

MAINE WASTE WATER CONTROL ASSOCIATION
Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, June 20, 2003
Maine Municipal Association, Augusta

Attendance: Al Jellison, Vivian Matkivich, Mac Richardson, Mary Waring, Janet Abrahamson, Darold Wooley, Jeff Pinnette, Dave Anderson, Greg Cataldo, Mike Grove, Brian Kavanah, Dave Courtemanch, Joan Kiszely, Nancy Sargent

Absent: Howard Carter, Chuck Applebee, Tom Wiley, Brad Moore, Andy Rudzinski, Leonard Blanchette, Steve Lane, Ron LeTarte, Mike Barden, Scott Clukey

I. Call the meeting to Order: Al Jellison called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and introductions were made around the table. Al introduced Mike Grove of Augusta Sanitary District as the new chair of the Government Affairs Committee.

II. Approval of the Minutes from the May 16, 2003 Meeting: Mac Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2003 meeting, as amended. Darold Wooley seconded the motion. All approved.

III. Financial Report:

a. Financial Report - May: Vivian Matkivich reported on financial reports for the period ending May 31, 2003. There were questions raised on postage and copies. There is an amount that needs to be changed from personnel advancement to public relations. Vivian noted that the change will be reflected in the June financial reports. The totals are correct. Mac Richardson made a motion to accept the financial report for the period ending May 31, 2003, as amended. Darold Wooley seconded the motion. All approved.

b. MWWCA Credit Card: Vivian reported that Brian Wolcott spoke with Key Bank and MWWCA can get a corporate credit card for \$35.00 per year service fee. This card will be used for officers' travel, i.e. rooms, airfare, and costs of travel. A policy and procedure will be written on the card usage. Darold Wooley made a motion to proceed with obtaining a corporate credit card. Dave Anderson seconded the motion. 8 approved 1 abstained. Motion carries.

c. Travel Policy Amendments: Vivian distributed changes to the travel policy regarding the mileage reimbursement and lodging reimbursement. Mac Richardson made a motion to accept the travel guidelines amendments as proposed. Greg Cataldo seconded the motion. All approved.

IV. NEWEA State Director's Report: Greg Cataldo reported on the NEWEA Spring Conference that took place on June 1 - 4 in Woodstock, Vermont. Greg reported on the Massachusetts operator training. He noted that DEP in Massachusetts will no longer provide training. The facility they used for training will remain open and proposals for training are being solicited. Greg discussed JETCC as a possibility.

Al Jellison reported that he enjoyed the conference. He displayed the MWWCA booth and some people took MWWCA literature. Greg went on to report that because of decreasing membership, NEWEA is conducting a membership initiative, hoping to draw in more professionals. One idea was a reduced first year membership fee. There was a discussion about different ideas to increase NEWEA membership.

There are a couple of candidates for Operator of the Year and Peloquin awards. Greg asked that anyone with a candidate provide the names to him as soon as possible.

Greg is on the Steering Committee discussing a possible meeting between New England operator association officers and high-ranking EPA officials. Greg gave some details of an upcoming symposium.

Al Jellison advised that NEWEA officers and staff have been invited to attend the next MWWCA Executive Committee to be held on July 18th at Point Sebago. Lunch will be served.

- V. **DEP Representative:** Brian Kavanah introduced Dave Courtemanch. Brian reported that the Governor put forth a proposal for a bond package. The bond, if passed by voters, would provide clean water related grants and loan money. The Appropriations Committee has indicated that it will reduce grant money. Brian noted that DEP is concerned that needed money won't be available to municipal plants. He recommends that MWWCA get involved as soon as possible to restore funding. The proposal from legislature cuts the funding to \$1.5 million. There is little or no Republican support. This bond package will go to the voters in November. The Appropriations Committee is expected to reconvene at the end of June. Mike Grove said it would be very important for those facilities that would be hit by the cut to write a letter to the chairs of the Appropriations Committee. Mac noted he would be willing to help by making some phone calls. The only way Mike sees anything happening is if people from the communities to be affected show up as well as a member of the committee who is recognizable to the Appropriations Committee. Al asked if Karen Brown-Mohr may be helpful with this issue. Darold Wooley will make phone calls to the communities and Mac will assist him.

