

APPROVED

MINUTES

Attendance: Tim Wade, Emily Prescott, Terry Tucker, Jeff McBurnie, Travis Jones, Andy Wendell, Peter Zaykoski, Mike Guethle, Paula Drouin, Andre Brousseau, Cindy Wade, Joan Kiszely.

Zoom Attendance: Dave Beauchamp, Phil Tucker, Sierra Kuun, Gregg Wood, Jim Cohen, Rob Pontau, Jennifer Nicholson, Evan Pereira

Absent: Stacy Thompson, Bryanna Denis, Amanda Smith, Sarah King, Alex Buechner, Charlene Poulin, Travis Peaslee.

Call to Order: President Tim Wade called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Quorum: It was determined there was a Quorum.

Minutes: Motion made by Jeff MacBurnie, seconded by Travis Jones, all approved the February 17, 2023, minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff McBurnie reported on the January & February & March financial report, He indicated that at the end of the year 2022 MeWEA was in the red. However, we are in the black at this point in time. Most of the revenue is in at the time. More revenue will come in in September for payment of attendees & exhibitors for the Fall Convention. He indicated that everything was in order, Motion made by Dave Beauchamp, seconded by Travis Jones. All approved the financial report.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

DEP Report: Gregg Wood reported the following:

- Moving forward, in hiring the 8 vacant positions in the Division of Water Quality Management. Everyone should be on board by June.
- PFAS study is going smoothly. The staff is a bit overwhelmed in regards to database upkeep. DEP is trying to get ahead of any potential legislation and get all the data in by the end of the year, crunch numbers, so an assessment can be done before the next legislative session. Hoping to have an idea of what criteria might be.
- Tim Wade asked about any push back on septage. Gregg stated at this time there is no pushback in terms of legislation.

JETCC-NEIWPC: Peter Zaykoski submitted a report.

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: March 23, 2023

RECENT ACTIVITIES: This group will be meeting during the North Country Convention. The program for the Convention includes four training tracks, including a special safety track focused on air quality monitoring and confined space preparation. Thank you to all who assisted with

development of the program, to all who are presenting, and to Joan and Cindy for their help during the Convention itself. Registration has been strong with over 100 total participants and seventeen vendors.

Our winter/spring training catalog is ongoing. Just after the North Country Convention, we have a remote Personnel Management for Utilities class, which will include exercises for participants to help them improve their interviewing skills. I am seeking to put a strong offering of training together for the remainder of April, May, and June. If there are any EC members interested in presenting in-person or remotely, please contact me.

DECISIONS MADE: The Committee is in discussion on one currently open position and the soon-to-be-open MEWEA Municipal representative position (held by Mark Holt who will be terming out in May).

JETCC anticipates starting the next Management Candidate School in the fall and has begun consideration of the Operator Exchange program initially developed by the TPO Committee. I will be presenting a proposal for a budget and path forward for both programs at the next meeting in May.

The Committee voted to increase in-person training rates to match those of remote training at \$25 per TCH offered.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: If you know of people who would be interested in Management Candidate School, please provide their names and contact information to me. If you are interested in presenting as part of this program, let me know. I will be working to develop the content of the program over the next several months.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: The tentative date for the next JETCC Meeting May 23, 2023.

Peter added the Treatment Plant Operator works to develop computer training.: JETCC is looking to take this on. They need to come up with a plan.

JETCC-NEIWPC: Travis Jones reported the following:

- Thanked MeWEA for coming to the JETCC North Country. He appreciated the efforts.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE: Jim Cohen reported the following:

- Biggest event is the Adoption of the Part I budget. The Part I budget is a \$9.8 billion dollar budget. It is called the continuing services budget and is intended to keep everything in place the way it is. If they need modifications for existing positions this was included. No new initiatives were included in this budget. The Part K that was supposed to be in this budget was the reallocation of liquor fund money to transportation rather than SFR Wastewater or Drinking Water. Part K is not in part one. Still on the table and could happen. The plan is for it not to go forward. He indicated he is tracking all of this.
- LD 1214 – another PFAS bill that deals with reporting and notification of products. This is another bill being sponsored by the ENR Committee.

- Andy Wendell asked about movement on the laboratory accreditation rules. Jim has not been following that closely, but will look into.

