

One Water

Joint Newsletter - November 2021

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November 2021

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● **Green** Content from MeWEA ● **Blue** Content from MWUA ■ **Blue/Green** MWUA & MeWEA content



Brian McGuire, MWUA President

A term I've heard during the pandemic is "the new normal". I may be old fashion, but I certainly hope that the status of how we currently are operating isn't normal. Don't get me wrong, I clearly understand the value of some of the adjustments that have become necessary like virtual trainings and meetings. We probably are more efficient than ever before, instead of sending two of my crew to get training and losing them for the day MWUA offers early morning and late day options so the whole crew can receive the TCH's they need. That has been incredibly helpful. But as helpful as it is I miss seeing and talking to people in person.

When the pandemic lightened up, we were able to host the bi-monthly meeting in Houlton. I can't tell you how nice it was to see so many of you come North, (South for some of my brethren here in the County). We had almost 80 attend in-person with over 20 attending virtually. We were able to honor some very important people that have had influence on so many of us, People like Skip Dumais, Bob MacKinnon, Frank Kearney and Alan Frasier. We were able to get together the night before at the Elks Club and just enjoy one another's company. It proved to be a great opportunity to swap lies, tell stories, laugh, form new friendships, and renew old friendships. I struggle sometimes trying to find the time to attend MWUA events because I'm just too darn busy. But somehow, I always end up attending, probably because I'm President. But here's what I want to share, I have never felt like it was a waste of time. In fact, it is just the opposite.

In June I got to honor Skip, Frank and Bob. I don't know Bob as well as my dear friends Skip and Frank, but they all deserved to be honored because of who they are and what they have done for our profession and MWUA. I was pleased to be there and there was no other place I wanted to be because of these gentlemen. Space doesn't allow me to list all the people I have met at various MWUA events. Bi-monthly meetings, trainings, the conference, the summer outing, and the golf tournament. What we have shouldn't ever be taken for granted or undervalued. No matter what happens during any given day I know all I need to do is call someone I've met, and I'll get the help I need. I just don't believe that can all be accomplished without getting together or by only getting together virtually. This is a major reason why I pushed the board to try to have an in person conference in Augusta in February 2022. I sure hope you can join us so we can all see one another in-person. I don't know what the future holds but I believe one of the many strengths of our association is our in-person events and how much each of us values the relationships we have. I hope you believe as I do that we should treasure and value them and never become so busy we can't make the MWUA events a priority. The payback and benefits are second to none.

Message from MeWEA President

Well, here we are at the end of 2021 and another president riding off into the sunset (tag, you're it, Dave). I would like to thank everyone who supported me this year and helped me to stay on course. I was honored and humbled to be president of an organization that represents so many great people with a common purpose in mind. Our work is important and underpins society as we know it. This has never been more prevalent than during the pandemic. I tip my hat to all of you for your hard work and dedication. I've said it before and I'll say it again, besides my time as an infantryman I have never been so fortunate to work with such a group of like-minded people.

Everyone should be aware of the seemingly endless volunteer hours that the Executive Committee puts in. I personally want to thank all the committee members for their hard work. We took some big steps as an Association in 2021. Our Legislative Committee has been as busy as ever and did a fantastic job of tracking multiple bills and testifying on many of them. Things didn't always go the way we wanted, but we are being recognized as an environmental group, as we should be. We have been able to have steady communication with DEP on important topics. We collaborated with MWUA multiple times this year including this newsletter and a sponsorship program. We will be receiving our administrative needs from MWUA in 2022. These are all positives and will make us a stronger association moving forward.

As we look forward to 2022 with a new President, officers, committee members, and hopefully new MeWEA members there are still plenty of challenges for us to face together. With the Legislature going back into session we are sure to see more and more PFAS bills being brought forward. We can only hope that common sense, facts, and science will prevail over opinions, media hysteria, and conjecture. There will be other challenges, but PFAS seems to be at the forefront for the time being. I have no doubt that Dave and his team along with the Executive Committee will do a great job next year. Dave has been a MeWEA member for a very, very, very long time and is a natural leader. His quick wit and disarming demeanor have served him well in the past and will be of great value in the year ahead of him.

The committees are the backbone of the Association and I implore all of you to please become more involved with the Association. Many hands make light work, and all the committees will welcome the help. As a volunteer you can do as much or as little as you would like. Even if you are brand new to the industry, we welcome you with open arms. With young minds come fresh ideas.

Lastly, with Veterans Day and Thanksgiving having just passed let's remember all of those that cannot be home with their families this Holiday Season. Thanksgiving and Christmas are arguably the two hardest Holidays for a soldier to be away from their loved ones and they might be missed just a little bit more on those days. To all of you who have served, continue to serve, and to those families who are in their own way serving, thank you from the absolute depths of my heart.

- Phil Tucker
MeWEA President



Joint Letter to membership

Dear MWUA and MeWEA members:

On October 15th, 2021 the Maine Water Environment Association (MeWEA) Executive Board voted to enter a contract with Maine Water Utilities Association (MWUA) to become its administrator and assume and perform the association's administrative functions. The contract will start on January 1st, 2022. MWUA has hired Joan Kiszely to handle most of the administrative duties associated with MeWEA. Many of you know Joan, but for you that may not, Joan worked for the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) for 33 years. During that time, she was responsible and oversaw the administrative functions along with a staff for the 13 affiliate groups contracted with MMA. She retired a couple of years ago but has agreed to come back and help MWUA fulfill its contractual obligation to MeWEA. She is most qualified and clearly understands the nuances of all things MeWEA. We welcome Joan and look forward to a long and beneficial relationship with MeWEA.

Kind Regards,
Brian McGuire - President Maine Water Utilities Association

Phillip Tucker - President Maine Water Environment Association

Forthcoming Vaccination or Test Requirement Will Apply to Public Sector Employers in Maine



The U.S. Department of Labor has informed the Maine Department of Labor that its forthcoming COVID-19 vaccination requirement will apply to public sector employers in Maine, including state, county, and local governments and public school systems.

