

# Maine Water Environment NEWS

1-800-452-8786



November 2018 • Fall

A Publication of the Maine Water Environment Association

## President's Corner

By Paula Drouin, MEWEA President

Now that I am in the sunset of my presidency, I am reflecting on the year that has passed. I already knew that our Association is made up of incredible people, but I got to see first-hand how their dedication and hard work truly make us thrive (and make me look good!). From trips to Augusta and D.C., to speaking with kids and adults about our industry, to running the Urban Runoff 5k or paddling down the Androscoggin River, it was a busy and remarkable year. Our fall convention in September at Sunday River was possibly our best attended convention ever, and the sessions were highly rated on the attendee evaluations. I would like to give a huge THANK YOU to everyone, inside and outside of our Association, who supported Question 2 (\$30 million water bond), which went to vote on November 6 and passed. This funding is essential in getting much needed infrastructure upgrades completed.

It has been my pleasure to serve as President, and I am grateful for the opportunity. I would like to encourage you to get involved in MEWEA if you are not already. We have many committees that would welcome your perspective and help. I can assure you that the return on your efforts is five-fold, if not more. The professional and personal gains I have made and continue to make are more than I ever expected. I look forward to staying active with MEWEA under Stacy Thompson's Presidency in 2019. There are a lot of great things coming, so stay tuned! And keep doing the great work you do in your communities.

I hope you all have a wonderful Holiday Season,  
Paula Drouin



Alex Buechner, Nate Melanson, Paula Drouin, Shelby Carver at WEFTEC in New Orleans.

Have you Joined the "Maine Water Professionals Discussion Forum" on Facebook?

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/778718278939822/>

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[www.mewea.org](http://www.mewea.org)

## Upcoming Executive Committee Meeting Dates:

**Dec. 14** – Executive Board Meeting/Final Budget/Holiday Luncheon at Maine Municipal Association

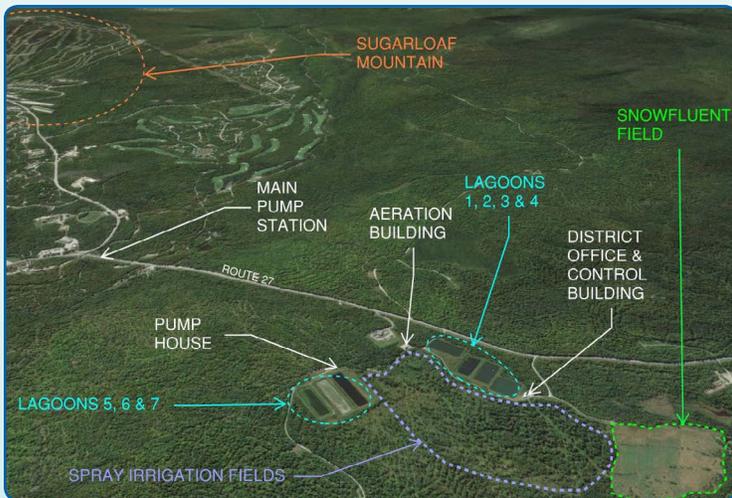


# Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour – Franklin County – Carrabassett Valley Sewer District

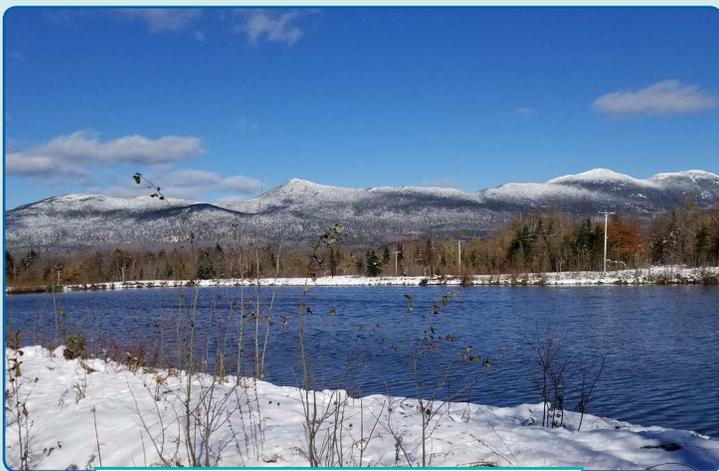
By Bryanna Denis, Wright-Pierce

Driving up to Carrabassett Valley in mid-October, I expected to see some beautiful Maine foliage. I was instead rewarded with several inches of snow decorating the landscape. Some of you may think that mid-October is a little too early for snow, but it did seem fitting considering my destination is so close to one of the most popular ski resorts in New England.

