

FINAL

MWWCA Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, March 21, 2008
Gardiner City Hall, Gardiner

MINUTES

Attendance: Chuck Applebee, Travis Peaslee, David Jordan, David Anderson, Greg Kidd, Jeff McBurnie, Brad Moore, Al Jellison, Steve Sloan, Mac Richardson, Sterling Pierce, Lenny Blanchette, Ryan Wadsworth, Paul Rodriguez, Andre Brouseseau, Dan Bisson, Tom Wiley, Mary Waring, Joan Kiszely.

Call to Order: President Chuck Applebee called the meeting to order at 9:15 am.

Government Affairs Report:

Paul Rodriguez reported on LD 2169. This has passed both House & Senate and is now with the Senate Appropriations Committee. He reported that the Appropriations Committee is probably not going to pass any Bonds this year. Our main objective this year was to generate contact and we achieved this goal. David Anderson recommended that we talk to Senator Bartlett and see if we should continue to pursue this bill this year. Chuck Applebee noted we should continue to communicate with Jeff McNealy at Maine Water Utilities. The Board wants to make sure we keep this alive and keep communicating with Legislators, MWUA, and others on the importance of this Bond. Chuck noted that the real stumbling block is in the Governor's Office. It was the consensus that we should give this one more effort, with a letter to the Editor from Chuck Applebee (MWWCA) and from Jeff McNealy (MWUA).

LD 2116: It was reported that this LD came out of committee ought not to pass.

Approval of Minutes: Dan Bisson made a motion to accept the minutes of February 6, 2008, seconded by Mac Richardson. All approved with minor revisions.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Bisson reported he just was emailed the January & February Financial reports and has not had time to review them. In general, he noted that he has been working with Sarah to add more accounts, and they have been added. He reported on the Audit Process. He noted the committee has met several times, and emailed a lot. They are pulling together a RFP for an auditor. They have an initial draft at this point to send out to the auditors that respond to the RFP. He does have a first proposal from RKO on how to do this audit. The plan is to get someone under contract in July. Although we originally intended to have the auditors look at the 2006 books, the committee decided to have them review only the 2007 books because of a lot of things changed on accounts. Dan Bisson reported that MWWCA is part of the control and that is why MMA doesn't do the audit. He reviewed this process. He noted that we don't need an audit every year, and they are making good progress with this effort. They have \$5,000 in the budget to do this audit.

FINAL

DEP Representative Report:

Sterling Pierce reported on the up-class of rivers. He noted there are still budget issues on-going. The governor's office is still considering consolidating several state agencies to see if there would be a savings. He noted that they would be looking at BOD & TSS testing. They have a report out on lagoons & reed beds. They want the operators to be very careful with the liners. They have reissued a permit for Gulf Island Pond. He noted there are not really any big issues going on. He reported they now have a new employee – Phyllis Rand and she is working with Greg Wood on Permit writing. They are working on DMR instructions. Sterling reported that his goal is to get the inspection report out at least within 2 weeks. Mac Richardson noted that if they cannot get the inspection report back within the two weeks, an email should go out explaining the delay and that they will be getting the report to them soon. DEP are struggling with their Data Management. They now have their own system and they download from the federal government system. They have had many problems with this transition. He counts on the data for compliance and when the data is not working he is frustrated. He noted that a Draft has been written on the Study of Casco Bay Nutrients and that the DEP Staff is working on this. He gave a briefing on this study to the board. They are trying to get the Legislators educated on this Draft.

NEWEA State Director: Brad Moore reported that they finalized plans for the trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with the Senators and Representatives on April 8th. They need to put together a Position Paper to bring with them outlining what the MWWCA feels are priorities for Maine. After the meeting Chuck, Mary, Travis and I will put together a list of WEF, NEWEA and EPA awards to be re-presented at the Spring Conference. Brad also reported that there would be a NEWEA planning meeting from April 13th to the 15th. Brad Moore, Dan Bisson and Howard Carter will be attending this planning meeting. Any issues or concerns should be conveyed to one of them so they can bring it to the planning meeting. They will have some Operation Challenge pamphlets out at the Spring Conference. Travis noted that if any one is interested in putting a team together or anyone wants to be on the team let him know. Lenny Blanchette noted he thinks some from Brunswick would be interested. The NEWEA goal is to have a team from each state. Andre reported that April 18th is a NEWEA Ops Challenge Training Day. Dan Bisson reported that the Spring Meeting would be June 2-6th on Cape Cod.

The President's correspondence file was passed around for review.

Chuck Applebee reported on the MMA Affiliate Group meeting with Chris Lockwood, MMA staff and other Affiliate Group Presidents. He reported in regards to the contract and that MWWCA is happy with the service from Joan Kiszely & staff. Tom Wiley reported that MMA is looking at the structure of the Communications Office. They reported on how the LPC was structured. Tom Wiley reported on the Database update and building space. MWWCA recognizes that a good portion of the group's success is because of MMA and Joan Kiszely and her department.