Last week, President Biden announced that he has directed OSHA to develop a rule requiring all employers with 100 or more employees to ensure their workforce is fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or require any workers who remain unvaccinated to produce a negative COVID-19 test result on at least a weekly basis before coming to work. OSHA will issue an Emergency Temporary Standard to implement this requirement.

While this Emergency Temporary Standard applies to private employers nationwide, the Maine Department of Labor sought clarification from OSHA about the rule's applicability to public employers because, under longstanding State law and a 2015 agreement with the Federal government ([view here](#)), Maine is required to adopt and enforce for public employers all of OSHA's occupational safety and health standards.

(cont'd on next page)

U.S. Dept. of Labor confirms forthcoming vaccination or test requirement

Under an approved OSHA plan, the Maine Department of Labor is designated as the state agency responsible for the development and enforcement of occupational safety and health standards applicable to state and local government employment throughout the state. Meanwhile, Federal OSHA enforces standards in Maines private sector employment.



Maine is one of 26 states and two territories to have a state plan agreement with the Federal government.

OSHA confirmed with the Maine Department of Labor that the forthcoming Emergency Temporary Standard will apply to public sector employers with 100 or more employees in Maine and the 25 other states and two territories with a state OSHA plan.

In Maine, these public entities include: State and local governments, public school systems, the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System, Maine Maritime Academy, the Maine Turnpike Authority, and sewer and water districts.

The Maine Board of Occupational Safety and Health is required to adopt and enforce OSHAs forthcoming rule for public employers within 30 days of the rules release. OSHAs standards are considered minimum requirements, so states may implement more rigorous standards but cannot implement less rigorous standards than those set out by OSHA.

OSHA released its emergency temporary standards (ETS) on November 4th. On November 12th the Fifth Circuit US Court of appeals issued a stay on the ETS until further notice. While OSHA remains confident in its authority to protect workers in emergencies, OSHA has suspended activities related to the implementation and enforcement of the ETS pending future developments in the litigation.



Maine Water Utilities Association (MWUA) and Maine Water Environment Association (MeWEA) are two membership organizations that are volunteer run in the state of Maine. MeWEA for over 50 years and MWUA for almost 100, both have worked hard and diligently to grow as organizations and provide quality service and support to the water professionals of Maine. Both organizations have been and continue to be strong advocates for the water industry through professional development and training, legislation, policy, and networking.

Even though these organizations are strong and successful, they could still use your help! Whether you have over 30 years of industry experience or are brand new, they would love your involvement! Plus, have you considered the benefits to you and the organization you work for? Volunteering for MWUA or MeWEA allows for opportunities to meet, work with, and become friends with like minded people. Further, you are able to become part of a passionate community, learn new skills, and facilitate the change you and/or your organization would like to see. Additionally, it looks great on a resume, and your employer may even offer compensation for your involvement on a committee. If you are interested in volunteering or would like some more information, please reach out!

For MWUA: Bruce Berger – bberger@mwua.org

For MeWEA: Phil Tucker – ptucker@yorksewerdistrict.org

On the following page you'll find a list of MWUA and MeWEA committee chairs along with their contact information.

Volunteering provides additional skills, knowledge and possibly additional compensation.

Anyone interested in volunteering or if you would like some more information, please reach out!



Committee Chairs



Current MeWEA Committee Chairs

Awards	Mike Guethle	Michael.guethle@wbrcae.com
Collection Systems	Ben Stiles	ben.stiles@wright-pierce.com
Communications	Bryanna Denis	bryanna.denis@wright-pierce.com
Conventions	Philip Tucker	ptucker@yorksewerdistrict.org
	Stacy Thompson	sthompson@sacomaine.org
Government Affairs	Amanda Smith	amanda.smith@bangormaine.gov
	Emily Prescott	eprescott@sacomaine.org
Laboratory	Andy Wendell	andyw@clearwaterlab.com
Membership	Rob Pontau	rpontau@bsewer.org
Treatment Plant Operations	Alex Buechner	alex.buechner@biddefordmaine.org
Personnel Advancement	Charlene Poulin	cpoulin@pwd.org
Pretreatment	Terry Tucker	ttucker@yorksewerdistrict.org
Public Relations	Paula Drouin	pdrouin@lawpca.org
Residuals Management	Jeff McBurnie	jeff.mcburnie@casella.com
Stormwater	Sarah King	sking@haleyward.com
	Kristie Rabasca	krabasca@integratedenv.com
Young Professionals	Brody Campbell	brody.campbell@wright-pierce.com

Current MWUA Committee Chairs

Training and Program	Justin Richardson	jrichardson@kkw.org
	Benny Laplante	BlaPlante@kennebecwater.org
Water Resource	Alisha Cooney	asauvageau@bathwd.org
	Greg Pargellis	gpargellis@kkw.org
Legislative	Roger Crouse	rcrouse@kennebecwater.org
Technology	TC Schofield	tschofield@btwater.org
	Matt Zetterman	mzetterman@kennebecwater.org
Utility Finance Officers	David Kane	dkane@pwd.org