Dave Courtemanch reported on changes to water quality DO standards for marine and fresh receiving waters, and for bacteria standards. DEP now feels that some D.O. standards are too strict and are in the process of rebuilding the criteria using an EPA model. Currently, DEP is compiling the information and looking for any other input. Very long discussion on marine and fresh water quality standard goals vs. standards. Brian Kavanah wants to know how DEP can work better with MWWCA on these issues. In summary, DEP would like to set-up a committee/stakeholders group with MWWCA to discuss these issues. MWWCA will get names to Dave Courtemanch as to who may serve on the stakeholders

groups. Mike Grove pointed out that MWWCA wants to have each stakeholder group they are on have the opportunity to write a dissenting opinion.

VI. Old Business:

- A. Clean Water Week Presentation, Mercury Bill. Al reported on the Clean Water Week poster presentation at the Governor's office with first place and second place winners of contest. It went very well. Al also attended the signing of the mercury amalgam bill in the Hall of Flags. He congratulated all who worked on the mercury amalgam bill.
- B. Site of July 18th meeting – Point Sebago. Al reminded the Executive Committee that the July 18th meeting will take place at Point Sebago and lunch will be served.
- C. State River Studies. Al reported on a new DEP initiative. Darold noted that if DEP wants to raise the bar for river classification, then the State should help with the funding required to upgrade plants to meet these goals. Dave Courtemanch noted that the problem they are seeing is that the upgrades are not coming as easy as before. There was discussion that DEP river models are built on worse case conditions, resulting in very restrictive standards and policy.

VII. Committee Reports:

- A. Ops Challenge. Vivian Matkivich reported that she is working on a fundraiser with Greg Cataldo for ops challenge. Vivian Matkivich reported that the Ops Challenge team came in third in two events (Pump Maintenance and Collection Systems) at the NEWEA Spring meeting in Woodstock, VT.
- B. Awards. Mary Waring reported that there will not be a Pretreatment Excellence award in 2003. The Collections Committee is working on the Charles Perry award. Mary will speak with Al on the President's Service award. DEP will have the opportunity to present certificates of achievement. A decision needs to be made whether there will be a Lifetime Award or a Gagne Award. The Executive Committee must propose nominees for the Gagne Award. Mary has one nomination, but that nominee has not been active in the Association. Al asked people to email names to Mary for nominations.
- C. 1st Vice President. Darold reported that he is considering a better strategy for the Stockholm Jr. Water Prize, as there were no nominees this year.
- D. Government Affairs. Mike Grove had no report.
- E. Residuals. Jeff Pinnette reported that the committee met on May 20th. Jeff reported on LD389, which was a bill to prevent ordinances from superceding permits retroactively. The bill passed committee with an amendment that the

protection did not apply to biosolids. Mac and Jamie Ecker met with the Republican Caucus to try to remove the amendment, but the bill is too important for them to change if it will mean defeat. The bill was tabled and eventually died for the year. It is a recurring bill and will come up again in the future.

Biosolids stockpiling study. Jeff reported that John Peckingham and Jim Nadeau attended the meeting. They expect to get a new pad designed and will set up new piles some time the following week. There will be a presentation on the stacking study at the fall conference. It will be session I on Thursday. It will probably be about another year before the final report comes out.

Biosolids White Paper: The Committee discussed the proposed white paper and what could be done to get it off the ground. John Peckingham will proceed based on the commitment on how to approach funding. They are starting with a literature review this summer. That may be the second half of the presentation in Session I at fall convention. Funding is an issue and members of the committee felt they could commit to providing approximately \$5,000 in funding. They would like to get some funding from MWWCA via the Residuals Committee for the Mitchell Center. John Peckingham will also pursue other funding (a foundation that funds position papers on Maine based issues.) Mary Waring noted that there is a benefactor dues category where monies come in and the Executive Committee decides what to do with that money. The Residuals Committee drafted a letter of support to be sent to try and obtain funding from alternate sources. Another action item was to get a letter of support from Dawn Gallagher for the biosolids projects. Al Jellison noted that the Executive Committee will put the request in for addition funds for the white paper donation from MWWCA.

