

FINAL

MWWCA Executive Committee Meeting
October 17, 2008
MMA, Augusta
9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

Attendance: Chuck Applebee, André Brousseau, Tom Wiley, Travis Peaslee, Chris Higgins, Paul Rodriguez, Mary Waring, June Mooney, Mac Richardson, Brian Kavanah, Dave Anderson, Jeff McBurnie, and Sharon Blodgett (MMA), Leanne Hanson & Tom Grove.

Call to Order: President Chuck Applebee called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Introductions: Chuck Applebee introduced the newest member of the board, Chris Higgins, who will be replacing David Jordan as the Membership chair.

Approval of Minutes: Tom Wiley pointed out in the July minutes that David Jordan was not in attendance, so his name needed to be removed. With that revision, he made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mac Richardson. All approved.

Treasurers' Report: Dan Bisson was not present. A motion was made by Jeff McBurnie to table the Treasurer's Report until the next meeting. Seconded by André Brousseau.

DEP Representative:

- **Liquid Assets:** Brian Kavanah reported that the Penn State Public Broadcasting's documentary, entitled "Liquid Assets Penn State" would be debuting in Maine on November 2. It is scheduled to air from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. on PBS. He encouraged everyone to take advantage of the DVD, which contains all three versions. Brian noted that there is a 16-minute overview snapshot available on the website (www.liquidassets.psu.edu/), which would be great to educate the Legislature about the need for increased wastewater, water and stormwater infrastructure. Also the overview, coupled with the educational toolkit, is a great tool to educate folks in the community. Brian reminded everyone that there is a vote on November 4 for a bond that can get money for drinking water and wastewater. There should be a movement to promote this information to everyone running, as well as using the press releases and letters to the editor.
- **Septage Rule:** There will be a hearing held at the Augusta Holiday Inn/ Ground Round on November 6 at 10 a.m. on the septage rule. The new rule should allow for more flexibility, so a facility can take more septage. Brian Kavanah thanked the working group for helping on this. He also cited Mary Waring's work with the changes to composting rules. These changes have also been posted and the public hearing will be on November 6, after the aforementioned septage rule hearing. Mr. Kavanah also thanked Sterling Pierce and the Lab Committee for their work with invalid test results. The final note was regarding the rollout of the electronic DMR.

Dick Darling has been working on the rollout and he has about 30 facilities using it to date. Brian anticipates that 10-15 new facilities will be added to the current users of the e-DMR per month.

Chuck Applebee reported that there was information in the correspondence file about the sustainable infrastructure grant program with the Mitchell Center. He encouraged everyone to write and send letters requesting local support for this.

Government Affairs Report (David Anderson, Paul Rodriguez):

- **Legislative Contract:** The contract for Andrew Gilmore was up for review. David Anderson explained that there was better scope this time and the proposed contract was a little bit less than what we sent last year. The group is looking for him to provide the same work as the 1st session.

Paul Rodriguez explained that, prior to using Mr. Gilmore's services, the group has to exert 10 times as much effort with less results. The advocate coordinates efforts and is key to understanding how Augusta works. Beyond that, there is a lot of value in being able to jumpstart efforts for legislative breakfast.

There was some concern about the verbiage in the contract that gave Mr. Gilmore authority to speak for the group. There was a discussion about whether the group should be careful, as he is not the face of MWWCA. Paul Rodriguez agreed with the dangers, but expressed his acknowledgement that Andrew has been doing a great job getting the conversation started with the knowledge that he has the authority to speak for MWWCA on the one-to-one. The contract they were using was one that had been taken from another party and perhaps Andrew would be open to revising the wording.

Mac Richardson made a motion to pass the contract, but to have a discussion with Mr. Gilmore about the spokesperson language. Seconded by Jeff McBurnie. All in favor.

- Paul Rodriguez stated that Andrew Gilmore has been working to get the word out about the bond and making sure there is no confusion. He has agreed to do this without having a finalized contract. The discussion continued describing Andrew's and MWWCA's efforts for putting out the word for the upcoming bond issue.
- **Meeting at DEP** – There was a brief discussion about sustainable funding for infrastructure for the DEP, MWWCA and MWUA. In particular there is a “funding gap” need compared to sources of revenue. There is a \$300 million gap and the Clean Water SRF of \$20 million may not be enough, as expenses increase, while the funding does not. There was interest in looking at the Department of Transportation as a model for permanent funding. The model pays for bridge repairs and other structural improvements through taxpayers paying more for vanity license plates, etc. There is hope that a similar structure could be created (like a wipes tax, but more widespread).