On the north side of Rt. 27, just past the entrance to Sugarloaf Mountain, the Carrabassett Valley Sanitary District's (CVSD) wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) is nestled on 1500 sprawling acres. To treat wastewater generated by the ski resort, the WWTF uses lagoon treatment consisting of one 5.2 million gallon (MG) coarse bubble aerated lagoon, and 33 MG of storage in six additional lagoons. The Main Pump Station collects gravity sewer flows at the base of the mountain, and pumps wastewater up to the WWTF.



Aerial view of CVSD and Sugarloaf Mountain.



Wastewater treatment with a view.

Effluent disposal using spray irrigation currently occurs on about 20 of 40 woodland acres during the warm season as shown in

the aerial figure. In the winter, effluent is made into huge piles of Snowfluent™. This is a similar process to what ski resorts use to make snow for skiing when Mother Nature isn't generous with the real stuff. The difference is that the liquid used for Snowfluent is actually wastewater effluent and not regular potable water.

Before I go any further, a quick public service announcement:

## SNOWFLUENT IS NOT USED ON ANY SKI TRAILS AT SUGARLOAF

As a wastewater professional maybe I'm biased but, after hearing about the snowmaking and treatment process from David Keith (more on the process below), I'd be willing to ski, snowshoe or snowmobile through effluent snow any day.

Plus... I hear the snow-cones are fantastic! 😊

The Carrabassett Valley Sanitary District was founded in the 1990's, when the District purchased the 1500-acre site including the WWTF lagoons, treatment and spray irrigation equipment from Sugarloaf. Shortly after the District purchased the WWTF, it was clear that the facility was at capacity, and that additional storage lagoons would be needed to accommodate expected growth in and around the resort. This need for additional capacity was based solely upon the lagoon storage volume, since, in the winter months when wastewater flows were highest, spray irrigation could not operate. To solve the problem of limited storage, the CVSD took a three-pronged approach:

- Minimize infiltration and inflow (I/I) to the collection system,
- optimizing their spray irrigation process, and
- develop and make Snowfluent.

Back then, total wastewater flows were around 80 million gallons (MG) per year with more than 50 MG alone from I/I into the collection system. Over the last 25 years, the District has GIS mapped and upgraded the collection system pipe and manholes to remove I/I, decreasing wastewater flows to approximately 40 MG per year. This reduction in flow occurred while residential units at Sugarloaf resort roughly doubled in number. CVSD currently serves approximately 1250 residential units (the majority of which are condominiums) in the area surrounding Sugarloaf resort. Based upon residential water data, David Keith now estimates that approximately 6 MG of his 40 MG total yearly flow is due to I/I.

Spray irrigation is still CVSD's preferred method of effluent disposal because it is much more cost effective to run 60 HP pumps for the irrigation process instead of almost 1000 HP of combined compressors and pumps for snowmaking. CVSD completely automated their spray irrigation system to automatically turn on whenever effluent permit conditions are met. If it hasn't rained in 24 hours, and the groundwater level is low enough, the spray process automatically begins. For the last several years, CVSD's goal has been to start the winter season with nearly empty lagoons.

As winter progresses, the District begins to store wastewater in their lagoons until they reach capacity. At that point, it's time to make Snowfluent.

Cont'd on page 3



Snowfluent is made by spraying wastewater effluent and air at high pressures through nozzles mounted on towers. When the weather is right, Maine's own freezing temperatures instantly crystallize the tiny droplets creating snow.

