

**MWWCA Executive Committee Meeting
November 21, 2008
MMA, Augusta
9:00 a.m.**

MINUTES

Attendance: Chuck Applebee, Tom Wiley, André Brousseau, David Anderson, Ryan Wadsworth, Brian Kavanah, Al Jellison, June Mooney, Jeff McBurnie, Brad Moore, Paul Rodriguez, Travis Peaslee, Mary Waring, Steve Lane, Dan Bisson, Lenny Blanchette, John Hart, and Sharon Blodgett (MMA).

1. **Call to Order:** President Chuck Applebee called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Introductions: Chuck Applebee introduced John Hart, one of the founders of JETCC and a current Board member. Mr. Hart is also a member of the NEWEA Executive Committee.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Paul Rodriguez made a motion to accept the October 17, 2008 Minutes, seconded by Dave Anderson. All approved with amendments.

3. **DEP REPRESENTATIVE:**

- i. **Salmon Issue:** Brian Kavanah reported that he had conversations with Jeff Murphy from NOAA about the proposed listing. The hearings will end on December 4, 2008, with the ruling issued sometime in 2009. Mr. Kavanah reported that Maine is currently protecting through permits. It was also noted that the science points to Atlantic salmon as a threatened, not endangered species. Also, this designation should not impact Androscoggin. There were concerns regarding the impact of a status change on the permitting process. Brian Kavanah indicated that the process would be more complicated, but would most likely get better as time went on. He did reiterate that it could be months before the final decision is made.
- ii. **Septage Rule:** Brian Kavanah reported that comments on this issue closed earlier this week. They would be reviewing the details and are hoping to bring them to the Board in mid-December for final adoption. For the most part, the testimony was favorable to the rule; only 1 opposed. André Brousseau and Jeff McBurnie were present at the event and noted that the opposition focused more on traffic and other issues, not the rule itself.

4. **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS:**

- i. **Salmon Listing/MPPA & FPL Coalition Opportunity:** Paul Rodriguez wanted to clarify that the coalition meetings they attended with Bill Taylor were an ad hoc group. Chuck Applebee noted that he wanted more detail, like would there be a meeting with the Governor, and more importantly, should MWWCA join the coalition or not? Brad Moore added that there were about 25 at the meeting, including oyster fishermen. Mr. Moore noted that someone from Senator Collins's office was present taking notes, as they are also concerned about the rulings. Brad Moore suggested that MWWCA take a backseat before joining the coalition. He voiced concerns that although the groups have common interests, the coalition could take a different direction. Right now the new designation will impact only licensing and permitting; Brian Kavanah noted that the water quality is protective of cold water species. The question was raised: can MWWCA support and supply information and maybe join the coalition later? Paul Rodriguez responded that he agrees 100%, as the crosshair is on the dams. There is a potential cost impact, but the best MWWCA can do is wait and see if there are exceptions for as many activities as possible. Chuck Applebee thanked everyone for