Upcoming Trainings 2021-2022

- Dec. 1, 2021 [Lead & Copper Compliance](#) – W 2.0 TCHs
- Dec. 2, 2021 [Activated Sludge Denitrification and Total Nitrogen Removal](#) – WW 3.0 TCHs
- Dec. 2, 2021 [Water Works 101 Bootcamp](#) (Caribou, ME) – W/WW 6.0 TCHs
- Dec. 7, 2021 [Leadership Institute: HR 101](#) – W/WW 6.0 TCHs
- Dec. 9, 2021 [Chemical and Biological Phosphorus Removal](#) – WW 3.0 TCHs
- Dec. 14, 2021 [Concrete Repair and Grouting](#) – W/WW 2.0 TCHs
- Dec. 15, 2021 [Nitrification: What You Should Know](#) – W/WW 2.0 TCHs (Pending)
- Dec. 21, 2021 [BOD, Metabolism, ORP, Sludge Production with Michael Gerardi](#) – WW 3.0 TCHs
- Jan. 5, 2022 [Board/Trustee Training: Walking the Tight Rope](#) – W 3.0 TCHs
- Jan. 11, 2022 [Leadership Institute: HR 102](#) – W/WW 6.0 TCHs
- Jan. 13, 2022 Boil Water Orders & Drinking Water Advisories (CANCELLED) – W 2.0 TCHs
- Feb. 8, 2022 [Leadership Institute: HR 201](#) – W/WW 6.0 TCHs
- March 15, 2022 [Leadership Institute: HR 202](#) – W/WW 6.0 TCHs
- April 12, 2022 [Leadership Institute: HR 203](#) – W/WW 6.0 TCHs

KEY ACRONYMS

WW - Technical Credit Hours (TCH) qualifying for wastewater credit hours approved by Maine DEP

W - TCH qualify for water credit hours approved by Board of Licensed Water System Operators (BLWSO)



ADDITIONAL CLASSES

- [JETCC Remote Learning Catalog](#)
- [MWUA Sponsored Training](#)
- [NEIWPCC-JETCC Remote Learning Catalog](#)



Job Openings



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 today!

Employer

York Water District
Portland Water District
Kennebec Water District
Freeport Sewer District
City of Lewiston
Maine Water Company - Freeport
Kennebunk Sewer District
City of South Portland
Bath Water District
Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District
Yarmouth WWTP
Bath Water District
Portland Water District
Maine Water Company - Saco
Winthrop Utilities District
Winthrop Utilities District

Job Title

[System Maintenance Technician](#)
[Wastewater Maintenance Operator](#)
[Distribution Technician](#)
[Wastewater Ops & Maintenance Operator](#)
[Assistant City Engineer](#)
[Water Operator I](#)
[Assistant Manager](#)
[Compliance Administrator](#)
[Superintendent](#)
[Lab Tech](#)
[Superintendent](#)
[Distribution Technician](#)
[Water System Operator](#)
[Engineer](#)
[Water/Wastewater System Operator](#)
[Operations Foreman](#)



Don't Forget to Exercise your ERP

Water and wastewater systems prepare for emergencies – it's part of the job. They create plans and standard operating procedures in order to better respond to and mitigate the damages caused by emergencies. Due to recent updates to regulations, there has been a greater emphasis on this. Although planning is a key step in preparing for and responding to emergencies, it is not the only thing a system should do. They also need to practice.

Practice makes perfect! Don't just leave your emergency response plan (ERP) on the shelf to collect dust, but instead use the procedures developed to run tabletop exercises and other training. Tabletop exercises are role playing scenarios in which an emergency event is chosen, and the system then uses their ERP to practice the response protocols outlined for the chosen event. During and after the exercise, the system also analyzes how the protocols worked. If needed, the ERP is then adapted to better respond to these events in the future.

The best tabletop exercises involve all relevant parties including, but not limited to, the system's staff, officials, regulators, key customers, and other stakeholders. Involving everyone that would be impacted by or assist in responding to these emergencies is of great importance. Reach out to Maine Water Utilities Association and Tom's Water Solutions today to see how their assistance can lead to in-depth tabletop exercises and robust ERPs!

2022 MWUA Conference

The Board of Directors for MWUA met and decided that our annual conference will be scheduled to be an in-person conference. It is scheduled for February 2nd-3rd, 2022 at the Augusta Civic Center. All state guidance along with the Augusta Civic Center protocols on proper safety measure will be employed.

Currently we are working hard on developing a robust offering of diverse classes. We will also be offering virtual classes; we are determining the best possible schedule on when to offer these classes. We are exploring whether February 5th, Friday of the convention week is best or perhaps a couple of days during the week of February 7th. Please feel free to contact us and suggest what you feel would be best for you and your systems.



MWUA December Bi-Monthly Membership Meeting

Our bi-monthly December meeting is quickly approaching. We would like to remind all our committee chairs that we traditionally offer annual committee reports at this meeting. Maine Rural Water Association's annual conference is scheduled for the 9th, therefore we will move the meeting from the normally scheduled second Thursday of the month to the first Thursday, December 2nd.

We also will be introducing a by-law change for membership to review and vote on. It will give the MeWEA representative on MWUA's board voting rights. One of the suggested changes will be to give the MeWEA representative on a board voting rights. The other changes are wording improvements on language that is currently slightly confusing.

This meeting will be a virtual meeting. We hope all members will be able to attend, especially to vote on the bylaw change.



CYBER RISK: *Our Reality*

Cyber-attacks continue to be a real threat to our country's critical infrastructure that directly supports modern human life and should not be taken for granted. Of this critical infrastructure, our water and wastewater facilities are vulnerable to cyber threats or attacks. According to the federal government, the water world is vulnerable to cyber-attacks which threaten to disrupt the availability of clean, potable water and sewer services.

On Thursday, October 14, 2021, federal officials published a joint advisory forewarning water municipalities to intensify their cyber security and to implement other security actions to protect their organizations. This past summer, cyber threats became an even stronger reality in Maine when two computer systems were hacked in the wastewater industry. This led to some of Maine's water and wastewater facilities to adopt and update their operations.



CYBER RISK (cont'd)

Government intelligence confirms that cyber risk is a top threat to the water and wastewater sector. There is a direct threat from a foreign government's multi-stage intrusion campaign. This campaign is directed towards our nation's water and wastewater systems' operations and data. This potential cyber risk is not limited to the operations crucial to water and sewer services. These risks also include customer and employee personal and financial information.

The diversified nature of the water and wastewater industry presents many challenges with regards to cybersecurity procedures and defenses. These challenges include but are not restricted to utility size, insufficient financial and technological resources, aging computer systems, and possibly inexperienced personnel to build cybersecurity defenses. These problems present a tremendous risk to our aging industry infrastructure.