Now here's the cool part:

- Rapid freezing ruptures bacteria and micro-organisms present in the wastewater during snowmaking and the periodic freeze-thaw cycles common in Maine winters.
- Phosphorus is separated from the wastewater during the freezing process itself, precipitating as a phosphate ion. The phosphates do not re-dissolve during spring snowmelt and are instead deposited on the ground, in a form that can be further broken down and/or taken up by plants in the warm season.
- Nitrogen in the wastewater is reduced by rapid volatilization during the snowmaking process, and gradual volatilization as the snowpack ages over the winter.

Maine's own Carrabassett Valley WWTF was the world's first permanent Snowfluent plant. The Snowfluent™ treatment process was developed by Delta Engineering out of Ontario, Canada. Woodard and Curran worked with the District to successfully prove to Maine DEP the viability of the treatment process. 🌊



CVSD's main pump station was recently upgraded by TBuck Construction and Olver Associates

## Fun Facts about CVSD:

In 2002, *Ripley's Believe it or Not* did an exposé on CVSD Snowfluent process. Despite being told about the treatment process and being given a tour of the on-site snow disposal field, the producers took some "creative liberties" in developing the feature piece.

It was titled: **Ski Slope made from Sewage**

Included videos of individuals dressed in hazmat suits working over giant tanks of bubbling toxic waste.

Strong implications that the Snowfluent was used at nearby Sugarloaf on the ski trails showing the effluent snowmaking directly followed by a happy skier cutting through white powder.



Ensur PR nightmare! Sugarloaf reported a decline in reservations immediately after the show aired. After some tense phone conversations with the head-honcho at Ripley's about inaccurate information and possible litigation, the original piece was redacted. Reruns of the original show only included a short video eliminating all references to toxic waste and skiing. Believe it, or not! 🌊

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# 2018 MeWEA Fall Convention

By Stacey Thompson, 2018 MeWEA Vice President

The 2018 Fall Convention was a great success. The MeWEA executive board and Maine Municipal Association (MMA) work hard every year to bring great sessions, vendors and networking to the conference. A huge thank you to Sunday River for being a great host and making sure the ins and outs of having a convention went smoothly. Thank you to all the vendors for the continued support of MeWEA!!

The golf tournament held on the Wednesday of the Convention was as fun as usual. The team from Arcadis were the winners (they had a ringer!), but the team I was on didn't finish last, so I consider that a great success! There were some slick conditions on the course, as yours truly spun out and almost gave my co-pilot a heart attack with the golf cart.



Group photo before the tournament begins... the Ted Berry outfits are on point!

During the luncheon held on Thursday, awards were handed out and we would like to congratulate the following:

- Charles Perry Collection System Award: Brunswick Sewer District
- David Anderson Laboratory Award: Phyllis Rand (GAUD)
- Young Professionals Award: Jordan Heath (City of Portland)
- Stormwater Award: Aubrey Strause
- Roger Gagne Award: Joan Kiszely (MMA)
- Pretreatment Excellence Award: Clean Harbors Environmental
- Industrial Achievement Award: HP Hood, LLC
- Communications Award: Mac Richardson (LAWPCA)
- Alfred Jellison Award: Leonard Blanchette (Brunswick Sewer District)
- Outstanding Service Award: William Taylor, Esq. (Pierce Atwood)
- Operator Award: Eric Cavers (LAWPCA)
- President's Award: Alex Buechner (Biddeford)
- Maine DEP Certificates: Kevin Noyes (Town of Patten), Limestone Water & Sewer District
- JETCC Lee Agger Award: Mark Holt (Jay Sewer District)
- JETCC Founder's Award: Richard Vigue (Kennebec Sanitary District)
- JETCC Service Award: Steve Sloan (retired)



Mark Holt (Jay Sewer District) receiving the JETCC Lee Agger award from Leeann Hanson of JETCC.

A huge congratulations to all recipients!

The Young Professionals committee once again sponsored a raffle contest with gifts being donated by various vendors. It has become a great way to interact with vendors and find out more about their products and services. Thank you to all who participated!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual cornhole tournament was a huge success! Thank you to the Collections System Committee for thinking this up and organizing it. My partner Paula and I didn't make it past the first round, but we did lose to the eventually winners!



The winners....Happy Gilmore and Jordan Heath!

