One **Water**

Joint Newsletter- August 2022

Brought to you by:

August 2022

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What Do the **Colors Mean?**

Green	Blue	Blue/Green
Content from MeWEA	Content from MWUA	MWUA & MeWEA content

Message from MWUA's President

Summer is in full swing here in the beautiful state of Maine! As we all enjoy the many benefits a summer in Maine has to offer, our state's water systems are extremely busy fulfilling water supply demands, protecting their watersheds, as well as engaging in the necessary summertime construction. Consequently, we try to complete our seasonal obligations while attempting to accommodate our personal lives including the heat, and much needed vacations. Similar to everyone else, we here at MWUA continue to forge ahead with our commitments.

Two items that should be on all water systems' and consumers' radars are water usage and its waste. We must all participate in its protection by promoting water conservation. There are strategies to foster water's efficient use. This can be accomplished through education, and in water facilities' formulation of cost-effective methods to increase water yield by reducing demand. Consequently, it is everyone's responsibility not to take this precious and necessary resource for granted.

Being an advocate for its members and the water industry, MWUA maintains their position in Maine's water world. This is achieved by staying abreast of laws/regulations, upcoming needed training, funding, and sharing both information and ideas. We were also excited to provide our colleagues with some summertime fun! The MWUA's golf tournament and summer outing has proven to be two favorites in the industry.

Moving towards fall and winter, we will proceed with our mission, "... to represent the water works professional membership in advocating safe drinking water through education, legislation policy and networking." We look forward to what's next on the horizon and continuing the water industry's necessary and desired relationships!

John Leach

Message from MeWEA's President

Well, summer is in full swing and has always been one of my favorite times to be a part of this industry. Living in Maine in the summer reminds me of the importance of clean water and a healthy environment. Being able to enjoy the Maine waterways is a privilege that I don't take for granted. As most of you know, this year celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Zac Henderson and an amazing team of volunteers have been putting together a celebration that will take place at Simard Park on September 29th. I don't want to give too much away yet, but I assure you it will be an exciting and fun-filled event for everyone to enjoy.

There is a lot happening with the committees of MeWEA, and I encourage anyone interested in this association to reach out and get involved in any capacity you can. You can commit whatever time you have.

Happy summer to all and I hope to see you all soon!

Dave Beauchamp

Upcoming Trainings

- **September 2, 2022** – 7:30AM-11:30AM –Water Treatment & Distribution for Beginners – Distribution Part II & Pumping Systems – W 3.5 / WW 1.5 TCHs
- **September 6, 2022** – 7:30AM-11:30AM – Safety, Security, & Compliance – EPA Safe Drinking Water Act – Part I – W 3.5 / 1.5 WW TCHs
- **September 6, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Introduction to Municipal Wastewater Treatment – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **September 7, 2022** – 7:30AM-12:00PM – Management & Exam Tips/Tricks – EPA Safe Drinking Water Act – Part II – W 4.0 / 2.0 WW TCHs
- **September 7, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Introduction to Municipal Wastewater Treatment – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **September 8, 2022** – 9:00AM-10:30AM – Ergonomics Training – W 1.5 (Approved) / WW 1.5 (Pending) TCHs
- **September 13, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Basic Wastewater Math – Part I – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **September 14, 2022** – 8:30AM-10:30AM – Massachusetts Wastewater Regulations & Certification Overview – WW 2.0 TCHs
- **September 20, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Basic Wastewater Math – Part II – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **September 22, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM –Water Quality & NPDES Permitting – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **September 28, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Introduction to Collection Systems – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **September 29, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Introduction to Pumps – Part I – W/WW 3.0 TCHs
- **October 4, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Basic Municipal Wastewater - Preliminary & Primary Treatment – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **October 5, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Basic Industrial Wastewater - Characteristics & Chemistry – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **October 6, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Introduction to Pumps - Part II – W/WW 3.0 TCHs
- **October 11, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Basic Municipal Wastewater - Secondary Treatment I – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **October 12, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Basic Industrial Wastewater - Treatment Processes – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **October 13, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Introduction to Water & Wastewater Laboratory –WW 3.0 TCHs
- **October 18, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Basic Municipal Wastewater - Secondary Treatment II – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **October 19, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Basic Industrial Wastewater - pH Neutralization – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **October 25, 2022** – 8:30AM-10:30AM – Basic Municipal Wastewater - Disinfection – WW 2.0 TCHs
- **October 26, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Basic Municipal & Industrial Wastewater - Solids Handling – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **November 1, 2022** – 8:30AM-10:30AM – Intermediate Wastewater Math - Part I – W/WW 2.0 TCHs
- **November 2, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Wastewater Safety – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **November 8, 2022** – 8:30AM-10:30AM – Intermediate Wastewater Math - Part II – WW 2.0 TCHs
- **November 9, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Advanced Industrial Wastewater - Treatment Processes I – W/WW 3.0 TCHs
- **November 10, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Laboratory Analyses - pH & Total Residual Chlorine – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **November 15, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Advanced Municipal Wastewater - Treatment Technologies – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **November 16, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Advanced Industrial Wastewater - Treatment Processes II – WW 3.0 TCHs

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- **November 17, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Laboratory Analyses - Biochemical Oxygen Demand & Dissolved Oxygen – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **November 22, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Advanced Municipal Wastewater - Activated Sludge – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **November 29, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Advanced Municipal Wastewater - Process Control & Troubleshooting – WW 3.0 TCHs
- **November 30, 2022** – 8:30AM-11:30AM – Electricity, Motors, & Horsepower – W/WW 3.0 TCHs

Additional training information available in the links below:

JETCC Remote Learning Catalog

MWUA Sponsored Training

NEIWPCC - JETCC Remote Learning Catalog

KEY ACRONYMS

WW - Technical Credit Hours (TCH) for wastewater
W - TCH qualify for water credit hours

Below are several job openings. Also check out the MEWEA facebook page and the links below:

- MEWEA
- MWUA
- NEWEA
- NE Biosolids
- WEF Job Bank

Kennebec Water District	Distribution Technician
Maine Rural Water Association	Wastewater Technician
Bath Water District	Treatment Plant Operator
Portland Water District	Project Engineer
Rumford-Mexico Sewerage District	Assistant Chief Wastewater Operator
Town of Yarmouth - WD	Treatment Plant Operator
Portland Water District	Senior Project Engineer
Boothbay Harbor Sewer District	Operator - Laboratory Technician
Greater Augusta Utility District	Utility Worker
Town of Thomaston	Pollution Control Superintendent
New England Backflow, Inc	Backflow Tester

Training: Second to None

Maine Water Utilities Association has partnered with Tom's Water Solutions to offer Operator Certification Training for the past two years. The instructor, Tom Bahun, has been teaching various classes in the water and wastewater industries for more than 30 years! Please check out MWUA's website for upcoming classes.

The testimonials below are just a small representation of the participants' opinions.

Vaughan Littlefield, Bangor Water District – Passed Treatment 4 & Distribution 4
"The class helped me to focus my studies towards topics which would actually be on the test. I took both my 4 treatment and 4 distribution a week after the completion of the class and passed both."