It is imperative that our critical infrastructure improve the cybersecurity of their organizations however challenging it may be. There are various procedures and methods that can be used individually or collectively to improve cybersecurity. The EPA offers Cyber Resilience Resources on their website that can be downloaded in a PDF format. Two of the resources offered are "Water Sector Cybersecurity Brief for States" and "Cybersecurity Incident Action Checklist". This information can assist a water or wastewater system to develop, reduce, prepare for, respond to, and recover from an incident. Additionally, the DWP offers a Water System Asset Security Grant to public water systems for the planning and implementation of security measures. Strategies and plans must be developed to reduce a cybersecurity risk.

It is nearly impossible to predict when and if a cybersecurity breach may occur. However, cyber risk is a reality and perhaps inevitable. Our infrastructure organizations, with public support, must be proactive by preparing plans/actions to prevent and detect cyber-attacks.



DUES ANNOUNCEMENT

Normally many may expect to see membership renewal dues in October. This year the Executive Board decided to wait to send invoices out until January of 2022. As you are aware we have changed our administrative duties from Maine Municipal Association (MMA) to Maine Water Utilities Association (MWUA) starting in January. To save on any confusion we decided to have MWUA send and receive the membership dues in January.

The Executive Board appreciates your patience during the upcoming transition period.

Supporting Water System Partnerships

Partnering for the Greater Good

Public water systems (PWSs) provide safe drinking water to all their customers by abiding by state and federal regulations. Using the resources available, they supply consistent and reliable service. In order to be successful in providing safe drinking water, systems should have technical, managerial, and financial capacity. Small and medium sized systems sometimes experience challenges associated with one or more of these. Some examples include staffing and retention of employees, compliance issues, aging infrastructure, and limited resources. To improve resiliency, systems will often use formal and/or informal partnerships. The most successful partnerships are mutually beneficial between all systems involved.

There are many benefits to forming and maintaining water system partnerships. These benefits include improved customer service, robust emergency preparedness, long-term savings, increased financial capacity, and a better understanding and ability to plan for infrastructure improvements and replacement. Further, there are benefits for the whole state and for water system customers. Enhanced compliance, resource savings, and better customer relations can be more easily achieved. The customers will most likely see better water quality and more reliable water service. Basically, everyone from the customer to the water system to the state, and ultimately to the federal government can reap benefits from forming and maintaining these partnerships.

[Click here](#) to view more information and resources about water system partnerships from the EPA website.

2021 MeWEA Fall Conference

The 2021 MeWEA Fall Conference was held at Sunday River Resort on September 16th & 17th.

Thank you to all who attended. We look forward to another great event next year!

Enjoy a sampling of photos on the following page.





BECOME A JOINT SPONSOR

Limited spots available

As a valued partner, we invite you to become a joint sponsor of MWUA, MeWEA and Tom's Water Solutions. Choose your level of sponsorship and take advantage of special discounts while reaching 3x the audience!

YOU'LL RECEIVE

VISIBILITY ON MULTIPLE WEBSITES

Sponsors can receive a website ad on MWUA, MeWEA and Tom's Water Solutions.

DISCOUNTS ON EVENTS

Receive discounts on multiple annual events including the joint golf event and annual conference.

SAVE ON MEMBERSHIP DUES

Depending on your level of sponsorship, you can save from 25% off to completely waived dues.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

PLATINUM

\$7,500

PLATINUM LEVEL - Limit 4 Sponsors - \$7,500

- First page Web Ad (MWUA, MeWEA and Toms Water Solutions)
- 1/2 page Newsletter Ad (2x/year). Ad placed on inside front page or back page.
- 1/4 page ad joint newsletter ad 2x/year in remaining joint newsletter issues.
- 2-page Newsletter insert once per year. Insert to be placed in middle of newsletter
- Training Sponsorship for all training (a dedicated slide and/or verbal mentions at all training classes)
- Joint Annual MWUA/MeWEA February and Fall Conferences Sponsorship includes company logo display on video screens on at building entrance
- Annual Joint Golf Sponsorship (including one team of four)
- Annual Summer Outing Sponsorship
- 20% Discount for Display at Joint Annual MWUA/MeWEA February and Fall Conference
- 10% Discount for 5-Registrations for all MWUA/MeWEA CO-sponsored events including summer outing
- Annual Membership Dues Waived for MWUA/MeWEA Membership

\$3,800
savings

GOLD

\$5,000

GOLD LEVEL - Limit 8 Sponsors - \$5,000

- Web Ad on MWUA, MeWEA and Toms Water Solutions Websites
- 1/4 page Joint Newsletter Ad in all four issues
- Joint Annual MWUA/MeWEA February and Fall Conferences Sponsorship
- Annual Joint Golf Sponsorship (including one team of four)
- Annual Summer Outing Sponsorship
- 15% Discount for Display at Joint Annual MWUA/MeWEA February and Fall Conferences
- 10% Discount (limit 3-Registrations) for all MWUA/MeWEA CO-sponsored events including summer outing
- 50% Discount on Annual MWUA/MeWEA Membership Dues

\$2,750
savings

SILVER

\$2,500

SILVER LEVEL - Unlimited Sponsors - \$2,500

- Web Ad on MWUA, MeWEA and Toms Water Solutions
- 1/8 page Joint Newsletter Ad in all four issues
- Golf Sponsorship (including team of 4 players)
- Joint Annual MWUA/MeWEA February and Fall Conference Sponsorship
- 10% Discount for Display at Joint Annual MWUA/MeWEA February and Fall Conference
- 25% Discount on Annual MWUA/MeWEA Membership Dues

\$1,850
savings

Have a smaller budget but still want to participate?

Sign up for our newsletter ads!

