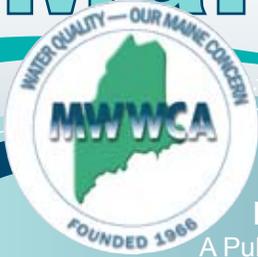


Maine WasteWater NEWS



February 2009 • Winter

A Publication of the Maine WasteWater Control Association

President's Corner

It is my pleasure to serve again as your President of the Maine Waste Water Control Association. I truly appreciate the work that all the members do to make this organization the one which we see today. It sincerely makes us an Association to be proud of.

Over the years we have seen many advances in the environmental field and technology has played a huge role in that. We now talk about SCA-DA, PDF's, VFD's, and even BFF's. Our world sure has and will continue to change. Years ago did we ever think we would be in the kettle of alphabet soup we now work within? Again technology and science at their best.

Speaking for myself, I know changes have been far sweeping and very important to our work. There will continue to be many challenges ahead of us. The world has numerous acronyms and abbreviations out there but have you ever thought of the impact of a punctuation point? Could 2009 be known as the year of the comma?

Let me explain. Two of our biggest initiatives for the year will involve the color green. It is on the top of everyone's mind these days to say "Let's go Green." It is everywhere and is one of the newest catch phrases. It should be a goal for all water and wastewater facilities and the greater membership of the Association, to say "Let's go Green."

But now we need to add a comma and change the way those three little words read. "Let's go, Green." That would be in regards to the huge financial needs for infrastructure repair and upkeep ahead of us. So many years underground. Out of sight, out of mind, until something happens, that is. Like a cheerleader supporting the home team we all need to rally together to see these changes made for long-term benefits of the environment. "Let's go, Green."

The government affairs committee is busily working to help us out in this area. This is something I urge all members to become involved with. The systems which we have utilized for so many years are now breaking down. So if we are indeed to chant the mantra, "Let's go Green" we must also carry the rallying cry of "Let's go, Green" at the same time.

As I close I urge all of you to think of the power of the comma for this year. Evaluate where you can make changes and support the challenges that will allow these goals and our infrastructure needs to be met. So I ask all to say "Let's go Green" and "Let's go, Green." Indeed let's make 2009, the year of the comma!!!

Yours in Environmental Stewardship,
Thomas L. Wiley, President 2009

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

www.mwwca.org

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

March 20th 9:00 A.M. MMA
May 15th 9:00 A.M. MMA
June 19th 9:00 A.M. MMA

MWWCA Joins with MWUA and NEWEA to host Annual Legislative Breakfast

On Wednesday February 4th over 25 legislators and nearly 50 interested water and wastewater professionals braved the salt and spray on the Maine Turnpike and other area roads to attend the annual legislative breakfast at the Senator Inn in Augusta. Along with an early breakfast, participants discussed the state of Maine's water and wastewater infrastructure, and the opportunities for funding needed improvements including the Maine State Revolving Loan Fund, the expected Federal economic stimulus package and other sources such as rural development block grants and local funding. Presentations from Tom Wiley, MWWCA President, Adam Yanulis, NEWEA Government Affairs Committee Chair and John Storer, MWUA President were followed by a free flowing question and answer period, moderated by Paul Rodriguez who was responsible for organizing the speakers for the event. Legislators were clearly interested in what planning for improvements was being done, whether energy efficiency was considered and what the ratio of Federal to Maine dollars is with various programs. Adam Yanulis pointed out that Maine is truly a leader among the New England states in being proactive with our elected officials, both on the state and Federal levels. As Al Jellison from the City of Bangor later remarked, "The level of knowledge and the sophistication of the questions asked by the legislators attending the breakfast shows that our message is getting out and they get it!"



Westbrook Hosts Legislature Tour

Paul Rodriguez, Woodard & Curran

Paul Francouer, the staff of the Westbrook treatment facility and the Portland Water District opened up their facility to a group of our State Legislators participating in a bus tour sponsored by the Maine Development Foundation and the Policy Leadership Academy. The tour was a great opportunity to educate folks about the wastewater infrastructure in Maine, to raise the awareness of legislators about what we do in general and specifically how the Westbrook plant plays a vital and integral roll in the community. After a brief welcome by MWWCA President Tom Wiley and Portland Water District General Manager Ron Miller, Andy Fisk, DEP Water Quality Bureau Director gave a presentation on the current and expected future funding needs for wastewater treatment. Paul and his staff conducted an informative and interesting tour of the Westbrook treatment plant after which Michelle Clements and Charlene Poulin spoke about problems that have developed with wipes and "flushable" cleaning products and how these materials can clog pumps, pipes and other critical equipment. Chuck Applebee was responsible for making the connection with the Maine Development Foundation with help in organizing the event from Tom Wiley, Dave Anderson and Andrew Gilmore. The event was very well received, and seemed to be enjoyed by all in attendance.

NEW Publication!