- helping with this issue and that MWWCA is seen a great force that can move in the political arena.
- ii. **SRF Match:** Representative Pat Flood has put in a Bill title and MWWCA can work with him. Dave Anderson said that the SRF fund for wastewater and water is still at \$1.7 million. Although with the administration change in Washington and the state of the economy, the future of federal funds are unclear. Dave Anderson reported that in the statewide vote in November, there was a 3,000 vote in favor of the bond. The vote was much closer as it had been in the legislature. There was discussion about the wording of the ballot issue, since it did not mention the matching federal funds. It was determined that the Secretary of State came up with the verbiage.
 - iii. **Sustainable Infrastructure Issue:** Dave Anderson noted that the SRF funds are nice, but don't cover the overall picture. He has seen graphs that show that over time, the gap between the funds that are available and what is needed grow.
 - iv. **Legislative Resolve to Study Funding Needs and Options:** Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Drinking Water, Maine Rural Water, Maine Waste Water Control Association and Maine Water Utilities Association recommend a ten member task force in the legislature. The 1-year work would look at SRF, specifically the long-term and short term status of funding and sustainable infrastructure. The task force could also make recommendations of household income and investigate loans or grants toward infrastructure. An ideal situation would be to have the ideas funneled through the Muskie Center or through the government and make sure that cost has been put in. Paul Rodriguez reported that the year-long study could start soon, if funding is attached. Dave Anderson remarked that the key to funding would be thought a public/private partnership. Brian Kavanah reported that the current bond obligations have two (2) more years. The hope would be to have all expenses covered with all the proposed legislation. Chuck Applebee added that this effort, driven by MWWCA, has grown and taken root in a way that no one anticipated. Dave Anderson put the initial group together during his presidency. Maine Water Utilities Association seems to have similar views, and perhaps even Maine Rural Water, too. The new larger coalition will help to increase the money they are able to work towards and increase chance of success.
 - v. **Potential Legislative with the Associated Contractors:** Greg Cataldo and Chuck Applebee are part of group with the Department of Environment Protection and Maine Rural Water. Andrew Fisk reassessed that the DEP group be contacted and suggested that they talk and maybe work together. Chuck Applebee noted that there was a correspondence available in the file and offered a copy to anyone interested. A discussion continued to look at the benefits and drawbacks of partnering up with the Associated Contractors on legislation, especially without Representative Flood or Senator Bartlett. Mr. Applebee reported that the Government Affairs Committee will be moving forward, but he was not sure what the roles will be and that any support for partnership needs to work for MWWCA. There was a report on the new Economic Stimulus package, where the project would need to be implemented 120 days from when State gets the money. Steve McLaughlin is looking around to see what types of projects can be done, as there is the potential for both federal and state funding. Brian Kavanah did note that there was no matching and it would be aimed at the next construction season. There were no further details on this legislation.
 - vi. **Potential Opportunity with MDF "Policy Leaders Academy":** Chuck Applebee reported that MWWCA is trying to get on the agenda for the freshman legislators. The group is trying to work with Maine Water Utilities Association to give tours, including a water treatment plant tour to help these new legislators be able to recognize the needs in their district. Mr. Applebee is not sure if the effort will be successful.
 - vii. **Bill Tracking Services (Shirley Churchill):** Dave Anderson was not sure if the invoice for Shirley Churchill's tracking services was paid. Mr. Anderson would bring this issue up at the budget session later. Tom Wiley asked the group as they go through the 2009 budget if this is worth the expenditure. Ms. Churchill updates a minimum of one time per week and will generally send any email, even of committee meetings. The

schedules change fast in the legislature and she makes the group aware of recent issues as soon as possible. Paul Rodriguez noted that he felt this was a value added service.

5. SPRING CONFERENCE 2010:

André Brousseau reported that NEWEA is looking to have a Conference on the coast of Maine in 2010. NEWEA approached MWWCA to see if the Association was interested in a joint Spring Conference and Mr. Brousseau was looking for feedback. The discussion ensued to encompass the pros and cons of a shared event. There would be cost sharing, a possibility of attracting more vendors, and some Maine members would be able to see the Ops Challenge. Mary Waring asked if there would be tech sessions available, because an important aspect of the Spring Conference is the operator's training. Travis Peaslee remarked that if they did not combine events there would be the MWWCA Spring Conference in April, NEWEA in June and the MWWCA Fall Conference in September. André Brousseau did respond that MWWCA would still continue with the Fall Convention; they were only looking at the Spring Conference. Many operators are not able to go to NEWEA, as it is too expensive. Both groups might be able to reach out to the members and MWWCA may be able to gain some NEWEA members. It was also noted that there are some financial logistics that would need to be worked out. For example, who pays for what? There is some precedent, as NEWEA did it previously with New York. Mary Waring suggested that they preserve the one-day rate. Jeff McBurnie asked if the event could be moved to May. Tom Wiley agreed with this idea, but traditionally the NEWEA Conference is the week after Memorial Day.

André Brousseau also noted that they were looking in the Belfast area, at Point Lookout. He had the packet available if anyone was interested. This location would be ideal, as they were looking at having the 2009 Fall Convention there, which could serve as a trial run. Travis Peaslee and Tom Wiley stayed there recently. It was reported that Howard Carter had not yet seen the facility and MWWCA had not yet seen a proposal.

6. NEWEA STATE DIRECTOR:

Brad Moore reported that the group supports Maine WasteWater Control Association and the comments from reports that it is good to be part of this Association. Other states do not have this relationship. Brad Moore reported that he is investigating other sources of funding, and he was asked to share this information with NEWEA so they can understand what is going. All states may be traveling to Washington, but would all go separate ways when they arrive. There was a discussion about the change in timing in this trip over the years.

