

Approved

MeWEA Executive Board Meeting
Augusta Civic Center
In-Person & Zoom
January 16, 2024

MINUTES

Attendance: Emily Prescott, Jeff McBurnie, Terry Tucker, Phil Tucker, Paula Drouin, Peter Zaykoski, Jim Cohen,

Zoom Attendance: None

Cell Phone: Stacy Thompson

Call to Order: President Emily Prescott called the meeting to order at 9:32a.m.

Quorum: It was determined there was a Quorum.

Minutes: Motion made by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Terry Tucker, all approved the December 15, 2023, minutes

Treasurer's Report: Jeff McBurnie reported on the December 2023 financial report & budget (see attached report). Jeff reviewed the budget line items with the Board and requested that we wait and vote on the budget in February. He will have everything cleaned up prior to voting. We currently have \$65,000 left in reserves and are looking at roughly a \$20,000 net loss. Discussion also took place regarding Committees will start submitting budgets directly to their Council Directors and Council Directors will submit to the Treasurer.

Old Business:

Utility Manager Committee report: Rob Pontau was not present.

Planners & Wastewater Utilities Event in the Spring Update: Emily stated that the event is tentatively scheduled for April 17th. GPCOG has confirmed that they will speak at the event along with Howard Carter who will represent a local utility. She is hoping to get 2 more people to speak. It is looking like the event will be held at Thornton Academy. Emily will report back with all the final details.

COUNCIL DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

OUTREACH COUNCIL. Phil Tucker, Director, was present and reported the following: He met with his committees, and they are all very active and strong. However, they are all having issues with submitting reports through google docs. He has asked that they submit their reports directly to him and he will take care of getting them to Joan. He also mentioned that he was going to talk to NEWEA staff to get some ideas on how they submit their committee reports to see if would be something that our organization could do.

Membership – Jen Nicholson, not present. No report submitted.

Communications – Bryanna Denis, not present. No report submitted.

Public Relations – Evan Pereira, not present. No report submitted.

TREATMENT SYSTEMS OPERATION COUNCIL – Paula Drouin, Director was present and submitted a report. (see attached) She added the following: She did not get to meet with all of her committees before this meeting. She will start attending her committee meetings and try to assist if she can. The couple of committees she met with are looking forward to having some help.

Laboratory- Stephen Knollmeyer, not present. No report submitted.

Treatment Plant Operations – Alex Buechner, not present. Report submitted (see attached)

Residuals – Travis Peaslee and Andre Brousseau, not present. No report submitted.

Collection Systems – Kevin Eaton and Ashley Jones, not present. No report submitted.

Pretreatment – Riley Cobb, not present. No report submitted.

Stormwater – Sarah King and Jodi Keene, not present. Report submitted (see attached).

PERSONNEL ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL: Stacy Thompson, Director was present via phone and reported the following: She is working on setting up meetings with her committees.

New Professionals – Sierra Kuun, not present. No report submitted.

Convention – Justin Barnett and Tim Wade, not present. No report submitted.

Awards – Mike Guethle, not present. No report submitted.

Professional Development – Charlene Poulin, not present. No report submitted.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

DEP REPORT: Gregg Wood was not present, not report submitted.

JETCC-NEIWPC: Peter Zaykoski, was present and submitted a report (attached). He added the following: Wastewater Operator School began on January 4th at Portland Water District. Looking for some more ideas for training and working on getting some classes going for February. He also wanted to remind everyone again about the Harold Alfond funding for training.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE: Jim Cohen was present and reported the following: Legislators are back in session. They have a total of 500 bills. Approximately 350 bills are carry-overs. 40 are from state agencies. Some of the bigger issues are SRF, the Bond that Senator Brenner is sponsoring. Senator Brenner is looking for legislative support on that from the Appropriations Committee. There are a few PFAS related bills which focus on products that contain PFAS. Jim also mentioned a labor bill (LD 2032) which he didn't think we would be directly impacted. LD 2135 regarding landfill capacity was also one that he thought a letter of support could be useful.

NEWEA STATE DIRECTORS REPORT -: Paula Drouin did not have a report.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Cindy Wade reported the following: MWUA is interviewing for the Executive Director position.

MWUA: Andy Begin was not present.

NEBRA UPDATE: Phil Tucker gave a brief update on NEBRA. They have been discussing drying/digesting technology. They are also keeping an eye on a New Hampshire bill that could technically ban landfilling.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Presidents Report: Emily reported on the following: The Department of Labor/NOAA is looking for MEWEA to sign on as a partner with the Climate Ready Workforce Grant. Discussion was made that she did not think that we could meet the partner status as an organization but thought we could offer at least a letter of support. She plans to reach back out to them to discuss further. She also thought it might be good for individual utilities to possibly reach out to see if there

was something an individual utility might be able to do as well. She also expressed her concerns in relation to the budget and where we are at. She will be setting up a special budget discussion meeting before the next Executive Committee meeting.

President-Elect Report: Terry Tucker was present and mentioned her concerns in relation to the budget.

Immediate Past President: Tim Wade was not present, no report submitted.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Next Executive Committee will be February 16, 2024, Virtual Only

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Phil Tucker, seconded by Terry Tucker, all approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 AM

UPCOMING EVENTS

JETCC

North Country Convention – Spring 2025. Presque Isle

MeWEA

Ski Day - March 14th, Saddleback Mountain

DC Fly-In – April 9-10th

Sea Dogs Event – June 22nd

Fall Convention –September 18,19,20, 2024, Sunday River.