The Personal Advancement Committee did an excellent job providing technical sessions, ranging from laboratory topics to MEP-DES Permits to a DMR refresher. It is amazing to see the willingness in which people want to share their experiences with others in the industry. Thank you to all presenters for taking the time out of their busy schedules and keeping us all eager to learn.

Thank you for all the hard work everyone put into the 2018 Fall Convention. This wouldn't happen without members from MeWEA and MMA and their continuing support. 🌊

**Maine Water Environment NEWS** is a quarterly publication of the Maine Water Environment Association. (Publication months: Feb, May, Aug, Nov) Comments on the content in this publication should be addressed to: MeWEA, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330. **Website:** [www.mewea.org](http://www.mewea.org) **Editorial Staff:** Bryanna Denis, Co-chair, Lead Project Engineer, Wright - Pierce, 11 Bowdoin Mill Island Ste. 104, Topsham, ME 04086. Phone: (207) 725-8721 E-mail: [bryanna.denis@wright-pierce.com](mailto:bryanna.denis@wright-pierce.com) and Mo Dube, Co-Chair, President, Mo Dube Septic Inspections and Repair. P.O. Box 184, China ME 04358. Phone: (207) 313-0250 Email: [Septagewoman@gmail.com](mailto:Septagewoman@gmail.com)

# MeWEA Fall Conference 2018



# Operator Exchange

By Jeremy Court, City of Biddeford, Laboratory Technician

My operator exchange experience started about 4 months after I had just taken a new position with the city of Biddeford as the laboratory tech. When my boss asked if I wanted to sign up for the program, after 8 years working in the collection system, I thought it would be a great way for me to get a boost back into the operations side. I come from a plant in Maine that averages 2.2 MGD and has a total of 7 full time employees, so, getting the opportunity to tour some of the larger plants in Massachusetts as well as some of the small decentralized facilities was invaluable. I believe that everyone can benefit from Operator Exchange whether they have 20 years of experience or just a few months as I had; the experience and learning cannot be matched.

My tour started first thing Monday morning, when I met up with John Murphy of the Massachusetts DEP at the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District for a plant tour with operations manager Glen Wilson. We started the tour with a visit to the pump station on North Main Street that pumps almost all of the wastewater to the plant with the use of 4 pumps capable of 50 MGD per day each. We then proceeded to follow the flow of influent through the plant. It was good seeing the headworks screens they were using work well for them, as we have just completed our own headworks upgrade in-house the week of my exchange. We now have two much smaller screens online at our facility. Talking with Glen throughout the tour, I found out that they like to run with a MLSS of 600-650 MG/L which has reduced odor issues and improved overall effluent quality. Learning this really proves that every plant does differ on how the process should be run. One of the many highlights of the GLSD tour for me was the sublevel tunnel that runs under the entire plant and gives access to the many pumps used for various operations.

From there it was on to see the anaerobic digesters that they use to provide methane fuel that heats the buildings on site. Then to the (soon to be online) twin 20-cylinder Caterpillar generators that will be used to power the plant in the event of a power loss. Add all this to the 441-kilowatt solar panel array, and the facility is hoping to be a net zero energy user.

After our tour of GLSD we headed over to Kimball farms in Westford to meet up with Ray Willis for lunch and visit their new decentralized plant that was put on line this spring. This was an interesting project considering there was already the start of a plant on site that was mothballed due to the 2008 economy. In a plan to use modern methods of treatment with the existing foundation and ground work, Ray and his team came up with an MBR that could handle the large fluctuations in seasonal flow and still handle any future development that may happen on the property in the future. Not only does the facility prove MBR treatment, it is also built to match the surrounding buildings and is one of the nicest looking facility I have ever seen.

From Kimball Farms, it was a short ride to the Red Hat office complex to tour a small RBC facility that serves a few office buildings. Then we finished up our first day with a tour of the Brook side apartment complex and their Amphidrome system. This system uses an anoxic tank, a reactor filled with a BAF, a clear well, a plus reactor, and discharge pump station all set underground. The wastewater is cycled between anoxic, return, polishing and then discharges to a leach field. With only a small room for the control panel, blowers, UV, and alum feed, it has a very small foot print above grade.