Welcome to our new quarterly publication. We expect to publish a newsletter in February, May, August and November of each year. The strength of the Maine Waste Water Control Association is, and always has been, our members and the volunteers that lend their talents to our common purpose. The Executive Committee and I, as communications chair, are interested in your input and serving you with this publication and all we do. We need your input if we are to remain the strongest and most active operators association in New England. If you know of a member who has accomplished something noteworthy or is willing to have a personal profile in this newsletter, or if something has happened at your facility – or a neighboring one – let us know and we will help you get the good word in the paper. If your facility participates in an interesting way in the community or you sponsor a student or new professional to come into our field let us know. You may reach me at (207) 782-0917 or drop an e-mail to me at crichardson@lawpca.org. More information on MWWCA can be obtained by calling the Affiliate Services Office of the Maine Municipal Association at 1-800-452-8786. We are proud of the important work you do, and we are glad to have you along for the ride!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Ski Day

March 11, 2009–Sugarloaf

Maine Water Conference/ Stockholm Jr. Entries

March 24, 2009

Holiday Inn by the Bay–Portland

Spring Conference

April 3, 2009–Verrillo's–Portland





Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Reduces Energy Consumption by 40%

Facility Poised to Meet Future Nutrient Standards

The design of the upgrade to the Falmouth, Maine wastewater treatment facility was selected as a “2009 Engineering Excellence Award” recipient from the Maine chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies at their annual awards luncheon on November 19, 2008.

As a long time consultant to the Town, Falmouth retained Wright-Pierce to upgrade their aging, 40-year water pollution control facility. The secondary treatment process had remained virtually unchanged since conception and demanded immediate attention. Consideration of future discharge standards requiring nutrient removal accelerated as the Maine Legislature tasked the Department of Environmental Protection to begin the long process of establishing nutrient standards for Casco Bay. The sensitivity of the current discharge required careful consideration of what those future standards may be, how they might be addressed by an upgrade, and what provisions should be made for even more stringent standards in the future.

Faced with significant site constraints, Wright-Pierce conceived a design which incorporated significant existing infra-

structure into the new treatment scheme which saved the owner hundreds of thousands of dollars in construction costs and capitalized on past investments.

The new treatment system employed an Anaerobic-Anoxic-Oxic (A2O) process with a biological selector designed to improve present day water quality characteristics and provide for advanced nutrient removal. The result was a facility poised to serve the future sewer growth needs of the community and one that produces exceptional quality effluent.

Removal of the conventional pollutants is improved by 40% and nutrient removal is meeting the design goals of 8 mg/L total nitrogen and 1 mg/L phosphorus. Space has been preserved within the process configuration to allow easy expansion should even more stringent requirements be established in the long term. Along with increased treatment efficiency and advanced nutrient removal, the upgraded facility has reduced monthly electrical consumption on average by 40%. This \$7M facility was constructed under the original contractors bid price, practically unheard of in a major retrofit project.

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The upgraded facility is one of only a few advanced treatment facilities in Maine poised to meet future nutrient discharge standards. Saving energy, improved treatment efficiency and positioned for the future, the Town has become a state leader in environmental stewardship.



Dr. Chet Rock (L), Associate Dean of Engineering and ACEC Board Member presents the Engineering Excellence Award to Paul Birkel, P.E., Senior Vice President.

For information contact:

Paul Birkel P.E., Senior Vice President
pfb@wright-pierce.com

Is Maine WARN Right for Your Operation?

Maine WARN (Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network) is made up of both public and private utilities that will voluntarily assist each other in emergency situations by means of a mutual aid agreement. Using a utility's existing emergency plans and National Incident Management System procedures, a utility member of Maine WARN can coordinate its emergency response with other responding agencies and gain access to additional resources (trained personnel and equipment) to restore critical operations affected by flooding, ice storms, pandemics or other emergencies.

The Maine WARN Steering Committee has developed a mutual aid agreement for Maine utilities and several utilities have already signed the mutual aid pact.

The Steering Committee is nearly

finished with the Operating Plan. They are also working on a database for utilities to enter information about the types of aid and/or resources they can provide to others. Maine WARN is part of a national system of State WARNs that promote mutual aid for water and wastewater utilities. Currently the programs are intrastate only, but discussions on interstate aid, especially for border towns, are ongoing.

Why should a wastewater collection and treatment utility join the Maine WARN?

- Get help from other utilities when an emergency occurs
- No obligation to respond – voluntary program
- Cost reimbursement will be provided for assistance provided to another water or wastewater utility

- Streamlined FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) reimbursement for covered damages and emergency response activities
- Quick and organized access to additional resources (heavy equipment, generators, personnel, etc.)
- An online database of other utilities' resources
- Private and public water and wastewater systems may participate

Where can you learn more?

Contact the Maine WARN Steering Committee or:

Vivian G. Matkivich, MWWCA Tech. Advisor to Maine WARN

Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority

Phone: 207-782-0917

vmatkivich@lawpca.org

CSO Efforts

Jennifer Andrews, Woodard & Curran

The City of Portland is continuing its efforts to protect and enhance water quality within the Casco Bay watershed through ongoing implementation of its combined sewer overflow (CSO) Long Term Control Plan (LTCP). The City is actively implementing Tier II of the LTCP while working on the development of Tier III. Working with Woodard & Curran and other engineering firms and contractors, the City has completed a number of projects and currently has projects in varying stages of design and construction with estimated costs of roughly \$10 million for construction in 2009.