Marcus Knipp, Maine Water Company – Passed Treatment 2 & Distribution 4
"Tom's Water Solutions' treatment series was informative, interactive and entertaining multi-class series. Tom takes the time to make sure everyone understands the material and will provide extra time on certain subjects if needed. I would definitely recommend taking these prep classes from Tom's Water Solutions!"

Frank Short, Belfast Water District – Passed Treatment 3
"I credit the class for me successfully passing my class 3 treatment exam the first time I took it."

Jamey Ivers, Portland Water District – Passed Distribution 2
"I would recommend Tom's tutoring. He was very helpful and with his assistance, I was able to pass the class 2 water distribution exam. Tom does a great job!"

Samuel Langdon, Lisbon Water Department – Passed Treatment 1 & Distribution 1
"The Certification Prep Series is very beneficial for everyday work in the field."

Lindsay Bates, Auburn Water & Sewerage District – Has Not Taken Exam Yet
"Tom added helpful hints beyond the PowerPoint. Updating our math knowledge was beneficial."

Ryan Duchette, Winthrop Utilities District – Has Not Taken Exam Yet
"Tom answered our questions, was patient with the students, and provided the necessary guidance."

Travis Dyer, Maine Water Company – Passed Distribution 1
"Tom's Water Solutions does a great job! I found the series helpful. Their communications were good!"

Colleague Corner

John Leach, MWUA President & South Berwick Water District Superintendent

John Leach began his career as a laborer at the South Berwick Water District 34 years ago. He moved up through the ranks gaining his current position as the superintendent. Current items on his agenda include conservation, supply chain issues, and like all systems, PFAS. Outside of work, John enjoys sports, hunting, golf, and being actively involved with the South Berwick Fire Department. When asked what he's most proud of, his answer was simple, "My two daughters!"

Chris Higgins, Boothbay Harbor Sewer District, Superintendent

Chris got his start in the business in 1978 as a summer intern at Great Northern Paper Company. In 1989, after 11 years in the paper industry, Chris jumped to the municipal side to work as a chief operator with the Town of Millinocket. In 1995, Chris joined the Boothbay Harbor Sewer District and has been there ever since. Outside of work, Chris states, "I am an avid golfer and enjoy traveling with my wife to different courses to play. I know some that will be reading this may question my ability! However, with some good apple pie (liquid of course), good shrimp, and good friends, what more could you ask for? Well, maybe a birdie or two!"

Eric Gagnon, Yarmouth Water District Superintendent

Eric Gagnon's employment at the Yarmouth Water District (YWD) began in 2015 where he held the position of assistant superintendent. Since 2020, he has served as the superintendent of the YWD. Previously, he spent 18 years at the Brunswick and Topsham Water District as an engineering technician. Today, his objective as Superintendent is to continue capital improvements while keeping the customer informed, understanding/developing plans regarding current regulations, and employee appreciation, which he deems extremely important. Eric's hobbies include walks with his Olde English Bulldog, Raye, flag football, weight training, reading, and music. Additionally, he feels fortunate to be able to be an active listener and to have the ability to empathize with others.

David Beauchamp, MEWEA President & Regional Vice President, Vortex Services

David has worked for Vortex Services (formerly Ted Berry Companies) starting out as a laborer working his way up to his current position. David's goal in all his work is to provide quality service and environmentally friendly solutions to his clients which include many towns, cities and districts throughout Maine. Outside of work, David enjoys spending time outdoors, especially on the water, and at his camp. David is proud to be raising his family in Maine with his wife of 30 years. When asked about what David appreciates most about living in the state, he answered, "The seclusion. Being surrounded by woods and the sound of nature."

Drinking Water Edition

The determining factor in sizing mains, storage facilities, and pumping facilities for communities with a population of less than 50,000 is usually the need for what?

A. Fire protection
B. Commercial use
C. Farming
D. Domestic use

Ductile-iron pipe resembles what other type of pipe?

A. Brass pipe
B. Steel pipe
C. Cast-iron pipe
D. Asbestos concrete pipe

Flushing of a newly installed pipe is performed to what?

A. Remove high concentration of disinfectants used to disinfect the pipe.
B. Remove debris from the pipe (mud, dirt, etc.).
C. Remove entrained air
D. All of the above

What is the purpose of a check valve?

A. To slow the flow rate
B. To stop the water
C. To control the direction of flow
D. To control the pressure

Hydrants should be inspected at least how often?

A. Every month
B. Annually
C. Bi-annually
D. When there is a problem with the hydrant

Answers: 1.a, 2.c, 3.d, 4.c, 5.b

Wastewater Edition

Scum is typically removed during which treatment stage?

A. Primary
B. Secondary
C. Chemical
D. Biological

Primary treatment is sometimes referred to as what?

A. Biological treatment
B. Oxidation
C. Chemical treatment
D. Sedimentation

Biofilm on a rotating biological contactor appears what color under normal conditions?

A. Purple
B. Gray
C. Red
D. Orange

What is the most common type of pond in waste treatment?

A. Warm water
B. Anaerobic
C. Aerobic
D. Facultative

What color is liquid chlorine?

A. Blue
B. Yellow
C. Amber
D. Green

Answers: 1. a, 2. c 3. b, 4. d, 5. c

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

Battelle's PFAS Destroyer

Don't move PFAS, annihilate them! Battelle has developed a new and innovative method for breaking the carbon-fluorine bond associated with PFAS chemicals. Through supercritical water oxidation, Battelle claims success at destroying more than 99.99% of total PFAS on multiple occasions. You can find more information and obtain the white papers here.

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

Digital Twinning

ExtendSIM is an open-source dynamic simulation environment that utilizes a modeling platform to determine how a system will operate in the future based on inputs that represent potential changes/updates to a system. A typical model can simulate a 24-hour time frame in about 20 minutes.

Then the data can be used to evaluate and optimize operational structures. It is able to track operations of the system and even water quality. You can read case studies here or learn more about the models available from ExtendSIM here.

EPA - Drinking Water Treatment Technology Unit Cost Models

Federal laws and executive orders require EPA to estimate costs associated with treatment, monitoring and administration when complying with new drinking water standards. Work Breakdown Structure models have been developed for various treatment processes and have been integrated into a series of worksheets in Microsoft Excel so that a user can define their system's parameters and estimate these costs more adequately. Learn more about the Work Breakdown Structure models and access them here.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle in the Water World

Water reuse is being developed and examined to better tackle water shortage around the world. Wastewater treatment technologies have proven that wastewater can be treated and purified well beyond current drinking water standards. Therefore, after undergoing advanced treatment processes, wastewater can be safely reused for both potable and non-potable applications. Learn more about the benefits and current implementation of water reuse here.

Summer Construction & Road Safety

Summer is the peak construction season for the water and wastewater industries. Necessary construction must continue even on the hottest and busiest of days. Additionally, traffic increases during the summer months increasing the hazards of summertime construction. Therefore, it is especially important to promote summer construction safety among your team by utilizing the tips listed below.

