

**Final**

**MWWCA Executive Meeting  
Friday, March 19, 2010  
Maine Municipal Association  
Augusta, ME**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:** André Brousseau, Chris Higgins, Ryan Wadsworth, John Leslie, Dan Welch, Greg Kidd, Jeff McBurnie, Travis Peaslee, David Anderson, Mary Waring, Al Jellison, Mac Richardson, June Mooney, Chuck Applebee, Brian Kavanah, Aubrey Strause, Darold Wooley, Joan Kiszely.

**Absent:** Tom Wiley, Paul Rodriguez, Alex Buechner, Doug Howard, Steve Lane, Mike Grove

**Guest:** Eric Conrad, MMA Director of Communications

**Call to Order:** President André Brousseau called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

**Correspondence Folder:** President André Brousseau passed the correspondence folder. He reviewed some of the letters and correspondence in the folder.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Jeff McBurnie, to accept the minutes of February 23, 2010, seconded by Mac Richardson. All approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Al Jellison reported on the January financials. He reported that the financials are in order. Mac Richardson made a motion to approve the financial reports, Jeff McBurnie, seconded the motion. All approved.

Al Jellison reported on the protocol for check request. The basics are:

- Committee Chair sends request form to MMA.
- MMA forwards the request to the Treasurer and/or President.
- Treasurer checks for proper account and codes numbers then approves.
- MMA issues a check.

**DEP Representative:** Brian Kavanah reported the following:

- **Legislation:** LD 1573 – An Act to Improve Water Quality through the Phase-out of OBDs and the Improvement of the Boat Pump out Law.
- **Lower Androscoggin Upgrade:** DEP has briefed the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee, and the DEP position remains that low flow data sufficient to model the impacts of a water quality classification upgrade is necessary to make an informed decision on this potential upgrade. DEP will gather necessary data this year if low flow conditions are available. Friends of Merry Meeting Bay has also briefed NRC and continues to advocate for upgrade based on existing data.
- **Bonds:** Governor's Bond Package – \$79 million total. (Editor's note) There is a good summary of Both the Governor's Bond Proposal – LD1826 and a competing Proposal put forth by Senator Libby Mitchell in the March 26 edition of MMA's Legislative Bulletin – either measure has money for SRLF (approximately 3 million for Clean Water SRLF and 2 million for Drinking water SRLF) the Governor's proposal also includes 1.8 million in

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grant funding for upgrades at Limestone, Machias and St. Agatha, While Senator Libby's proposal includes 0.5 million for OBD work.

- Rulemaking: Chapter 583: Use Attainment Evaluation using Nutrient Criteria for Surface Waters (phosphorus rule): Public Hearing was held March 4<sup>th</sup>. Comment period closed March 15. They expect to bring this back to BEP for final adoption April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Energy Seminars: JETCC Energy Efficiency seminars were held March 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. Seminars were very well attended. The next step is to encourage participation at smaller more focused trainings. Also to continue education and outreach efforts to promote energy audits, energy efficiency and recovery projects.
- Staffing: Currently they have one vacant position in DWQM that was held by Dennis Merrill ESIV head of enforcement unit. They expect that this position will remain vacant as cost saving measure until July 2011. Brian Kavanah will be acting supervisor for the enforcement unit until then.

**Bureau of Remediation & Solid Waste:** Ann Pistell reported the following:

- LD 821: An Act to Support Collection and Proper Disposal of Unused Drugs  
This bill is before the Legislature right now. She distributed a fact sheet. (Joan Kiszely will scan and have Steve Lane post it on the MWWCA Website.)
  - There is an impact from drugs going into receiving waters in the State of Maine.
  - The bill will be with the Senate next week. They will bring it back next session if it does not make it out of the Senate.
  - 91-51 vote in favor of passage in the House
  - This issue crosses a lot of lines. It is a Public Health, Public Safety and an Environmental issue. Maine is number one per capita for crimes related to prescription drugs. We have more people die from drug abuse in Maine than from car accidents. This is a huge Public Health and Public Safety issue. It got a lot of support because of these facts. It does have a lot of public support. If Maine passes this, it should not result in an increase in the price of prescriptions.
  - Mac Richardson asked if members should contact their individual Senators to support this bill. This was encouraged.

**NEWEA State Director:** Mike Grove absent. André reported on the following from the Congressional Briefing:

- Chesapeake Bay Program: Went to a session on the clean-up on the Chesapeake Bay. The work being done there is both extensive and impressive.
- Attended the NEWEA Breakfast on Tuesday and heard from the following speakers:  
Welcome Remarks – F. Adam Yanulis, Chair, NEWEA Government Affairs Committee  
Michelle Beal – Success stories from Ellsworth, Maine  
Senator Jeanne Shaheen – New Hampshire  
Curt Spalding, EPA Region I
- Appointments with Senator Collins, Senator Snowe, Representative Michaud, and Representative Pingree. All discussions went well.

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### Old Business:

### Committee Reports:

- **Laboratory:** June Mooney reported that she sent out an email to her committee to get some ideas on a session for the Spring Conference. She got back an idea to do a session on Filaments Identification & Testing and FOG. One possible speaker would be Dean Smith of the Orono Spectral Systems (OSS) who has developed a new test procedure for Oil and Grease determination.
- They have a whole new set of Lab Certification Rules and will be looking into this.