- **H.R. 7110 – The Job Creation and Unemployment Relief Act of 2008** – There was a discussion on the bill from the US House of Representatives that would have given \$6.5 billion for continuing infrastructure improvements under the Clean Water SRF. It was reported that the bill died in the Senate, because infrastructure improvements are thought to be too long to plan. There is hope that there are many projects that are already planned and are simply pending funding.
- Chuck Applebee reported that the Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4, 2009.
- There was a brief discussion about dig safe issues that MWWCA will be working with MWUA on.
- Dave Anderson announced a conference coming to South Portland on November 10 and 11 that will concentrate on the disposal of pharmaceuticals. He anticipates this being a big program with people from all over the state learning about how to properly dispose of drugs and pharmaceuticals. MWWCA is on the treatment side. Dave has all of the details, if anyone is interested. There was a discussion about AVCOG and their policy on disposal of pharmaceuticals.
- Paul Rodriguez summarized the effort for getting the word out for Question 3. Brian Kavanah commented that MWWCA is going to be working in-concert with both the state and MWUA. The plan is to directly contact areas that will be impacted by the bond issue and work with them. The efforts will be aimed at newspapers, including letters to the editors and articles. Mac Richardson stressed the importance of reinforcing in the marketing pieces that this is a loan program that will get paid back. The loan will have a big impact for the small amount of money, as it is part of a 20-year loan.

NEWEA State Director: Chuck Applebee reported that Brad Moore sent him some notes so that he could report the following:

- NEWEA will help with Operations Challenge funding.
- **Salmon Issue:** ME Pulp & Paper and Florida Power & Light along with Maine WasteWater, to explore this issue further. Atlantic salmon will be listed as a threatened (not endangered) species. This designation allows state more access, but will result in permit issues, making the re-issuances more costly. The change in status also will allow for 3rd party lawsuits

Correspondence: Chuck Applebee reported that among the correspondence in the file being circulated throughout the meeting was the letter to execute support through the Mitchell Center.

Committee Reports:

- Convention Committee:

- Fall Conference Update – Travis Peaslee reported that the finances were still too preliminary to report upon. He also announced that there were evaluation composites available. Travis is looking ahead at possible venues for next fall. The possibilities include Sunday River, Sugarloaf and even something on the coast, like the Samoset Resort. Travis and Tom Wiley are scheduled to look at a location on the coast near Belfast. This location may be favorable for the vendors. Overall, the vendors were favorable to the event in general, as the membership seemed to be visit more with them. The addition of more vendor time and the signature cards seemed to have helped this. There were still some things that could be improved upon. The layout of Sunday River made the Meet & Greet difficult with bottlenecks. It would be good to try a location with the vendors in one room. Dave Anderson liked the location of Sunday River and wondered why the ballroom wasn't used for the vendors. It was determined that the vendors couldn't fit in the same room as the Thursday luncheon. All agreed that Travis Peaslee had done a "great job" in continuing to grow the convention and the issues were growing pains of the success of the convention.
 - Spring Conference: Travis reported that the contract is ready for the upcoming Spring Conference and they will go back to Verrillo's again.
 - Ski Day: Ski Day is scheduled for March 11. Travis Peaslee anticipates bringing the "Save the Date" postcards to the NEWEA show and is hoping to grow the event to 50+.
 - Operations Challenge Team is leaving on Saturday and will be gone through Wednesday. The competition will take place on Monday and Tuesday. Because of the team's previous performance, it must compete against the tougher and more elite teams in Division One. Travis confirmed that the Maine team won a free registration and NEWEA would be sending three teams (Maine, New Hampshire and Rhode Island). Chuck Applebee reported that he had seen the event during the spring conference on Cape Cod and he was amazed.
- Residuals Committee: Jeff McBurnie reported that the Residuals session at the Fall Convention was surprisingly well-attended, well-received and had good panels. He did ask about the working group on odor control, and asked Brian Kavanah if it was just landfills or all solid waste. Brian will look into the issue and will follow up. He did note that there are "nasal rangers" in training.
 - Laboratory Committee – June Mooney had no report.

Old Business

- Wastewater Newspaper/ Media

Mac Richardson reported that he had an email from Chuck Applebee about the Publications Committee and there were three people interested. He asked if André Brousseau was interested. André indicated that he was interested, as well as Phyllis

Rand, Vivian Matkivich, and John Higgins from EarthTech, as well. Mac was hoping for a mix of people who have been on the committee and others who would be new. Mac has traded voicemails but has not been able to speak with Heidi Gage, who had published the “New England Water & WasteWater News.” She had previously expressed interest in continuing her role. There is no issue forthcoming. There was a discussion about the drawbacks of the old format (expensive and old-fashioned). However, NEWWN was a multi-state publication and has a lot of different contributors, with Heidi adding things from EPA bulletins. This publication was a good forum to find out what was going on around New England

The discussion continued around MMA putting together a newsletter, as it does for other groups. There was a concern that getting enough pertinent copy would be difficult. The conversation continued on the method of distribution, as many of MMA’s other affiliate groups email copies to their membership. Could MWWCA cut down on number of copies printed without compromising readership? Could MWWCA send only one issue to each plant /facility? Mac Richardson would be getting together with the rest of the committee to further explore these topics.

- Membership: Chris Higgins was re-introduced as the new Membership chair. He asked when the amount of dues had last been reviewed. This process was done recently under Dave Anderson. At that time, no change was proposed.
- Awards Committee: Mary Waring had no report.

New Business:

- JETCC Report - Tom Groves from NEIWPC and Leann Hanson attended the meeting and presented an overview of JETCC, including its history.

Adjournment: Motion made by Mac Richardson, seconded by André Brousseau, all approved, to adjourn at 11:22 a.m.