Road Construction Safety Tips:

- **Plan & Prepare** – If possible, construction should be arranged during times of the lowest traffic usage rate.
- **Utilize MUTCD** – Be sure to have at least one copy of the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" on each worksite and refer to it when preparing and managing work zones and controlling traffic.
- **Traffic Control Plan** – Use advanced warning signs and indicators to alert motorists in order to safely manage them, your crew, and your worksite.
- **Safety Meeting** – Begin each day with a short meeting to brief your crew on the day's activities and hazards.
- **Safety Equipment** – Always don the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- **Work Zones** – Divide all work zones with the proper equipment. For instance, use tape, cones, barriers, and barrels at the proper intervals.
- **Safety Checks** – Perform routine, daily safety checks of all safety equipment, first aid supplies, and emergency protocols.
- **Stay Hydrated** – Drink at least 1 cup of cool water every 20 minutes – even if you're not thirsty.

For an already dangerous industry, summer construction jobs pose some serious hazards to consider. Team leaders must do their due diligence to ensure the safety of their crew. Keeping these tips in mind will assist you in making your crew and jobsite safer. Not only will this lead to your project coming to completion sooner, but in a safe manner!

Featured Community:
Boothbay Harbor Sewer District

In 1959, the Boothbay Harbor Sewer District was formed by the foresight of three local Boothbay Harbor residents. John Arsenault, Norman Hodgdon, and John Tourtiloutte realized the importance of Boothbay Harbor to the region. Through many hours of dedication, the district was formed. The trio hired Whitman and Howard Engineers of Boston, Massachusetts to design and install a primary treatment plant, anaerobic digester, sand drying bed, and the collection system. The original collection system began with four pump stations. After years of designing and construction, the collection system began operating in 1964 and started treating wastewater from the town of Boothbay Harbor.

Starting in the 1990's, the collection and treatment systems underwent significant investment. In 1992, the plant was upgraded to its current configuration of SBR technology to provide secondary treatment. In the same year, the district expanded into Boothbay to provide wastewater collection services for the Adams Pond watershed. This watershed provides water to Boothbay Harbor, Boothbay, and Southport. This expansion added two pump stations to the system.

The collection was expanded in 1996 to serve the southern Atlantic Avenue/Spruce Point region on the eastside of Boothbay Harbor, adding five pump stations. The system expanded service again in 1998 to the Lobster Cove Road/Barrett's Park region on the westside of Linekin Bay, providing one additional pump station.

Through a private and public venture in 2000, the system expanded to include the McKown Point region in southwest Boothbay Harbor. This addition resulted in the elimination of many mechanical overboard discharge plants. This expansion added four pump stations to the system. Squirrel Island in Southport installed a collection system on the Island in 2002, which pumps one mile underwater to Spruce Point, connecting to the district's system. Capital Island, also located in Southport, installed a collection system in 2014 for the public on the island. This connected pumps across Townsend Gut and to the district's system at McKown Point.

Presently, the Boothbay Harbor Sewer District includes 21 pump stations, 25 miles of gravity sewer, and ten miles of force main. The system conveys wastewater generated from Boothbay Harbor, Boothbay, and two islands located in Southport.

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Featured Community:
Boothbay Harbor Sewer District (cont'd)

The Treatment Process

The plant's treatment process is designed to treat 640,000 gallons per day, and currently operates at approximately 50% capacity. The plant also treats 6,400 gallons of septage per day, where it is metered into the headworks for treatment. Preliminary treatment at the plant involves both screening and grit removal. Secondary treatment is conducted via two, 250,000-gallon SBRs.

Employees Committed to Service

The district has grown from one employee to five employees, totaling 60 years of experience. Superintendent Chris Higgins speaks highly of his team saying, "They take pride in what they do and feel that they make a difference, while being given opportunities for development through job rotation and training. Most importantly, the team trusts the people they work for and enjoy the people they work with."

When customers are reaching out to the sewer district, it is usually due to an immediate issue, like a sewer backup or a pressing billing question. In these stressful situations, customers want to be greeted by a compassionate worker who is willing to help. The district strives to focus on providing customers with the highest levels of empathy to ensure the customer is heard, supported, and satisfied to the best of their ability.

Best stated by Chris Higgins, "Effective customer care functions are those that best understand a customer's needs and wants, along with their behaviors. No organization can appropriately care for their customers in an efficient and effective way without understanding the challenges they need to solve for the customer. This extends beyond the typical residential customer and includes the small business, mom and pop shops, and the larger commercial customers."

Like many workplaces, the district is facing the challenge of acquiring new employees. A position open since January has not received any applicants. In order to promote the position, the district has increased the starting wage scale, increased benefits, and has incorporated flexibility in their work schedules. The district's remote location to population centers presents a unique challenge for finding new employees. Emergency response obligations require employees to be able to respond within 20 minutes. This restricts potential employees to reside on the Boothbay peninsula and limits the available work force. Familiar to the wastewater profession, Boothbay also believes that the nature of the work's "Yuck Factor" still turns people away from the profession.

Upcoming Projects

The district just finished relining the west side of the collection system, completing the proposed relining effort of the entire collection system. Starting in the fall, plans are to conduct manhole rehabilitation of the existing infrastructure.

The district is presently collaborating with Wright-Pierce on multiple projects to help ensure longevity of the system. Wright-Pierce has been working on an aeration evaluation in anticipation of upgrading the blowers and controls. The district is also amid a climate resiliency project with the engineering company, hoping to determine necessary plant upgrades that will increase the lifespan of the plant. Sea level rise has been a huge topic of conversation in this plan, with the plant located on the coast. With the assistance of Wright-Pierce, the District secured a $200,000 grant from Lincoln County to fund the engineering design and a $4,015,000 grant from the MaineDOT to construct a sea wall around the district's treatment plant.

◆

Yarmouth Water District

ESTABLISHED, 1895. INCORPORATED, 1923.

Working Together

In 1888, the town of Yarmouth's primary concern was fire protection. This issue prompted the town to fund and construct two municipal cisterns. In addition to fire protection, the public also had concerns regarding typhoid and other contagious diseases. Hence in 1895, the Yarmouth Water Company was established to provide water and sewage systems. Their water source was Hammond Spring. The original system had a 0.25 MG storage tank that was erected on West Elm Street. Due to increased water demand, the company acquired Hayes Spring in North Yarmouth (NY) in 1905.

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Yarmouth Water District

ESTABLISHED, 1895. INCORPORATED, 1923.

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The state chartered the Yarmouth Water District (YWD) in 1923. All of the assets of the Yarmouth Water Company were transferred to the district. As time passed, questions regarding the quantity and quality of water prompted the district to purchase Stevens Well in 1947. This transition allowed the district to convert from surface water to ground water supply. Additional water sources were added in the 1950s and 1970s.

The district created an agreement with the Portland Water District (PWD) in 1977 as water demand was expected to exceed YWD's sources at that time. This agreement allowed PWD to supply water to Cousins Island. Additionally, YWD provided a backup source to PWD's Cumberland Foreside consumers.

YWD's third well was drilled in 1986, again in response to increased demand. Then in 1990, YWD merged with the North Yarmouth Water District. With this merger, the YWD pledged to reduce metered water rates, upgrade the infrastructure, and to supply NY consumers with water from NY.