Day two kicked off with breakfast at the hotel, where I meet up with Justin DeMello and John Downey who actually made the trip to Maine to meet me beforehand and congratulate me on being selected for the exchange program a few weeks prior to my visit. After breakfast, we headed over to see the Springfield WWTP with Mickey Nowak. After just a few minutes in his office getting a quick run of the plants operation numbers, it was clear Mickey had a vast amount of knowledge of wastewater and loved what he was doing. I was pleased to hear he would be taking over as the new president of the Massachu-

setts Water Pollution Control Association, where I think his passion and knowledge will continue to be of great help to others in the field. This was a great tour being able to see some of the older technology used in a plant of this size, as well as being able to see some projects in the works to upgrade the facility to make it more efficient. The traveling bridges were one of my favorite parts of the tour, to see them in use and still doing the job they were built for after so many years was impressive. To put it in perspective, the size difference between Mickey's plant and the plant that I work at: it would take approximately 13 days of flow just to fill the 28 million gallons of aeration basins! And, all that air is provided by a single massive blower.

Mickey then treated us to a great lunch and it was off to meet Randy Komssi and have a look at the Upper Blackstone WPAD, which has had just about the entire facility upgraded, and was still under construction. I was able to see one of the four aeration tanks off line as they replaced the diffusers, and put in some new agitators. During my visit, they had one of the secondary clarifiers off line being cleaned and inspected. It was great to see that even with all the construction happening, as well as it being a new facility, that the crew was keeping up with the preventative maintenance.

The final day of my exchange was spent at the MWPCA annual trade show, where I got to meet vendors and see many of the faces that made my trip such an enjoyable one. This being the first trade show I have visited, it introduced me to some new technology out there as well as being able to talk to some of the reps. Many of the products demonstrated I use on a daily basis, which gave me a better understanding of them. I was very excited to come back to my facility and discuss what I had learned and show some new ideas to my boss and crew, using what I learned and applying it to our everyday operations. 🌍

**This is your newsletter – if you have news you would like to pass along or an opinion to express that would be of interest to the membership of M $\epsilon$ WEA we are always interested in receiving material and will make every effort to incorporate your submissions.**

# 2018 Rockland Lobster Festival Parade – Toilets are not Trashcans

By Yarissa Ortiz-Vidal, Rockland Pollution Control Department

With a final goal of raising awareness and education among sewer users, the City of Rockland Pollution Control Facility took part in the well-known 2018 Rockland Lobster Festival Parade. The group wore colorful tie die shirts and matching hats as they handed out candy, toys, and stickers that read: “Toilets are not Trashcans. Only flush the 3 Ps: Poop, Pee & Toilet Paper”.

To help decorate the “float” and to create the right ambiance, wastewater operator Chris Merrill painted a set of signs to outfit a city truck, while Kevin Murphy created and painted a mobile game station. Needless to say it was a hit! The people of Rockland and annual Festival visitors from all over the world were very receptive, asked a lot of questions, and joined in the fun.

Special thanks to Cheryl Heal – Office Manager, Yarissa Ortiz-Vidal – Environmental Compliance Manager/Assistant Director,

and Terry Pinto – Director for making this idea a reality. Also to the hard working members of our parade crew who handed candy, toys, and stickers with a smile on their faces!



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# Operations Challenge - WEFTEC

By Riley Cobb, City of Saco

Another Operations Challenge Nationals at WEFTEC is in the books and New Orleans was a trip to remember. This was my second year doing Ops Challenge, the first year was overwhelming to see the size of the vendor floor, as well as how many people are involved in the competition. Knowing what to expect for my second year, I felt confident in my role as a team member and looked forward to the challenges ahead. Operations Challenge has helped me understand how to become a better operator and gain knowledge on technologies that I work with and also ones that are not present at the facility I work at in Saco.

