

May 28, 2004

**MAINE WASTEWATER CONTROL ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 21, 2004
MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION, AUGUSTA**

Attendance: Darold Wooley, Vivian Matkivich, Dan Bisson, Chuck Applebee, Andy Rudzinski, Janet Abrahamson, Tom Wiley, Howard Carter, Tony Gordon, Mary Waring, Brian Kavanah, Al Jellison, Mac Richardson, Mike Grove, Charles Tyler (NEWEA), Phyllis Rand (NEWEA), Nancy Sargent (MMA)

1. Call to Order: President, Darold Wooley, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Darold introduced Charlie Tyler from NEWEA. Charlie thanked the Committee for inviting him. He introduced Phyllis Rand, NEWEA Vice-President and acknowledged Howard Carter as the Maine NEWEA representative.

2. Approval of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes: The Executive Committee reviewed and made amendments to the minutes from the March 19, 2004 meeting. Al Jellison made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 19, 2004 meeting, as amended. Mike Grove seconded the motion. All approved.

3. Treasurers Report:

Dan Bisson reviewed the Financial Reports for the period ending March 31, 2004 and April 30, 2004 and noted that both reports appeared to be in order. Dan did note that the checks for the Secretary of State filings had not yet cleared. Al Jellison asked if the postage, photocopies and supplies from the March bill should be placed under the Spring Conference account instead of separated as set out above. Discussion took place on how the postage charges should be handled; either grouped under postage for tax purposes, or separated into the respective account the postage was used for to assist in managing the budget. Dan will look in to what the breakdown of the postage is for the March financial report and make the necessary adjustments. Any revisions will be reflected in the May financials. Howard Carter made a motion to approve the financial reports for the period ending March 31, 2004 and April 30, 2004. Tony Gordon seconded the motion. 12 approved/1 opposed. Motion carries.

Dan Bisson advised the Committee that donations for Residuals White Paper are still on the books as revenue and advised that a check should be cut soon to the UMaine George Mitchell Center to avoid accrual of interest. Jeff Pinnette will be asked to request an invoice from the Mitchell Center in the amount of \$10,550, representing the total funds received for the White Paper effort.

4. NEWEA State Director's Report: Howard Carter reported that the Congressional Briefing went well and noted he had a few copies of Congressional Briefing reports available for those interested. It was mentioned, this was the first time DEP

representatives went with MWWCA representatives to the Congressional Briefing and it was considered a success. He noted the poster situation needs to be addressed as the framed posters are in the regional office. A decision needs to be made on whether MWWCA wants to continue to try and get the posters to DC and whether they want to continue to expend the funds to get the posters framed. Howard noted that there are current discussions about regional training, but deferred to Charlie Tyler and Phyllis Rand's report later. The Committee was advised that award nominations need to be submitted to NEWEA by August 1st. He has a list available of the possible awards, but the more notable awards are the Operator, Peloquin, and E. Sherman Chase Awards. Howard would like any and all nominees to him by the first of July. The Operator and Peloquin awards are awarded in each State. Vivian Matkivich suggested that Howard get the nomination information to Heidi Gage to put in the NEWWN.

5. DEP Representative Report: Brian Kavanah reported that there will be a Stakeholders Group to review the proposed changes to the fee system. The Stakeholders Group will consist of representatives from MWWCA, MRWA, Maine Pulp & Paper, environmental organizations, and a few others. Brian would like to get one or two names from Darold for representatives from MWWCA. Mike Grove volunteered to attend and Darold will find one additional individual to serve on the group. Brian gave a brief history of where the funding comes from and what the group will be reviewing. Commissioner Gallagher wants a comprehensive review of the fee system. Mac noted that maybe the second representative from MWWCA should be an individual from a "non-major" plant.

Brian reported that he is on the JETCC Board and was asked to bring up the issue of JETCC funding. Brian advised that there was discussion on possibly charging a separate fee connected to operator certification and/or plant licenses and have that fee go directly to a training fund. JETCC was interested in knowing if MWWCA would be in support of that type of program. A discussion took place regarding how the Executive Committee feels on either of the programs. Brian noted that Legislation would have to be proposed in order to establish a special dedicated account for the operator or facility licenses. This would be an additional tag-on fee that would be dedicated to training. Concerns were raised on whether the funds would go directly to JETCC or would other training organizations get this money as well.