Committee Reports:

FINAL

- ❖ Laboratory Committee – Karen Tangeman & June Mooney – Absent
- ❖ Membership Committee – David Jordan reported he needs to do a letter to current members, and he has been doing a lot of personal calls. He will do an email blast to the membership on what is happening in the Association. David Anderson noted that once we communicate with Senator Bartlett on the LD that information should go out on the Blast Email the Membership Committee is going to put out. At MWWCA Ski Day they got three new members. Mac Richardson reported that he talked with a woman from Maine Septic & Pumping in Lewiston about joining MWWCA.
- ❖ Convention Committee – Travis Peaslee reported that they have 63 signed up to date for the Spring Conference. He reported that he is working with Greg Kidd on getting moderators for the sessions and bio's for the speakers. He noted he needs moderators for the sessions. He and Joan Kiszely will send out an email request for moderators this afternoon. He reported that they would have 27 sessions at the Fall Conference. He is already working on the Fall Conference. The Theme will be Energy.
- ❖ Personnel Advancement Committee – Greg Kidd reported that the Spring Tech Sessions are all set. All bio's and brochures have been emailed to the speakers. He noted that Maine Efficiency wants to partner with us on Energy programs. They want our logo on their brochures. Travis & Greg met to discuss the Fall Conference. He noted there are a wide range of session topics. They hope to have the program completed by June.
- ❖ Public Relations – Ryan Wadsworth reported on the Ski Day. He noted that this was a success. They had 36 people attend and had 13 sponsors. They got \$1,300 on sponsorships. He reported on the Stockholm Junior Prize and said there would be 3 entries. The Clean Water Week Posters were due today. He noted that he would like to get rid of some of the left over promotional items, mostly clothing, at the Spring Seminar. He would like to look into having an outside firm sell products electronically, rather than maintain an inventory of items. Gregg Kidd wanted to know if we could get clothes and coffee mugs made from the U.S. and not from China. There was also a discussion about putting together a MWWCA Fishing Trip, maybe with MWUA.
- ❖ Communications Committee – Mac Richardson reported noted the NEWWN was just published. They are looking for content for the next issue. He would to see articles on what is going on at the member plants.
- ❖ Safety Committee – Al Jellison - no report
- ❖ Collection Systems Committee – Steve Sloan reported the committee met on March 12th. The Perry Award will be presented this year at the Spring

FINAL

- Conference. They would like to put the Nomination paper out at the Spring Conference, asking for nominations for next year. They also discussed getting together with the Mutual Aid program. Steve reminded the Board that in November he had brought up the issue of wipes causing damage to pumps at POTW's. The Portland Water District would like to bring this issue to the Legislature. Many districts are having problems with this issue and he feels we need to address this. Chuck noted that this issue should go to the Government Affairs committee, and they can come back with a recommendation.
- ❖ Residuals Management Committee – Jeff McBurnie reported they have not met since January. He reported on the AP story on a Georgia Sludge settlement that has appeared in several newspapers around the country. He feels we have a good network in place, with NEBRA, WEF and the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP) providing information so we can address any concerns that arise as a result of this story and others that may follow. Jeff also mentioned that there are 3 utilities and 3 biosolids contractors that are currently moving forward with the NBP's EMS certification program. There will be a representative from the NBP at the next Residuals Committee meeting, and he will be meeting with the group as a whole and then with each agency individually to discuss their progress with the EMS.
 - ❖ Operations Challenge Committee – Travis Peaslee reported the team had their first meeting last Monday. They have a new person on the team. They will meet a few times before the training day in Massachusetts. The Team will not be going to the Spring Conference as a group. The Trophies will be on display at the Registration table, and Travis will be there to accept a re-presentation of their national championship award. After the NEWEA Spring Conference they would like to go to the Pre-Competition Conference in Atlantic City if they can afford it. He will put something together for the Fall Conference to advertise on putting a Team together for next year. He was suggested that he could do up an article for Mac Richardson to put in the NEWWN, including some the history of the team.
 - ❖ Awards Committee – Mary Waring reported they are all set for the Spring Conference. There will be several WEF and NEWEA Awards re-presented, and she is all set with the traditional awards.
 - ❖ Web Developer – Steve Lane absent.
 - ❖ Pretreatment Committee – Mike Micucci absent.
 - ❖ First Vice President – Tom Wiley no report.
 - ❖ Past President – David Anderson reported that his General Manage brought to his attention a DHHS ruling stating that unused pharmaceuticals should be either incinerated or flushed, albeit under some stringent supervision. Considering the

FINAL

recent articles on pharmaceuticals in drinking water, this seems to be misguided. Brief discussion about this issue.

New Business

- ❖ Motion made by Mac Richardson, seconded by Al Jellison, all approved to have Tony Gordon be a life member. Al Jellison noted we should put some criteria together for lifetime membership. . Mac Richardson made a motion to set up a sub-committee to look at the criteria for life membership, seconded by David Jordan, all approved. The sub-committee will be Mary Waring, Tom Wiley, Al Jellison & Andre Brousseau. If they come back with By-Law changes we need to get the Amendment to the By-Laws out by July to be voted on at the September Fall Conference. Joan will get life membership criteria from some other groups to the sub-committee.
- ❖ JETCC: Lenny Blanchette reported on the Minutes of the JETCC Board Meeting, and the JETCC Training History. He reported on the Lee Agger Award. He noted that there is a MWWCA District Representative vacancy on the JETCC board. He reported that Dennis Thayer of Wells Sanitary District, MWWCA's municipal representative, is due for reappointment in May. He actually could serve as the district rep if we are only able to find someone for the municipal rep position. Motion made by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Mac Richardson to reappoint Dennis Thayer to the JETCC Board to represent MWWCA.
- ❖ Chuck Applebee reported that there would be a Strategic Planning Session on April 3rd at the Ramada Inn, Odlin Road in Bangor from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion made by Mac Richardson, seconded by Mary Waring, all approved to adjourn at 12:20 p.m.