The Maine team (Force Maine) had a new team member, Shelby Carver from the Kennebunk Sewer District who was a great asset for the team. Second year returning, Nate Melanson from Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Association, who had previously been our coach/emergency last minute team member for WEFTEC last year has been a great addition. Lastly our seasoned veteran Alex Buechner



Maine's WEFTEC Operations Challenge Team. Left to right: Nate Melanson (LAWPCA), Alex Buechner (City of Biddeford), Riley Cobb (City of Saco), Shelby Carver (Kennebunk Sewer District).

from City of Biddeford who may have to retire after getting the highest and nearly perfect score in the Hydromantis SimuWorks portion of the Process Control Event. He has been a great asset for us in helping understand material and formulas and keeping the focus on having fun and learning along the way. We are determined to improve our placing in next year's competition so all those involved, watch out!

What is amazing about attending these events is how many great people you meet along the way. These individuals are passionate about what they do and has helped me realize the importance and dedication that is required. With many of our team members being new to the competition we have room for improvements and the knowledge gained from practicing and studying for these events translates back to

our workplace. I look forward to competing again next year and hope to see many of the familiar faces from past years and hope to inspire others from Maine to join the team for a fun, educational experience.

## MEWEA participates in Northern Maine Children's Water Festival

For 23 years public and private organizations, most recently led by the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions have sponsored Maine Children's Water Festivals. Most recently the Northern Maine Children's Water Festival was held on October 9 at the University of Maine field house in Orono. Over 600 students and teachers were able to enjoy this hands-on learning opportunity at no cost to them or their schools. The Maine Water Environment Association was proud to have Joe Madigan from the Orono Wastewater Treatment Facility and Matt Melanson from LAWPCA present information on the wastewater treatment process to fifth and sixth grade students. Matt noted that the event seemed to be fun for the kids and the presenters as well.

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# MEWEA Answers Middle School Students Questions on Clean Water Bond

By Tim Haskell, York Sewer District

The Lyman Moore Middle School asked Maine Rural Water, the Portland Water District, and MEWEA if someone could come and answer student's questions about the Clean Water Bond and provide them with some history, and what the bond could help fix. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, MEWEA's Government Affairs Chair Tim Haskell, addressed four blocks of sixth grade social studies students explaining the how, what, and whys of the bond and providing a short lesson on the legislature.

The classes had been receiving instruction on government, talking about and researching issues, forming opinions based on that research and learning to use their "voices" to influence those who can vote. The bond questions gave them a real-life situation that then tied this all together. I feel a little bad as the first class at 8:05 am may have been subjected to my state house hearing room presentation, but once the skilled educators gave me some "pointers" (I vaguely remember these talks from school) discussions became very lively and engaging. I tried to impress on the classes that even though they couldn't vote, they could be heard. We discussed the many ways this could take place such as, letters to law makers, newspapers, TV coverage, social media, "Twitter" one young man shouted out and was promptly reminded to raise



Tim Haskell, Government Affairs Chair presents Lyman Moore Middle School with picture of Maine's water cycle after speaking to four sixth grade social studies classes. Teachers receiving award (left to right): Lisa Howell, Lex Lyon.

his hand. I had a lot of fun, but maybe next time I won't pick the day after Halloween to be a speaker in front of 160 sixth graders.

I'd like to thank Maine Rural Water's Susan Breau and Portland Water District's Scott Firmin, for putting me in touch with the teachers at Lyman Moore Middle School, Lex Lyon, Lisa Howell, and Sarah Carlson. They deserve great credit for what they do educating these young people.

I'd also like to thank Maine Water Utilities Association for providing the poster of the Maine Water Cycle. The classes had been receiving instruction about the water cycle in science class so I thought

it would be appropriate to give the school the framed poster and the Clean Water Bond helped pull all of the topics together.

I now have to eat a little "crow". My entire family are teachers, and possibly at some times I may have poked a little fun at how hard they work, with all the days off during the year, snow days, and that exceptionally difficult time when they have to be off all summer long. I "taught" for four hours with 25 minutes off and I absolutely have a greater appreciation now for all their efforts. Wow, that might have been harder than doing the presentations today. ●

## Congress Creates Federal Stormwater Funding Task Force

By Zack Henderson, Woodard & Curran

Both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have approved bill S. 3021, America's Water Infrastructure Act, which includes biennial funding for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and identifies other policy directives that impact clean water infrastructure funding. The bill also includes something major for the stormwater community.