NEWEA: Paula Drouin submitted a report:

- D.C. Fly-In – Our three representatives are registered and travel/accommodations booked. Only waiting on a meeting date/time for Senator Collins. Their office did follow up with me this week to say they are still working on it.
- Maine Sustainability and Water Conference was on 3/30 in Augusta. It was a great turnout (possibly their best ever) and was a good opportunity to connect with students and other academics and environmental groups. Some questions on biosolids and PFAS were posed, and one attendee even remembered that we used to be Maine Wastewater Control Association! I feel this event is valuable in reaching people outside of our immediate bubble and one we should keep on the radar. Thank you to Phil and Terry for staffing the booth.
- Worked to ensure NEWEA award recipients and Stockholm Jr. Water Prize Maine winner were invited to NCC I then realized that's an Awards committee task... oops. I'm on NEWEA Awards by default and apparently just ran with it! Mike Guethle and I will get on the same page for next year. I think, at minimum. I will need to provide him with recipient contact information.
- March 15 – attended NEWEA Govt. Affairs meeting.
- March 29 – attended MEWEA Govt. Affairs meeting.

MWUA: Bruce Berger was not present at the meeting.

MEWEA/MWUA Affiliate: Rob Pontau did not submit a report. He stated that MWUA has a lot going on they are also looking at revamping their by-laws and changing their dues. No real updates to discuss. Travis Jones asked about the summer outing and if MWUA would want to do the cornhole tournament again. Travis Jones asked to have MWUA give him the dates and what they are looking for so he can get that organized through the Collections Systems Committee. Tim Wade mentioned potentially at some point doing a clean water vs dirty water softball game and there was any interest in pursuing. Maybe do it as a standalone event. Tim Wade also mentioned that the August Board meeting will be at his house in Oakland with a BBQ to follow.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AWARDS: The committee did not submit a report. Mike Guethle verbally reported:

- Will be representing the NEWEA Awards the North Country luncheon today,

Collection System: Travis Jones did not submit a report. He reported the following:

- He did state that the Committee met a couple of weeks ago.
- The Committee held a successful collection system hacks class.
- Put on cornhole tournament at North Country.
- The Committee is planning to meet in the summertime before the MWUA outing. Will also be looking at the fall conference cornhole as well. Cornhole at the fall conference will be held indoors.
- Dave Beauchamp mentioned it is possible to get some training classes going again.
- Travis J mentioned that he would like the Committee to become more active, possibly putting a meeting together for October and try to recruit some new members.
-

Communications: Bryanna Denis was absent.

- Newsletter went out April 1st
- Next one will be in July/August

Convention: Phil Tucker was in the Zoom and did not submit a report.

- He indicated there was not much to report.
- Joan stated she is starting to contact Vendors to see about getting a deposit to confirm their vendor space or the full payment for the Fall Convention.

Government Affairs: The committee did not submit a report. Emily Cole-Prescott verbally reported the following:

- Emily Cole-Prescott gave an update on the biosolids crisis. She stated that Amanda has been handling a lot of it. The latest is a stay on LD 1639 for a 24-month period and the new bill for that stay is LD718. She mentioned that a GA meeting was held on March 29th.
- Emily along with Amanda will look into it. LD1214 and will recommend either opposed or neither for nor against. She said the biosolids study looks really good and has been forwarded to DEP.
- She also mentioned that there will be a smaller group meeting to discuss some of the other bills on the legislative tracker. Emily brought up LD665 which is unrelated to water. This is a 2-year extension on affordable housing density bonuses. She thinks that it does play into our 2-year extension on LD1639. She asked if the Committee would be interested in supporting or asking your communities to see if they would be interested in supporting. Tim Wade mentioned that he called an emergency meeting with all the Superintendents to communicate how each was managing the crisis and who they were using for disposal and cost information. He said he followed up with a spreadsheet gathering that information. This has been a great support system, and everyone is working together to try to come up with some ideas. The email thread continues as a support system.

Laboratory: Andy Wendell did not submit a report.

- Andy gave an update on the new PFAS lab in Norridgewock which will have a ribbon cutting on April 20th. They request an RSVP for those who want to go. RSVPs can be made via email at: kt@mainelaboratories.com

Membership Committee: Jennifer Nicholson submitted a report.

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Membership and rates analysis

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: None

DECISIONS MADE: None

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: [Jennifer Nicholson](#) committee chair and Matthew Densmore assisting

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

Rob is working with Phil on rates which is now beyond the scope of the membership committee

Personnel Advancement Report: Charlene Poulin was absent

- Tim indicated she is working hard on the sessions for the fall convention.