Unlimited Sponsors - \$1,000 (or \$250/quarter)

- 1/8 page Joint Newsletter Ad in all four issues (circulation approx. 5,000)

Reserve Your Spot Today

 (207) 623-9511

 cwade@mwua.org

Remembering Kenneth “Emmet” Locke

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Kenneth Locke recently retired Director of Environmental Services and past Superintendent of Brewer Water Pollution Control Facility. Ken was affectionally also known as “Emmet”. Many of us were fortunate to have seen Ken in September at MeWEA’s Fall Conference at Sunday River where he received JETCC’s Lee Agger Award on September 16th. That award was only the latest of numerous industry awards that Ken and the Brewer treatment plant have received during his career.

Ken Locke’s 42-year career in Water Pollution Control included the last 29 years serving the City of Brewer in various capacities. In June, Ken retired from his role as Brewer’s Director of Environmental Service. Prior to that, Ken served his community as Brewer’s Director of Public Works and as Superintendent of Brewer Water Pollution Control Facility. Throughout his career, Ken led efforts to clean-up CSOs and garnered grants and funds to develop a stormwater and sewer separation program. Ken’s work has been instrumental in helping to clean-up the Penobscot River which today boasts a waterfront walking path and other attractions. Always an advocate of community and industry education, Ken assisted with many training classes and always encouraged his staff to do the same.



So many in our industry were shocked by the news of Ken’s passing as he was also about to begin post-retirement work with Olver Associates where he was to continue assisting with the operation of Maine treatment plants.

Ken’s work was always supported by Brewer’s Chief Operator Lou Colburn who had just been hunting with him last weekend. Lou referred to Ken as his “sidekick, his mentor, a true environmentalist, and a great boss. Ken was always proactive in everything including his efforts to take the lead on getting his crew and the City of Brewer at the forefront of stormwater management.”

During Ken’s retirement party earlier this year Bill Olver of Olver Associates stated “Ken is a humble man and he is always the first to give credit to the professional staff that he has managed and to the support and financial commitment that the Brewer City Council and Administration have made to its environmental programs. He should be remembered for the pivotal role that this career has played in the success of Brewer’s programs. He is the dedicated person on the ground that made it all happen.”

Noting sentiments from many who also knew Ken, Leeann Hanson of JETCC stated that “Ken was just a really great person. I remember him from my own early days in this industry. He was always friendly, and one of those silent doers who just gets a lot accomplished. It was always nice to see Ken at events and I recall the many conferences he attended with his wife Kim by his side”.

And finally, from Travis Jones of Vortex who worked under Ken for several months “Ken was an excellent boss and mentor, who led by example. He was a consummate professional who lived and breathed his commitment to be the best operator he could be. Ken was a man who did, instead of told. The City of Brewer is fortunate beyond calculation to have had Ken at the helm. I think I’ll miss his sense of humor the most, and the way he’d boisterously laugh at a good joke or story. I mourn his loss for Kim & his family, his many friends, myself, and our entire wastewater community. Let us all strive to emulate his unwavering commitment to Clean Water.”

2021 MeWEA Award Recipients

Congratulations to all our 2021 award winners and thank you for all of your hard work.



Operator Award
Kevin Black



Roger Gagne Award
Leonard Blanchette & Wesley Wharff



David Anderson Award for Lab Excellence
Matthey Ondra



President’s Service Award
Tim Wade



Young Professional Award
Nathan Edwards



Past President Award
Michael Guethle



Alfred Jellison Lifetime Achievement Award
Tim Haskell

More award winners on next page...

2021 MeWEA Award Recipients (cont'd)



Charles Perry Collection
Systems Award
Dave Beauchamp



Communications
Award
Ali Clift



Stormwater
Award
Dave Waddell



Lee Agger
Award
Kenneth Locke



Past Service
Award
Andrew Seiler



Founders Award
Joseph Pereira & Richard Fox



SIGCO
A CRH COMPANY

Pretreatment
Excellence Award
SIGCO

Andrew Seiler Receives JETCC Past Service Award



At the Maine Water Environment Association (MeWEA) Convention on September 16 at Sunday River JETCC Program Manager Leeann Hanson presented a Past Service Award to Andrew Seiler of General Dynamics. From 2014 to 2021 Andrew served as an Industrial Representative on the JETCC Board of Directors.

With a health and safety background and past service in the US Marine Corps, Andrew's brought a unique perspective to the JETCC Board.

Andrew also helped steer JETCC training activities, by introducing new trainers to the municipal operator sector and by assisting with classes he attended. Andrew always encouraged giving management school students more responsibility and added some very practical business-oriented methods as the JETCC Board addressed budget challenges.

Andrew is employed as the health and safety specialist at General Dynamics Ordinance & Tactical Systems where he travels the US to lead safety and training programs. He is also the Chair of the York County Local Emergency Planning Committee.



Rockland Pollution Control Facility Receives JETCC Founders Award



Joseph Pereira



Richard Fox

For the second year in a row the JETCC Founders Award was given to operators from Rockland Pollution Control Facility (RPCF).

This year's Founders Award recipients are Joseph Pereira and Richard Fox for their dedication to the Rockland Pollution Control Facility (RPCF) by taking on the role of Lead Operators. The RPCF is a small facility with five licensed operators. During 2020, the RPCF lost three operators to retirement. Having 60% of the licensed operators retire within months of each other proved to be a challenging issue for the facility. Joe Pereira and Rich Fox worked tirelessly to ensure the treatment plant was operating at top level. Not only were they running the treatment plant, but they had the additional responsibility of training and educating the new employees. Three of the four new hires had no prior experience in the wastewater industry. Joe and Rich stepped up to the challenge of mentoring the new hires.

The 2021 award was presented during MeWEA's Fall Conference on and Trade Show at Sunday River.

The JETCC Founders Award is given annually to an operator, maintenance worker, or laboratory personnel working in a municipal or industrial wastewater treatment system in Maine. The Award was created in honor and in memory of Mr. Jerome "Frenchie" Guervremont to recognize his guidance to Maine's environmental community, his years of service to the Town of Rangeley Maine, and for his contributions as one of the original founders who established JETCC in 1985.