Thanks in large part to the National Municipal Stormwater Alliance (NMSA) and the Water Environment Federation (WEF), the America's Water Infrastructure Act establishes the first-ever stormwater financing federal task force. The task force was one of several recommendations to improve the stormwater program in the United States developed in the [Recommendations to Improve the Stormwater Program in the U.S. Fact Sheet](#), authored by the two coalitions earlier this year to help highlight the needs in the stormwater industry. If you haven't taken a look at this quick read, please do so. These are the stormwater industry's primary talking points for the near future and we need to continue to have one unified clean water voice.

Surface water quality issues continue to be unresolved more than 30 years after the Clean Water Act's established deadline for ending pollutant discharge — with stormwater considered the only increasing source of water pollution. Additionally, annual

devastating floods and coastal resiliency needs have highlighted the importance for and inadequacy of our country's stormwater conveyance and flood management infrastructure. This taskforce will play a significant role in examining some of the clean water industry's greatest environmental challenges, identifying solutions, and recommending funding.

Advanced stormwater and green infrastructure have major roles to play moving forward, both of which are only in the infancy of implementation on a wide scale. But these upgrades are costly. According to the NMSA, the EPA estimates costs for stormwater retrofits in the Chesapeake Bay alone at approximately \$7.9 billion per year. EPA estimates another \$150 billion needed for municipal separate storm sewer systems and combined sewer overflows over the next 20 years. The need for better, smarter infrastructure is widespread and funding is scarce.

Comprised of state, local, and regional representatives, the development of the taskforce acknowledges the funding shortfalls that our country faces in the stormwater sector. The bill takes strides to resolve this by creating a platform for professionals to study and advocate for comprehensive and appropriate stormwater funding throughout the U.S. ●

# A Day Without Water at Brunswick Sewer District

By Rob Pontau, Brunswick Sewer District

On October 10, 2018 the Brunswick Sewer District hosted 5th grade students from the Durham Community School for MeWEA's "Imagine a Day Without Water" event. More than 50 students, along with about 20 parent chaperones and teachers attended the event. Students were given tours of the newly renovated treatment plant in addition to participating in a few fun activities and of course indulging on some healthy snacks.

Paula Drouin gave the students an up-close view of how the treatment process works. Utilizing empty soda bottles and materials that can mostly be found around the house, Paula demonstrated the steps of the treatment process to four different groups.



Rob Pontau led an activity where students created a sculpture of what clean water means to them. Many kids made model turds and toilets, but a few made sculptures of sea creatures and animals.



The kids really started to understand when they went to wash up after using the clay, only to find out that there was no water at the sink! The students had to wash off in 5 gallons pails of water.

The event got rave reviews from parents and teachers. Most of them couldn't believe how in depth the process is and how much technology is used in cleaning our water. It was clear that everyone left with a better understanding of the importance of clean water. To show how much they appreciated the tours and activities, each student wrote a thank you letter. Here are a few of the best quotes:



*"I appreciate how thoughtful you are about the environment. If you weren't here, the world would be miserable."*

*"I learned that you can't live without water."*

*"It's amazing that things we do daily go through a way bigger process than maybe a simple flush of a toilet."*

*"I did not want to go back to school. I loved the bags of goodies. I am so happy we went."*

and of course:

*"It was a fun experience. I would go there again but you guys need a air freshener really badly."*

Overall it was a great event. Next year's event at LAWPCA should be even better! 🌊



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# Updates and Announcement

Congratulations to the Management Candidate School Class of 2018! MCS graduates 23 bringing alumni total to 175!



**Front Row L to R:** Ross Desjardins, Kennebec Water District; Helen Newman, Maine Water Company; Tyler Pease, Greater Augusta Utility District; Somnang Laurendeau, York Sewer District; Catherine McLeod, KKWWD. **Middle Row L to R:** Brice Bond, Kennebunkport Sewer Dept.; Ernest Bergeron, Brunswick Sewer District; Tim Abbott, Sanford Sewerage District; Michael Hall, Maine Water Company; Chris St. Pierre; Ogunquit Sewer District; Adam Daigle, Portland Water Resources; Randy Nault, Lewiston Water Dept.; James Ferguson, Saco Water Resource Recovery Dept.