Today, the YWD serves Yarmouth, North Yarmouth, and parts of Cumberland by-means-of 3,184 service connections which is comprised of a population of 7,960 customers. This endeavor is accomplished via four wells that are all located in NY. Sodium hypochlorite is added at a very low dose at each of the wells. YWD is a voluntary chlorination system that doesn't filter or use any other type of treatment. Their water production provides up to 3.00 MGD. Each of these wells pump to the Yarmouth service area. A separate service area for NY is due to its elevation difference. The water to NY is distributed by two booster pump stations that can provide up to 0.99 MGD if necessary. Additionally, the district has two standpipe storage facilities which have a capacity of 1.50 MG. Furthermore, NY has a steel-buried concrete storage facility that holds 0.20 MG. The system's production fluctuates seasonally on account of irrigation demand and seasonal swings. The demand changes from 0.49 MGD in the winter to 1.64 MGD in the summer. This water supply travels through approximately 80 miles of water main that are made of cast and ductile iron. Not to mention, approximately 420 fire hydrants for the areas' fire protection.

Board of Trustees

Thomas Brennan, Yarmouth Resident Trustee,

Irving Felker Jr., Yarmouth Resident Chair

Steve Gorden, Yarmouth Resident Trustee

Andrew Walsh, North Yarmouth Resident Trustee

William Taylor, Yarmouth Resident Trustee

Currently, YWD employs 9 full-time and 2 part-time seasonal employees. Together, they have a combined 55 years of service. Bear in mind this does not account for the staff's previous experience in other districts and seasonal staff experience. Combined, this adds another 140 years to their service years. Eric Gagnon, Superintendent, is proud of YWD's staff and enjoys their working relationships. Eric proclaimed, "They are great at what they do, know their strengths, are willing to improve themselves professionally, and as people, to better themselves and the utility."

At YWD, they feel that the customer should be your system's utmost priority only second to the staff. The establishment must be the stewards to protect its water resource and to provide a high-quality product. In order to build a positive relationship with the consumer, one must engage in social media presence. This can be achieved by being present in the community, engaging in conversation, and talking with the customers while in the field. Moreover, the frontline customer service team knows the importance of empathizing, evaluating, understanding, and resolving the customers' problems. A positive relationship solidifies and builds trust in the district.

Recently, the district completed a $1.8 M improvement. This included the installation of a new booster pump station which can provide 0.70 MGD to NY's service area. It also consisted of the replacement of a 100-year-old; undersized, unlined, cast-iron transmission main with 8,000 feet of ductile iron water main. It's worth noting that this project came in under budget and was a great success!

New projects on YWD's horizon include concentrating on the continuation of replacing water mains that are at the end of their life cycle. Over the next 3-4 years, they plan to replace nearly 12,000 feet of water main. Additionally, they'll be constructing a larger water tank in the NY service area in the next 2-5 years.

The mission of the YWD is "To develop and manage its water resources and infrastructure in such a way as to provide the highest quality water to all its customers." In addition to fulfilling their mission, they assist their service area in other ways to ensure that their resources are protected. For instance, by assisting the area in sustainable proactive measures. Therefore, this includes paying to pump out all septic systems within the 2,500-day travel time from all active sources, and offering assistance and a stipend to replace heating oil tanks with alternatives such as propane.

Of noteworthy mention is the YWD's board of trustees. The board consists of 4 members from Yarmouth and one member from North Yarmouth. They immensely support the district's staff and play a valuable role in the "bigger plan" while directing the district. Eric stated, "They understand the current challenges, the importance of supporting a great staff, and their role as a trustee."

This quasi-municipal, not-for-profit water district should be proud of its accomplishments and hard work through the years. Afterall, it takes a committed workforce and an interested community to reach its goal!

Reinforcing the Links in Your Supply Chain

Covid-19 has impacted us all and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Currently, utilities have been reporting difficulties obtaining critical supplies (for treatment, improvements, repairs, and more). In order to better prepare for and/or mitigate these issues in the supply chain, utilities can take the following steps/actions.

1. Vendors of critical products should be identified.
2. Discussions should be conducted with vendors about plans for ongoing service/shipments.
3. Relationships should be developed with more than one vendor in case of shortages.
4. Complete and detailed contact lists for vendors should be maintained and updated routinely.

Additional Resources:

- EPA provides information on current supply chain disruptions here.
- EPA hosts a platform for coordinating supply chain efforts here.
- EPA provides information on how to use the Defense Production Act for procurement here.
- EPA provides the Chemical Suppliers and Manufacturers Locator Tool here.

Imagine a Day Without Water

On May 26th the York Sewer District partnered with the York Water District to put on an Imagine A Day Without Water Event at the Village Elementary School in York as part of our outreach program. There were 350 K-2nd graders that attended the event, and it was a complete success. Volunteers who helped make the day a success include: York Sewer District, York Water District, Town of York, Mount Agamenticus Conservation, NEWEA PAC Committee, MEWEA Young Professionals Committee, Maine Healthy Beaches, Vortex Services and E.J. Prescott.

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Imagine a Day Without Water

The event included several different stations that the children could experience related to water including: witness an actual sewer camera in action; taking samples with Maine Healthy Beaches; what's the difference between influent and effluent, different types of trucks from Vortex, EJ Prescott and a fire truck; sit on the Water District's ATVs; use of metal detectors. The children also got to plant seedlings and then wash their hands with "no water"; got to see a toilet paper and wipes display, play the toilet toss game, and experience a watershed model. The day was a complete success, and the quote of the day was "poop infused water".

WRIGHT-PIERCE
Engineering a Better Environment

Water, Wastewater,
and Civil Infrastructure

MAINE
our home since 1947

Wright-Pierce is celebrating 75 years of engineering a better environment! Founded on January 17, 1947 in Topsham, our firm's history is deeply rooted in Maine. Our founders Frank Wright, Jr. and William "Bill" Pierce met as Civil Engineers working for Bath Iron Works. Raising $50 in capital between them, they formed a partnership to practice civil engineering, primarily highway design and surveying in Maine. One of their first acts was to flip a coin to determine the name for the firm. Frank won, so the name became "Wright & Pierce."

"Wright-Pierce remains committed to helping communities evaluate and implement important infrastructure projects that impact future generations. We are fortunate to be celebrating our 75th anniversary, a milestone we could not have reached without the support of the communities we serve. Thank you for being part of our journey."

— John Braccio, PE
Wright-Pierce President & CEO

Uniting the Generational Workforce

Not long ago, it was commonplace for two generations to be represented in the workplace. There were the "old-timers" and "the newcomers". Times have changed! Now you could discover yourself working with at least four generations. Each one has its own preferences, styles, perspectives, and experiences. These very real characteristics can create the potential for conflict and misunderstanding amongst different generations. Dissimilar generations can wrestle to understand one another's values and working styles. The table below shows the different age groups in the workforce today, describing their traits and characteristics.

GENERATIONS

Baby Boomers	Gen. X	Gen Y/ Millennial	Gen. Z
1946-1964	**1965-1980**	**1981-1977**	**1998-2010**
• Competition • Hard work • Success • Teamwork • Inclusion • Fight for a cause	• Entrepreneurial spirit • Independence • Creativity • Information • Feedback • Quality of Work Life	• Positive reinforcement • Positive attitudes • Work to Live • Diversity • Technology • Autonomy • Money	• Super inclusive – expect diversity • Activists • More about personal freedom • Avoid debt that their parents experienced • Progressive • Desire to be connected through tech • Mental depression is more common

Integrating the multi-generational workplace takes time and effort. Successfully working together creates the potential for creativity and innovation. The next table lists ideas for recruitment, retention, and motivation for each generation.