Pretreatment Report: Terry Tucker did not have a report.

- No report submitted. Terry Tucker gave a brief update in regard to pharmaceuticals and the FDA allowing nursing homes and some medical care facilities be allowed to flush pharmaceuticals down the drain. EPA is asking that individual communities please check with their local facilities to make sure that does not happen.

Public Relations: Evan Pereira submitted a report.

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- Held meetings with PR Committee and smaller break-out groups in late February/early March to address the biosolids crisis and how to best represent MEWEA's.
 - Coordinated media opportunities as presented to the committee to approach the situation as a collective to help provide solutions to the problem and inform the general public with knowledge around the situation.
- Continued developing key storylines and objectives for 2023 including list of priority storylines.
 - Held initial brainstorming session with volunteers Paula Drouin and David Hughes (Scarborough Sanitary District) to develop initial 'The Value of Water' story, to help general audience understand gravity and importance that clean water professionals have.
- Held follow-up discussion with Duke University student to answer questions from their project team on the state of Biosolids in Maine.

- Thank you Tim for the initial coordination on MEWEA's behalf, and providing the student with valuable information/data on Maine's biosolids disposal approach!

NEXT STEPS & MEETINGS:

- Continue to develop and roll out key storylines and media messaging objectives for 2023.
- Define key legislative initiatives for 2023 that will require narrative direction from clean water professionals, and associated strategy for rollout.
- Hold next PR Committee meeting with Diana of Black Fly Media to regroup and confirm next steps for continued rollout.

Residual Management Report: Andre Brousseau did not submit a report. He reported on the following:

- Biosolids study is currently at DEP and DEP is going through that with Brown and Caldwell.
- Continue to look at different technologies in relation to drying and destruction.

Storm Water Report: Sarah King and Jodie Keene was absent, No report submitted.

Treatment Plant Operator Report: Alex Buechner was absent. Tim Wade reported the following:

- There will be a QR code presented at the business meeting to be able to vote on the clean water posters.

Young Professionals Report: Sierra Kuun reported the following:

- Have a few registered for the Urban run-off
- Hire education Scholarship due in August
- Planning a beach cleanup in June
- Talked about the 5K Urban Runoff. The link to sign up for that is: <http://www.cumberlandwcd.org/urban-runoff> . She also stated that the higher education scholarship is due in August and asked for anyone who might be interested. YP is planning a beach cleanup in June. Sierra also stated that YP would help with the softball game if that comes to fruition.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Presidents Report: Tim Wade reported on the following:

- A month ago, he called a meeting with all the Superintendents in regards to communicating how they are managing Biosolids. He gave everyone the platform to see how they were dealing with this crisis. About 25 attended.
- They have followed it up on a spreadsheet to gather all the information. 21 entries so far for disposable crisis
- Last Friday they had another meeting to discuss Technologies that Utilities have looked into.

- Pulling the Superintendents together and thanking all of them for their input. He feels this is valuable.
- Travis Jones thanked Tim for putting together a email thread. He feels it was really helpful and important to the members.
- Working with Michelle Clement from PWD, & Bruce Berger to organize a Sea Dog outing in late June.
- Spring Business meeting – Reviewed the agenda.

1st Vice President Report: Emily Prescott reported the following:

- Had a meeting set up for last week. Had to move it to next week Wednesday or Thursday, He will follow up on the date,
- Wants to have it wrapped up in June
- He will report on this committee report at the June meeting
- Talked to Ashley – Put something together on training

1st Vice President Report: Emily Prescott reported the following:

- She continues to work with regional groups on PFAS issues.

2nd Vice President Report: Terry Tucker had no report.

➤

Immediate Past President: Dave Beauchamp reported the following:

- Dave Beauchamp gave an update on the ad-hoc committee. There will be a meeting next week. He's hoping to have 2 meetings and wrap up and present a recommendation to the Board in June.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Announcements: April 25-26 Washington DC Fly-In

NEXT BOARD MEETING: May 19, 2023, at York Sewer District. Travis Peaslee will fill in for Jeff McBurnie on giving the Treasurer's report,

May 19th next meeting at York Sewer District

Travis Peaslee will give the Treasurers report in Jeff McBurnie absence.

Adjourn: Motion made by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Travis Jones all approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