**Back Row L to R:** Steve Picard, Portland Water District; Joe Dignam, York Water District; David DePerrio, York Water District; Danny Boissonneault, Kennebunk Sewer District; Steve Allen, KKWWD; Rudy Hale, Scarborough Sanitary District; Brian Cogill, Portland Water Resources; Dave Taylor, Portland Water District; Warren Burnham, Lewiston Auburn WPCA; John Halacy, Rumford Water District.

## Special District Award

Leonard Blanchette, General Manager for the Brunswick Sewer District, accepting the 2018 Northeast Technology Innovation award presented by the Government Technology 'Special Districts Program'. It recognizes organizations that use IT innovation and leadership, which for BSD was for its use of technology in their public awareness/public information campaign launched in 2015 to gain support for a Treatment Facility Upgrade Project and, more importantly, for ongoing use of various social media platforms to keep the rate payers and local government informed and involved.



## 2018 Lee Agger Award Recipient – Mark Holt from Jay Sewer District



On Thursday, November 20th, Mark Holt was presented with the Lee Agger Award from the Maine Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC). The award was given during the Maine Water Environment Association (MEWEA) Fall Convention at Sunday River in Newry, Maine.

For many years, Mark's suggestions instigated others to deliver some excellent training to Maine's Water Pollution Control professionals. Since 2003, Mark has assisted with or taught 18 JETCC training classes, eight of those classes occurred since 2016. Mark's practical "real-life" experience and humorous approach to teaching is so straight forward he often plays the role of translating "Engineer-Speak" into operator language. Mark is also a member of JETCC's Board of Directors.

The Lee Agger Award was created to remember Lee Agger who was the first JETCC Training Coordinator in the 1980s. Lee Agger established the method of running a training program with minimal staff by creating a network of volunteer speakers and hosts to provide environmental training across the State of Maine.

The Lee Agger Award is given to recognize those who go above and beyond their regular work to inspire others and to promote and assist with environmental training.

## 2018 Past Service Award – Stephen Sloan from Portland Water District



During the MEWEA Annual Convention at Sunday River on September 21, JETCC recognized Steve Sloan who served on the JETCC Board of Directors from 2016 to 2018. Earlier in 2018, Steve retired from his position as Chief Operator at Portland Water District after working there for 28 years.

## 2018 Founders Recipient – Richard Vigue from the Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District

On Thursday, November 20th, Richard (Dick) Vigue, District Electrician at Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District, was presented with the Founders Award from the Maine Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC). The



award was given during the Maine Water Environment Association (MEWEA) Fall Convention at Sunday River in Newry, Maine.

Dick has been working at Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District for 42 years with no plans of retiring. According to Tim LeVasseur, Superintendent, Dick "leads the ship" to get work done and goes on to say Dick "has helped keep KSTD's process in check, along with continuously producing well above acceptable standards of treated water flowing to the Kennebec River."

Being one of the first employees at KSTD, Dick has seen many changes of the District's electrical and instrumentation systems, including bringing KSTD into the computer age with the introduction of PLCs, OITs and SCADA.

In 1987, KSTD was victim of a massive flood. Three of five stories of the plant were underwater as well as the outdoor processes. The facility was offline for only 6 weeks due to Dick's efforts. "When the District went underwater, my goal was to get the gear dried out. I visited a local friend who sold appliances and who had a collection of old household stoves. These older units became our electrical gear drivers. We had the whole shop lined up with stoves", Dick recalls.

Lynn Woodard, Assistant Superintendent, adds "Dick exemplifies leadership. He is steady, thoughtful, open-minded, fair, and above all, he takes action. He leads by example."

Tim LeVasseur writes, "We recognize Frenchie's work providing leadership, proper wastewater treatment, and educating the operator workforce. We believe Mr. Vigue exemplifies Frenchie's philosophy."

Since Frenchie passed away in July, a special recognition and legislative proclamation was also presented to his family during the MEWEA business meeting.

The Founders Award is given in honor of Mr. Jerome "Frenchie" Guervremont in recognition for 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.

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# Maine Water Environment **NEWS**

**November 2018 ISSUE**

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