MWUA

Annual Conference - January 31-February 1, 2024, Augusta Civic Center

NEWEA

2024 Annual Conference January 21-24, 2024. Boston, Massachusetts.

Spring Meeting May 19-22, 2024 – Spring Meeting, The Viking Hotel, Newport,

COMMITTEE NAME: JETCC

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: November 16, 2023

RECENT ACTIVITIES: We've begun our winter training schedule with a four day Grade 1-2 Exam Prep class in Bangor (January 8-11) and a remote 6-hr training on Biological Nutrient Removal with Michael Gerardi on January 16-17. I am working on setting classes in February to provide opportunities for those operators who need training for renewal of their license.

The Management Candidate School January class was postponed due to the storm that arrived Tuesday night. The class will be rescheduled in February. MCS students will be attending the first day of the MWUA conference on January 31.

Wastewater Operator School has begun. We have 17 students and begun on January 4 at PWD.

DECISIONS MADE:

The Committee has not met since the last EC meeting. At the last meeting the Committee decided to plan an event associated with the May meeting to solicit ideas on training topics for the next fiscal year. I intend on inviting a wide variety of industry professionals. Please reach out with your interest to help me plan this event or ideas on how to make this effort successful.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: The date for the next JETCC Meeting is February 8, 2024. It will be held at KSTD.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

NAME: Peter Zaykoski, JETCC Program Manager

DATE SUBMITTED: 1/10/2024

MEWEA Executive Committee Meeting – January 16, 2024
Treatment Systems Operation Council Director Report
Submitted by: Paula Drouin

Collection Systems Committee reported:

- Last meeting was held at Kennebunk Sewer District on December 11th. Next meeting is January 17, 2024 @11 a.m. – Nixon Center in Portland
- In general, the committee would like to get back to teaching and not just be known for cornhole.
- Will be teaching a session of the Wastewater Operator School in March that will cover Intro to collection systems, lock out tag out, and safety.
- Decided to roll out their four-part series on asset management of the collection system that was previously done from 2015-2018. They are hoping to start this fall.
- New member recruitment and engagement remains a discussion item. Some active committee would like to move on, but also want the committee to continue thriving.

Treatment Plant Operators Committee reported:

- The Peer-to-Peer training program is up and running. Several people have participated and will be receiving credits after the committee meets and reviews. Please help get the word out to help build this up. www.mewea.org/operator-training
- The committee will schedule a meeting soon.

Stormwater Committee reported:

- Working with CCSWD and MEWEA GAC representatives on chloride reduction through limited liability legislation update.
- Will hold electronic election for new SWC co-chair in January (to replace Sarah King).
- Working to develop a training video and/or guidelines to help assess and advocate for stormwater funding needs, to align with and support state and federal initiatives to adequately fund stormwater infrastructure maintenance and upgrades.
- Following stakeholder process with MEDEP as they develop Ch. 500 updates.
- Supporting MS4-regulated communities through the appeal of LID ordinances.
- Supporting chloride reduction efforts, including limited liability legislation and public outreach.
- 2024 meeting dates are currently being finalized.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 1/16/24

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: Treatment Plant Operators

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: Alex Buechner

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

TPO: Peer to Peer training program is up and running. We have had several people participate and will be receiving credits after the committee meets and reviews. Please help get the word out to help build this up. Free training to MEWEA members, and more fun and interesting than sitting in a classroom or in front of a computer. It's a no brainer. Tell your friends. www.mewea.org/operator-training

POSTER CONTEST: Announcements went out in November to all the school. I encourage everyone to reach out to local schools personally.

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED: None. Will schedule a meeting after the holidays to review the P2P applications and discuss if any changes are needed, as well as any other TPO topics.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: TBD. After the holidays.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Alex Buechner

DATE SUBMITTED: 12/11/23

COMMITTEE NAME: Stormwater Committee

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 09/15/2023; (12/15/23 meeting was cancelled)

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- Working with CCSWD and MEWEA GAC representatives on chloride reduction through limited liability legislation update.
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DECISIONS MADE:

- Will hold electronic election for new SWC co-chair in January
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ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

- Working to develop a training video and/or guidelines to help assess and advocate for stormwater funding needs, to align with and support state and federal initiatives to adequately fund stormwater infrastructure maintenance and upgrades.
 - Following stakeholder process with MEDEP as they develop Ch. 500 updates.
 - Supporting MS4-regulated communities through the appeal of LID ordinances.
 - Supporting chloride reduction efforts, including limited liability legislation and public outreach.
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NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES:

- 2024 meeting dates currently being finalized

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 1/16/2024

TREASURER NAME: Jeff McBurnie

ACCOUNT/BUDGET STATUS: I've reviewed and reconciled the end of year (December) financials. At year's end we have \$64,398 in reserves; contrast that with \$84,878 at the end of 2022. Exacerbating our financial situation is the receipt of \$10,915 in member dues at the end of 2023. Normally receiving money early is a good thing, but contrast this again with 2022, when roughly \$2,000 was received at the end of year for application to 2023. This means a larger portion of our anticipated revenue has already been received. We continue to operate in a fiscally unsustainable manner. As we work to approve a 2024 budget, we will have to critically look at our proposals and see where we can trim back the total. As a start, I would recommend reviewing the 2023 Profit and Loss report to get a feel for where we get our funds from and where we spend our resources.

REMINDER: As always, if you spot errors, have questions, or just want to discuss the Association's general financial status, please don't hesitate to contact me.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: January ECM and Budget Approval (1/16/2024)

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: Review, revise and approve 2024 budget.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jeff McBurnie

DATE SUBMITTED: 1/12/2024