GENERATION

GENERATION	RECRUITMENT	TRAINING	RETENTION	MOTIVATION
Baby Boomers	• Career progression • Stability/Consistency • Commute	• Give them a chance to shine in training • Respect experience	• Longevity in job • Mentors are key • Praise & Recognition	• Public recognition • Include in decision making
Generation X	• Total compensation • Performance = Earnings • Up front/Straight talk	• Caring and Fairness • Treat them as equals • Participation	• Prof. Development • Empowerment • Want to be included • Recognition & Reward	• Thrive on multiple projects • Constructive feedback • Fun at the office
Generation Y Millennial	• Team environment • Mentor programs • Automated workplace	• Keep things light • Share information • Casual learning env.	• Multi-role challenge • Valued contributions • Defined expectations	• Connect – learn about their goals • Mentoring/Diversity
Generation Z	• Freedom in work hours • Remote work • Focus on diversity • Technology & systems	• Training should be quick & informal • Discussion and interaction	• Empowerment and ownership in projects	• Desire financial security • Personal connection • Regular 1-1 meetings

Meeting the needs of each generation can improve the productivity and the harmony of your workplace. Do your best to focus on things that unite everyone rather than their generational differences!

Your Financial Future

The finances of a water system are not the most urgent consideration when responding to a pandemic or emergency. However, finances are tremendously important because they impact your ability to serve your customers. Moreover, you need to pay staff, purchase chemicals and supplies, and more.

Financial planning is not always planning for negatives though. For example, usage patterns may increase, debt structures may change (for the better), and/or interest rates may decrease. If usage patterns increase, that relates to more revenue and more capital. If the debt structure changes for the better, potentially, utilities can weigh taking on more debt at less cost. Additionally, if interest rates decrease, utilities should consider refinancing debts and/or accelerating capital improvement plans/projects. Sometimes negative economic situations can lend to interesting, complex, and even beneficial financial situations. Therefore, it is key to stay on top of your utility's finances and routinely gauge the effectiveness of current financial activities/plans.

Financing the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions

The national conversation around infrastructure and water quality has only expanded in the last several years. Thankfully, infrastructure has largely been a bipartisan issue, and it's become increasingly clear that federal lawmakers are prepared to put significant dollars behind ensuring our country's water infrastructure is up to date and our drinking water is clean.

The continued existence of Lead Service Lines (LSLs) clearly highlights the need for investment–not because service lines are more important than a water treatment plant or water main, but because the public can easily understand that no one should be drinking from a leaded straw. The U.S. is finally on a path to replacing all LSLs, with the Federal government poised to invest in water infrastructure upgrades at proportions not seen in generations.

In early summer 2021, President Biden announced a slightly leaner bipartisan agreement had been reached regarding his initially proposed $2 trillion plan.

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Financing the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (cont'd)

This should serve as a point of relief for water systems wondering how they will pay to get the lead out of their communities, a charge that has been pushed significantly by the Biden administration thus far and enforced by the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR).

The inventory portion of a Lead Service Line project could take years to complete, so utilities should not wait on future infrastructure plan funding to begin such an endeavor. There are several funding sources available now that water systems can tap into to support their compliance projects:

Recurring Sources

Federal funding sources for LSL management include grants and low-interest loans. The Federal government, primarily through federal agencies (i.e., EPA, HUD, USDA), has established programs through which funds are channeled to support drinking water infrastructure projects, including LSL replacement. These include but are not limited to:

Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs)

- An EPA-administered federal-state partnership to provide financial support for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects as well as other water quality related projects (e.g., lead sampling in schools and childcare facilities).
- SRFs are the primary vehicle for LSL inventory and replacement funding and Congress is expected to continue to renew SRF funding. State legislatures can add additional funding to SRFs for LSL replacement work.

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)

- An EPA-administered federal loan program that funds regionally and nationally significant water infrastructure development projects.
- These loans are project-oriented and application-based, with certain criteria based upon community size (threshold is 25K population).

Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN)

- The WIIN grant program is the primary funding source for lead sampling in schools and childcare facilities.
- All 50 states utilize these funds and Congress is expected to continue to renew WIIN funding.

Community Development Block Grants

- Distributed by HUD, grant funding is provided for projects that specifically benefit communities with higher proportions of low- and moderate-income residents, who are exposed to conditions that negatively impact their health or wellbeing (e.g., LSLs).
- There are several grant types available to utilities and communities.

Rural Development Fund

- The USDA administers various grant and loan programs that support rural communities and utilities in financing infrastructure repair and replacement projects, including LSL replacement.

Getting the Lead Out

Infrastructure is an enormous problem to tackle in our country, and we understand that water infrastructure and removing lead is just a slice of the pie. But lead is a piece that can have significant ripple effects beyond water infrastructure, which is why our team has dedicated our days to partnering with water systems to get the lead out.

Removing the lead from our pipes and drinking water starts with creating an inventory of line materials in a given system. Companies like 120Water are poised and ready to employ our time-tested, digital solutions to streamline water infrastructure efforts by optimizing current resources and easing logistical burdens.

We've learned a lot from listening to water systems across the country, and we're ready to support even more systems to ensure their teams are successful. Schedule a personal consultation with our team of experts to learn more about how our partnership can help your community thrive.

NEWEA Operations Challenge

May 22-25th 2022, was the 2022 NEWEA Spring Meeting at the stunning Mt. Washington Resort in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. For myself, one of the highlights was the regional qualifier for the Operations Challenge. For those of you who aren't aware of the Ops Challenge, it is a devilishly tricky combination of 5 wastewater related events that test the brains and brawn of 4 person teams from all over: AKA, the wastewater Olympics. This year, New England had 4 teams; RIsing Sludge from Rhode Island, U Connect I Cut, from Connecticut, Mass Chaos from Massachusetts and ourselves, Force Maine. The top 3 teams advance to the national competition in New Orleans at WEFTEC in October.

2022 Team Force Maine consists of newbie Jeremy Court, lab manager from Biddeford and returning members Dan Munsey, collection systems and safety specialist from Brunswick Sewer District, Andrew Whitaker, pump station mechanic and heavy construction expert from Saco, myself as captain, and our coach/manager Rob Pontau, engineer and efficiency expert as well as General Manager of the Brunswick Sewer District as experienced competitors.

(cont'd on next page)

NEWEA Operations Challenge (cont'd)

Force Maine did not make the cut this year, however, we did have some promising results like finishing second in the pump event even with some penalties. While we were disappointed, we know that NEWEA is being represented by 3 great teams.

When I think about explaining my experience, I try to focus on what stuck with me after the event. This time, the biggest thing I remember is the camaraderie with the other competitors. To different degrees, we all helped a dedicated group of volunteers set-up, breakdown and transport the Ops Challenge events that we competed on. I believe this set the tone for how the competitors interacted during the conference. I feel that being in a rural location and having great events planned by NEWEA also led to more interaction with other teams. We ate, relaxed in the pool, played in the cornhole tournament, and socialized together. A few legendary stories (Room 417 & The Cave for example) and new relationships were created along the way.

I encourage anyone that enjoys competition, knowledge, and teamwork to watch some Ops Challenge videos and reach out to your local Water Environment Association and/or competitors to learn more. We are always looking for new team members as we look to build our team back to its former glory.