Management Candidate Training & Other Classes

Written by: *Leeann Hanson*

The 20th anniversary of 9/11 reminded us of how pivotally our lives can change in a moment. Changes since March 2020 were less abrupt but still created a progression from when we stopped meeting in person and realized much of what we all took for granted.

Since March 2020 we re-ignited the Management Candidate School (MCS) via Zoom sessions. We've been trying our best to create meaningful new learning experiences in the virtual format and were pleased our MCS students could

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Management Candidate Training & Other Classes



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gather in person during the MeWEA Convention at Sunday River in September. Normally our Management Students would graduate during this event, however as we complete our final classes, graduation is scheduled for February 2023 during the MWUA Conference. We did however pass out T-shirts to the MCS student who were able to attend the September conference. Also, in October we held a live in-person Management class at Kennebunk Kennebunkport Wells Water District (KKWWD). Supported by KKWWD staff and to complete his student presentation requirement Bill Snyder organized tours of KKWWD's PFAS, Iron and Manganese treatment systems followed by a wonderful lunch. An interactive presentation from Dana Peck concluded the day. Dana Peck was one of the trainers who helped launch our first Management School in 2009.

Through the fall JETCC has assembled a great assortment of virtual classes. We welcome you to participate and continue sending suggestions to make these the best possible learning experiences!

In early 2022 we are filling the calendar with a series of virtual classes to help you prepare for your wastewater exam. Or if you've been in the field for a while, these classes will help you obtain continuing education credits through some interesting and entertaining topics.

Please reach out to me if you'd like to try a new way of training or presenting. I've coached a lot of folks now to become virtual trainers and will help anyone who wishes to give it a go!

You can find information on JETCC at www.jetcc.org or see our current list of training classes or [Click here to register](#)

Back Row L-R: Riley Cobb – Saco; Shelly Kimball – York Water; Ashley Jones- Vortex; Dale Harman – Boothbay Water; Paul Dolewa – Kennebunk, Kennebunkport Wells Water; Matthew Patterson – Portland Water District; Andy Farris – Auburn Water & Sewer; Rick Serino – Maine Water Company; Paul Lamoreau – Greater Augusta Utility District; Stephen Ortiz – Brewer WPCF; Kim Walsh – York Sewer District

Middle Row: L-R Keith Levasseur – Sanford Water; Alex King – Sanford Sewer; Rodney Hill – Auburn Water & Sewer; Todd Hill – York Water District; Nick Tumalo – Maine Water Company



Front: Teresa Tucker – York Sewer District Absent from photo: Bill Wilkinson – Greater Augusta Utility District; Bill Snyder – Kennebunk, Kennebunkport Wells Water; Ryan Staples – Portland Water District; Tyler Mitchell – Waterville Sewerage District

Operations Challenge

Written by: Jeff Warden, Superintendent WWTP – Town of Bethel

It's been about a week since we've been back from WEFTEC 21, and the Operations Challenge in Chicago and I am here with my tale. 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 the world.

2021 Team Force Maine consists of newbies Andrew Whitaker, pump expert from Saco and me and returning members Riley Cobb, lab guru at Saco ME as Captain, Dan Munsie, collection systems and safety specialist from Brunswick Sewer District, and our coach/manager Rob Pontau, efficiency expert also of the Brunswick Sewer District as experienced competitors.

Three, Two, One, GO! is the last thing I remember hearing at the beginning of the lab competition at the Operations Challenge. My task was to calibrate a meter and perform measurements on several samples. While I was pouring my second sample into a graduated cylinder, I over poured.

As I was pouring back into the sample container, the world disappeared and my vision zoomed in; all I could see was the graduated cylinder, the sample container and part of my hands as they started to shake almost uncontrollably. I eventually got it back together and finished my part of the event not realizing through the fog of war that I had not gotten the meter out of calibration mode, racking up penalties for the team.



At first, the only thing that I thought was "oh damn, I just dragged Force Maine down with me". But that was not the case! There were no hard feelings, no accusatory statements, just acceptance that we showed up and tried. The lab event was our last for the day and it was early so one of our teammates suggested we rent some bicycles and check out the Chicago skyline and other places of interest (which turned out to be a great story of its own).

This article has me thinking about my major takeaway from this whole experience. I could talk about my rollercoaster of emotions, I could talk about the warm feelings of Team Force Maine accepting me, and the other teams, event coordinators, judges and volunteers helping us. And I could go on about

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Operations Challenge

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letting loose and socializing. I think the biggest thing I realized, after processing this experience for a little while, is that I didn't understand that I was part of such a large group of individuals whose career is cleaning the environment. When I think about all that skill and knowledge being applied to cleaning up water for me, for the next generation, for whomever, it's humbling. I realized that I am part of something larger and I didn't have a perspective on that before this experience.

I didn't know it when I agreed to commit to Force Maine but turns out many people that I have run across in my job, from Engineers to Sales Reps and Senior Operators, are former Operations Challenge competitors.

There was a level of mutual understanding even before I had competed. This was FUN and I have grown. I look forward to participating in any capacity necessary to keep Force Maine together. I hope a new crop of people could possibly even generate another team from Maine to create a friendly rivalry within the state and to take our level of operations up a few notches. I hope this was not too gushy, but I did walk away with sort of a rainbows and unicorns feeling about the whole thing. I return to my little plant in the mountains of Maine with a new drive to continue making cleanest water possible to return to the environment. If you or anyone you know working in the wastewater field has an extra desire or passion for knowledge and/or a competitive spirit, reach out to your Water Environment Association and ask about it or talk to team members, I can say that after this experience I consider Force Maine friends, colleagues, and mentors.

Thank you to MeWEA, NEWEA, WEF and to all the people who made this opportunity to take part in the Operations Challenge possible.

"I return to my little plant in the mountains of Maine with a new drive to continue making cleanest water possible to return to the environment."