Brian advised the Executive Committee that nominations are needed for the Lee Ager Award. Brian noted there have been a couple nominations from the JETCC Board. Nominations can be e-mailed to either Leeann Hanson or Brian Kavanah.

Brian reported on the Bacteria Legislation and mentioned the correspondence with DEP Director Andy Fiske. MWWCA would like the letter to be used as a starting point on the Bacteria Legislation. Darrell Wooley, Brad Moore, Chuck Applebee, and Jim Fitch are involved in the group regarding the Bacteria Legislation and Brian will set up a meeting with these individuals.

6. Old Business

a. Logo: Adoption of Final Versions: Al Jellison circulated the final drafts of the logo for approval. The circular logo will be used for the medallions, hats, and shirts. The longer rectangular logo will be used on the letterhead. Mac Richardson made a motion to accept the logos as presented. Mike Grove seconded the motion. 12 approved/1 opposed. Motion carries.

b. Position Papers for Congressional Briefing – Blending Policy: Darold Wooley noted that he made a modification to the blending policy stating that MWWCA is in favor of the blending policy but took out extra information that may be controversial.

c. Stockholm Jr. Water Prize Update: Darold Wooley reported that NEWEA advised him that the one submission received for the Stockholm Jr. Water Prize was not close enough to be considered a water project. Therefore, Darold did not send the entry along. Darold went to the Maine Principal Association Science Fair on May 15th. Andy Rudzinski and Al Jellison were judges. Darold spoke with teachers and students who would be candidates next year, and distributed a number of packets to the individuals with the hope that there will be a larger response next year. Al Jellison spoke about the projects he helped judge. Andy judged the talks and presentations part of the science fair and reported on his experience with judging that event.

e. Industrial Representative: Darold noted that Mike Barden wrote him and advised that he is unable to perform the duties of Industrial Representative. Therefore, this position is now vacant.

f. Maine Water Utilities Association: Darold advised the Executive Committee that he has tentatively scheduled a meeting with Maine Water Utilities about having some type of joint relationship for training and a few other matters. Darold would like the two Executive Committees to come together at the June 18th Executive Committee meeting.

7. Committee Reports:

a. First Vice President: Vivian Matkivich had no report.

b. Membership: Chuck Applebee reported that there are 602 paid members and that the Association is \$800.00 away from meeting the membership goal. On June 25th, Chuck, Paul Wintle and Al Jellison will meet to further discuss the goals of the Membership Committee and the Association.

c. Second Vice President: Andy Rudzinski reported that a member from DEP contacted him to ask if he'd sit in on a Stakeholders Group regarding EPA's

proposed changes to the handling of reusable and disposable wipers. Andy attended the meeting and heard comments that he forwarded to the Pretreatment Committee. Andy discussed the changes being entertained by EPA that were published back in November regarding contaminated wipers, one-time use and reusable. Andy noted industry consensus was to request the EPA to make changes so the wipers would not be considered hazardous. DEP responded to the request for comments and their comments were generally supportive of Andy's concerns in his understanding of the issue. Andy noted that the matter is receiving serious consideration. A discussion took place regarding issues that came out during the meetings and what potential effects could come from the proposed changes.

d. Safety: Andy Rudzinski had no report. Al Jellison reported on the handling of universal waste and hazardous waste. Al gave a brief description of some violations at the Bangor.

e. Personnel Advancement Committee: Janet Abrahamson reported that the committee will meet in June to plan for the Fall Convention. This year, the operator exchange will be with Vermont. Vermont's convention is in early November. Janet noted that there is one change in their protocol. MWWCA will pay all expenses for the Maine operator to go to Vermont rather than pay expenses to the out-of-state operator. Janet advised that there were very good reports on the Spring Conference and she distributed her review of the evaluations. Janet noted that some of the speakers have agreed to have their presentations placed on the website and the Executive Committee agreed to have the presentations placed on the secured portion of the site.