As always, a huge thank you to MEWEA, NEWEA, WEF and to all the volunteers who make the Operations Challenge possible.

Jeff Warden

What is the Operations Challenge?

According to WEF "teams compete to earn the highest score in five different events. Each team includes four members and often a coach as well. Each event is designed to test the diverse skills required for the operation and maintenance of water resource recovery facilities, collection systems, and laboratories. The five events are collections systems, laboratory, process control, maintenance, and safety. Winners are determined by a weighted points system."

Sound interesting? Probably not. That's because the description given on the WEF website is nothing but a few words about how the competition works. It tells nothing of the challenge, the camaraderie, and the perseverance. When someone asks me what the Operations Challenge is, I tell them it's an opportunity. It's an opportunity to make friends. It's an opportunity to learn. It's an opportunity to try new things. It's an opportunity to improve. It's an opportunity to become a better operator and person. Lastly, it's an opportunity to get a free trip to WEFTEC!

WEF Started the Operations Challenge competition in 1988, and honestly, that's probably the last time some of the events were relevant. I don't think anyone has hand cut pipe since 1988. Regardless, the Operations Challenge committee and volunteers work extremely hard to prepare an event that is challenging and mobile enough to be performed at locations around the country. Their effort is much appreciated.

If you would like to find out more about the Operations Challenge, check out https://www.weftec.org/attend/operations-challenge/. There are lots of great YouTube videos out there! Most importantly, if you would like to get involved, as a volunteer or team member, reach out to Rob Pontau at rpontau@brunswicksewer.org.

2022 MWUA Golf Tournament

MWUA's annual golf tournament was held on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at the Val Halla Country Club in Cumberland, Maine. Attendees have been enjoying this event for 36 years. Everyone involved in the planning of the tournament should be commended. Nearly 100 MWUA members and sponsors took part in this outing. Once again, the golf tournament was a huge success!

Sponsorships from various companies (at least 26) helped to defray the registration cost for many utility members. The sponsoring companies' logos were displayed at each green. Northeast Laboratory Services hosted a one-of-a-kind drive thru booth where the members were able to stop by on their way to the tee to check out the latest info. MWUA would like to express their sincere thanks to the numerous sponsors of this event.

The kickoff began at 8:30 a.m. with Bruce Berger, Executive Director of MWUA, addressing the participants. Shortly thereafter, the teams, which were lined up in their golf carts, parted ways to the various assigned greens to begin the 9-hole scramble.

2022 MWUA Golf Tournament (cont'd)

It was obvious by the camaraderie, laughter, and smiles that the golfers were looking forward to the tournament, and Mother Nature's promise of a beautiful day on the green!

The scramble format was simple. The men played on the white tees and the women on the red tees. Each team was required to use one drive from each player on each nine. Although there was a sense of seriousness as each player teed off, good sportsmanship was evident as players cheered each other on.

Not only did registration include: a golf cart, friendly competition, a day on the green, but also a barbeque buffet.

High spirits of the players were witnessed as the hungry teams drove their golf carts up to the barbeque station. There, the participants enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks, and dessert.

After all the competitions had been completed, the awards and the 50/50 raffle winner were announced. The following list provides the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and last place teams of the scramble. It also names the winners for the closest to the pins and the longest drive.

9-Hole Scramble

- 1st Place – EJP 2 (Mike Pelkey, Porter Jervais, Brian McGuire, Josh McGuire)
- 2nd Place – Wright Pierce (Ryan Wingard, Brody Campbell, Jeff Preble, Mark Holt)
- 3rd Place – EJP 4 (Joe Hersom, Mike Burdin, Mike Talbor, Zach Chaput)
- Last Place – Calgon Carbon Corp (Adam Redding)

Closest to the Pins

- Hole 3 – Keith Pomerleau
- Hole 8 – Jason McCluskey
- Hole 11 – Adam Redding

Longest Drive

- Men – Porter Jervais
- Women – Gina Rohrbaugh

As the day's events came to an end, one could hear from everyone that a good time was had by all! One attendee was heard saying, "A bad day of golf beats a good day at work." Don't miss out on this event next year!

2022 MWUA & MEWEA Summer Outing

Maine Water Utilities Association in partnership with Maine Water Environment Association held their summer outing at the Cumberland Fairgrounds on Thursday, August 11, 2022. The day began with a two-hour training, "Cost Effective Use of Vacuum Excavation", parts I & II. These classes were coordinated by Benny LaPlante of Kennebec Water District and Kevin Lutrell of Bangor Water District. The training not only provided information, but also a live demonstration of vacuum excavation.

There were more than 20 sponsors who participated in the summer outing. The exhibitors were invited to display their wares, demonstrate interactive exhibitions, and to join the events. MWUA would like to extend thanks to all the sponsors who signed up for this event!

At mid-morning, Bruce Berger, Executive Director of MWUA, could be seen grilling sausage, onions, and peppers for the members. Many of the sponsors provided snacks and drinks as well. Jokingly it was announced that the pipe tapping contestants should eat for strength and endurance for this tough, upcoming contest.

After a brief break, was the pipe tapping contest. This competition was a high energy event involving a race against time. The contestants needed to tap into a cement-lined, ductile iron pipe while under pressure, and install a corporation. The two teams vying for the trophy were Boothbay Harbor Region Water District (BBRWD) and Greater Augusta Utility District (GAUD). The winner of this event would be the team that was able to accomplish the tap and service line in the shortest amount of time with the fewest leaks. First up was BBRWD, including Hunter Arsenault, Weston Alley, Aaron Durgin, and Shawn Simmons. They finished the task with a time of 2:49:87. However, they received a 10 second penalty for a leak; making the official time 2:59:87. The challenging team was GAUD, including Cote Bell, Dave Robinson, Dave Curtis, and Wesley Masciadri. They successfully completed the job

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2022 MWUA & MEWEA
Summer Outing (cont'd)

without any leaks or penalties. Their official time was 4:04:48. It is worth noting, that each of the GAUD members' hard hats displayed a slogan – No Faster Than Safe. BBRWD received the winning trophy. Congratulations to both teams for an outstanding competition!

Following the pipe tapping contest was the 2nd annual cornhole tournament. There was a total of 22 teams competing in this single elimination event. The teams were randomly chosen to make it more competitive. The game was played on ten cornhole boards in order to accommodate the large number of players. Spectators and players shared much laughter and team spirit. After many rounds, the semi-finalists of the competition were Mathew Murray and Adam West. The cornhole championship was awarded to Philip Tucker and Weston Alley. After a long game, the winners earned the right to wear the cornhole championship belt. Cheers to all those who participated in this fun event!

During a break from the cornhole tournament, Dan Burdin was awarded the red lobster scramble jacket. The honorable passage of this jacket is given to the "Master Scrambler" of the annual golf tournament which occurred on Wednesday, August 3, 2022.

What would a summer outing be without a barbeque? Well, Pete's Pig Catering & Barbeque of Waterville was hired to serve a complete BBQ buffet. This outdoor buffet included: steaks, chicken, burgers, dogs, potato salad, Cole slaw, chips, and dinner rolls. The attendees lined up for this delicious buffet!