Last year we developed a management training program for current managers, superintendents, and supervisors. That program called "The Leadership Institute" has been expanded for the upcoming year to include a program for Trustees of public water and or wastewater service providers. The program is formatted in four sessions:

"You have become a Trustee"

Within this session we will explore roles of management and board members. We will examine the need for and importance of developing and maintaining missions and values. What is the purpose of charters and by-laws? Is it important for governance to understand what they are? What are the specific responsibilities and role of a board member, what do they need to avoid? What role does the Public Utilities Commission play within a water utility, what about other regulatory agencies are involved in the regulatory oversight of your utility? These questions will be answered among others.

"Walking the Tight rope"

This session will explore the duties of a board member and its interactions with the Superintendent/GM. We will explore the chain of command, and how to conduct both proper and productive meetings. When do we form ad hoc committees? Is it proper to involve rate payers in these committees? Ever wonder what the proper protocol to enter executive sessions and what is proper subject content within these sessions? Are retreats and annual meetings necessary?

"Human Resources and Ethics"

Nuts and Bolts of a meeting, when to consult with legal counsel and using confidentiality, legal quorum, human resources, and compliance, public communication and dealing with the media, crisis management.



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“Operations and Finance”

What are the fiscal and fiduciary responsibilities of boards? We will explore understanding budgets, operations rates, audits, monthly statics, and reports. What role do the boards play with proposals and purchases and during disaster relief.

The classes are scheduled for Jan 5th, Feb 9th, March 2nd, and May 11th from 3-6 PM virtually via ZOOM. The cost is \$199.00 per attendee. At the end of the session all attendees will receive Board guidebook that everyone will be able to review for future reference. There will also be periodic updates provided to keep the guidebooks relevant.



Legislative Update

Written: Tim Wade, Greater Augusta Utility District

The wild first session of the 130th Legislature concluded in June, with many bills being carried over to the short session beginning in January 5, 2022. It was a whirlwind session of zoom calls and hundreds of bills of potential interest. In the end, the MeWEA Government Affairs Committee submitted testimony on more than 25 bills, including jointly with MWUA on six titles. Submitting testimony on that number of bills meant sorting through more than 2000 Legislative Requests (LRs) and tracking approximately 120 Legislative Documents (LDs) that had potential impact for our membership. This undertaking could not have been accomplished without the tireless work of our entire GA Committee, the collaboration with MWUA Legislative Committee and Executive Director, and the oversight of our Legislative Advisor. Thank you to everyone who contributed to a very successful first session of the 130th.

Since June, the GAC has been in semi-hibernation, catching up on their actual jobs and hopefully getting some well-deserved R&R during our short summer season. However, complete stasis cannot be achieved while there is still so much going on and since July, we have been keeping an ear to the ground and participating in a few meetings. We discussed congressional redistricting, which has since been finalized. Waterville, Augusta and a few other Kennebec County municipalities were shifted to CD2 while a few other small communities shifted to CD1.

The shift was required by the State constitution in order to keep the two CD's equal in population after current census results. During the redistricting emergency session, a few legislative committees began meeting in person, perhaps foreshadowing a format for the short session to come. However, as of now, most committees are looking at a hybrid approach to Public Hearings and Work Sessions for public involvement.

We have also been in the midst of a DEP Triennial review. The DEP met on 10/7 for a public hearing on revisions to the first DEP report last spring. The focus was entirely on river classification changes, mostly regarding the Lower Androscoggin and a section of Long Creek in Westbrook. DEP had recommended not to upgrade these water bodies at this time. The Androscoggin is also being targeted for reclassification in a carryover bill, LD 676. MeWEA members upstream are concerned about the impact on their discharge permits, communities and members in the lower Androscoggin echo some support of the reclassification to celebrate the remarkable recovery of water quality, especially considering the upcoming 50th anniversary of Senator Edmund Muskie celebrating the passage of the Clean Water Act. (I say that like I remember it, but I was about 8 years shy of being born when Muskie's bill passed). Proponents of the upgrade (from Class C to B) had 2 major asks in descending order: Dismiss the Department's recommendation and recommend reclassification; or testify in support of LD 676. The board did not appear overly receptive to either ask, so we will see LD 676 as the vehicle for reclassification or killing the issue for the time being. Several other vehicles through Department review were noted for possible reclassification in the near future. MeWEA submitted NFNA testimony in April of 2021, and similar testimony will likely be submitted by GAC in the short session when the bill is revisited.

A MeWEA/DEP (Bureau of Remediation and Solid Waste) stakeholder's meeting resulted in some information regarding the new law resulting from the passing of LD 1600 and requiring DEP to charge \$10/ton fee for septage and sludge to create a fund for PFAS site cleanup. The good news: the invoices won't go out until 2023; the not so good news: the invoices will be for the prior year, beginning 1/2022. More discussion regarding the roll out of this program is scheduled. This meeting also presented the opportunity to discuss PFAS contamination site modeling and sampling. The Maine DEP is still comparing 2 models and working with Massachusetts DEP to analyze the data between these models. Maine DEP is currently working on procedures for sampling and the daunting task of accessing these sample sites on private property. The Bureau of Remediation and Solid Waste is hiring several new permanent and temporary positions to facilitate this sampling and analysis.

On the federal level, the Senate introduced and passed a \$1 trillion Infrastructure Bill, but the House has not been able to separate this bill from additional social program spending bills they want included. Despite the Speaker of the House's promise to hold a vote by the end of September, this Bill sits stalled in the house. \$55 billion of this bill is to be invested in clean water and drinking water infrastructure, with much of it being earmarked for PFAS remediation and replacement of lead drinking water pipes. Most recently, the President is pressuring the House to move on this bill.

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Legislative Update

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Also, on the Federal and local level, U.S. Senator Susan Collins announced that she secured \$1.6 million in the draft Fiscal Year 2022 Interior Appropriations bill to support the installation of a PFAS treatment system at the Anson Madison Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Facility. While many of the details are confidential because of the proprietary treatment technologies, it has been confirmed that the treatment system will be designed to treat the effluent from the treatment facility at the outfall, to reduce or eliminate PFAS contribution to the receiving Kennebec River. Anson-Madison Sanitary District provides treatment service to other communities for sludge processing, septage and leachate treatment. This facility will help serve the region to safely address PFAS contamination.

