most recent draft of Chapter 583 gives the Department the flexibility to conduct additional assessments and establish a new (higher) site-specific TP concentration if all response indicators are met but the TP concentration is not met. If the TP concentration is met, but any of the response indicators are NOT met, the Department would have the flexibility to consider other stressors, such as urbanization, non-point source pollu-

tion, toxics, and other nutrients, when determining the cause of impairment. The draft Nutrient Rule also provides flexibility in focusing remediation on other parameters, such as total suspended solids, if controlling that parameter would improve water quality more efficiently and at less expense than installing phosphorus controls. As always, the "devil is in the details" with respect to data collection and analysis, and the draft rule also includes stipulations relating to sampling. The DEP is generally responsible for sampling and data analysis, and should outside entities wish to collect samples, the rule requires that they submit a sampling plan to the DEP for review and approval.

For those interested in reading the full text of the documents referenced herein, please refer to the website link listed below.

<http://www.maine.gov/dep/water/nutrient-criteria/index.html>

## MWWCA SOCIAL MEDIA GOES LIVE

The MWWCA Twitter and Facebook accounts are now live! Anyone that would like to connect by becoming a fan or follower is encouraged to do so (links: <https://twitter.com/mwwca> and <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Maine-WasteWater-Control-Association/329785800446834>). Also, to keep the pages active with timely updates and information, we invite our members to suggest relevant information to post. All material posted must comply with the Social Media Policy- contact Maine Municipal Association or any Executive Committee member for a copy of this policy. Email Paula Drouin ([pdrouin@lawpca.org](mailto:pdrouin@lawpca.org)) or any member of the Young Professionals or Communications committees with your suggestions.

## WEBSITE UPDATE

MWWCA is pleased to report that we have selected a designer to update the MWWCA website. The new site should be ready to "go live" by the Fall Convention in September. Stay tuned for a website that meets the growing needs of the Association.

# Maine WasteWater NEWS

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*please circulate and share with your colleagues*



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