MOFGA: Jeff further reported that they made no progress in contacting the organic farmers organization. Jamie got the sense from speaking with members of that organization that there is interest in the benefits of biosolids recycling, even if not on certified organic crops.

- F. Communications.** Mac Richardson reported that the next deadline for articles is July 10th. He has agreed to allow NEWEA to put information/announcement on the NEWEA safety awards. He will have a committee meeting some time in the future.
- G. DEP.** Brian Kavanah reported that the board passed a general permit yesterday for salmon agriculture.
- H. Personnel Advancement.** Janet reported that she has not heard from anyone yet on the operator exchange with Massachusetts. The smaller facilities usually cannot afford to go without staff for such a long time, so she is

looking to the bigger facilities. The operator can choose what type of treatment plant they want to see. It is for two-three days.

Janet reviewed her training schedule for the fall convention. She expects a larger crowd than last year. Janet has two more sessions to fill for Thursday a.m. sessions. Janet further reported that there does not need to be three sessions on Friday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Fish will be presenting on Friday. There will be no breakfast speaker on Friday. Janet will try and set-up a tour of the wastewater collection and treatment system at Point Sebago. Joan may have an MMA trainer do a session on performance evaluations.

Janet further reported that there will be a session on DEP updates at the convention. She would like it to touch upon nutrients and dissolved oxygen, and would like an hour session on QA/QC. Brian will try to find the speakers.

Janet received an application for an operator's scholarship and will submit it this week.

- I. **Laboratory.** Dave Anderson reported that the committee met in May and June and have had good attendance. Don Albert from DEP attended the last meeting. Don's inspectors will make evaluations of each plant's quality assurance and would like the committee to work with DEP on the establishment of QA Lab Procedures. The Committee has been reviewing the SOPs that were in the original MWWCA lab manual and are updating them as needed. They are adding more specifics for Quality Control and Assurance. Janet distributed info she received from Don Clark at Division 1. The Lab Committee will meet again in September.
- J. **2nd Vice President.** Vivian Matkivich will be overseeing the Best Effluent Contest and the operator creativity Table at the Fall Convention.
- K. **Membership.** Chuck Applebee was not present – no report.
- L. **Public Relations.** Brad Moore was not present – no report.
- M. **Safety.** Andy Rudzinski was not present – no report.
- N. **Collection Systems.** Leonard Blanchette reported he had no report.
- O. **Web Master.** Steve Lane was not present – no report.
- P. **Industrial Representative.** Mike Barden was absent – no report.
- Q. **Past President.** Howard Carter was not present – no report.
- R. **Pretreatment.** Ron LeTarte was not present – no report.

S. **JETCC.** No report.

T. **Convention.** Tom Wiley was not present – no report.

VIII. **New Business:**

A. **MMA.** –MMA is in the process of notifying the MWWCA and other affiliates that their accounts are being audited. MWWCA will have to let MMA know in July if they want a more detailed audit.

B. **Electricians' Examining Board.** Al Jellison read a letter from the Office of Licensing & Registration of the Electrician's Examining Board. They are holding a general discussion on electrical licensing and permitting requirements at sewerage plants. The discussion will be held from 9:00 am until 11:00 am at the Electricians' Examining Board meeting. The meeting will be at the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, 122 Northern Avenue, Gardiner, Maine.

C. **Second VP Candidate.** Al reported that the Committee needs a name by the end of July. Mac mentioned trying to get someone from South Portland.

Janet Abrahamson noted that Dan Bisson, Camp Dresser and McKee, wants to get more active in MWWCA. He may be able to take on the Treasurer duties. Vivian will talk to him about the Treasurer position.

It was noted that MWWCA needs a municipal representative for the JETCC Board. They want to do a joint venture in the spring and they will get back to MWWCA with a proposal.

IX. **Adjourn:** Greg Cataldo made a motion to adjourn. Darold Wooley seconded the motion. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.