Looking forward to the 2022 second session of the 130th Legislature, the chambers will be tasked with the passage of a supplemental budget, dispensing of the hundreds of bills carried over from the first session, and taking up any newly introduced legislation approved by Legislative Council (LC). Any new bills are supposed to be emergency in nature to receive approval by the LC. Along with LD 676 (Androscoggin reclassification) we will also be closely watching a couple of other carry-over bills. LD 489, which proposes a constitutional amendment to guarantee all Maine residents a Clean and Healthy Environment, is certainly 'feel good' in nature (pun intended) of the title, the details of the bill would have drastic effects for our membership as well as our colleagues on the other end of the pipe. LD 1639 looks to Reduce Harmful Solid Waste at our landfills, but the language of the bill effectively eliminates the acceptance of certain materials at landfills that are commonly used as cover material and bulking agents mixed with biosolids from wastewater treatment facilities. The passage of this bill would likely result in further restrictions and added costs to disposal of our biosolids.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Emily Prescott of Saco and Amanda Smith of Bangor have agreed to serve as Co-Chairs of the GAC Committee for 2022. Emily and Amanda were both very active and extremely valuable members of our 2021 Committee and will continue our good work through the 130th Legislature and the rest of 2022.



Thank you to our entire GA Committee, the collaboration with MWUA Legislative Committee and Executive Director, and our Legislative Advisor for their help sorting through over 2000 requests and 120 legislative documents.



Strange Trade Show Season

Written by: Gene Weeks

As a salesperson I have a love/hate relationship with Trade Shows. Our company exhibits at most of the water and wastewater trade shows in New England. When I am at a show, I keep notes on the conversations I have with people. I seek out customers and potential customers from the crowd. I try to talk to all the engineers at the show. Afterwards enter my notes into the computer and sent them to our office. This is the love part: seeing people I have known for years; making new acquaintances; getting leads on possible projects or product sales. The hate part is the setup and teardown; the loading and unloading the car; and the long waits while everyone is at a tech session. I bring my own chair to the shows to make sure that I have a good place to sit during the waiting.

Of course, last year there were no in person trade shows. We did try to "display" at some of the virtual trade shows. I am not sure that helped, but we did it.

This year I was looking forward to the trade shows. During the summer it looked like the fall trade shows would be almost normal. We booked our hotel rooms and flights to WEFTEC, the national wastewater show, in Chicago this year. Then came the "Delta Variant".

So far trade show attendance has been mixed. The Maine Water Environment Show at Sunday River was good, I thought. The New Hampshire Water Pollution Association Show a few weeks later was sparsely attended. The news from before WEFTEC in Chicago was that exhibitors and attendees were dropping out in droves. With about two weeks to go before our flights, we canceled as well. Most of the people we had hoped to see were not going to be there.

But time, and trade shows march on, one a month almost. The Green Mountain Water Environment Association Show in Vermont will be over when you read this. But in December comes the Maine Rural Water Association Show, in Rockport this year. January brings NEWEA in Boston. Hopefully no blizzard this year. In February is the Maine Water Utility Association Show, hopefully a high point.

We are trying to "keep our chins up", exhibit at our shows, and hope for the best. A mask requirement would be a real downer. So far this has not happened at the New England shows, but it could happen, depending on federal, state and local mask requirements. It seems that a mask requirement in Chicago was responsible for some of the WEFTEC dropouts. All the shows I have attended have been worth it. My notes contained some good leads each time, and for us that is what it's all about.

AquaNereda Pilot in Saco



The word is quickly spreading that the City of Saco WRRD is piloting the AquaNereda™ Aerobic Granular Sludge system. Here is a quick update on our project: Recently the City of Saco partnered with the USEPA to undertake an Augmented Alternatives Analysis stakeholder-engaged process, that considered varying design perspectives for the WRRD facility. Ultimately City staff and the community members chose to select the innovative AquaNereda™ Process for the WRRD upgrade. This innovative technology works more efficiently than traditional activated sludge processes within a smaller footprint and is more resilient to wet weather flow increases. The AquaNereda technology also provides nutrient removal to meet anticipated discharge permit limits.

The pilot will be operating in Saco until the end of the year to assess performance and obtain site-specific design criteria. The process details (and everything inside the box) are protected under a confidentiality agreement while we undergo the pilot. Once the pilot is completed at the end of this year, and if there is interest in the community, we would consider presenting the pilot results during the Spring '22 conference. For more information on the City's plan, please reach out to Howard Carter at hcarter@sacomaine.org or Stacy Thompson at sthompson@sacomaine.org.

You can learn more about the AquaNereda process here: https://www.aqua-aerobic.com/downloads/AquaNereda_AGS_Technology_WhitePaper_2019.pdf

Above is a photo of the AquaNereda pilot setup at the Saco WRRD.



In Summary...

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

Remembering Kenneth "Emmet" Locke – A brief recollection of the recently retired Director of Environmental Services and former Superintendent of Brewer Water Pollution Control Facility and his 42-year career. [Page 16](#)

Joint Letter to Membership – Learn about the latest regarding the partnership between MWUA and MeWEA. [Page 3](#)

Cyber Risk: Our Reality – Cyber risk is a top threat to the water and wastewater sector. Learn what you can do to stay safe. [Page 10](#)

Call to Action – Learn how you can get involved to help MWUA and/or MeWEA. We can always use the help. [Page 5](#)

Operations Challenge – Read about Superintendent WWTP, Jeff Warden's firsthand account of his experience at the Operations Challenge. [Page 21](#)

Are you enjoying the One Water content? If so, let us know! If there is a topic or issue you'd like us to highlight, [send us a message](#). We want to ensure we're providing valuable content to our members.

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