The summer outing has taken place for more than 45 years! 2020 was the only year missed due to the pandemic. This year, more than 100 members and sponsors attended this affair. At this outing, you were able to talk with your fellow peers, old friends, and to make new friends. Be sure to check out MWUA's website for upcoming events and to sign up for the summer outing next year. You don't want to miss it!

MWUA Scholarship Board of Directors Awards Scholarships

MWUA first awarded scholarships to college students in 2009. MWUA's Public Awareness Committee took on the challenge to raise funds and award scholarships for many years. In 2018, Maine Water Company made a significant donation to the scholarship program in honoring of their outgoing president, Judy Wallingford. With this donation, the Maine Water Utilities Scholarship Fund was created. It is a separate 501c3 organization with its own board of directors.

There are three named scholarships at this time. The Madeleine A. Storer, Peter Lancaster, and Judy Wallingford Scholarships all honoring incredible people in our industry who will not be forgotten.

This year two $1000.00 awards were made. Wesley Clements and Amber Lyons both received scholarship awards based on specific criteria acknowledging their passion for water and hard work in their educational studies. Wesley Clements received the Madeleine A. Storer Scholarship, and Amber Lyons was awarded the Judy Wallingford Scholarship.

How You Can Help

If you are interested in making a donation to the Scholarship Fund, please reach out to any of the Board Directors: Mary Jane Dillingham, Craig Douglas, Jefferson Longfellow, Kathy Moriarty, Kirsten Ness, Judy Wallingford.

Have you Heard about Waters Up?

A new, first of its kind, podcast that will provide environmental professionals all over the state with an easy, fun, and entertaining way to hear relevant information in our industry hosted by Brunswick Sewer District's own Rob Pontau.

Tune in live (or later) for Rob's monthly podcasts. Most episodes are eligible for continuing education credits.

Check out the Youtube Channel – and subscribe!

from Government Affairs and Residuals Management Committees on **LD1911**:

Written and Submitted By: Travis Peaslee, MeWEA Residuals Management Committee Co-Chair & Emily Cole-Prescott, MeWEA Government Affairs Co-Chair

LD 1911 (now Public Law Chapter 641) is effective on August 8, 2022. This law bans the land application of biosolids from wastewater treatment facilities, requires PFAS effluent sampling, repeals the $10 per ton sludge fee, and, among other provisions, requires the Department of Environmental Protection to present a septage management report to the Maine legislature by January 2023. During legislative review, the Maine Water Environment Association (MeWEA) highlighted our concerns about the unintended consequences of our Legislators' decision and requested a wider stakeholder engagement process.

The reality is that there was not, and arguably to this day still has not been, a distinction made between background levels of PFAS that exceeded the screening standard, and the very small percentage of material that was industrially impacted. This ban now leaves wastewater treatment facilities with very few options to manage biosolids, with nearly everything now directed to landfills. Many agree that landfilling all biosolids is not a sustainable option. **Landfilling affects reach well beyond financial impacts, increasing greenhouse gas emissions, air emissions pollution, limited landfill capacity, and a septage management crisis.**

> *We must continue our efforts to educate the public that wastewater treatment facilities are essential and remain the receivers – not generators – of PFAS substances.*

With EPA's recently published health advisory (PFAS limits in the parts per quadrillion) and our state's aggressive legislative efforts toward PFAS, beneficial reuse of our municipal biosolids likely will not be part of our management toolbox for the foreseeable future.

Over time as science catches up to policy, more is known about the fate, transport, and health impacts, and especially if we can succeed as a society in eliminating non-essential use, we may be able to return to these beneficial reuse programs in the future. In the interim, as much as we may disagree with various aspects of the policy that got us here, we now need to shift our focus and energy toward sustainable solutions.

MeWEA has been exploring partnerships with associations, regulators, and policymakers to increase stakeholder engagement across a wide range of people. PFAS is ubiquitous in the environment and is found globally in food packaging, personal care products, clothing, and so many more items. Because of this widespread use, it will take many of us thinking outside of the box to understand and articulate the impacts of PFAS on our society, environment, and economy. We must continue our efforts to educate the public that wastewater treatment facilities are essential and remain the receivers – not generators – of PFAS substances. MeWEA is also collecting data on the impacts of PFAS on biosolids management. In partnership with the Northeast Biosolids & Residuals Association (NEBRA), we will be launching a survey tool to collect critical data points in effort to quantify PFAS impacts on wastewater treatment in Maine. We will soon email the survey link to you, so please look out for it.

Times like this tend to spur innovation and force us to think creatively and can make us stronger by bringing us together in search of solutions to these complexities. Just in the relatively short period of "PFAS", we have been amazed at the efforts put forth by both MEWEA members and non-members in educating and tracking the issue, providing testimony, writing op-ed pieces, voluntarily testing materials, accepting liquid solids, and serving as a pilot treatment facility, to name just some examples. Additionally, given the unsustainable landfilling situation we are in, there has been rapid movement from multiple areas to find permanent solutions with technologies like anaerobic digestion and solids dryers to reduce volume, incineration, pyrolysis, and gasification to destroy PFAS, and evolving technologies that show promise such as super critical water oxidation and hydrothermal carbonization. There has also been a lot of interest, focus, and discussion on regionalizing treatment, and dewatering optimization has never been so important. It truly is an exciting time to be in the midst of such a large problem knowing that we have so many dedicated and hard-working folks searching for solutions that will likely make us re-think and improve the way in which we manage our biosolids.

Despite all the on-going efforts, this is an unprecedented challenge that could use input from every one of our members. If you are interested in helping, simply reach out to any member of the Residuals Management or Government Affairs Committees and we will get you involved.

Steps for Cost Recovery

by Maine Water Suppliers Facing PFAS Contamination

Over the past several years, PFAS has been a major regulatory and legislative priority for many Maine Water Utilities Association's members. Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), are toxic chemicals that are showing up in water systems across the US and here in Maine. These chemicals were introduced to water sources through firefighting foams, sludge and septage when land applied and in leachate from unlined landfills. And these chemicals are still being used in an array of household products. The heart of the challenge for Maine wastewater managers and water suppliers is covering or recovering the costs of PFAS treatment. This takes being aware of key legal milestones once detecting PFAS and where action can lead to greater success in the effort to recover costs. In this interview, MUWA member and SL Environmental Law Group litigator, Ashley Campbell, shares her knowledge about PFAS as a member of the nation's leading consortium1 of attorneys holding polluters accountable for PFAS contamination.

Q: What is the latest on PFAS Regulation in Maine?

Ashley Campbell: Maine lawmakers have been active in addressing PFAS contamination. The state has set an emergency interim drinking water standard of 20 parts per trillion (ppt) for six types of PFAS. Maine's Department of Health and Human Services is required to promulgate a maximum contamination level regulation on or before June 1, 2024. The legislature also designated PFAS as a hazardous substance under the state's uncontrolled sites law; regulated the discharges, manufacture, and sale of firefighting foam containing PFAS; and required testing of soil and groundwater at sites that spread sludge as fertilizer. Maine is the first-in-the-world to broadly ban all products using toxic PFAS, save those that are currently unavoidable. The state is the first-in-the-nation to ban all toxic chemical flame retardants in upholstered household furniture and is the second state to ban toxic PFAS chemicals in food packaging.

Q: What types of requirements do Maine's legislative actions impose on water agencies?