The LTCP is assigned to the City's Department of Public Services, which serves as project administrator for the CSO abatement program. Department staff provide overall program direction and meet quarterly with an active water quality advocates group to communicate progress made

toward project goals and discuss current and future activities.

Among the significant efforts is the Clifton Street project which is intended to address multiple CSOs that discharge into Portland's Back Cove. The City contracted with Woodard & Curran to design the separation project, which also includes the use of biofilters and other low impact development techniques to manage stormwater.

Implementation of the complete LTCP will reduce and eliminate CSO occurrences in the City through construction of separate sanitary and storm sewers, and improve water quality with the use of hydrodynamic separation and biofiltration to treat separated stormwater flows.

By applying both conventional and low impact development techniques, the City of Portland is upgrading critical infrastructure and protecting Casco Bay.



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E-mail: crichardson@lawpca.org

Soucy Recognized as NEWEA Operator of the Year for Maine

Mark Soucy was recognized at the NEWEA annual conference as the NEWEA Maine Operator of the Year. The award is given annually to a person involved in the operation of wastewater treatment facilities in each of the New England states. The purpose of the award is to recognize an individual whose personal service has contributed to excellence in plant operations either directly at a treatment plant or indirectly through service to plant operations personnel.

Mark is the superintendent of the Water and Wastewater Departments in Fort Kent, Maine. Mark faced a formidable situation in the spring of 2008. Northern Maine received record snowfalls during the winter of 2007-2008 and potential flooding was of concern. In May the worst fears were realized when Fort Kent and areas of northern Maine witnessed flooding of historical proportions. Mark's preparation before the flooding, hard work during the

event, and persistence to thoroughly address all the issues after the event is a credit to our profession. Mark's diligence and supervision resulted in minimizing environmental impacts in the town of Fort Kent as well as the Fish and St. John Rivers.

Even without consideration of his work during the flooding, Mark is an exceptionally conscientious operator. Under his direction, the compliance record for both utilities is excellent and day-to-day operations and maintenance is top notch. ●

Members on the move!!!!

Public Relations Chair, **Ryan Wadsworth** and Ops Challenge member **Brian Cataldo** recently received their professional engineer's licenses. Both are newly "professionalized" engineers. Ryan works for Woodard and Curran, and Brian works for Wright-Pierce.

McBurnie Receives Peloquin Award

Jeffrey McBurnie was recognized at the recent NEWEA annual conference with the Alfred E. Peloquin Award for significant contributions to the wastewater field. The award is given annually to an individual from each New England state that has made a significant contribution to the wastewater field in such areas as improvements to the environment, cost effective plant operations, public relations, innovative process control, industrial pretreatment, training, Association contributions and related activities.

Since 2006, Jeff McBurnie has been the general manager of Soil Preparation, Inc., a biosolids processing facility in Plymouth, Maine. Jeff was one of the original designers of the Soil Preparation facility and also helped design two other biosolids facilities in Maine. He was hired in

2002 as Soil Preparation's Technical Services/Compliance Manager. While employed by the University of Maine's Bio-Resource Engineering Department, Jeff developed and delivered a course on Compost Engineering for students in the College of Engineering.

Jeff has been a member of the Maine Wastewater Control Association since 1999 and has served on the Residuals Management Committee since 2002 (Vice-Chair, 2004-2006; Chair 2007 to present) and the MW-WCA Executive Committee (2007 to present). Through his association with the Maine Rural Water Association and the Atlantic States Rural Water and Wastewater Association, Jeff has provided training in Maine, Rhode Island and Connecticut wastewater operators seeking licensure or grade advancement. ●

Safety Corner 2009

Al Jellison, Safety Committee Chair

Some important dates for the first part of the year are:

January 1st: Underground tanks registered with DEP

February 1st: OSHA 300A form posted until April 30th

March 1st: Chemical inventory of hazardous and extremely hazardous substances and appropriate fees submitted to MEMA.

I attended the NEWEA meeting last month and one of the training programs I was able to attend was "Electrical Safety in a Wastewater Treatment Facility". Part of the presenter's program was reviewing the various electrical safety rules and Standards from various agencies, OSHA 29 CFR 1910 Subpart S, NFPA 70- The National Electric Code (NEC 2008 Edition), and NFPA 70E- Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace (2009 Edition) and many others. I would like to remind supervisors that read this article that they have to have a written Electrical Safety policy for their employees who work on voltages above 50 volts and also for any electrical contractor that comes on site.

This is a good time of the year to set-up your training for the year. At our Plant we rotate the monthly Safety checks, so everyone knows where the closest fire extinguishers, first aid kits, lockout boxes, and emergency lights are. Don't forget to check the ground fault receptacles and breakers, as they have to be checked monthly. Remember, if the paper work isn't completed and filed, then the work wasn't done. Please contact me at 992-4474 for any safety questions or if you would like to help on the Safety Committee. ●

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please circulate and share with your colleagues



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