**Membership:** Chris Higgins – no report.

**Personnel Advancement:** Aubrey Strause distributed her report. She reported the following:

*The MWWCA Spring Conference (to be held at Hollywood Slots in Bangor, Maine) is shaping up to be a fine event, with technical sessions addressing topics ranging from public relations, to identification of filamentous bacteria, to how climate change will impact wastewater utilities. One of the unique sessions will discuss how to deal with pump clogging (primarily related to polyester wipes), featuring pollution prevention (education, enforcement, and outreach) and as well as a Technical Panel (representing at least six different equipment manufacturers) to talk about how new technology may be a good solution. Thanks to the combined efforts of Greg Kidd and Travis Peaslee for pulling together topics, suggesting potential speakers, and making the sessions come together. As of March 17, 15 of the 29 participants have returned their BioData forms, and I will ensure that the rest of the participants respond in the next week or so. Travis Peaslee has secured training contact hours from Dick Darling (ME DEP) for all sessions, and moderators have also been identified and assigned to all sessions. The brochure for the Spring Conference was sent to MWWCA members via e-mail on March 3 by Maine Municipal Association, and is also posted on the MWWCA website ([www.mwwca.org](http://www.mwwca.org)). Registration is available online through [www.memun.org](http://www.memun.org). The Maine chapter of ASCE also featured the full conference brochure in their most recent newsletter. Pre-registration ends on April 19.*

*To gather ideas for future sessions, I would like to try something new at the Spring Conference: I would like to make “Suggestion Cards” available at each session, and place boxes throughout the conference rooms where people can deposit these cards. The cards will also have my contact information on it, so attendees can respond later with ideas. While we already have many ideas for the Fall Convention, this will give the operator level attendees a voice in what topics are covered at future events and may educate us about what our members want to learn about. I will make the cards and boxes if I have the Committee’s approval to try this method.*

With the caveat that similar efforts in the past have not yielded great results, it was the consensus of the Executive Committee that this effort is worth trying and Aubrey should go ahead.

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**Public Relations:** Ryan Wadsworth reported the following:

- Ski Day: It went very well, but numbers were down.
- Clean Water Week: Joan Kiszely reported that they only have one poster to date.
- Aubrey Strauss and Al Jellison attended the Maine Engineering Expo in Orono.
- He attended the Maine Water Conference.

**Operations Challenge:** Alex Buechner absent. André reported the following:

- Everyone has committed to attend both the NEWEA and WEF (if the team is successful at the NEWEA competition) events and they are contemplating the New Jersey Water Environment Association's "spring fling" invitational competition as well.
- They will start weekly practices on Mondays next month.
- They will move to meet twice each week as they get closer to the competition.

**WEB Developer:** Steve Lane absent.

**Convention:** Travis Peaslee reported the following:

- Only 6 registered to date for the Spring Conference.
- Joan Kiszely reported Denise Kolreg sent out another Email blast this morning.

**Safety:** Al Jellison – no report.

**Residuals Management:** John Leslie – no report

**Communications:** Mac Richardson reported the following:

- Committee should be Publications Committee not Communications – this needs to be changed on the agenda.
- Mac Richardson reported that Aubrey Strause has agreed to be Vice Chair on the committee.

**Collection Systems:** Doug Howard absent.

**Industrial:** Dan Welch reported the following:

- Trying to get a subcommittee formed. Significant discussion followed. First, technically speaking Dan is the Industrial Representative (this area was not set up as a committee). That said, it was the general consensus that it would be desirable to have other people from industrial facilities involved. Input could come from people engaged in environmental matters at industrial direct dischargers or industrial facilities that discharge to a POTW (are involved through Industrial Pretreatment). Generally MWWCA would like to involve industrial operators, managers and others in our training opportunities and incorporate them into other areas such as legislative affairs.
- Trying to also get contacts.
- John Leslie noted he would like to see this committee get the word out on the training being offered.
- The board would like his committee to give advice on training sessions needed.
- He would like to get more Industrial operators to our Spring and Fall conventions.

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**Pretreatment:** Tom Wiley absent but emailed in his report. See his report below:

*The next regularly scheduled meeting of the pretreatment committee is on March 25th at the East End Plant. I am still trying to finalize the agenda with the DEP Coordinator, Jim Crowley. Among the discussion items will be Part 2 of a local limits presentation created by Jim and Jay Pimpare from EPA. Each of them will also advise the group on the latest information from both the state and federal levels. Additional items will be finalized and an agenda issued soon.*

**Awards:** Mary Waring reported the following:

- She did not hear from anyone on any new awards
- Not too late for the Charles Perry Award – André Brousseau has a nomination and will send it to Mary Waring.

**JETCC Representative:** Darold Wooley reported the following:

- Management Class – Will be in the fall in Bangor

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Report:** Paul Rodriguez absent.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Report:** Jeff McBurnie: No report

**Immediate Past President Report:** Tom Wiley absent. He submitted a report. See his report below:

*I have been working with Mary Waring and Joan Kiszely on reissuing the MWWCA Administrative Guide. The intent was to make the guide more user friendly and to issue a current edition. I appreciate everyone who has sent items in for revision. It is the intent to have this completed prior to the April Strategic Planning Session.*

## **Other New Business:**

- Discussion on MWUA re: MWWCA Fall Convention: André noted that Jeff McNelly contacted him and suggested that we do a Joint Conference. Travis Peaslee offered to talk with Jeff McNelly and report back to the board.
- ME WARN Program: André reported Vivian Matkivich emailed him to report Maine WARN is looking for more wastewater treatment plant members to serve on the Steering Committee. If anyone is interested they should contact Dan Wells at Winthrop Utilities District. André noted that the Maine WARN website is up and running.
- Greg Cataldo suggested MWWCA might want to put a Position Paper together on Homeland Security – chemical safety. Greg is asking if MWWCA wants to take a position on this Legislation, specific to the agency overseeing compliance. He thinks EPA should be in charge of enforcement, not DHS. Brief discussion on what position MWWCA wants to take. They will continue to discuss this and bring this issue back.

**Adjournment:** Al Jellison made a motion to adjourn. Jeff McBurnie seconded the motion. All approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m.