Brad Moore also noted that there were planned sessions last spring to form a research foundation. This foundation, which is still in the conceptual stage, would bridge the gap between college kids and the profession. The research would focus on just New England issues, like the salmon issue or watersheds in New England. NEWEA is looking into donating and is inviting State associations to do so if they are interested.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

Chuck Applebee noted that he had passed the file around the meeting.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i. **Executive Board:** Tom Wiley noted that he has been in touch with the outgoing Committee Chairs, and he is in the process of drafting the 2009 calendar. He wanted the feedback from the Board on the two conference calls, in lieu of meeting. Mr. Wiley proposed that January seemed good for conference calls and another one in the Spring.
- ii. **Government Affairs:** Dave Anderson reported that the Legislative Breakfast is to take place on February 4 at the Senator Inn. He said that they would be focusing on the financial issues, but invited all to talk to himself or Paul Rodriguez if other issues arise.

- iii. **Public Relations:** Ryan Wadsworth stated that the website for the clothing is now up and running; there are only a few odd size clothes available and he had concerns about the Ski Day budget and that they needed to work harder with sponsorships.
- iv. **Safety:** Al Jellison - Nothing to report.
- v. **Lab:** Nothing to report.
- vi. **Residuals:** Jeff McBurnie reported that on the same day as the septage testimony there was also a public hearing on the compost rule. Mr. McBurnie noted that Natural Resources of Maine did not appear to support or oppose the rule.
- vii. **Website:** Steve Lane stated that the website was dry for news articles and photos from the Fall Convention. He asked that if anyone had photos, especially of the Award presentations, he would post them. Ryan Wadsworth has some pictures and will update for this coming year. Chuck Applebee applauded Steve Lane for getting items posted on the website so quickly.
- viii. **Convention:** Travis Peaslee noted that they were close to finalizing the Fall Convention revenues for this year, which looked to be about \$20,000 for Convention. He also noted that they were looking to get proposals for next Fall.
- ix. **Operations Challenge:** Travis Peaslee reported that the Maine Operations Challenge team competed in Division One this fall and were ranked 11 out of 11 teams. Next year, they will return to Division 2 with a new team which will include Dan Welch.
- x. **JETCC:** John Hart thanked the Board for their time and devotion to run MWWCA. He also thanked the Board for support of JETCC, which acts both as an advisory board but also the mechanism for the training contact hours. Lenny Blanchette encouraged everyone to participate in JETCC. The Spring schedule should be available in early January and they are seeking new locations.

Dana Peck is working to run a pilot boot camp, which would be for those who are new to the industry. This would help culturing and shaping junior members.

The North Country Convention has been postponed until late April 2009. Tom Wiley noted that since MWWCA doesn't have any vendors in the spring and the Conference will be in Portland, the time and place will be fine.

John Hart reported that JETCC trained a significant number of people during fiscal '08, with 709 people trained over 4,000 hours. There have been about 100 who have taken tests, across all levels.

Lenny Blanchette requested that anytime the MWWCA Board would like a better understanding of the budget or any components of JETCC to contact them. Tom Wiley responded that Leanne Hanson's presentation at the prior meeting did a good job explaining history and the organization of JETCC. Mr. Blanchette also invited the MWWCA to the meetings, which are not just open to Board members.

- xi. Awards: Mary Waring had no report.
9. **TREASURERS' REPORT:** Jeff McBurnie made a motion to approve the June, July, August, and September 2008 financial reports, seconded by Al Jellison. All approved.

Dan Bisson remarked that the Association is doing well keeping to its budget with MMA's assistance. Jeff McBurnie noted that it is good to see the group's not losing money; the bottom line is by keeping the expenses in line, the dues are adequate.

10. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- i. **Discussion of MMA Doing a Trial Run Newspaper:** Chuck Applebee reported, in Mac Richardson's absence, that Mr. Richardson is planning a meeting with his committee. The meeting will provide a thorough review of the different options for the newsletter and will bring a recommendation to the Executive Board. Chuck Applebee

remarked that in the short term, Mac Richardson thinks it would be a good to work with MMA since it's been a long time since the last issue, and Tom Wiley agreed.

Al Jellison made a motion to get an interim issue(s) going with MMA while the Communications Committee looks into the long term solution. The funds would come out of the New England Water and Wastewater news subscriptions. Mary Waring seconded the motion. All approved.

11. MWWCA CREDIT CARDS:

Chuck Applebee reported that the Citibank credit cards were issued to Dan Bisson and Tom Wiley for MWWCA. Al Jellison is drafting the usage policy, though there is a lot to work through. Dan Bisson noted that he has not activated it yet, but Tom Wiley has. Dan Bisson promised to work on further drafting the policy for Tom Wiley to review at the next meeting. Tom Wiley remarked that he may try to pay for the Senator for the December meeting with the new Association's credit card.

12. Adjournment: Motion made by Al Jellison, seconded by Dan Bisson. All approved to adjourn at 11:28 a.m.