AC: While the legislature's leadership and actions are laudable, the requirements present significant operational and legal checkpoints for water industry leaders and water system operators.

On the operational front, water managers must respond to testing orders to monitor the quality of their drinking water and if a test result exceeds the emergency interim drinking water standard, a water provider must continue to monitor quarterly until they implement treatment to reduce the contamination and provide notice to all users of the water system to inform them of the detected PFAS concentration.

This sets in motion a series of costs that can include shutting down water sources, purchasing water from alternative sources, implementing a clean-up plan that often includes building a costly new water treatment facility to remove the contaminants, and especially in Maine, these costs include finding a way to dispose of spent residuals, whether biosolids from treated wastewater or spent resin from a drinking water treatment system.

The removal of these contaminants can quickly run into hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars. For some cash-strapped municipalities, these unexpected costs could be catastrophic unless outside funding is secured.

Q: What are prudent steps to take legally if your water sources have PFAS?

AC: Systems that have detected PFAS in any of their sources at levels above 20 ppt are encouraged to consult with legal counsel to explore recourse that protects its rights and holds the manufacturers responsible.

An experienced attorney will discuss how you have been impacted and if there are any operational changes resulting from the contamination. If there are, the firm will evaluate any relevant legal issues and can begin to obtain necessary documents. If the water provider decides to go ahead with litigation, the lawyers will file a lawsuit and work with the water system staff to prepare the required documents for litigation.

Joining the MDL-2873 is likely one of the faster routes to seeking damages to a water system if it has been polluted by AFFF. Proceedings are already underway for water providers, which effectively shaves off three years (the duration the MDL has already been pending) to settlement or trial verdict.

In addition to protecting the water system's financial resources, pursuing legal action against the manufacturers now is one way to demonstrate to ratepayers and the community that the water system is taking action to keep the community safe.

Q: What kind of questions should one ask in determining legal action?

AC: First there is the obvious question about seeking legal expertise: Has the firm ever handled a case like yours before? An agency's general counsel will typically defer to lawyers in specialized areas of the law such as those involving bond financing, and environmental hazards. SL Environmental law, for example, has represented more than 70 public entity and utility clients in environmental contamination cases, recovering over $1 billion in combined settlements and judgments for our clients. We have decades of experience in environmental contamination litigation and as challengers to some of the largest corporations in the world. It is literally all we do.

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Steps for Cost Recovery

by Maine Water Suppliers Facing PFAS Contamination

The second question is about the costs to recover damages from PFAS. You may assume all law firms charge by the hour, but many work on a contingency fee basis. SL Environmental Law, for example, provides services on a contingency fee basis, which means that a fee is due to us only when the case achieves a favorable result. Typically, law firms that operate on a contingency basis also front the costs of collecting information and assembling testimony, saving plaintiffs substantial funds. In other words, the fee and cost reimbursement of filing the case is contingent on success.

Q: Is there a statute of limitations on filing a lawsuit?

AC: Yes, Maine law (Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 14, § 752-F) allows six years after contamination is discovered or reasonably should have been discovered for lawsuits to be filed against parties potentially responsible for PFAS pollution. However, statutes of limitations can provide for exceptions and statutes of repose may apply to some claims. Water suppliers that are considering legal action against manufacturers or others responsible for the contamination of their supplies should consult with legal counsel at the first opportunity. Being among the first to act may result in more generous settlements and ensures that the lawsuit is scheduled into busy court dockets as early as possible.

Yet another update to the PFAS topic has been released by the EPA. There are new health advisories for GenX and FFBS contaminants. More specifically, the health advisories for PFOA and PFOS have been lowered.

If you are not familiar with health advisories issued by the EPA, they indicate the level of drinking water contamination below which negative health effects are unexpected. Additionally, they provide technical information for professionals to utilize when dealing with these contaminants.

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- EPA has issued interim health advisories for PFOA and PFOS replacing previously issued advisories from 2016. Check them out here..
- EPA is issuing final health advisories for PFBS, HFPO, and GenX chemicals. Check them out here
- Individuals concerned about PFAS levels in their drinking water should consider actions that may reduce exposure, including installing a home or point of use filter. For more information, click here.

All of this seems like it will be costly and I'm sure everyone is wondering, "How will we pay for/finance this?" Well, the EPA has announced and invited states to apply for $1 billion in funding to address PFAS and other emerging contaminants. This funding compliments the $3.4 billion already going to Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and the $3.2 billion for Clean Water State Revolving Funds that can be used to address PFAS.

In Summary...

Below is a summary of some of the main topics in this issue:

Colleague Corner – Learn more about some of your colleagues on page 6

Uniting the Generational Workforce – how to blend the baby boomers, Gen X, Y and Z to make a great work environment. See page 20

MWUA and MEWeA Summer Outing – Check out all the fun on page 27

Steps for Cost Recovery – Learn how to recover from PFAS contamination on page 32

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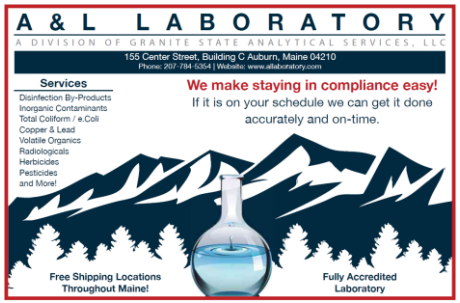
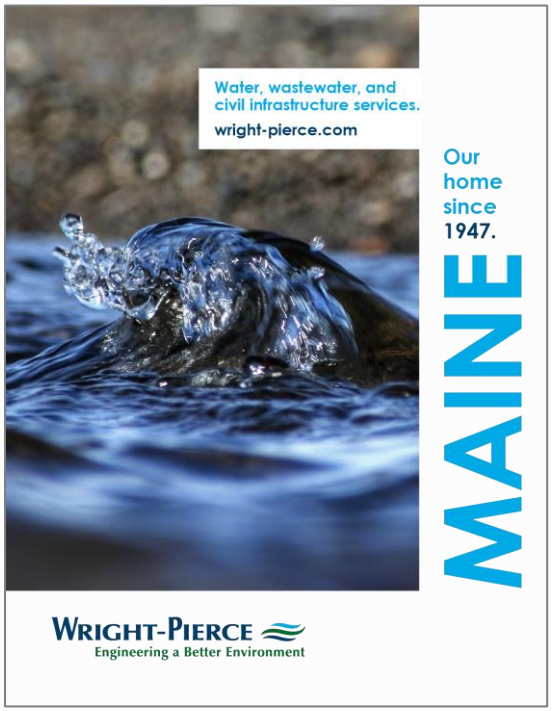
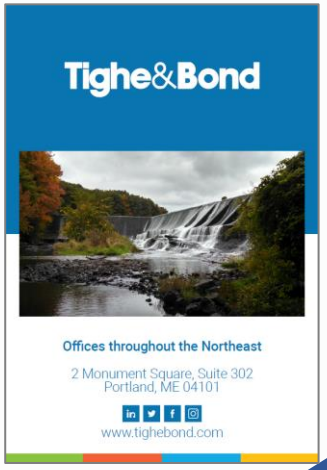
Many of the initiatives we have are possible because of supporting partners like the ones featured here. Let's support them back!







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For more information, contact cwade@mwua.org