f. Pretreatment: Although absent, the committee chair, Ron LeTarte submitted a report that was distributed to the Executive Committee. Janet Abrahamson commented that DEP's current position is that if a plant has significant industries contributing flow to the plant, then a pretreatment program is needed. Janet is hoping to have a training session on pretreatment at the Fall Convention.

g. Lab Committee: The committee chair, David Anderson, was absent. A written report was distributed to the Executive Committee. Janet Abrahamson noted the committee is working hard on the MWWCA Lab Manual and the Methods section. The committee received the model QA/QC plan from Katahdin. Due to the complexity and highly technical descriptions, the feeling is some operators could be discouraged from using the document. The committee asked Leeann to speak with Katahdin to see if they could make some modifications.

f. Convention: Tom Wiley reported on the Spring Conference. He discussed the revenue and expenses to date and noted that the Association expects a net profit approximately \$4,000.00. Tom noted that he met with Point Sebago representatives, Joan Kiszely, Nancy Sargent, Greg Cataldo and Scott Perry to do the initial review of the Fall Convention. There will not be a casino night this year. They will try to set up Mr. and Mrs. Fish and may have two Mr. & Mrs. Fish programs. Mac Richardson advised that he would contact the Lewiston/Auburn schools if Tom wanted to

go that route. Tom reviewed the tentative venues and dates for the Spring 2005 and Fall 2005 conferences. Phyllis Rand noted that most state associations have some sort of conference in April. Tom may want to check in to that before picking a final date. It was the consensus of the Executive Committee to pick the April 1st date for the Spring Conference.

g. Ops Challenge: Tony Gordon reported that the Ops Challenge team attended the May 1st training day in Massachusetts and it went very well. They are starting to have double trainings and will participate in the NEWEA competition on June 6th in Newport, Rhode Island. A written report was also submitted.

h. Past president: Al Jellison had no report.

i. Communications: Mac Richardson reported that they have adequate materials for the next issue of the paper. He noted that May 10th was the last deadline. Mac encouraged everyone to keep sending information for the next issue of the paper

j. Government Affairs: Mike Grove reported working on legislation for Fresh Water Bacteria and the Fee Schedule. He has a meeting with Greg Cataldo today regarding potential legislation for the next session.

k. Awards Committee: Mary Waring reported that she will schedule a meeting with the committee within the next month to decide if the Goodenow Award will be given this year. Darold Wooley noted that the nominations will be made for the NEWEA awards. Tom Wiley advised Mary that there is a candidate for the Pretreatment Award this year.

8. New Business:

a. New England Region Wide Training for Operators: Charlie Tyler, representing NEWEA, presented the regional training concept to the Executive Committee. He reported the reason this has surfaced is the Massachusetts DEP (MADEP) decided to get out of the training business. The actual training program in Massachusetts was run by the Massachusetts Water Pollution Control Association (MWPCA) and MADEP furnished personnel. The MADEP can no longer participate due to loss of funding. The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC) has been helping Massachusetts conduct the training. NEWEA, along with NEIWPC and a few other parties decided it may make sense to explore a regional training program for all states to participate in. They also began talking about coordinating certification. The whole effort on the regional training is in the information and idea gathering stage. They want to figure out if States think that a New England central clearinghouse method is a good way to handle training. There is a meeting on June 7th in Newport, Rhode Island regarding NEWEA's role in region-wide training for water/wastewater operators. Phyllis noted that NEWEA is soliciting input from the Presidents of the State Associations regarding this training concept. Discussion took place on the status of training from the different New England states. Mac noted that

Maine needs to be careful because of geography and limited population. If you start a one-person/one vote mentality, you start to think about where to put resources and it would make sense to put them in the area/state with the larger number of people. Phyllis noted that if all New England states could collaborate on certifications and credit hours, it could make regional training work. A lengthy discussion took place on the possibility of regional training.

9. Adjourn: Al Jellison made a motion to adjourn. Mac Richardson seconded the motion. All approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.